



*The Niagara Catholic District School Board through
the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership,
nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all
to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.*

AGENDA AND MATERIAL

BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018
7:00 P.M.**



*FATHER KENNETH BURNS, C.S.C. BOARD ROOM
CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE, WELLAND, ONTARIO*

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayers – Trustee Burtnik -
2. Roll Call -
3. Approval of the Agenda -
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest -
5. Minutes of the Board Meeting
 - 5.1 December 19, 2017 A5.1
 - 5.2 January 16, 2018 A5.2
6. Consent Agenda Items
 - 6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 16, 2018 and Consideration of Recommendations A6.1
 - 6.1.1 Design of System Priorities and Budget 2018-2019 Consultation and Collaboration Schedule A6.1.1
 - 6.1.2 Board Committee Membership 2018 A6.1.2
 - 6.2 Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC)
 - 6.2.1 Approved Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of November 2, 2017 and Consideration of Recommendations A6.2.1
 - 6.2.1 Recommendation to the Board by the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of January 11, 2018 A6.2.2
 - 6.3 Approved Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of December 4, 2017 A6.3
 - 6.4 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of December 6, 2017 A6.4
 - 6.5 Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange A6.5
 - 6.6 In-Camera Agenda Items F1, F2, F4, F5, F6 and F7

B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. School Excellence Program Our Lady of Grace Spiritual Centre C1
2. Niagara Catholic System Priorities Mid-Year Achievement Report 2017-2018 C2
3. Financial Reports as at December 31, 2017 C3

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1. | Correspondence | - |
| 1.1 | December 7, 2017 Letter from Grand Erie District School Board | D1.1 |
| 1.2 | December 20, 2017 Letter from the Office of the Bishop | D1.2 |
| 2. | Report on Trustee Conferences Attended | - |
| 3. | General Discussion to Plan for Future Action | - |
| 4. | Trustee Information | |
| 4.1 | Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – January 16, 2018 | D4.1 |
| 4.2 | Calendar of Events – February 2018 | D4.2 |
| 4.3 | January 18, 2018 OCSTA Memorandum – 2018 Pre-Budget Presentation | D4.3 |
| 4.4 | Ontario Legislative Highlights – January 12, 2018, January 19, 2018 | D4.4 |
| 4.5 | Pathways Speaker Summit – February 6, 2018 | D4.5 |
| 4.6 | Annual Bishop’s Gala – April 20, 2018 | D4.6 |
| 4.7 | Student Platform | D4.7 |
| 4.8 | Ontario Catholic Student Leadership Conference – October 17-19, 2018 | D4.8 |
| 5. | Open Question Period | |
| | <i>(The purpose of the Open Question Period is to allow members of the Catholic school supporting public to ask about items on that night’s public agenda or any previous agendas, and the Board to answer and react.)</i> | |

E. NOTICES OF MOTION**F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA****G. REPORT ON IN CAMERA SESSION****H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS****I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE****J. ADJOURNMENT**

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF
DECEMBER 19, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of December 19, 2017, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 19, 2017, in the Father Kenneth Burns c.s.c. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair MacNeil.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Chair MacNeil.

2. Roll Call

Chair MacNeil noted that all Trustees and Student Trustees were in attendance.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Maurice Charbonneau	✓			
Frank Fera	✓			
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓			
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓			
Ted O'Leary	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Pat Vernal	✓			
Student Trustees				
Nico Tripodi	✓			
Hannah Tummillo	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Pat Rocca**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Sherry Morena**, Recording Secretary/Coordinator of Records Management/Privacy and Freedom of Information

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg
Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Board Meeting of December 19, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the Agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting

5.1 November 21, 2017

Moved by Trustee Burtnik
Seconded by Trustee Vernal

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of November 21, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

5.2 December 5, 2017

Moved by Trustee Burtnik
Seconded by Trustee Vernal

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Organizational Meeting of the Board of December 5, 2016, as presented.

CARRIED

6. Consent Agenda Items

6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 5, 2017 and Consideration of Recommendations

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole of December 5, as presented.

6.1.1 Trustee Expenses & Reimbursement Policy (100.13)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Expenses & Reimbursement Policy (100.13), as presented.

6.1.2 Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodations Review Guidelines Submission

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board endorse the report to the Ministry of Education's proposed revisions to the Pupil Accommodations Review Guidelines and Community Planning and Partnership Guidelines as presented.

6.2 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of November 1, 2017

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 1, 2017, as presented.

6.3 Approved Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee – Building on Today Meeting of November 7, 2017

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the approved Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee – Building on Today Meeting of November 7, 2017, as presented.

6.4 Director of Education Annual Report 2017

Presented for information.

6.5 In-Camera Items F1, F2, F4, F5

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board adopt the consent agenda items.

CARRIED

Trustee Sicoli requested Items F6 and F7 be held. These items will be discussed In Camera.

B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Christmas Cards 2017

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education, present the report on Christmas Cards 2017. She noted that all schools throughout Niagara Catholic were invited to submit artwork designed by their students in order to create the 2017 Niagara Catholic Christmas Cards.

The students whose artwork was selected for the Board's Christmas cards were introduced by Superintendent Baldasaro. Chair MacNeil, Vice-Chair Vernal, and Director Crocco presented the students with Excellence in the Arts pins as well as a plaqued picture of their artwork.

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. School Excellence Program – Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School

Superintendent Farrell provided background information on the monthly School Excellence Program and introduced Principal, Jim Whittard, and Vice-Principal Tony Della Ventura of Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School.

Principal Whittard, with the assistance of students and staff showcased Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School as part of the School Excellence Program. As a student of Saint Francis Catholic, Student Trustee Nico Tripodi performed with the choir.

Chair MacNeil thanked Principal Whittard, the staff and students for their presentation and performance. Trustees Charbonneau and Burtnik expressed their heartfelt appreciation with the students' speeches and performance.

2. Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement – Fiscal Year 2016-2017

Superintendent Vetrone presented the Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement – Fiscal Year 2016-2017 report for Trustee information.

3. Trustee Honorarium for the Year December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2018

Director Crocco presented the Trustee Honorarium for the Year from December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2018 report.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Honorarium for the year period from December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2018, as noted in Appendix A, as follows:

\$16,707 for the Chairperson of the Board
\$13,666 for the Vice-Chairperson of the Board
\$10,626 for the Other Trustees

CARRIED

4. Financial Reports

4.1 Revised Estimates 2017-2018

Director Crocco along with Superintendent Vetrone presented the Revised Estimate for the Year 2017-2018 report.

Superintendent Vetrone answered questions of Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Report on the revised budget for the Year 2017-2018, as presented.

CARRIED

4.2 Financial Reports as at November 30, 2017

Superintendent Vetrone presented the Financial Report as at November 30, 2017 for information.

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

1. Correspondence

Director Crocco, highlighted information contained in:

- 1.1** City of St. Catharines – Changes to the Municipal Act for the Election of Municipal and School Board Officials
- 1.2** District School Board of Niagara – Joint Use School Project

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board will engage in initial staff level discussions in the new year on a proposed joint-use school in Wainfleet with the District School Board of Niagara; will notify the community of St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School of the proposal, and that an initial staff report will be brought to a future Board Meeting for the information and consideration of the Board.

CARRIED

2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended

Nil Report

3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

Scheduled to commence discussions on the System Priorities and Budget 2018-2019 in January.

The System Priorities Mid-year Achievement Report 2017-2018 will be presented at the January Board Meeting.

4. Trustee Information

4.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – December 5, 2017

Director Crocco highlighted the December 5, 2017 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic.

4.2 Calendar of Events – January 2018

Director Crocco reviewed the Calendar of Events – January 2018 for Trustees information.

4.3 Ontario Legislative Highlights - December 1, December 8, December 15, 2017

Director Crocco presented the Ontario Legislative Highlights - December 1, December 8, and December 15, 2017.

5. Open Question Period

A question was submitted regarding FTE teacher absences and the replacement costs associated with it. Chairperson MacNeil indicated that this is a topic that was subject of a grievance and could not comment or be discussed at this time.

A question was submitted regarding the loss of retirement gratuity and the impact it will have on teachers. Superintendent Vetrone responded with an explanation of the impact.

E. NOTICES OF MOTION

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Vernal
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board move into the In Camera Session.

CARRIED

The Niagara Catholic District School Board moved into the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting at 8:45 p.m. and reconvened at 9:30 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Vernal
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of December 19, 2017.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION A: Student Trustees Present of November 21, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION A: Student Trustees Present of December 5, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F2)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of November 21, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F4)

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of December 5, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F5)

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item F8 of the In Camera Agenda.

CARRIED (Item F8)

H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Vernal
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the December 19, 2017 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 19, 2017**.

Approved on **January 30, 2018**.

Fr. Paul MacNeil
Chair of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF
JANUARY 16, 2018**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of January 16, 2018, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY JANUARY 16, 2018

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on January 16, 2018 at 9:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns c.s.c Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Vernal for Chair MacNeil.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer were led by Trustee Vernal.

2. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Vernal noted that Trustees Charbonneau, MacNeil and Nieuwesteeg were asked to be excused.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Maurice Charbonneau				✓
Frank Fera	✓			
Fr. Paul MacNeil				✓
Ed Nieuwesteeg				✓
Ted O'Leary	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Pat Vernal	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, Superintendents of Education; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Special Board Meeting of January 16, 2018, as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Interest

No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the agenda.

B. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Burtnik
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board move into the In Camera Session.

CARRIED

The Niagara Catholic District School Board moved into the In Camera Session of the Special Board Meeting at 9:09 p.m. and reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

C. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Burtnik
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Special Board Meeting of January 16, 2018.

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee O'Leary
Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item B1 of the In Camera Agenda.

CARRIED (Item B1)

D. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

E. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee O'Leary
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the January 16, 2018 Special Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Board return to the January 16, 2018 Committee of the Whole meeting.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **January 16, 2018**.

Approved on the **January 30, 2018**.

Pat Vernal
Vice-Chair of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING OF JANUARY 16, 2018**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 16, 2018, as presented.

The following recommendations are being presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 16, 2018:

6.1.1 Design of System Priorities and Budget 2018-2019 Consultation and Collaboration Schedule

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the report on the Design of System Priorities and Budget 2018-2019 Consultation and Collaboration Schedule, as presented.

6.1.2 Board Committee Membership 2018

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the confirmed Board Committee Membership 2018, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 in the Father Kenneth Burns c.s.c. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Vernal.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Trustee Sicoli

2. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Vernal noted that Trustees Charbonneau, MacNeil and Nieuwesteeg were asked to be excused.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Maurice Charbonneau				✓
Frank Fera	✓			
Fr. Paul MacNeil				✓
Ed Nieuwesteeg				✓
Ted O'Leary	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Pat Vernal	✓			
Student Trustees				
Nico Tripodi	✓			
Hannah Tummillo	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 16, 2018, as presented.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No Declaration of Conflict of Interest was declared with any items on the Agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 5, 2017

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 5, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

6. Consent Agenda Items

6.1 Holy Childhood Walk 2018

Presented for information.

6.2 Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities

Presented for information.

6.3 Capital Projects Update

Presented for information.

6.4 In Camera Items F1 and F3

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Committee of the Whole adopt consent agenda items.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

Nil

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Community Use of Facilities

Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services, Kathy Levinski, administrator of Facilities Services and Debbie Ogilvie, Community Outreach Coordinator presented the Community Use of Facilities in Niagara Catholic District School Board report for Trustee information.

Ms. Levinski and Ms. Ogilvie answered questions of Trustees.

2. Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2017-2018 Update

Director Crocco and members of Senior Administrative Council presented the January Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2017-2018 Update.

Director Crocco and members of Senior Staff answered questions of Trustees.

3. Design of System Priorities and Budget 2018-2019 Consultation and Collaboration Schedule

Director Crocco presented the Design of System Priorities and Budget 2018-2019 Consultation and Collaboration Schedule.

Director Crocco answered questions of Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the report on the Design of System Priorities and Budget 2018-2019 Consultation and Collaboration Schedule, as presented.

CARRIED

4. Monthly Updates

4.1 Student Trustees' Update

Nico Tripodi and Hannah Tummillo, Student Trustees, presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

4.2 Senior Staff Good News Update

Senior Staff highlights included:

Superintendent Farrell

- Denis Morris Catholic High School Grade 12 Student Maddy McArthur, goaltender for the U18 Woman's Canadian hockey team defeated Russia for the Bronze medal at the 2018 IIHF U18 Women's World Championships.
- Conor Timmins, a graduate of Denis Morris Catholic High School Class of 2016 played for team Canada in the World Junior Championships and came home with a gold medal.
- Former graduate of Notre Dame College School Chris Van Zeyl and right tackle for the Grey Cup Champions Toronto Argonauts brought the Grey Cup during his visit back to the school.

Superintendent Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells

- A full page article posted in the winter 2017-2018 edition of Leaders & Learners Magazine has highlighted the exceptional work of Niagara Catholic staff and Students.

D. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

1.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – December 19, 2017

Director Crocco highlighted the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – December 19, 2017 issue for Trustees information.

1.2 Calendar of Events – January 2018

Director Crocco presented the January 2018 Calendar of Events for Trustees information. Director Crocco noted the 8th annual Baby Day will be held on Wednesday January 17, 2018 and extended an invitation to Trustees to attend. Also on Wednesday Fr. Tony Ricard will be at Denis Morris Catholic High School along with the famous St. Augustine High School Marching Band and Trustees were invited to attend.

1.3 Draft School Year Calendar 2018-2019

Director Crocco presented the Draft School Year Calendar 2018-2019 for Trustee information.

1.4 Capital Funding Update

Controller Whitwell presented the Capital Funding Update.

1.5 Annual Baby Day – January 17, 2018

Director Crocco extended an invitation to Trustees for the Annual Baby Day being held on January 17, 2018 at the Catholic Education Centre.

1.6 OCSTA 2018 Catholic Trustees Seminar – January 18-20, 2018

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the OCSTA 2018 Catholic Trustees Seminar being held on January 18-20, 2018.

1.7 Ontario Legislative Highlights – December 22, 2017, January 5, 2018

Director Crocco highlighted the Ontario Legislative Highlights of December 22, 2017 and January 5, 2018 as provided by OCSTA.

1.8 Draft 2018 Board Committee Membership

Director Crocco presented the Draft 2018 Board Committee Membership. The confirmed 2018 Board Committee Membership will be provided at the January Board Meeting for approval.

1.9 Student Transportation Consultation

Director Crocco highlighted Pat Daly, President of OCSTA memorandum on Student Transportation Consultation. As additional information is provided by the Ministry of Education and OCSTA it will be forwarded to Trustees.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education presented an update on the Wainfleet joint use school proposal with Niagara District School Board of Niagara.

Superintendent Farrell answered questions of Trustees.

Director Crocco noted discussions continue on the design of the 2018-2019 System Priorities and Budget as well as monthly Committee of the Whole reports on various initiatives and planning for next year. Senior Staff is currently in the process of completing the System Priorities Mid-Year Achievement Report 2017-2018 and will be presenting it at the January Board meeting as scheduled.

E. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Committee of the Whole move into the In Camera Session.

CARRIED

The Committee of the Whole moved into the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:26 p.m. and reconvened at 10:15 p.m.

F. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 16, 2018.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES INCLUDED

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - In Camera Session (Section A: Student Trustees Included) held on December 5, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - In Camera Session (Section B: Student Trustees Excluded) held on December 5, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F3)

Moved by Trustee Fera

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item F5 of the In Camera Agenda.

CARRIED (Item F5)

G. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the January 16, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **January 16, 2018.**

Approved on **February 13, 2018.**

Pat Vernal
Vice-Chair of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: DESIGN OF SYSTEM PRIORITIES AND BUDGET 2018-2019
CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION SCHEDULE**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the report on the Design of System Priorities and Budget 2018-2019 Consultation and Collaboration Schedule, as presented.

Prepared by: Senior Administrative Council

Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: January 30, 2018



REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JANUARY 16, 2018

DESIGN OF SYSTEM PRIORITIES AND BUDGET 2018-2019 CONSULTATION AND COLLABORATION SCHEDULE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Niagara Catholic has been recognized by the Ministry of Education and other leaders in education for the annual consultation and collaborative process in designing the Board's annual System Priorities and Budget to achieve the Board's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan.

Monthly at each Committee of the Whole Meeting, Senior Administrative Council provides a report and an opportunity for dialogue with Trustees on the status of achieving the Board's current System Priorities and balanced Budget. At monthly Board Meetings, Superintendent Vetrone provides the Board with a detailed monthly Financial Report. Both of these monthly reports provides Trustees with accurate and timely information and an opportunity to engage Senior Administrative Council as part of the Board's continuous monitoring and governance of the achievement of its System Priorities and balanced Budget.

In January of each school year, the Board and Senior Administrative Council collaboratively begin the process to design the following school year's System Priorities and balanced Budget. The focus of the consultation and collaboration is to ensure the continued achievement of the Board's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, its Mission, Vision and Values, the two Strategic Directions and the four goals of the Ministry of Education in providing programs, services and supports for all students.

The Director of Education and Senior Administrative Council continue to be committed to two fundamental principles in preparing the 2018-2019 System Priorities and Budget:

- a) A continued commitment to providing Catholic educational excellence through programs and services for all students.
- b) A continued commitment to achieving the Board's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan and Annual System Priorities through balanced and financially sustainable annual budgets.

In preparing recommendations for the 2018-2019 System Priorities and balanced Budget for the consideration of the Board, the Director of Education and Senior Administrative Council continually monitor and review an extensive range of data and information about Niagara. The data includes population demographics, economic and employment statistics and trends; current and projected enrolment in elementary, secondary and continuing education schools, alternative learning programs; provincial educational directions; child care needs; provincial Grants for Student Needs (GSN), Educational Funding Other (EPO) grants and capital funding of district school boards.

As part of the design, consultation and decision making process for 2018-2019, the Director of Education, the Superintendent of Business and Financial Services and members of Senior Administrative Council will continue to engage, update and inform, through graphical reports, each months Committee of the Whole Meeting from January to May 2018.

System Priorities and Annual Budget 2018-2019 Consultation Process

As previously approved by the Board, the collaborative consultation and decision making process towards finalizing the Board's System Priorities System Priorities and the Annual balanced Budget for 2018-2019 is as follows:

Decision Making Process

- ❖ Vision 2020 Strategic Plan Implementation Consultation – January to May 2018
- ❖ Consultation and Collaboration to design the System Priorities within the seven Enabling Strategies of the Board's System Priorities 2018-2019 – January to May 2018

System Priorities Enabling Strategies

- Provide Supports for Success
 - Enhance Technology for Optimal Learning
 - Building Partnerships and Schools as Hubs
 - Strengthen Human Resource Practices and Develop Transformational Leadership
 - Create Equity and Accessibility of Resources
 - Ensure Responsible Fiscal and Operational Management
 - Address Changing Demographics
-
- ❖ Committee of the Whole Information Updates, Collaboration and Discussion – January to May 2018
 - ❖ Presentation of 2018-2019 System Priorities – Committee of the Whole, May 8th, 2018
 - ❖ Presentation of Balanced 2018-2019 Budget – Board Meeting, May 22nd, 2018

Continuous discussion and consultation – January 2018 to May 2018

- ❖ Committee of the Whole – Trustees
- ❖ Senior Administrative Council
- ❖ Principals at Director's Meetings
- ❖ Family of Schools Meetings
- ❖ Secondary Principal Meetings
- ❖ Academic Council
- ❖ Elementary and Secondary Curriculum Councils
- ❖ Management Council Meetings
- ❖ School and CEC Staff Meetings

In collaboration with our partners – January 2018 to May 2018

- ❖ Student Senates – Elementary and Secondary
- ❖ Catholic School Councils
- ❖ Niagara Catholic Alliance Committee (NCAC)
- ❖ Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC)
- ❖ Niagara Catholic Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- ❖ CUPE 1317
- ❖ OECTA - Niagara Elementary Unit
- ❖ OECTA - Niagara Secondary Unit

Consultation and Recommendation Schedule

Through the extensive opportunity provided to fully engage Trustees, staff and our partners in the design of the System Priorities and Budget for 2018-2019, the following are the timelines established towards meeting the Ministry of Education requirement for Board's to submit a balanced budget by June 29th, 2018.

- System Priorities and Budget Consultation
– January 2018 to May 2018
- Submission of System Priority and Budget Recommendations to Senior Administrative Council
– April 20th, 2018
- Presentation of Recommended System Priorities 2018-2019
– May 8th, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting
- Presentation of Recommended Balanced Budget 2018-2019
– May 22nd, 2018 Board Meeting

As we progress towards a final report and recommendation of the System Priorities and Balanced Budget 2018-2019 to the May 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting and Board Meeting, the Director of Education and Senior Administrative Council will continue to update, inform and engage in collaborative discussions with the Board.

A visual component to this report will be presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting to commence the design of the specific System Priorities within the seven Enabling Strategies of the Board's System Priorities and a balanced Budget 2018-2019.

Appendix A - Design of System Priorities and Balanced Budget 2018-2019 Consultation

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the report on the Design of System Priorities and Budget 2018-2019 Consultation and Collaboration Schedule, as presented.

Prepared by: Senior Administrative Council

Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education, Secretary/Treasurer
Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education, Secretary/Treasurer

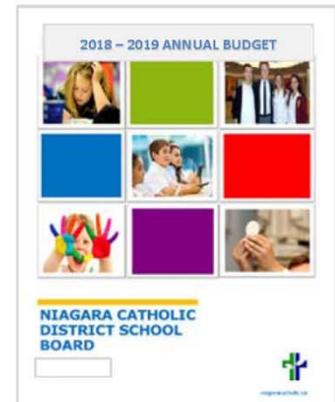
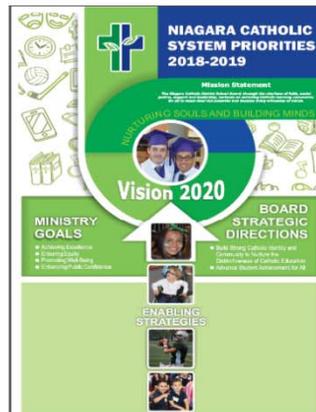
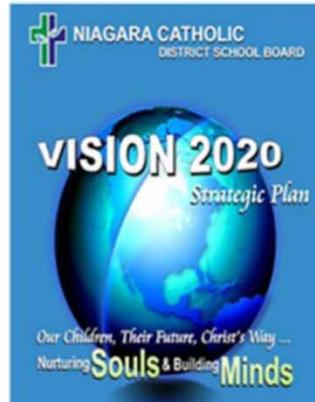
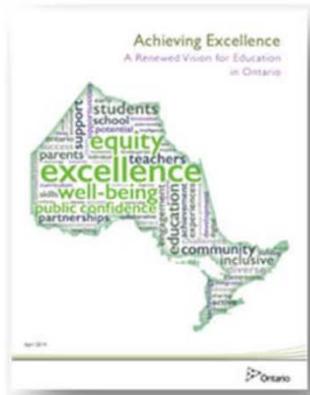
Date: January 16, 2018



Design of System Priorities and Balanced Budget 2018-2019

MISSION STATEMENT

The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.



STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- Build Strong Catholic Identity and Community to Nurture the Distinctiveness of Catholic Education.
- Advance Student Achievement for All.

TWO GUIDING PRINCIPLES

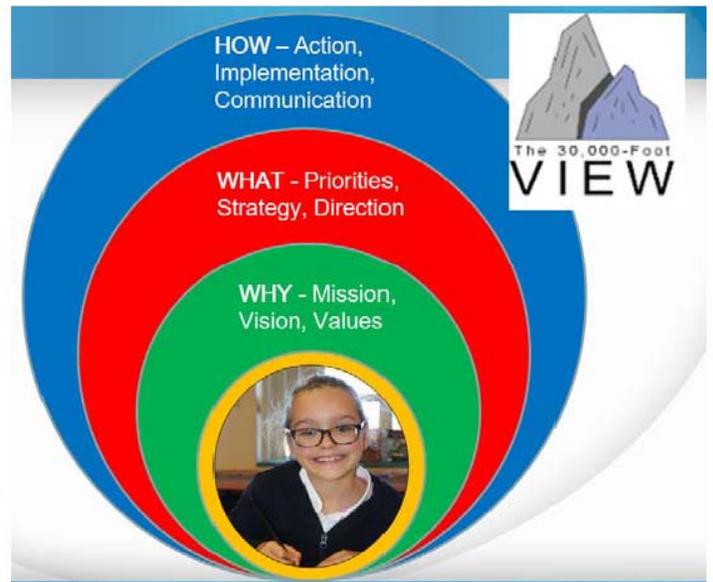
- Commitment to providing Catholic educational excellence through approved programs and services for all students.
- Commitment to achieving the Board's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan and Annual System Priorities through balanced and sustainable annual budgets.

VISION 2020 STRATEGIC PLAN ENABLING STRATEGIES

- Provide Supports for Success
- Enhance Technology for Optimal Learning
- Building Partnerships and Schools as Hubs
- Strengthen Human Resource Practices and Develop Transformational Leadership
- Create Equity and Accessibility of Resources
- Ensure Responsible Fiscal and Operational Management
- Address Changing Demographics



- **Provide Supports for Success**
 - Address learning gaps
 - Ensure student success in a Catholic context
 - Provide specialized subject teachers
 - Promote all pathways for all students
 - Increase opportunities for social justice
 - Mental health supports
 - Strategies for classroom supports
 - Impact of socio-economic factors
 - Life-skills programs for students
 - Provide additional resources for identified students
- **Enhance Technology for Optimal Learning**
- **Building Partnerships and Schools as Hubs**
 - Engage all students in community services
 - Create programs that meet local economic needs
- **Strengthen Human Resource Practices and Develop Transformational Leadership**
- **Create Equity and Accessibility of Resources**
- **Ensure Responsible Fiscal and Operational Management**
- **Address Changing Demographics**
 - Address declining enrolment
 - Prepare and support diversity of communities
 - Accuracy and impact of enrolment projections



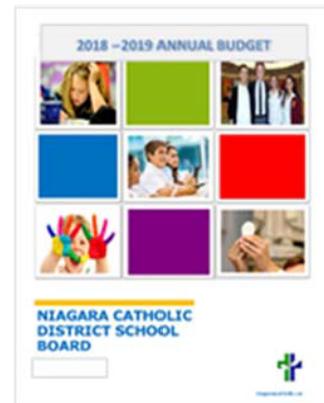
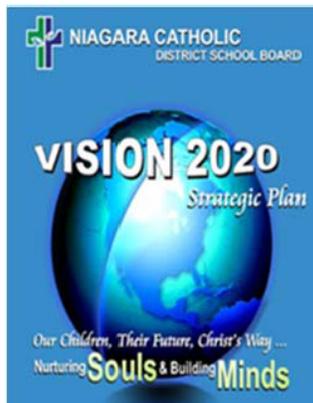
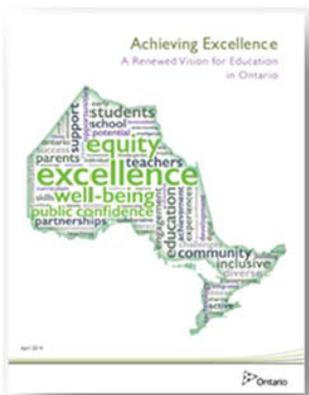
Invitation to submit a measurable action verb System Priority for 2018-2019 by April 20nd, 2018

Phrased with a measurable action verb:

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| Design | Deliver |
| Implement | Review |
| Develop | Facilitate |
| Engage | Create |

EXAMPLE

*Address Changing Demographics
Develop and implement a revised Long Term
Accommodation Plan 2018 to 2023*



**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2018

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the 2018 Board Committee Membership, as presented.

Prepared by: Trustee MacNeil, Chair of the Board

Presented by: Trustee MacNeil, Chair of the Board

Recommended by: Trustee MacNeil, Chair of the Board

Date: January 30, 2018



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

2018 BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Members to the Committees are appointed by the Chairperson of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chairperson of the Board.

STATUTORY COMMITTEES	TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED	2018 MEMBERSHIP
Audit Committee <i>O. Reg. 361/10, s. 7 (1). The term of office of a member of the audit committee who is a board member shall be determined by the board but shall not exceed four years.</i>	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Kathy Burtnik Fr. Paul MacNeil Pat Vernal
Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (N.C.P.I.C.)	<i>2 Trustees required</i>	Kathy Burtnik Dino Sicoli
Special Education Advisory Committee (S.E.A.C.)	<i>2 Trustees required</i>	Maurice Charbonneau Pat Vernal
Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (S.A.L. Committee)	<i>2 Trustees required</i>	Frank Fera Ted O'Leary

STANDING COMMITTEES	TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED	2018 MEMBERSHIP
Disciplinary Hearing Committee <i>NOTE: All Trustees serve as alternates for this Committee only</i>	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Maurice Charbonneau Frank Fera Ted O'Leary
Policy Committee	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Kathy Burtnik Dino Sicoli Pat Vernal

AD HOC COMMITTEES	TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED	2018 MEMBERSHIP
Blessed Trinity Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Fr. Paul MacNeil Dino Sicoli Pat Vernal
Denis Morris, Holy Cross, and Saint Francis Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Kathy Burtnik Maurice Charbonneau Pat Vernal
Lakeshore Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Kathy Burtnik Ted O'Leary Dino Sicoli
Notre Dame College Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Fr. Paul MacNeil Ted O'Leary Dino Sicoli
Saint Michael and Saint Paul Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Kathy Burtnik Frank Fera Ed Nieuwesteeg

OTHER LIAISON COMMITTEES	TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP MANDATED	2018 MEMBERSHIP
Staff Wellness Committee	<i>1 Trustee required</i>	Dino Sicoli Maurice Charbonneau (Alternate)

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT
INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE OF NOVEMBER 2, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of November 2, 2017, as presented for information.

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education
Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education
Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: January 30, 2018



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE
NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2017**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

Note: The Director of Education’s designate Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education will preside until the election of the Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Superintendent Forsyth-Sells.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening prayer was led by Superintendent Forsyth-Sells.

Welcome

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells welcomed the new and returning members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and thanked them for their support of Catholic education in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

2. Roll Call

Parent Members	Affiliations	Present	Excused	Absent
Shonna Daly	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	√		
Leanne Prince	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	√		
Rebecca Williams	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	√		
Kim Hedden	Merritton/Thorold		√	
Heather McCluckie	Merritton/Thorold	√		
Chris Kouroushis	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Rita Colling	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Mary Mannella-Byers	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Josephine Muraca-Lettieri	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Marion Battersby	St. Catharines		√	
Lisa Finley	St. Catharines	√		
Kate Hingston	St. Catharines	√		
Angela Lorenzo	St. Catharines	√		
Carrie Vernelli	Welland		√	
Leone Strilec	Development and Peace	√		
Shelley Gilbert	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	√		

Anna Racine	SEAC Representative		√	
Fr. Peter Rowe	Bishop/Diocesan Representative	√	Arrived at 7:50 p.m.	
Gabriel Demizio	Secondary Student Senate Representative	√		
Trustees				
Kathy Burtnik	Vice-Chair of the Board	√		
Dino Sicoli	Trustee		√	

The following staff was in attendance:

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells, Kim Kuchar, Elementary Principal, Josie Rocca, Support Staff Representative and Yvonne Anderson, Recording Secretary.

Regrets sent: Marion Battersby, Kim Hedden, Anna Racine, Dino Sicoli and Carrie Vernelli

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Heather McCluckie

Seconded by: Shonna Daly

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of November 2, 2017 as amended.

CARRIED

4. NCPIC Membership 2017-2018 and Terms of Office

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the NCPIC parent/guardian membership and the terms of office were determined by consensus.

Terms of Office			
Parent Members 2017-2018			
Name	Geographical Area	Terms of Office	
		One (1) year term	Two (2) year term
Shonna Daly	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet		√
Leanne Prince	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham		√
Rebecca Williams	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	√	
Kim Hedden	Merritton/Thorold	√	
Heather McCluckie	Merritton/Thorold		√
Chris Kouroushis	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√
Rita Colling	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√
Mary Mannella-Byers	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√	
Josephine Muraca-Lettieri	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√	
Marion Battersby	St. Catharines		√
Lisa Finley	St. Catharines	√	
Kate Hingston	St. Catharines	√	
Angela Lorenzo	St. Catharines		√
Carrie Vernelli	Welland	√	

5. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Rita Colling, Lisa Finley, Mary Mannella-Byers, and Josie Rocca informed the NCPIC members that they are employed by the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

6. **Election of Chair**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells called for nominations for the position of Chair of the NCPIC.

Moved by: Rebecca Williams

Seconded by: Lisa Finley

THAT Shonna Daly, be nominated for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked Shonna Daly if she wished to stand for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Shonna Daly accepted the nomination.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked if there were any more nominations. There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Shonna Daly was acclaimed as the Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells turned over the Chairship of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting to Chair Daly.

Chair's Remarks

Chair Daly, thanked the parent members for placing their trust and confidence in her as the 2017-2019 Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Chair Daly, is looking forward to her two (2) year term further promoting parent engagement in the Board.

7. **Commissioning of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee**

Fr. Peter Rowe presided over the commissioning ceremony of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee as they publicly proclaimed their commitment to promote the Mission of Catholic education and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

8. **Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2017**

Moved by: Rebecca Williams

Seconded by: Heather McCluckie

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of September 7, 2017 as amended.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided information regarding a proposed presentation requested by Vincent Atallah and Adam Vasallo, Niagara Catholic alumni student trustees and co-founders of Don't Freak Out! NCPIC members requested to defer this presentation at this time.

C. 2017-2018 NCPIC GOALS

- To create a blue print as a serving model to strengthen the triad and support Catholic education and students, parents/guardians, parish and community engagement to be presented to the Board.

D. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **FAITH FORMATION**-*Josie Rocca*

Activities will be proposed at the next meeting.

2. **POLICY**- *Superintendent Forsyth-Sells*

The following Policies and Administrative Guidelines are currently being reviewed as part of the cyclical Policy and Administrative Guidelines Review process.

- Trustee Code of Conduct Policy No. 100.12
- Trustee Expenses & Reimbursement Policy No. 100.13

Feedback is to be submitted to jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com by November 8, 2017.

- Assignment of Principals & Vice-Principals Policy 202.1
- Employee Attendance During Inclement Weather & Workplace Closure Policy 201.9
- Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction Policy 100.7
- Nutrition Policy 302.7
- Records and Information Management Policy 600.2

Feedback is to be submitted to jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com by January 12, 2018.

3. **PRO Grant 2017-2018**

NCPIC and Catholic School Council PRO Grants 2017-2018

Twenty-nine (29) schools in the Niagara Catholic District School Board have received PRO Grants for the 2017-2018 school year. The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee has been approved for the project titled “*Niagara Catholic Well-Being, Learning and Achievement Fair*” for parents/guardians, students and community.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells proposed that the NCPIC PRO Grant project “*Niagara Catholic Well-Being, Learning and Achievement Fair*” for parents/guardians, students and community be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 and Denis Morris Catholic High School. A PRO Grant subcommittee will be formed to prepare for the event.

E. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

1. NCPIC Annual Report 2016-2017

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided copies of the NCPIC Annual Report for 2016-2017 for review.

2. Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board Parents' Conference 2017 "Weaving the Catholic Partnership": November 4, 2017

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the information regarding the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board Parents' Conference 2017 "Weaving the Catholic Partnership". The brochure was also sent by email to all NCPIC members on October 19, 2017.

3. Community Event with Valerie Pringle: November 23, 2017

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells shared information regarding a free community event with Valerie Pringle to be held on November 23, 2017 at the Scotiabank Convention Centre at 7:00 p.m.

4. Director's Inspiration Award 2017

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the 2017 Director's Inspiration Awards celebration took place at St. Mary of the Assumption Roman Catholic Church in St. Catharines on Thursday, October 19, 2017. Congratulations were extended to NCPIC member, Mary Mannella-Byers as a worthy recipient of the Director's Inspiration Award for her extraordinary work with students and colleagues each and every day.

5. Catholic Education Symposium-November 14 and 15, 2017

Shonna Daly, Josephine Muraca-Lettieri, Leanne Prince and Carrie Vernelli will represent the NCPIC at the Catholic Education Symposium on November 14 and 15, 2017 in Toronto.

6. NCPIC Financial Report

A financial statement was provided for information.

F. COMMUNITY REPORTS

1. Development and Peace-*Leone Strilec*

- Six members of the St. Catharines Diocesan Council for Development and Peace attended the September regional gathering in Woodstock. It was a meaningful educational experience for all.
- The Spanish Youth Group of the St. Catharines Diocese will be focusing this year on Development and Peace, and will bring their passion for social justice to their respective parishes and schools.
- The annual Fall workshop held on Saturday, October 14, 2017 was well attended. This year's education campaign is entitled "*Women at the Heart of Peace.*" Statistically, when women play a key role in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and sustained peace building then the success rate of maintaining peace is higher. Development and Peace continues to support women in the peace process and encourages Canadians and the Canadian government to recognize the importance of empowering women to bring about a more just world and back up the support with funding.

- A member of Development and Peace presented at a Niagara Catholic Faith Formation workshop and the participants were very receptive to this year's campaign.
- The Annual High School Workshop for NCDSB will take place on January 10, 2018.
- St. Kevin parish will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Development and Peace with a Mass at 6:30 p.m. followed by a guest speaker Ellen Kaas, and fellowship. All are welcome to attend.
- Development and Peace is focused on an emergency aid campaign for the Rohingya refugees in Myanmar. Donations can be made at <https://www.devp.org/en>.

2. Society of St. Vincent de Paul-*Shelley Gilbert*

- St. Mary Church in Welland will be hosting a Pasta Dinner Night on November 19, 2017.
- St. Vincent de Paul has started to prepare Christmas Baskets.
- The St. Vincent de Paul Store in Niagara Falls is celebrating its first anniversary.
- All five (5) St. Vincent de Paul Stores were recipients of the Bishop's Charity Dinner.
- The St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen is partnering with NTEC to empower people with special needs to participate more fully in the community.

G. SEAC REPORT-*Anna Racine*

- Nil Report

H. BISHOP/DIOCESAN REPORT-*Fr. Peter Rowe*

- Fr. Peter Rowe shared the importance of the "Eucharist".
- Fr. Peter Rowe shared that Pope Francis has declared November 19, 2017 as the first *World Day of the Poor*-*"Let us love, not with words but with deeds"* this is a powerful appeal to our consciences as believers, allowing us to grow in the conviction that sharing with the poor enables us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel. The poor are not a problem: they are a resource from which to draw as we strive to accept and practise in our lives the essence of the Gospel.
- Fr. Peter Rowe reported that the clergy are currently attending workshops to address realities of the world: assisted death, gender identity, and the decline of marriage in the community of faith.
- Fr. Peter Rowe reported that the Diocese of St. Catharines is in preparation for the sixtieth anniversary celebration that will take place on Monday November 26, 2018, at the Cathedral.

I. STUDENT SENATE REPORT-*Gabriel Dimizio*

- Student Senate took part in a retreat at the Journey's Retreat Centre from Thursday October 12, 2017 to Friday October 13, 2017. Participants used this time to bond as a group, learn about each other's interests and share social media platforms for further communication.
- Participants were divided into 4 groups to create a workshop based on the "Serve Him" motto. Each group was responsible for creating games, presentations and icebreakers based on their assigned workshop:
 - Serve yourself
 - Serve the environment
 - Serve your community
 - Serving your team
- Discussion occurred around the Student Senate involvement with the Lead Out Loud Conference on November 24, 2017 at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School.

- Student Senate has begun the planning for the Ontario Catholic Student Leadership Conference (OCSLC) that will be hosted by Niagara Catholic this school year.

J. STAFF REPORTS-*Kim Kuchar and Josie Rocca*

- Thanksgiving Food Drives were held to support local foodbanks.
- Secondary schools are in the process of hosting Grade 8 Transition Days and Open Houses.
- Random Act of Kindness Day will take place throughout the Board on November 3, 2017.
- Remembrance Day Services will take place in all Niagara Catholic schools on Friday, November 10, 2017.
- November 17, 2017 is a P.A. Day for elementary and secondary students.
- November 19 to 25, 2017 is “Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week”.
- Kindergarten Registration and Open House will take place on November 22, 2017 in all elementary schools.
- December 3, 2017 begins the Season of Advent. This is a time for us to come together in prayer and devotion and celebrate Advent as it is meant to be celebrated, in preparation for the birth of Christ.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS-*Vice-Chair Kathy Burtnik*

- Vice-Chair Burtnik welcomed and thanked all members to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee for their commitment to Catholic education and support of parent engagement and student achievement and well-being for all students in Niagara Catholic.
- Vice-Chair Burtnik reported that Pat Rocca, Principal of Cardinal Newman Catholic Elementary School has been appointed Superintendent of Education. Pat Rocca will oversee Special Education and the Blessed Trinity, Saint Michael and Saint Paul Elementary Family of Schools. As a result of this appointment, Principal and Vice-Principal Appointments were announced.
- The Teachers of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing made a presentation to the Board on the supports provided to students in our schools.
- Niagara Catholic welcomed Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne to the Niagara Launch Centre on October 12, 2017. Premier Wynne was presented with a hand carved desk made by the students. During the 90-minute visit, Premier Wynne took the time to stop and chat with students and was astounded by the incredible skills and talent she saw on display.
- Pilgrimage was once again successful. Over a thousand students and staff walked in the rain and cold to support those in need.
- The Organizational Meeting of the Board will take place on December 5, 2017.

L. AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

M. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre

N. CLOSING PRAYER: Closing Prayer was led by Fr. Peter Rowe.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Shelley Gilbert

Seconded by: Kate Hingston

THAT the November 2, 2017 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD BY THE NIAGARA
CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board review the Catholic School Councils Policy No. 800.1 to include the following statement, “that each Catholic School Council of the Board is to host an annual Faith Formation for the school community”.

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Recommended by: Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

Date: January 30, 2018



REPORT TO THE BOARD JANUARY 30, 2018

RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD BY THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of January 11, 2018 the following motion was approved:

MOTION by: Leanne Prince

Seconded by Heather McCluckie

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board review the Catholic School Councils Policy No. 800.1 to include the following statement, “that each Catholic School Council of the Board is to host an annual Faith Formation for the school community”.

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board review the Catholic School Councils Policy No. 800.1 to include the following statement, “that each Catholic School Council of the Board is to host an annual Faith Formation for the school community”.

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Recommended by: Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

Date: January 30, 2018

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE –
BUILDING ON TODAY MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the approved Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee – Building on Today Meeting of December 4, 2017, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE – BUILDING ON TODAY MEETING TUESDAY DECEMBER 4, 2017

Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee – Building on Today Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 4, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. in the Holy Cross Community Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 3:50 p.m. by Trustee Burtnik.

1. **Opening Prayer**

Opening Prayer were led by Trustee Sicoli.

2. **Roll Call**

Trustee	Present	Present Electronical	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Maurice Charbonneau				✓
Frank Fera				✓
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓			
Ed Nieuwesteeg				✓
Ted O’Leary	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Pat Vernal	✓			
Student Trustees				
Nico Tripodi	✓			
Hannah Tummillo	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services, **Mark Ferri**, Administrator of Purchasing Services and **Linda Marconi**, Recording Secretary/Executive Assistant

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Vernal

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Ad Hoc Committee – Building on Today Meeting of December 4, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

4. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the agenda.

5. **Board Approved Terms of Reference**

For information.

6. **Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee – Building on Today of November 7, 2017**

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Ad Hoc Committee approve the Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee – Building on Today of November 7, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

7. **Determination of the Statement of Work**

A review of the Statement of Work – Guiding Principles took place and input was provided on Questions 1 through 6. It was requested that staff embed the Ad Hoc Committee responses to the Guiding Principles, Questions 1-6, into a Draft Request for Proposal. The Ad Hoc Committee will discuss and provide answers to the remaining questions of the Guiding Principles at the next Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

8. **Draft Request for Proposal**

Staff will present the revisions of Draft Request for Proposal at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee.

9. **Next Meeting of Ad Hoc Committee**

The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee is December 18, 2017 at 3:30 p.m.

10. **Adjournment**

Moved by Trustee O’Leary

THAT the December 4, 2017 Ad Hoc Committee – Building on Today Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes of the Ad Hoc Committee – Building on Today Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 4, 2017.**

Approved on **December 18, 2017.**

Fr. Paul MacNeil
Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF
DECEMBER 6, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of December 6, 2017 as presented for information.



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Racine.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Chair Racine.

2. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Present	Excused	Absent
Anna Racine	The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario	✓		
Rob Lavorato	Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara)	✓		
Bill Helmeczi	Pathstone Mental Health	✓		
Michael Jacques	Community Living Welland Pelham	✓		
Karen Murphy	Autism Ontario Niagara Region	✓		
Dorothy Harvey	Niagara Children's Centre	✓		
Rita Smith	Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet		✓	
Brittani Ali	Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region	✓		
Trustees				
Pat Vernal		✓		
Maurice Charbonneau			✓	
Student Senate Representative				
Justine Bourak		✓		

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Pat Rocca**, Superintendent of Education; **Danny Giancola**, Coordinator – Special Education; **David O’Rourke**, Coordinator – Special Education, **Jim Di Gioia**, Coordinator – Special Education **Denice Robertson**, Principal, Secondary; **Lisa Selman**, Principal, Elementary; **Tina DiFrancesco**, Recording Secretary

Introductions

Director Crocco welcomed all to the SEAC meeting, and on behalf of the Trustees and Superintendent Rocca thanked the members for their continued service. Director Crocco announced that Pat Vernal was elected as Vice-Chair of the Board at the December 5th, 2017 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Chair Racine welcomed Brittani Ali, new SEAC representative from the Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Bill Helmeczi

Seconded by Dorothy Harvey

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of December 6, 2017.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Interest

No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 1, 2017

Moved by Karen Murphy

Seconded by Bill Helmeczi

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 1, 2017 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Mindfulness to Support Catholic Education – Alfonso Monachino, Rose Perri-Gentilcore

Alfonso Monachino, Behaviour Resource Teacher and Rose Perri-Gentilcore, Early Years Lead presented *Mindfulness to Support Catholic Education*. An overview was provided of the four components of mindfulness; Active Listening, Accepting, No Judgements and Being Present. A video was presented about *What you Practice Grows Stronger*, by Dr. Shauna Shapiro and information and instruction was given on different breathing techniques.

C. VISIONING

1. *Goals and Vision for 2017-2018*

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 1, 2017

1. *Learner Advocacy*
2. *Parent Outreach*
3. *Program and Service Recommendations*
4. *Special Education Budget*
5. *Annual Review, Special Education Plan*
6. *Other Related Items*
7. *Policy Review*

- 7.1 *Assignment of Principals and Vice-Principals Policy (202.1)*
Employee Attendance During Inclement Weather and Workplace Closure Policy (201.9)
Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction Policy (100.7)
Nutrition Policy (302.7)
Records and Information Management Policy (600.2)

Feedback is to be submitted to Jennifer Pellegrini by January 12, 2018.

Student Trustees Policy (100.4)

Feedback is to be submitted to Jennifer Pellegrini by February 8, 2018.

E. SEAC REPORT

1. **Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for Catholic School Council Agenda**
 - Nil Report
2. **Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for School Newsletters**
 - Nil Report

F. AGENCY REPORTS

1. **Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara) – Rob Lavorato**

- Nil Report

2. **The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario – Anna Racine**

- Nil Report

3. **Pathstone Mental Health – Bill Helmeczi**

- Nil Report

4. **Community Living Welland Pelham – Michael Jacques**

- The following video clips were presented;
A MILLION POSSIBILITIES IS MICHAEL JACQUES – Community Living Ontario supports people who have an intellectual disability to lead full, inclusive lives while enriching their communities.
PEOPLE FIRST OF ONTARIO – MICHAEL JACQUES ON WORK - This Is My Life video series features People First of Ontario Members talking about their lives and the issues that are important to them – like having a home, a job, or a relationship, and the importance of advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities.

5. **Autism Ontario Niagara Region – Karen Murphy**

- Autism Ontario is now offering a monthly newsletter for adults on the spectrum. This is one way that we can help support adults on the spectrum and their families.
- December 13th - Adult Social Club is having their holiday Pot Luck and Games Night.
- January 13th they will be going to a Showtime Comedy Night Out.
- Tech Club will be breaking for December and will start back up January 11th
- 2018 Calendars are on sale at the Chapter office if interested. Calendars feature watercolour paintings by children, youths and adults on the spectrum. They sell for \$10.00 each.

6. **Niagara Children's Centre – Dorothy Harvey**

- The Niagara Children's Centre has received a Trillium ProGrant which will be used to enhance their Family Engagement Strategy.

7. **Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet – Rita Smith**

- Nil Report

8. **Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region – Brittani Ali**

- Fall programs wrapped up this week with great feedback from parents and children.
- Brock University research students are currently collecting our program data in anticipation of completing their research projects on our programs.
- Winter program applications opened on November 27th. We've been overwhelmed by the amount of applications received and had to add an additional 10 spots to Reading Rocks. We currently have 45 spots filled, with 25 children on the waiting list.
- We have received a \$2000 partnership grant from the Rotary Club to continue running our SMART math program. We are hoping to be able to re-start this program in the spring if we are able to secure the additional funds.
- We will be opening Fall program applications in the spring this year (along with Spring and Summer programs) to avoid the typical September rush.
- Our Better Emotional and Social Times (B.E.S.T.) program, which the LDANR has operated for a number of years is intended to support children with learning difficulties to develop coping skills and self-advocacy through mindfulness based strategies.

G. STAFF REPORTS

1. **Lisa Selman – Principal, Elementary**

Happening in Elementary Schools

- December 4-8 - Hour of Code and Computer Science Education
www.hourofcode.com/ca and www.hourofcode.com/ca/fr
- Healthy School's Initiatives - Partnership with Public Health Nurse
- Advent - Reflections
- Christian Meditation
- Christmas Preparations - Family Mass, Old Fashioned Christmas Gathering with crafts, Christmas concerts, Family Christmas activities at the schools
- Itinerant Arts Teachers integrated into the teaching and celebration of the performing arts in elementary schools (Ukulele, recorder, guitar etc.)
- Choirs - School Choirs attend Choirfest, Christmas stockings
- High school Roadshows performing in the elementary schools
- Food Drives, Toy Drives, Mitten Tree
- Partnerships with St. Vincent de Paul Society, Knights of Columbus - Coats, Gift Certificates for families in need
- Schools who have much are donating to schools in need
- Partnerships with area high school - write letters to Santa, Christmas Crafts with Kindergarten
- Alternate Dress Day - Red and Green
- Assemblies - Student Lead
- Professional Development for Staff - Math, Semester 1/Term 1 Reporting Workshops
- Ongoing involvement of Board Special Education personnel and support staff in elementary schools

2. Denice Robertson – Principal, Secondary

Happening in Secondary Schools

- Special Education Department staff and students would like to wish all members of SEAC a safe and happy holiday season. Merry Christmas! Looking forward to sharing new and exciting items in the New Year!
- All Special Education Classes attended Saint Paul Catholic High School to participate in a Zumba class and dance in December - lots of fun for all!

Saint Michael

- The Special Education Class is finishing up their Christmas class fundraiser. So far, they raised over \$700.00 Proceeds from the fundraiser will be donated to Christmas Baskets for some well deserving Saint Michael families.
- Mid-term marks for all credit bearing students have been reviewed and plans have been set in place for students to be successful in their school year. These will also be reviewed when second semester IEPs are created in early February.
- Open House for incoming Grade 9 students saw a full house of students from our Family of Schools.

Lakeshore Catholic

- On Tuesday December 12th our class will be treated to *Disney's, The Little Mermaid* Live production at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls. *Disney's, The Little Mermaid* offers a fantastic creative opportunity for our students to watch a live theatre production fostering their imagination, promote their creative thinking and enjoy the rich costumes and sets, and enjoy the talent and singing of actors.

Denis Morris

- The Special Education Class attended Bridges for Autism at the Pen Centre. Students participated in a two hour program which involved an obstacle course, dancing and a karate class instructed by Sensei Andrei from Tiger's Lair in Niagara Falls.
- Two teams entered the Special Olympics basketball qualifying tournament on November 30. Our teams experienced both wins and losses, but displayed great effort and enjoyed their day.
- The Special Education Class attended SNAP at Brock University and participated in a number of engaging activities including cosom hockey, ping pong, obstacle course, rowing, stationary bike, etc.
- Our Capacity Building Series for December is addressing the Needs of Selected Listening Strategies. We are providing staff with a list of environmental modifications and compensatory strategies designed to improve the child's access to and use of auditory information.
- Best Buddies celebrated "Crepefest" with the Grade 11 French class. Crepes were served with a variety of toppings. Students made Christmas tree ornaments and watched a Christmas movie.

Holy Cross

- The Special Education department at Holy Cross is in full Christmas swing. Our class advent chain was made by two students and they presented to their classmates how it works. Other students are preparing for class and school performances in song, from The Polar Express to creative dance. The entire class worked together to decorate our school library for all to enjoy, and have received rave reviews. Currently they are preparing Christmas treats to take home to parents and share with friends of the program at our Christmas open house on December 21.

Blessed Trinity

- In November, our unified Soccer team participated in the Special Olympics Soccer and Basketball tournaments. These events are extremely well organized and our students had an amazing time. A special thank-you goes out to our senior student leaders for coaching our students during practices and games.
- We are thrilled to announce that some of our students in the Special Education Class received recognition by the Royal Canadian Legion here in Grimsby for their amazing Remembrance Day artwork. These pieces were handpicked by members of the Legion with submissions from several schools in the Grimsby area. We celebrated at the Grimsby Legion on Tuesday, November 28th at 7:00 p.m.
- Always busy in the Special Education Class, we are currently celebrating the Advent and Christmas season by making beautiful crafts, sharing delicious meals and singing carols. We are very excited to welcome the Superstore Cooking Class Co-Ordinator on December 15th. She will help students create gingerbread houses that will be taken home and shared with families.
- Transition meetings have begun for our students who will be become a welcome part of our Special Education Classroom next year. We look forward to many visits with both the students and their parents/guardians.

Saint Francis

- Many of our Special Education Classroom students will be participating, as a group, in our Christmas talent show on the last day of school before the Christmas holidays.
- Our Special Education Classroom staff and students are baking Christmas loaves for the Saint Francis staff as a fundraising project for the classroom.
- Our Special Education Classroom students just returned from a breakfast and bowling outing at the Parkway Lanes, as a class. This is a favourite activity for our students.

3. Pat Rocca – Superintendent of Education

- Niagara Catholic is re-establishing a relationship with Niagara College regarding students in the Educational Assistant program. Looking at providing mentoring for students and providing them with information regarding the application process within Niagara Catholic.

4. Danny Giancola – Coordinator Special Education

- Nil Report

5. **David O'Rourke – Coordinator Special Education**

- Nil Report

6. **Jim DiGioia – Coordinator Special Education**

- Preschool transition meetings are happening.
- IPRC meetings are being scheduled for January.
- January ERT meetings will be held at the Family of Schools Secondary school.

H. TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. **Pat Vernal – Trustee**

- Nil Report

2. **Maurice Charbonneau – Trustee**

- Nil Report

I. STUDENT REPORT

1. **Justine Bourak– Student Senate Representative**

- The Lead out Loud Conference was very successful focussing on our theme of service. The day was filled with high energy, presentation and interactive group activities! It was really great to see all of the elementary senates interacting with one another and interacting with us! The breakout workshop focussed on how we can better serve the community, the environment and how we can better ourselves and others. Throughout the day it was exciting to see all the great qualities and characteristics that each elementary senate brought to our accepting, inclusive and educational atmosphere. As a group we were able to bounce ideas off one another and I'm sure everyone went home that day with new, insightful knowledge. I was really grateful to be a part of such a wonderful day and senate was very happy with how smoothly the day was run.
- I hope everyone has a great Christmas break filled with love and spending quality time with the people closest to us!

J. NCPIC REPORT

- Nil Report

K. ALLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Learner Advocacy*
2. *Parent Outreach*
3. *Program and Service Recommendation*
4. *Special Education Budget*
5. *Annual Review, Special Education Plan*
6. *Other Related Items*
7. *Policy Review*

M. CORRESPONDENCE

N. QUESTION PERIOD

O. NOTICES OF MOTION

P. AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Q. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. The following video was presented:
BELONGING MATTERS - The Voices of Youths Research Findings - A Belonging Framework -
This video describes the inclusive research process and with the support of the team's three project consultants, explores the projects findings: a Framework of Belonging which can be used to enhance policy and programs that affect the lives of youth with IDD and their families.
2. Vice-Chair Lavorato announced that he is stepping down as Vice-Chair on the SEAC. As well, Vice-Chair Lavorato stated that there will be a change whereby he will be the alternate representative for Down Syndrome Caring Parents and Pina Palombo will be the primary representative for Down Syndrome Caring Parents.
3. Election Proceedings will be held at the January meeting.
4. Superintendent Rocca thanked the SEAC members and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

R. NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 7:00p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre

S. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Rob Lavorato

Seconded by Dorothy Harvey

THAT the December 6, 2017 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:05p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: EXTENDED OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP, EXCURSION AND
EXCHANGE APPROVAL COMMITTEE 2017 - 2018**

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee
2017-2018 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: January 30, 2018



REPORT TO THE BOARD JANUARY 30, 2017

EXTENDED OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP, EXCURSION AND EXCHANGE APPROVAL COMMITTEE 2017 - 2018

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee continues to review proposals for 2017-2018 extended overnight field trips, excursions and exchanges as submitted to date. The composition of the approval Committee is as follows:

1 Supervisory Officer	-	Ted Farrell
1 Secondary School Vice-Principal	-	Andrew Bartley
1 Secondary School Principal	-	Denice Robertson
1 Elementary School Principal	-	Steve Ward
1 Program Department Consultant	-	Jennifer Pirosko

As defined in the Niagara Catholic Educational Field Trip Policy (400.2) Administrative Procedures, an Extended Overnight Field Trip is:

- “Any school/board sponsored and supervised activity, on scheduled instructional days, beyond the school property that requires four or five more night lodgings”
or
- “Requiring an individual flight ticket of \$600.00 or more.” (Part II, A.4)

An Excursion is defined as follows:

- “A trip not directly linked to specific subject curriculum expectations, but provided to enrich a student’s overall Catholic education. An excursion is a trip that is planned and arranged for secondary school students that would be held during the year when the students are not normally expected to be attending classes and that does not adhere to all guidelines and procedures relating to Educational Field Trips.” (Part II, A.5)

Attached to this information report is an Executive Summary of a 2017-2018 Extended Overnight Field Trip as submitted on Tuesday, January 30, 2018. (Appendix A)

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee 2017-2018
report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: January 30, 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Appendix A

Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Committee Approval – 2017-2018

SCHOOL	TYPE	APPROVAL REQUIRED	DESTINATION	CURRICULUM UNIT/THEME	EDUCATION VALUE	FAITH COMPONENT	DATE	NUMBER OF STUDENTS, STAFF & CHAPERONES ON TRIP	DURATION	COST (APPROX)	TRANSPORTATION
Saint Paul	Extended Overnight Field Trip	Superintendent Extended Overnight Field Trip Committee and SAC	New York City	Religion, Arts, History & Geography	Students will experience viewing historical sites, be apart of a Broadway work shop, learn about architecture.	Students will attend Mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral	Tuesday, May 1, 2018 to Saturday, May 5, 2018	50 students 2 Classroom Teachers (will be covered internally) 2 Student Services Teachers (do not require coverage) 1 Chaperone (Criminal Background Check will be provided)	4 school days 4 nights (3 in New York and 1 night travelling home)	\$699.00 per person (includes transportation, accommodations with breakfast, all tours, taxes and gratuities) Additional cost of \$95.00 per person for the Broadway Show. Plus personal spending money	Coach Bus

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM
OUR LADY OF GRACE SPIRITUAL CENTRE**

The School Excellence Program report is presented for information.

Prepared by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Presented by: Krista Wood, Board Chaplaincy Leader

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: January 30, 2018



SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM OUR LADY OF GRACE SPIRITUAL CENTRE

Contact Info

243 Gorham Road
Ridgeway, ON
L0S 1N0
P. 905.894.8910
F. 905.894.6414
journey@ncdsb.com

2017-2018
61 Retreats

Elementary Chaplaincy Team

Nicholas Ali
Ariana Agnino
James Carnegie
Michelle Lepine

Board Chaplaincy Leader

Krista Wood

Director of Education

John Crocco



In 1982, the Welland County Roman Catholic Separate School Board approved a pilot project to be known as the Spiritual Centre and Outdoor Education Program (S.C.O.E.P.). The pilot project began March 7, 1983 and lasted for eight weeks. In July 1983, the five-day residential retreat program at the Loretto Christian Life Centre in Niagara Falls was approved by the Board and became a Grade Eight program for all students.

As a result of the amalgamation of the Welland County Roman Catholic Separate School Board and the Lincoln County Catholic School Board in 1998, the program was expanded to all Catholic elementary schools through the Region of Niagara.

In 2005 S.C.O.E.P. relocated to its current site, formerly Our Lady of Grace Catholic Elementary School. With the introduction of Elementary Chaplaincy Leaders in 2011, the program was renamed the Journey Retreat and continues to serve students throughout the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

*Loving God,
May we continue to follow Christ
with open eyes, sensitive hearts, and willing hands
as we journey to become the people we are called to be. Amen.*

-The Journey Prayer-

Prepared by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Presented by: Krista Wood, Board Chaplaincy Leader

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: January 30, 2018

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: NIAGARA CATHOLIC SYSTEM PRIORITIES MID-YEAR
ACHIEVEMENT REPORT 2017-2018**

The Niagara Catholic System Priorities Mid-Year Achievement Report 2017-2018 is
presented for information.

Prepared by: Senior Administrative Council
Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Senior Administrative Council
Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: January 30, 2018



REPORT TO THE BOARD JANUARY 30, 2018

NIAGARA CATHOLIC SYSTEM PRIORITIES MID-YEAR ACHIEVEMENT REPORT 2017-2018

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the May 23, 2017 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the following motion was approved;

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2017-2018, as amended. (Appendix A)

The Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2017-2018 are designed to provide the annual focus for the system towards achieving the outcomes of the Niagara Catholic Vision 2020 Strategic Plan. Within the two (2) Strategic Directions and the seven (7) Enabling Strategies are the approved system priorities which provide the specific framework to measure the achievement of each direction and strategy within our multi-year strategic plan.

The Board approved System Priorities 2017-2018 were posted on the Niagara Catholic website and copies were provided to Bishop Bergie, the Diocese of St. Catharines, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Catholic School Council Chairs and the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC). In addition, a poster size copy of the Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2017-2018 were displayed in public locations in all schools, Board sites and the Catholic Education Centre for review by students, staff, parents and guests to Niagara Catholic.

As we reach the approximate mid-point of the 2017-2018 academic year, Senior Administrative Council conducted its annual mid-year review of the progress in achieving the priorities within each Enabling Strategy. The results of the mid-year review were collated and reviewed by Senior Administrative Council, administrators and Board staff as a measurement of our success to date in achieving each System Priority by the conclusion of the academic year. Principals will conduct similar discussions with staff on the implementation of system priorities and the measurements of success following a presentation to Principals at the February 2018 Director's Meeting.

Attached to this report (Appendix B) is a copy of the Niagara Catholic System Priorities Mid-Year Achievement Review 2017-2018. Within each Enabling Strategy is the indicator of success and comments on the measurable against the action plan for 2017-2018 to determine the achievement of either *Action Required, On Target or Completed*. A hardcopy of the report will be provided at the January Board Meeting.

With the majority of indicators directly linked to final achievement results at the conclusion of the 2017-2018 school year, members of Senior Administrative Council, administrators and Board staff will collate, analyze and review all data gathered for the 2017-2018 school year and present a final report to the Board and to all stakeholders at the September 2018 Board Meeting.

The annual final report will provide evidenced based information on the achievement of the Board's annual system priorities and the achievement of specific expectations within Niagara Catholic's multi-year strategic plan, Vision 2020.

Attached

Appendix A - Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2017-2018

Appendix B - Niagara Catholic System Priorities Mid-Year Achievement Review 2017-2018

The Niagara Catholic System Priorities Mid-Year Achievement Review 2017-2018
is presented for information.

Prepared by: Senior Administrative Council

Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education / Secretary Treasurer
Senior Administrative Council

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education / Secretary Treasurer

Date: January 30, 2018



**NIAGARA CATHOLIC
SYSTEM PRIORITIES 2017-2018**

To continue to achieve excellence, ensure equity, promote well-being and enhance public confidence in publically funded Catholic education through the delivery of innovative and supportive programs and services for students and staff rooted in the Board's Mission, Vision and Values.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Build Strong Catholic Identity and Community to Nurture the Distinctiveness of Catholic Education

Advance Student Achievement for All

ENABLING STRATEGIES

Provide Supports for Success

- Increase student engagement, and student voice in student achievement, well-being and mental health awareness
- Engage in a review of specific programs, pathways, services and supports provided for all students
- Enhance global competencies and experiential learning opportunities for all students

Enhance Technology for Optimal Learning

- Improve access and use of technology for all students and staff

Building Partnerships and Schools as Hubs

- Create opportunities for meaningful dialogue, feedback and input from students, parents, staff, pastors and the community
- Refine brand awareness and communication with stakeholders
- Enhance and develop wrap around partnerships with community services

Strengthen Human Resource Practices and Develop Transformational Leadership

- Enhance professional development opportunities for all staff
- Consolidate Board requirements for the Health and Safety of staff and students
- Address regulations regarding data management

Create Equity and Accessibility of Resources

- Conduct a review of the criteria used in the allocation of resources to deliver approved programs, supports and services within Board and School Improvement Plans

Ensure Responsible Fiscal and Operational Management

- Maintain financial stability through a balanced Budget 2017-2018
- Achieve Ministry of Education compliance for Grants for Student Needs

Address Changing Demographics

- Continue to optimize efficiency in capacity utilization in all Board facilities

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2017

The Financial Report as at December 31, 2017 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: January 30, 2018



**REPORT TO THE BOARD
JANUARY 30, 2018**

FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2017

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Financial Report is presented in Appendix A

Also attached;

Appendix B1 – Financial Report as at December 31, 2017

The Financial Report as at December 31, 2017 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: January 30, 2018



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

YEAR TO DATE DECEMBER 31, 2017

Niagara Catholic continues to experience similar pressures in the first four months of 2017-2018 as it did in all of 2016-2017. However, the magnitude of these cost pressures have put additional strain on our financial outcome and some of these pressures are as followings:

Niagara Catholic has had to earmark an additional \$1.2M in replacement costs for all staff in 2017-2018. The number of occurrences related to illnesses are trending substantially higher in the first four months of the calendar school year. The number of annual occurrences for all staff are now projected to be approximate 27,500 for the 2017-2018 calendar year. This could potentially result in an increase of almost 20% more occurrences than the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Senior Staff will continue to monitor the trending of occurrences and will provide new information to the Board of Trustees each month. Strategies to reduce the cost pressures associated with replacement costs continue to be explored.

TOTAL STAFF	2016-2017 YTD Actual	2017-2018 YTD Actual	2016-2017	Projected 2017-2018
Number of Occurrences	9,429	10,479	25,581	27,500
Number of FTE			2,371	2,290
Occurrences / FTE			10.78	12.00

The final phase of the Provincial Employee Life and Health Trust solution for CUPE and Non Union staff is expected to commence for March 1, 2018. This group includes CUPE, Non Union, Principals and Senior Administration. Our current benefit provider will continue to provide coverage until that time. The original estimates had an increase of approximately 7.0% in benefit costs that was effective for October 1, 2017 and will continue until all staff is removed from our current provider.

Niagara Catholic continues to monitor the impact of the January 1, 2018 provincial minimum wage increase to our current service providers. Initial cost pressures in transportation and cafeteria services have been identified. Mid-year strategies to cope with these rising expenditures will need to be addressed through potential service changes or reduction in revenue expectations for 2017-2018.

**Niagara Catholic DSB
2017-18 Interim Financial Report**

For the Month Ending December 31, 2017

Summary of Financial Results

(\$Thousands)	Estimates	Revised Estimates	Forecast	In-Year Change	
				\$	%
Revenue					
Operating Grants	228,732	231,831	231,831	-	0.0%
Capital Grants	25,234	22,338	22,338	-	0.0%
Other	14,800	13,272	13,272	-	0.0%
Total Revenue	268,766	267,441	267,441	-	0.0%
Expenditures					
Classroom	204,036	204,583	204,807	224	0.1%
Other Operating	7,889	7,871	7,948	77	1.0%
Transportation	9,829	9,829	9,830	1	0.0%
Pupil Accomodation	37,820	39,098	38,957	(141)	(0.4%)
Other	8,180	7,112	7,112	-	0.0%
PSAB Adjustments	1,005	1,005	1,005	-	0.0%
Total Expenditures	268,759	269,498	269,659	161	0.1%
In-Year Surplus (Deficit)	7	(2,057)	(2,218)	(161)	7.8%
Prior Year Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	10,894	10,894	10,894	-	0.0%
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit) for Compliance	10,901	8,837	8,676	(161)	(1.8%)

Changes in Revenue

- Updated to reflect revised estimates

Change in Expenditures

- Updated to reflect revised estimates

Change in Reserve

- N/A

Change in Surplus/Deficit

- Updated to reflect revised estimates

Risks & Recommendations

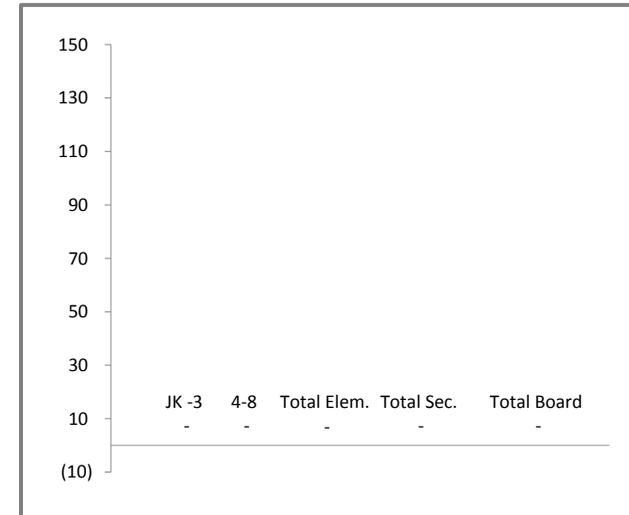
- N/A

Summary of Enrolment

ADE	Revised Estimates	Forecast	In-Year Change	
			#	%
Elementary				
JK -3	6,817	6,817	-	0.0%
4-8	7,636	7,636	-	0.0%
Total Elementary	14,453	14,453	-	0.0%
Secondary <21				
Pupils of the Board	6,672	6,672	-	0.0%
Other Pupils	96	96	-	0.0%
Total Secondary	6,768	6,768	-	0.0%
Total	21,221	21,221	-	0.0%

Note: Forecast will be based on October 31st count date

Changes in Enrolment: Budget v. Forecast



Highlights of Changes in Enrolment:

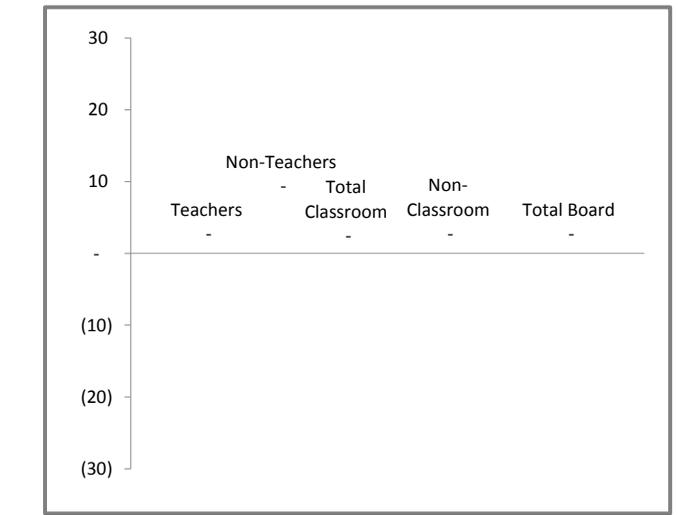
- Forecast is projected to be the same as revised estimates at this stage

*

Summary of Staffing

FTE	Revised Estimates	Forecast	In-Year Change	
			#	%
Classroom				
Teachers	1,287	1,287	-	0.0%
Non-Teachers	749	749	-	0.0%
Total Classroom	2,036	2,036	-	0.0%
Non-Classroom	254	254	-	0.0%
Total	2,290	2,290	-	0.0%

Changes in Staffing: Budget v. Forecast



Highlights of Changes in Staffing:

- Forecast is projected to be the same as revised estimates at this stage

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: CORRESPONDENCE
DECEMBER 7, 2017 LETTER FROM GRAND ERIE DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD**



Grand Erie District School Board

Education Centre: 349 Erie Avenue, Brantford, Ontario N3T 5V3
(519) 756-6301 | granderie.ca | info@granderie.ca | Fax: (519) 756-9181

December 7, 2017

Martyn Beckett, Assistant Deputy Minister
Student Support & Field Services Division
Ministry of Education
Mowat Block 22nd Flr.,
900 Bay St
Toronto, ON
M7A 1L2

Dear Assistant Deputy Minister Beckett:

Re: Pilot to Improve School-Based Supports for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Grand Erie DSB SEAC members recently reviewed the October 25, 2017 Memorandum sent by your office and were so pleased to learn there are plans to increase skills for students with autism through targeted training for Educational Assistants and dedicated space for ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) service.

We understand this is a pilot project and that Grand Erie was not one of the 18 school boards selected to participate, but are writing to ask if at all possible to have our Educational Assistants access the 40 hours of online training which will certainly be beneficial to our students? The importance of early intervention, we know, is the key to reaching students on the Autism Spectrum and critical to helping them to attain their full potential and experience academic achievement.

Also, we would be very interested to see a report on the success of the pilot as it relates to increased student achievement.

Sincerely,

R. Collver, Interim Chair
Grand Erie DSB Special Education Advisory Committee

c: The Hon. Michael Coteau, Minister of Children and Youth Services
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Chairs Ontario District School Boards and Authorities
Chairs Ontario School Boards and School Authorities

SUCCESS for Every Student

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: CORRESPONDENCE
DECEMBER 20, 2017 LETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
BISHOP**



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 20, 2017

John Crocco
Director of Education
Niagara Catholic District School Board
427 Rice Road
Welland ON L3C 7C1

Dear John,

Please accept this letter as a sincere thank you for the box of Christmas cards prepared by students of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. I appreciate your thoughtfulness, kindness and generosity.

May the good Lord bless you, your staff and students this New Year and always.

With kind regards and prayerful best wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Gerard Bergie' with a small cross symbol to the left.

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.
Bishop of St. Catharines

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
SPOTLIGHT ON NIAGARA CATHOLIC – JANUARY 16, 2018**



January 16, 2018

Holy Childhood Walk Raises \$11,300 for Students Abroad

Elementary students across Niagara Catholic have participated in Holy Childhood Walks since 1984. Since that time, Niagara Catholic and its preceding boards have raised more than \$676,000 for the Holy Childhood Association to fund projects in the developing world.

In October and November 2017, 38 Niagara Catholic schools participated in Holy Childhood Walks, which raised \$11,341.12 to support projects in Uganda, Nigeria, Haiti, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Capital Projects Update



Construction is completed at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, where workers have been busy for the past several months constructing a new 15,000 square-foot addition to the school. The \$4.5-million project includes six classrooms and three child care rooms. Occupation of the classrooms will begin this month, and exterior work will continue as weather permits.

2017-2018 Budget Update and Design of System Priorities and Budget 2018-2019 Collaboration Schedule

Each month during Committee of the Whole Meetings, the Director of Education and Senior Staff provide a verbal update to Trustees on the implementation of the annual Board-approved System Priorities and Budget.

Additionally, each January, Senior Administrative Council begins the process to design the following school year's System Priorities and Annual Budget. The focus of the consultation and collaboration is to ensure the continued achievement of the Board's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, its Mission, Vision and Values, the two Strategic Directions and the four

goals of the Ministry of Education in providing programs, services and supports to all students.

The Director and Senior Administrative Council continue to be committed to providing Catholic educational excellence through programs and services for all students, and to achieving the Board's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan and Annual System Priorities through balanced and financially sustainable annual budgets.

Consultation will take place with a variety of groups from January through May 2018. Review the schedule in Section C3 of the [January 16 Committee of the Whole Agenda](#).

2018-2019 School Year Calendar Being Vetted

Niagara Catholic's 2018-2019 School Year Calendar is currently being vetted by stakeholders. With comments in place, Senior Administrative Council will create a draft 2018-2019 School Year Calendar to present to the Board. The Board-approved calendar will be presented to the Ministry of Education for final approval. The approved calendar will be placed on the Board website for parents to plan throughout the coming school year.

Good News!

We've had an incredible first four months of the school year! If you haven't done it yet, be sure to check our [Good News](#) section of this website to see great stories on the programs and events taking place in our schools. If you haven't seen the stories about our outstanding athletes competing on the world stage or seen the pictures of our Baby Celebration, you're missing out! Then check out the In the News section for media coverage of many of these stories, which is accessed through the main page.

Follow us!

To ensure you stay connected with Niagara Catholic news and events, please be sure to like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and check our website often for updates and breaking news. It's the best way to stay in the know, especially now that winter is here! If you like what you see online – tell your friends and have them like or follow Niagara Catholic, too!

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
CALENDAR OF EVENTS – FEBRUARY 2018**



FEBRUARY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Secondary Exams End	2 Secondary P.A. Day	3
4	5 Semester Two Begins	6	7 SEAC	8	9	10
11	12	13 Shrove Tuesday SAL Meeting CW Meeting Kids Helping Kids Week for the Niagara Children's Centre	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day	15	16 Elementary and Secondary PA Day	17
18	19 Family Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Policy Committee Board Meeting	28			

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
JANUARY 18, 2018 OCSTA MEMORANDUM – 2018 PRE-
BUDGET PRESENTATION**



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

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20 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459
ocsta@ocsta.on.ca www.ocsta.on.ca

Patrick Daly, *President*
Beverley Eckensweiler, *Vice President*
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

January 18, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairpersons and Directors of Education
- All Catholic District School Boards

FROM: Stephen Andrews, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs

SUBJECT: 2018 Pre-Budget Presentation

On Thursday January 18, 2018 President Pat Daly delivered OCSTA's pre-budget submission to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs at its hearing in Kitchener. The presentation focuses on OCSTA's education finance guiding principles and our key policy and funding priorities from our annual finance brief to the government of Ontario.

In the presentation, the President stresses the need for increased flexibility and autonomy for Catholic school boards, student transportation, special education/student mental health funding, capital funding, and sick leave costs.

We have attached the presentation for your reference and information.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Pat Daly or me at sandrews@ocsta.on.ca.

Attachment

Submission to
The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs

Pre-Budget Consultation

January 18, 2018



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association



Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association

Mission Statement

Inspired by the Gospel, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association provides the provincial voice, leadership and service for elected Catholic school trustees to promote and protect publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario.

Vision Statement

Ontario is enriched by a publicly funded Catholic education system, governed by locally elected Catholic school trustees who serve with faith, commitment and compassion.

Background and Key Principles

The Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA) was founded in 1930. It represents 237 elected Catholic trustees who collectively represent 29 English-language Catholic district school boards. Together, these school boards educate approximately 545,000 students from junior kindergarten to grade 12 and adults in continuing education programs province-wide.

Inspired by the Gospel, the Mission of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association is to provide leadership, service and a provincial voice for elected Catholic school trustees who seek to promote and protect publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario.

Now in terms of our core principles, we believe the education funding system in Ontario must respond to four essential principles:

Equity: A funding formula must distribute education dollars equitably among all Ontario school boards and their students;

Adequacy: The level of funding for education must be adequate to ensure quality education for today's students;

Autonomy/Flexibility: The model must allow school boards the autonomy and flexibility in spending they require to achieve the distinctive goals of their system, and to meet local needs; and

Accountability: The educational funding model must include mechanisms that ensure the appropriate degree of accountability for all parties and transparent processes and reporting mechanisms to support efficient and effective use of educational resources for students.

Key Areas of New and Additional Investment

1) Increased Flexibility/Autonomy

Since the late 1990's, with the structural changes to the funding formula for school boards, new rules and restrictions have been established that reduce school board flexibility and autonomy in meeting their local needs.

As part of an expanding list of programs and services, the ministry continues to reduce boards' flexibility and autonomy in designing and delivering these programs that meet local needs and conditions.

The ministry has also placed increased restrictions on how school boards spend their capital and operating funds. For example, the increased number of areas in the GSN that are "enveloped" reduces school boards' budget flexibility along with more targeted EPO grants.

These restrictions on school boards have reduced their capacity to plan for, fund and operate specific education programs that serve the unique needs of their local constituents.

OCSTA Recommendations:

- That the Ministry of Education develop new regulations/policies to restore school board autonomy and flexibility:
 1. In overall school board planning/program design and the implementation of ministry policy directives;
 2. Remove restrictions (enveloping) on operating funds that reduce school board flexibility.

2) Student Transportation

Recent proposed changes to the *Employment Standards Act, 2000* (“bill 148”) increases the minimum wage to \$14/hour on January 1, 2018 and by the end of 2019 \$15/hour.

Coupled with other costs associated with the proposed amendments in bill 148 including vacation pay, equal pay for equal work for part-time employees and increases in personal emergency leaves, school board budgets will face increasing pressures to meet existing program and service obligations.

Especially in respect of student transportation, these costs could be significant for school bus operators which will negatively impact school board transportation budgets.

Many school boards are currently running significant deficits in funding student transportation. The structure and funding of student transportation is not based on the needs of a school board.

The funding model is based on a “historical amount”—each boards’ 1997 spending level with annual adjustments for enrollment and inflation, and other minor adjustments. The most important influences on a school boards student transportation costs are not factored into the model such as enrollment density, geography, the number of special needs students and safety hazards.

In addition, the current competitive procurement process (RFP) that school boards must follow in securing transportation has resulted in significant cost increases. In one case of a large urban transportation consortium, costs increased by roughly 18% that had to be absorbed by the affected school boards.

OCSTA Recommendations:

- That the student transportation funding formula be restructured to reflect the actual financial needs of school boards;

-
- That the Ministry of Finance provide sufficient and in-year funds to ensure that any new costs associated with the amendments to the Employment Standards Act that impact student transportation are reflected in annual adjustments to the education funding formula.

3) 21st Century Programs and Services for Students with Differing Abilities Including Diverse Learning Needs

a) Student Mental Health

Recent research from Centre for Addiction and Mental Health shows that roughly 328,000 children in grades 7-12 report moderate to serious psychological distress (2016).

The Provincial Centre for Excellence in Children and Youth Mental Health state that schools need to develop comprehensive mental health supports and strategies to address the growing challenge.

Rural and northern school boards face unique issues with fewer professional resources to support student mental health services. Boards need more financial resources to expand promotion and prevention programs at the elementary and secondary school level. Key program areas include: suicide prevention, anxiety issues, behaviour problems, addictions.

OCSTA Recommendations:

- That the Ministry of Finance expand funding for student mental health needs, while ensuring it is equitable and sustainable for all students.

b) Special Education

Currently 28 of 29 Catholic school boards are running deficits in special education funding and experiencing significant challenges in meeting the educational, psychological and support needs of its exceptional students. More sophisticated diagnostic techniques related to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), have resulted in significant increase in identifying this segment of the student population and placed considerable additional demand on special education services in school boards.

In some cases, school boards are having their special education grant reduced due to phased in changes to a key part of the grant structure supporting high needs students.

This change has placed a significant strain on some boards and has resulted in inequities in the level of service provided to special education students.

OCSTA Recommendations:

- That the government establish a panel of experts with a stakeholder advisory board to review the adequacy of special education funding in Ontario;

-
- That the government review “student needs based” funding models for high needs special education students to supplement the overall special education funding model.

4) Capital Funding

School boards capital requirements include the following:

1. Older schools need to be re-built;
2. Consolidation of schools due to declining enrolment and capital upgrades;
3. Deferred maintenance;
4. New school construction in boards’ growth areas.

The current situation would benefit from increased investments to deal with capital backlogs and a multi-year program to address capital planning needs.

These investments and programs would add an element of predictability to the system and would make it possible for school boards to plan and clearly articulate those plans to the Ministry of Education.

OCSTA Recommendations:

- That the Ministry of Finance provide Ministry of Education additional investments for capital programs
- Recommend to the Ministry of Education a multi-year capital funding process in order to restore the ability of both the Ministry of Education and school boards to plan for future capital needs.

5) Sick Leave Costs

The financial costs associated with the sick leave provisions contained within the central terms of our boards’ collective agreements are becoming an increasingly significant issue.

Cost increases associated with these provisions, combined with the indirect costs associated with replacement staff, are leaving many of our school boards struggling to meet obligations.

Additional funding to enable boards to build and maintain robust attendance support programs is required. Funding for absences attributable to the changes in the sick leave plan within the funding formula (GSN) must be adjusted to reflect actual costs and absence rates across all employee groups.

OCSTA Recommendations:

- That funding for illness absence within the funding formula (GSN) be adjusted to reflect actual costs and absence rates across all employee groups.

Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2017-2018

Patrick Daly, President	Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board
Beverley Eckensweiler, Vice President	Bruce-Grey Catholic District School Board
Kathy Burtnik, Past President	Niagara Catholic District School Board
Ann Andrachuk	Toronto Catholic District School Board
Michael Bellmore	Sudbury Catholic District School Board
Clifford Casey	Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board
Carol Cotton	York Catholic District School Board
Michael Del Grande	Toronto Catholic District School Board
Marino Gazzola	Wellington Catholic District School Board
Michelle Griepsma	Peterborough Victoria Northumberland & Clarington CDSB
Arlene Iantomasi	Halton Catholic District School Board
Todd Lalonde	CDSB of Eastern Ontario
Colleen Landers	Northeastern Catholic District School Board
Paul Landry	Kenora Catholic District School Board
Mark Mullan	Ottawa Catholic School Board
Mario Pascucci	Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
Thomas Thomas	Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board
Linda Ward	St. Clair Catholic District School Board
Bishop John Boissonneau	ACBO Liaison to OCSTA
Fr. Patrick Fitzpatrick	Chaplain
Nick Milanetti	Executive Director



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS
JANUARY 12, 2018
JANUARY 19, 2018**

ENTERPRISE

ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

 enterprisecanada.com/ontario-legislative-highlights-january-12/

January 12, 2018

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

TIMBIT-TERNESS – It has been suggested, here and elsewhere, that the Ontario Liberals knew their increase to the province’s minimum wage would be a polarizing issue, and that is actually one of the reasons they’ve hyped it so much. (Aside from their belief in its inherent rightness, of course.) If creating a wedge was in fact part of their strategy, so far it has been spectacularly successful. Hard to imagine the current polemic sustaining right through until June’s election, but at the moment the minimum wage battle is dominating provincial politics. Lighting the fuse was a decision by Tim Hortons franchisees – who happen to be offspring of the family that founded the company, which made billions when they sold it – to claw back benefits to employees as a way to offset the increased payroll costs. Premier **Kathleen Wynne** decried the move as “bullying” and so began an escalating war of words. Among the developments in recent days:

- Labour Minister **Kevin Flynn** doubled down on Wynne’s umbrage, vowing to deploy up to 175 new employment standards inspectors to ensure enforcement of the new labour laws. “Unfortunately, it appears that some employers are abandoning the spirit of this legislation, and some may even be doing more than that,” Flynn admonished. “The stories we’ve all heard over the past week have not only been disappointing but, quite frankly, they’ve made the Premier, myself and others in this province angry.” He literally repeated Wynne’s message, adding, “This bullying behaviour will not be tolerated.”
- Labour activists staged protests at several Tim Hortons locations. Such scenes must have warmed the hearts of Liberal supporters, but NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** wasn’t about to cede the issue. She personally attended the protest at the Timmies in Cobourg – epicentre of the controversy – and accused the Liberals of not going far enough in their labour reforms. “It’s clearer than ever that along with minimum wage increases, Queen’s Park also needs to close loopholes, and deliver better rights and protections for workers,” Horwath said in a news release.

- The Canadian Federation of Independent Business accused the Liberals of Machiavellian tactics, describing the minimum wage hike as “carefully thought out and politically motivated.” **Julie Kwiecinski**, CFIB’s director of provincial affairs for Ontario, fumed, “The government, in anticipation of the upcoming election, is trying to set up a battle pitting employer against employee.”
- An organization called the Great White North Franchisee Association jumped to the defence of the Tim Hortons founding family members, declaring, “We are offended that [Premier Wynne] has mischaracterized **Jeri Horton-Joyce** and **Ron Joyce Jr.** in this way,” and suggesting the Joyces are hardly wealthy individuals despite their family’s fortune.
- Tim Hortons’ head office (the chain is now owned by the holding company Restaurant Brands International) went into brand damage control mode, issuing a statement lamenting its relationship with customers and employees being “jeopardized by the ... actions of a reckless few.” The company admitted that its franchisees have found managing the minimum wage increase to be “challenging” but characterized the clawbacks as being the work of a “rogue group” and that “Tim Hortons [employees] should never be used to further an agenda or be treated as just an ‘expense.’ This is completely unacceptable.”
- PC MPP **John Yakabuski** stayed away from the substance of the debate – leery, no doubt, about stepping into the trap the Liberals had laid – but impugned the underlying strategy. “[The Liberals] want to make business the bogeyman,” Yakabuski scoffed. “This is a political vehicle for June of 2018 and [they’re saying], ‘We’re going to make somebody the enemy and we’re going to portray ourselves as the dragon slayer.’” PC Leader **Patrick Brown**, just returned from India, has stayed out of the fray so far, save for a couple of re-tweets of pro-business posts.

WHAT’S THE BIG IDEA? – Cynics don’t think much of the Liberals’ crowdsourcing approach to provincial budgets, but evidently it’s been successful enough that the LIBs are doing it again. This week they launched the 2018 version of public voting on policy ideas, as part of their “Budget Talks” initiative. More than 700 ideas were submitted in five focus areas – child care, seniors, small business, students and healthy living, and up to \$5 million is up for grabs to implement the most popular proposals. The deadline for voting is January 26, with the winners to be announced, as usual, during the spring Budget.

TRILLIUM BALLOON – Under the slogan, “Something Different. Something Better,” the Ontario Trillium Party is making some progress in recruiting candidates for June’s election. It now lists 22, including party leader and founder **Bob Vaciuk**, former PC and now independent MPP **Jack MacLaren** and Sarnia Councillor **Andy Bruziewic**, who signed on this week as the Trillium candidate in Sarnia-Lambton (currently held by PC **Bob Bailey**). Bruziewic quickly adopted the party’s rhetoric, telling local media, “I think what we have right now with the big three [parties], it’s sort of a merry-go-round. Patrick Brown is called by many ‘Liberal light.’ The NDP is called ‘Liberals in a hurry.’” Interestingly, he has run previously provincially as an independent candidate and federally for the NDP.

ALL WELLAND GOOD – In much of Ontario, running for the New Democrats is an iffy proposition, but Welland is a long-time NDP stronghold, so it’s no surprise that prospective candidates wasted little time pushing for what is now an open seat. Not long after current MPP **Cindy Forster** announced that she won’t seek re-election, at least three would-be successors had thrown their hats into the ring, and the local NDP riding association admits it has “received inquiries from a few others.” Welland Councillor **Pat Chiocchio**, Niagara Folk Arts and Multicultural Centre CEO **Jeff Burch** and local resident **Melissa McGlashan** had all registered their nomination papers the day after Forster’s announcement. Former Welland-area MP **Malcolm Allen** was considering taking a run at the nomination, but ultimately decided he was enjoying his life outside of politics and will stay on the sidelines.

FOR THE RECORD

“Why not just make the minimum wage \$1,000,000. Then everyone could be rich. All problems solved. HMMMMMMMMMMMM.....”

- **Ben Harper**, son of former Prime Minister **Stephen Harper**, tweeting his views on the minimum wage hike – a sign of just how much the debate is escalating.
-

“It should be noted that the ONDP have better policy positions on workers’ rights and labour law reform, but Wynne and the Liberals have taken over the ground the ONDP ceded. They have message discipline on the issue, and they frame it along class lines by talking about bully bosses, and they champion the low-wage workers. They are the Liberals, so we know this is opportunistic, but who gave them this opportunity? The ONDP leadership only has to look in the mirror.”

- **David Bush**, a columnist with the left-leaning rabble.ca, taking the Ontario NDP to task for allowing the Liberals to move into traditional NDP territory.
-

“None of them.”

- Ipsos vice-president **Sean Simpson**, speaking to the Oakville Chamber of Commerce, on which of the Ontario party leaders research shows most voters would like to have a beer or coffee with.

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ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

 enterprisecanada.com/ontario-legislative-highlights-january-19/

January 19, 2018

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

NEW CREW – When the Legislature resumes a month from now, the Liberals’ front benches will look dramatically different, thanks to this week’s cabinet shuffle. **Deb Matthews** – who had been Deputy Premier, a role that was not filled – **Liz Sandals** and **Brad Duguid** will vacate their front-row desks, while **Natalie Des Rosiers**, **Daiene Vernile** and **Harinder Malhi** move up from the backbenches. The latter trio had previously been Parliamentary Assistants, and the gaps they leave will likely trigger a PA shuffle as well. Similarly, both Opposition parties are expected to revamp their shadow cabinets in preparation for the spring session – itself a precursor to the election campaign that will officially start in May. Neither PC Leader **Patrick Brown** nor NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** is facing a mass exodus from their respective caucuses – **Julia Munro** is the only PC MPP who has announced she isn’t seeking re-election, while two New Democrats, **Sarah Campbell** and **Cindy Forster**, are calling it quits after this term – but shuffling critic portfolios is an opportunity to make a statement about priorities and to boost the profiles of some members.

EX-PAT – On top of losing long-time caucus allies, Premier **Kathleen Wynne** bid farewell to another confidant this week, when she confirmed that **Pat Sorbara** won’t be running the Liberal election campaign. Wynne was delighted earlier this year when Sorbara was cleared of bribery charges, welcoming her back to party headquarters. Sorbara had been Wynne’s Deputy Chief of Staff but stepped aside when she was charged in connection with the 2015 Sudbury by-election. After being acquitted, it was assumed she would spearhead the Liberals’ re-election push. But apparently that didn’t work out, because in the year she was gone party staffers got used to working without her. “The team that stepped up while Pat was forced to deal with completely unfounded charges in Sudbury came together and gelled in the last several months,” Wynne said in a statement announcing that Sorbara is out. Insiders were less diplomatic, describing a personality clash – the take-no-prisoners Sorbara versus the more laid-back style of her successor **Chad Walsh**, with the team preferring Walsh.

Meanwhile, in a sort-of-related story, another trial involving former senior Liberal aides is expected to reach its conclusion today. Ontario Court Judge **Timothy Lipson** is scheduled to hand down his verdict in the trial of **David Livingston** and **Laura Miller** on charges of illegally destroying government documents. Depending on Lipson's ruling, Wynne will either be celebrating judicial vindication (again) or trying to distance herself from events that happened before she moved into the Premier's Office.

STANDINGS STILL – Roles may be changing around Queen's Park, but recent polling results have been a model of consistency. Different polling firms are getting different views, but the two firms conducting and publishing regular surveys are seeing little variance month-over-month. Campaign Research has repeatedly reported a dead heat between the Liberals and PCs, and their latest results show exactly that: PCs with 35% support, Liberals at 34% and the NDP at 23%, almost identical to similar polls for months now. (Digging a little deeper, Campaign Research found 60% of respondents approving of the Liberals' minimum wage increase, and 72% liking the new pharmacare program, which would seem to bode well for the LIBs. But as yet that hasn't translated into a perceivable shift in voting intentions.) Forum Research has been equally steady in pegging the Tories with a big lead, which is once again the case, as Forum found PC support at 43% (up three points from a month ago), with the Liberals (unchanged at 24%) in third place, behind the NDP at 26% (down two). Pre-election polls are notoriously suspect in predicting what will actually happen in the campaign, but as *Toronto Star* columnist **Martin Regg Cohn** pointed out, they do impact on a party's ability to attract support – which has certainly favoured Brown. "For all the limitations of polls in forecasting voter behaviour, they have a more predictable impact on donors and candidates," Cohn wrote. "Brown's strong polling numbers a year ago added an aura of inevitability and invincibility to the Tories as he personally led a fundraising campaign to retire the party's multimillion-dollar debt."

JOIN THE CLUB – Speaking of recruiting supporters, Brown boasted this week that his party has more than 200,000 paid-up members – a provincial record. Astonishingly, that's double what their membership totalled when the Tories were in government in the early 2000s, and a 1,500% increase over the 12,000 they had after losing in 2014. Some of the recent bump in numbers has been the result of highly contested nominations (fuelled in large part, as noted above, by the expectation of a PC victory provincially), with multiple candidates in many ridings aggressively selling the memberships necessary for voting at the nomination meeting. A few of those new recruits may be disgruntled by their choice losing – particularly in ridings where there are accusations of shady voting procedures – but the massive membership is still an indication of a significant jump in grassroots engagement. While such exponential growth won't necessarily apply to the broader electorate, the PC base is indisputably stronger. Given that the Liberals won a majority with roughly 1.8 million votes in 2014, one PC insider calculated, "If we get ten votes for every party member, we win a majority government."

HAMMER THROW – Most Tories aren't pinning much hope on winning in Hamilton, which has been a wasteland for them for decades. But they are banking on their candidate in Hamilton Centre – who is facing off against Horwath, making a PC breakthrough that much more of a

longshot – to improve the party’s overall image. **Dionne Duncan** was acclaimed to carry the PC banner in Hamilton Centre, and she wasted no time praising Brown for recruiting diverse candidates. Duncan is of Guyanese descent, and is general manager of the Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association (although she lives in Mississauga and is moving to Hamilton – which adds a certain geographical diversity.) “Nobody went to them over the years. Nobody asked for their opinion,” she said of ethnic minorities. As a woman of colour she said she wants to “show the party has multiple backgrounds, different types of people. I’m glad the PC Party recognizes a face like mine. It’s different from the past. I too am the face of the party.”

MORE THAN A WOMAN – Horwath herself hasn’t been home in Hamilton much lately, as she continues to tour the province. In Sudbury this weekend, she will systematically tick off key campaign boxes: She’ll hold a press conference to rail about the state of health and long-term care; she’ll take part in a women’s march; she’ll speak at the Sudbury & District Labour Council’s 60th Anniversary Party, helping hand out “Working Class Heroes Awards”; and she’ll attend a Sudbury Wolves hockey game.

FOR THE RECORD

“This really comes as a shock to us though I suppose I shouldn’t be shocked given her penchant for privatization. Ed Clark – he’s the unappointed, unelected, de facto Premier of Ontario giving Kathleen Wynne advice...[He] scares the bejeebers out of me.”

- OPSEU President **Wayne “Smokey” Thomas**, unimpressed by the nomination of **Ed Clark**, the former senior banker and business advisor to the Premier, as Chair of the LCBO.
-

“I’m getting tweets and all sorts of other correspondence from Conservative followers under the impression that their leader does not support this rise to the minimum wage. So you’ve got Tory MPPs saying they don’t support the increase; you’ve got the party saying it does support the increase; and you’ve got a party leader that appears to have dropped out of sight on this issue right now.”

- Labour Minister **Kevin Flynn**, continuing to stir the political pot in the increasingly bitter rhetoric around the province’s minimum wage hike.
-

“There’s a reason why the Wynne Liberals are not trusted – they can’t tell the truth about the most basic facts.”

- Ditto from Conservative MPP **John Yakabuski**, pointing out that the Tories only differ on the *timing* of the minimum wage increase.
-

“I think anybody, you or I, are building a house or doing a renovation, we try to get those costs agreed to up front. It seems this government negotiates completely backwards.”

- PC MP **Michael Harris**, blasting the Liberals for beginning repairs on the Nipigon Bridge some 16 months before starting negotiations on what the cost of the repairs will be, and who will pay it.
-

“Political life is competitive, it’s all-encompassing and it’s partisan. It’s time to come back to, I think, building an inclusive community. But having said that, I’m not going anywhere and I said that when I left because there are a lot of social justice issues I’m going to be very active around, including some bills of mine that did not get passed.”

- Ex-NDP MPP **Cheri DiNovo**, settling in to her new/old job as minister at Trinity-St. Paul’s United Church.

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**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
PATHWAYS SPEAKER SUMMIT – FEBRUARY 6, 2018**

Niagara Catholic District School Board &
Niagara Workforce Planning Board present:

Pathways

Speaker Summit:

Truths revealed

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

6:30 - 9 p.m.

Club Roma, St. Catharines

niagaracatholic.ca

mywayto.ca

- Hear the myths and truths about the future of education and career opportunities in Niagara and beyond
- Administrators, teachers, parents, students and the community are invited to hear directly from local business and education leaders about emerging industries, markets and job opportunities
- Get the facts straight from the source and be informed about real pathway options for students
- Ideal for students and parents Grades 6-10. Now is the time to discover your passion, become informed and set realistic goals to plan your pathway to success



**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
ANNUAL BISHOP'S GALA – APRIL 20, 2018**

The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education's

Annual Bishop's Gala

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D., Bishop of St. Catharines

Supporting scholarships and students in need

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 2018

Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Road, St. Catharines, ON

5:30 p.m. Antipasto Bar & Cocktail Reception ~ 7:00 p.m Dinner
Complimentary drink ticket per person & 2 bottles of wine per table
~ Cash Bar ~

Entertainment by Niagara Comedian Joe Pillitteri
Recipient of a Niagara Catholic Distinguished Alumni Award

Wine Tasting
Compliments of Arterra Wines Canada

Silent Auction



Tickets - \$80 each

Tickets can be purchased online at www.niagaracatholic.ca or by cheque payable to the *Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education* (\$30 Tax receipt available upon request)

Tickets must be purchased by April 13, 2018

Send your cheque and ticket information to Sherry Morena, Corporate Services & Communications, Niagara Catholic District School Board, 427 Rice Rd, Welland ON L3C 7C1. For further information call 905-735-0240 Ext.213.

Name _____ # of Tickets _____ Payment \$ _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Payment Options



**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
STUDENT PLATFORM**

A Turning Point for
Education:

The Student Platform

Education policy recommendations for the 2018
provincial election – created by students, for students.



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Introduction

Following extensive consultation with students across the province, the Ontario Student Trustees' Association – l'Association des élèves conseillers et conseillères de l'Ontario (OSTA-AECO) has developed the Student Platform in preparation for the 2018 provincial election. The Student Platform outlines a strategy to improve Ontario's education system and ensure that Ontario's youth are better prepared for the unique opportunities and challenges of the modern workforce.

OSTA-AECO has identified three pillars that serve as the foundation of a strong education system:



Student Wellbeing



21st Century Learning



Equitable Access to Opportunities

In November 2017, OSTA-AECO conducted the *Student Survey*, an online survey of 8,230 secondary students from 62 school boards in Ontario; it featured a range of educational issues. The results clearly indicate that students from all backgrounds – public and Catholic schools, small and large communities, rural and urban towns – are united by the belief that there are significant deficiencies in the current implementation of each pillar. The Platform reflects the various perspectives of Ontario's students and provides 16 policy recommendations to turn our vision of the ideal education system into reality.

The importance of the Student Platform must not be understated. The quality of education received today will determine Ontario's prosperity tomorrow. The purpose of the Platform is to ensure that the upcoming provincial election addresses the most important issues for the next generation of citizens, leaders, and changemakers in Ontario.

Student Platform Recommendations



Student Wellbeing

1. The government should mandate that all Ontario guidance counselors complete ASIST training.
2. In addition to funding suicide intervention and mental health training programs for staff, the government should fund training programs for students (e.g., safeTALK).
3. **The government should legally enshrine the right of students to create a wellbeing club or committee in their school.** Bill 13 (the Accepting Schools Act) requires “boards [to] support pupils who want to establish and lead activities and organizations that promote a safe and inclusive learning environment ... and the creation of a positive school climate.” Organizations promoting student wellbeing, mental, and spiritual health should be included in the list of initiatives schools must support.
4. The government should mandate that every school has a breakfast program accessible to all students and ensure that school boards have sufficient funds to implement and sustain these programs.



21st Century Learning

1. The government should mandate that every student be tested in transition grades (1, 4, and 8) for exceptional learning.
2. The government should ensure that every student has a unique student profile, stored in a database open to educators, that is frequently updated to facilitate individualized and differentiated learning at the classroom level.
3. **The government should legally enshrine that every student identified as exceptional has a right to access special education accommodations, and all school boards should have a policy to ensure this right.** The government should also mandate that all teachers receive training on identifying, integrating, and helping exceptional learners succeed.
4. The government should change the co-op credit from an open level (O) course to a mixed (M) level course.

5. **The government should increase per-pupil funding of guidance counsellors.** The student to guidance counselor ratio for elementary schools should match the ratio for secondary schools. In both elementary and secondary schools, the gap between the number of students and the number of counselors in a school must be narrowed.
6. **The government should ensure students graduate high school with basic training in CPR, First Aid, self-defense, and conflict prevention.** These life skills can be integrated into courses (e.g., CPR and First Aid into physical education) as requirements for graduation.
7. **The government should invest in research about emerging markets (e.g., sector growth, the number of new jobs, wage trends).** The findings should be synthesized in a form accessible to students and parents, published, and distributed to guidance counsellors across the province.
8. The government should review existing curriculum to integrate technological literacy (e.g., word processing, spreadsheet, database, and programming skills) in all courses.



Equitable Access to Opportunities

1. The government should work with school boards to create provincial standards on student eligibility for school transportation services.
2. **The government should update the current funding formula to reflect school boards' local transportation needs.** It must take into consideration factors such as geography, availability of public transit, and the number of students who need transportation services.
3. **The government should provide enveloped grants (funds requiring a specific use) to rural and northern school boards for alternatives to online classes.** Examples include traditional in-person classes, in-person and online hybrid classes, night school, dual credit programs with local colleges, etc.
4. **The government should expand the Urban and Priority High Schools program (UPHS), which currently provides additional funding to high schools in urban low socioeconomic status communities.** The funding should be available to schools across the province (including rural and northern boards) with low graduation rates and a significant proportion of families living below the poverty line.

Student Wellbeing

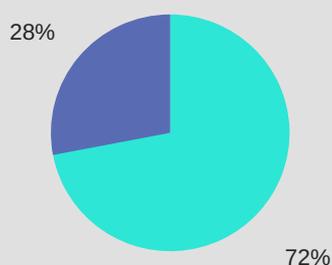


Wellbeing is the foundation of a student's educational experience. The Ministry of Education defines student wellbeing as a combination of cognitive, emotional, social, and physical components. Academic success and student wellbeing are interdependent: a child cannot achieve their full potential without a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle. The government should provide every student with equitable access to wellbeing resources and supports.

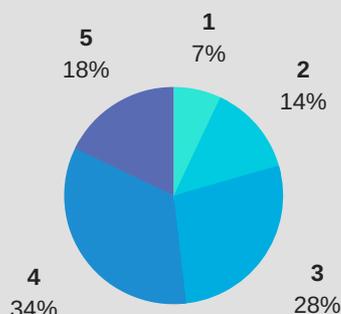
The Ministry of Education has taken steps to improve student wellbeing. In 2011, the *Open Minds, Healthy Minds* strategy required school boards to appoint a Mental Health Lead to develop, implement, and monitor board-level wellbeing strategies. By 2013, all school boards were required to create an Equity and Inclusive Education Policy to ensure safe school environments. In 2015, revisions to the Health and Physical Education Curriculum emphasized the importance of healthy and active living. In September 2017, the Ministry doubled its funding of school boards' wellbeing priorities to \$12 million. Despite these improvements, there remain two pressing problems with student wellbeing in Ontario.

Firstly, many students are not equipped with the skills necessary to address mental health issues. For example, students experiencing suicidal thoughts often confide in their peers rather than reaching out to an adult or trained professional. Students must be trained in detecting warning signs and engaging in difficult conversations when they arise. It is equally important for both staff and students to receive training.

The 2015 Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey found that **28%** of students have wanted to talk to someone about a mental health problem but did not know who to approach.¹



In OSTA-AECO's *Student Survey*, students were asked to rate how prepared they would feel if a peer approached them with a mental health issue. On a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 is 'not prepared' and 5 is 'very prepared'), almost half (**48%**) of students answered between 1 and 3.

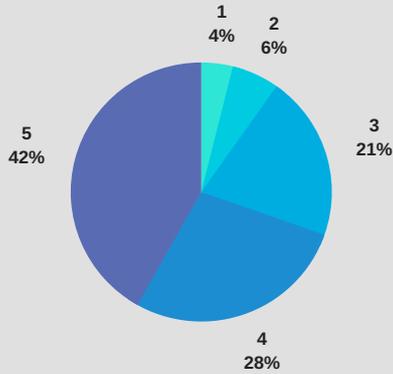


The second problem is that student access to wellbeing supports varies significantly across the province. The Ministry bundles grants to school boards; in other words, school boards receive a lump sum of funds and use their discretion to finance local initiatives. This creates striking discrepancies in the quality of wellbeing supports throughout the education system. For example, some school boards fail to provide breakfast programs for their students, whereas others have well-funded initiatives. Ontario's students deserve a more equitable distribution of higher quality wellbeing resources and supports.

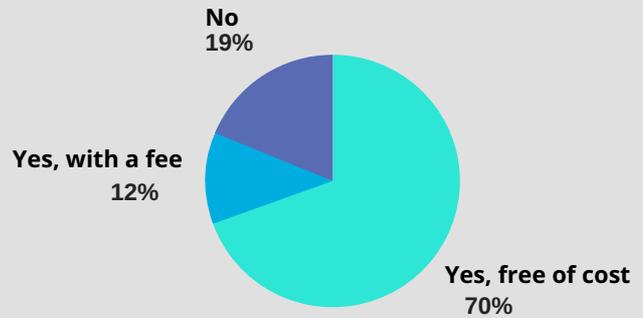
The 2017 Ontario Student, Parent, and Educator Survey conducted by OSTA-AECO found that **1 in 3** students feel their school mental health resources and supports are inadequate. **35%** of students who reported a lack of wellbeing resources and supports self-identify as a minority.²

In OSTA-AECO's Student Survey:

» Students were asked to rate the importance of breakfast programs for a healthy learning environment. On a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 is 'not important' and 5 is 'very important'), **70%** of students answered a 4 or 5.



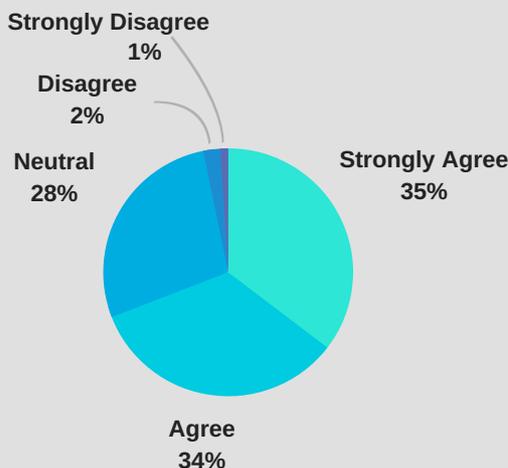
» When students were asked if their school has a breakfast program, **31%** answered 'no' or 'yes, with a fee'.



» Almost half (**44.7%**) of students reported they did not have a well-being club or committee at their school.

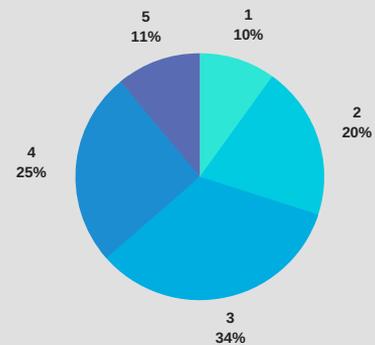


» **70%** of students agreed or strongly agreed that every school should have a well-being club or committee.

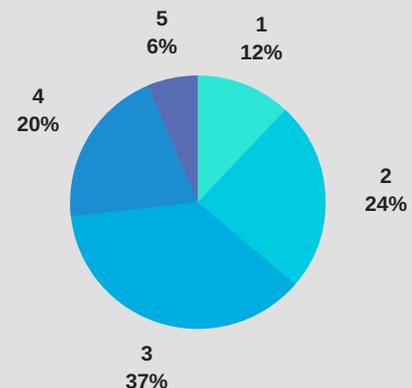


When asked to rate the accessibility and effectiveness of their school's wellbeing resources/supports on a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 is 'very poor' and 5 is 'very good'):

» **63.5%** of students answered from 1 to 3 for accessibility.



» Only **26.8%** of students answered 4 or 5 for effectiveness.





Recommendations

- 1** The government should mandate that all Ontario guidance counselors complete ASIST training.
- 2** In addition to funding suicide intervention and mental health training programs for staff, the government should fund training programs for students (e.g., safeTALK).
- 3** **The government should legally enshrine the right of students to create a wellbeing club or committee in their school.** Bill 13 (the Accepting Schools Act) requires “boards [to] support pupils who want to establish and lead activities and organizations that promote a safe and inclusive learning environment ... and the creation of a positive school climate.” Organizations promoting student wellbeing, mental, and spiritual health should be included in the list of initiatives schools must support.
- 4** The government should mandate that every school has a breakfast program accessible to all students and ensure that school boards have sufficient funds to implement and sustain these programs.





21st Century Learning

The fundamental purpose of our education system is to prepare students for their post-secondary endeavours. The Ministry of Education has acknowledged that the modern workforce is “switching from an industrial model of production to a rapidly transforming, technology-driven, and interconnected globalized knowledge economy.”³ 21st century learning is predicated on the belief that as society evolves, so should the skills, lessons, and values we teach our students.

21st century learning is a critical lens through which the next government must approach its education policy. There remains significant room for improvement in the implementation of Ontario’s vision to prepare students to grow, adapt, and thrive in a dynamic global economy. Students are demanding an education system that is more relevant to their everyday lives and will best prepare them for their future. In particular, 21st century learning can be further divided into four groups of issues: experiential learning, modernized curriculum, improved guidance supports, and accommodation of learning needs.

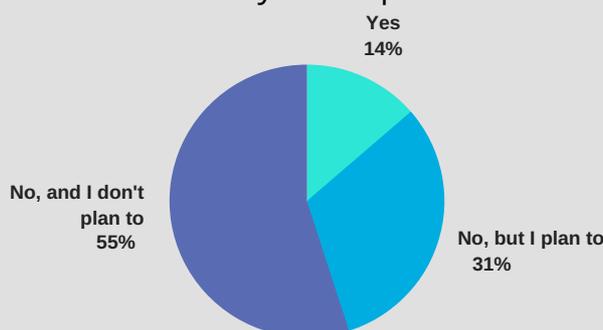
Experiential Learning

In 2016, the Ministry of Education announced its commitment to providing students from Kindergarten to Grade 12 with a broader range of learning opportunities “connected to the community.”⁴ This was an important step towards recognizing the value of experiential learning – the practical application of knowledge beyond the classroom.

In 2017, the Premier's Highly Skilled Workforce Expert Panel recommended the government expose more high school students to skills needed in the workforce.⁵ One of the best ways for students to gain practical work experience is cooperative education (co-op), a program which allows students to earn secondary school credits through a job placement. Example co-op placements include auto mechanics, television broadcasting, municipal government, and nursing.⁶

Co-op programs are widespread in post-secondary institutions: in Ontario, they are offered in twelve colleges and fifteen universities. The Council of Ontario Universities reports that “bachelor’s level graduates with co-op experience earn more than their peers, have higher employment and full-time employment rates, and are more likely to have paid off debt two years after graduation.” Co-op is equally beneficial for high school students. A study by the University of Waterloo tracked 11,383 co-op and non co-op students from high school to entrance into the labour market. The researchers found that graduates of co-op programs earned 15% more per year than non co-op students.⁷

Despite co-op’s undisputed benefits, few students participate in the program. In OSTA-AECO’s *Student Survey*, **86.9%** of students reported co-op is offered at their school, but only **46%** indicated that they either plan to or have already participated in the program.



In 2005, the government attempted to incentivize greater student participation by specifying that up to two cooperative education credits can count as compulsory credits. However, the underlying problem is co-op courses' categorization as "open" level credits. In Ontario high schools, the four most common types of courses offered for senior students are university preparation (U), college preparation (C), university/college preparation (mixed, or M), and workplace preparation (open, or O). In order to apply to the vast majority of post-secondary programs, a student must have completed at least six Grade 12 U, M, or C level courses. It is extremely difficult for students to justify completing a co-op course if their credits will not be recognized by the vast majority of universities or colleges.

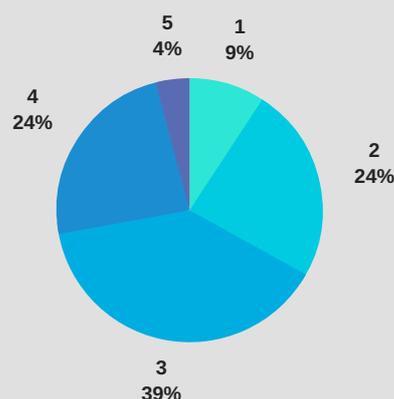
Most importantly, experiential learning opportunities should not be reserved for students who choose to participate in specialized programs (e.g., co-op, Specialist High Skills Majors, dual credit courses, etc.). All courses must integrate opportunities for students to apply their knowledge outside of the classroom. From field trips and application-based projects to partnerships with local businesses and nonprofits, the opportunities to enrich curriculum through experiential learning are endless.

The government must examine the extent to which these issues surrounding implementation of 21st century learning are the result of an outdated curriculum or a disconnect between the curriculum and teaching practices. Ultimately, all aspects of the education system must be reviewed from the lens of experiential learning to ensure Ontario's students are best prepared for their future.

Modernized curriculum

The purpose of Ontario's education system is to prepare students for whichever post-secondary pathway they choose to pursue. However, the vast majority of Ontario's students feel their education has inadequately prepared them for their post-graduation endeavours. Many students feel that they are not being taught critical life skills and the curriculum has failed to adapt to the evolving demands of the modern workforce.

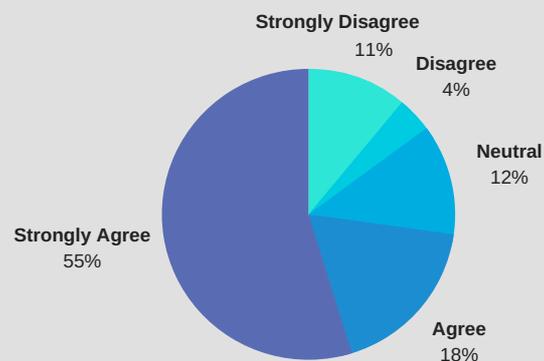
In OSTA-AECO's *Student Survey*, students were asked to rate the extent to which they feel their education has prepared them for life (including work) post-graduation. On a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 is 'very poorly' and 5 is 'extremely well'), the vast majority (**72%**) of students answered from 1-3.



As a result of prolonged public pressure to modernize the education system, the government has taken steps to refresh the curriculum. In 2016, Ontario unveiled its \$60 million Renewed Math Strategy, which includes an hour of daily math instruction for all students in grades 1 to 8.⁸ In March 2017, the Ministry of Education began pilot projects in 28 high schools to implement financial literacy in the Grade 10 Careers course.⁹ In September 2017, the Premier announced that Ontario will begin public consultations to modernize student assessment practices.¹⁰

Despite these changes, the majority of students graduate from high school feeling they lack knowledge and skills needed in their postsecondary endeavours. In addition to financial literacy, the government must ensure students are taught other crucial life skills such as CPR, First Aid, self-defense, and conflict prevention. These life skills are necessary for all students and transferable to every profession.

In OSTA-AECO's *Student Survey*, **73%** of students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "students should graduate with basic life skills such as financial literacy, CPR, First Aid, self-defence, and conflict prevention."



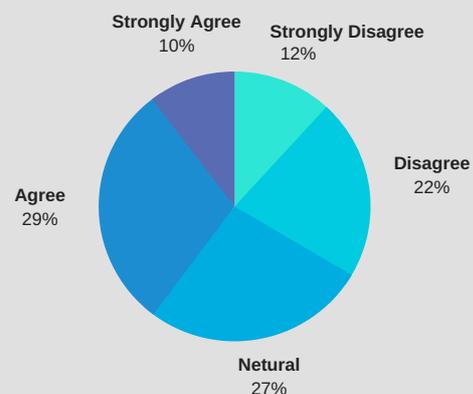
Furthermore, the prevalence of technology in the modern workplace has cemented the need for technological literacy. In order to prepare our students for their future, technology must be integrated into all curriculum, including an emphasis on practical applications like word processing, spreadsheet, database, and programming skills. Ultimately, the government must ensure that Ontario's students are better prepared to succeed in the modern workforce and navigate life post-graduation.

Improved guidance supports

Guidance counselors play a crucial role in providing graduating students with support to achieve success and fulfillment in their post-secondary endeavours. Their specialized knowledge ensures that students pursue a post-secondary pathway that is optimal for their unique interests and skill set. Unfortunately, many students struggle to decide on a post-secondary pathway and lack information about their chosen career due to limited access to guidance counselors at their school.

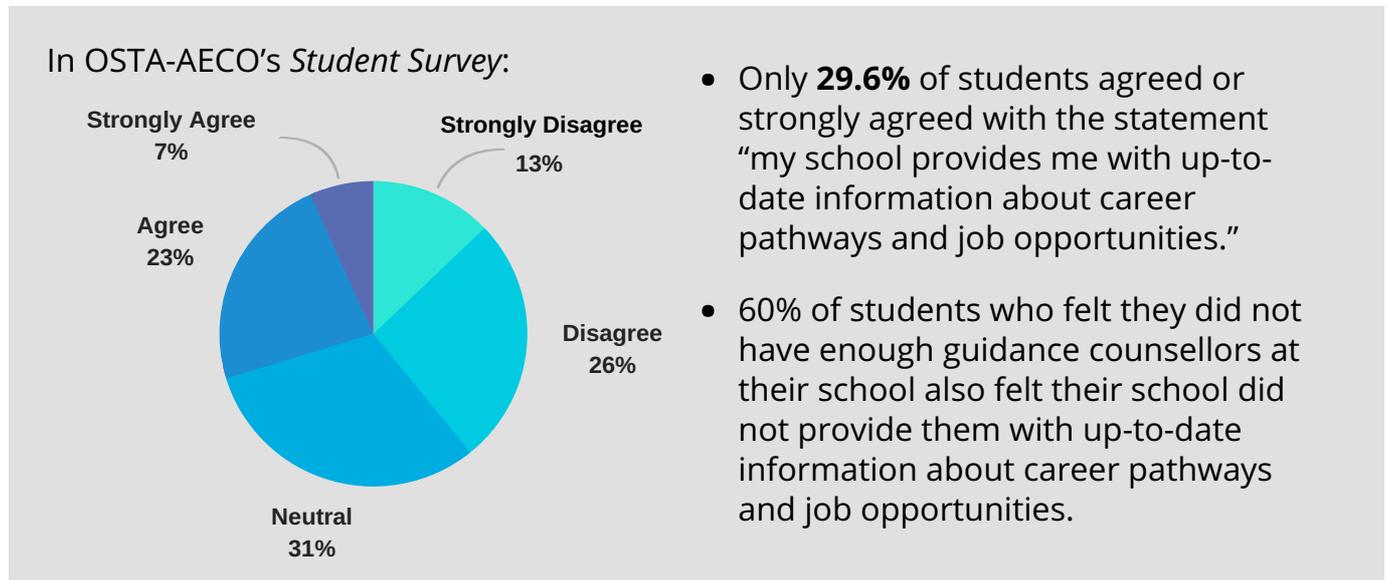
According to a 2016 report by People For Education: "School boards receive funding for guidance counsellors on a per-pupil basis. The province provides funding to cover the costs of one full-time secondary guidance counsellor for every 385 secondary students in a board. For elementary schools, that number plummets to one full-time counsellor for every 5000 elementary students."¹¹

In OSTA-AECO's *Student Survey*, only **39.8%** of high school students agreed or strongly agreed with the statement "there are enough guidance counsellors at my school."



Ontario's education system must invest in more guidance counselors to support the post-secondary planning of its students.

A further concern is that even when students have access to a guidance counselor, they are rarely provided with up-to-date information about the labour market. In Ontario's rapidly evolving economy, it is vital that guidance counselors receive information about occupations with the greatest job growth, trends in wages, and predictions of emerging fields. This information would allow students to strategically pursue a post-secondary pathway that provides them with financial and occupational stability.



Overall, guidance counselors play a vital role in shaping and strategising the future of Ontario's youth. It is critical for the government to improve accessibility to guidance services and ensure that counselors are well-equipped to provide support that aligns with the state of our province's labour market.

Accommodation of learning needs

Throughout the past 20 years, Ontario has seen a shift in the delivery of secondary instruction. Instead of simply teaching to the curriculum, many educators tailor lessons to the needs of their students. The 2013 ministry publication *Learning for All* cites evidence that "students learn best when instruction, resources, and the learning environment are well suited to their particular strengths, interests, needs, and stage of readiness."¹²

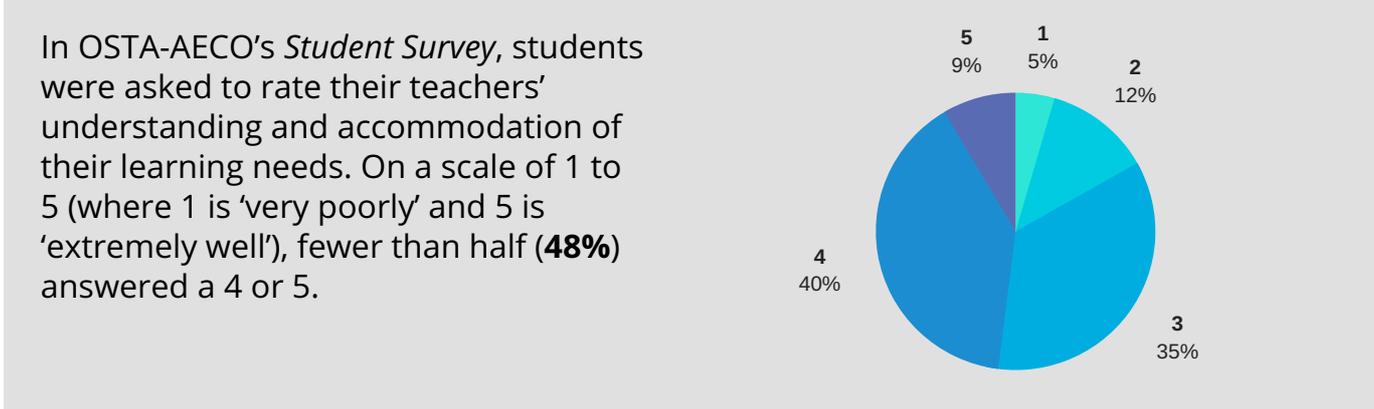
The document encourages educators to create class and student profiles to assist in differentiated instruction. Educators can compile information about students' strengths, areas of need, learning styles, and interests using a variety of resources, including the Ontario Student Record (including report cards and transcripts), transition plans, consultations with parents and previous teachers, student questionnaires, and classroom observation.¹³

The student profile is useful because it allows educators to assess a student's strengths, challenges, and standing "relative to the age-appropriate stage of development in particular areas of learning."¹⁴ However, teachers currently create student profiles at their discretion.

As a result, this practice is inconsistently applied throughout the province. Furthermore, due to the informal nature of the process, useful information gathered when a student is in grade 8 can easily be lost in the transition to high school. The student profile was intended to act as a “living” file which tracks the evolution of a student’s learning preferences; in reality, we lack a mechanism to efficiently and consistently support students’ individual learning needs throughout their education.

Another tool used to accommodate individual learning needs is the Individual Education Plan, or IEP, defined by the Ministry of Education as “a written plan describing the special education program and/or services required by a particular student, based on a thorough assessment of the strengths and needs that affect the student’s ability to learn and to demonstrate learning.”¹⁵ IEPs must be created for students who have been identified as “exceptional pupils” by an Identification, Placement, and Review Committee (IPRC). IEPs may also be created for students who regularly require accommodations for instructional or assessment purposes.

However, the experience for many students is that their special education needs are identified at a late stage in their education. We lack a routine process of testing for every student. Moreover, since IEPs are legally-binding documents reserved for high level interventions, they cannot be used to promote individualized learning for every student.



The inconsistency is particularly prominent in rural communities: a report by People for Education found that 72% of small town/rural schools report restrictions on the number of students that can be placed on waiting lists for assessments, compared to 50% of schools in urban/suburban areas.¹⁶ Although Ontario has committed to transitioning away from a one-size-fits-all educational approach, the current system is mired in insufficient and inconsistent practices.





Recommendations

- 1** The government should mandate that every student be tested in transition grades (1, 4, and 8) for exceptional learning.
- 2** The government should ensure that every student has a unique student profile, stored in a database open to educators, that is frequently updated to facilitate individualized and differentiated learning at the classroom level.
- 3** **The government should legally enshrine that every student identified as exceptional has a right to access special education accommodations, and all school boards should have a policy to ensure this right.** The government should also mandate that all teachers receive training on identifying, integrating, and helping exceptional learners succeed.
- 4** The government should change the co-op credit from an open level (O) course to a mixed (M) level course.
- 5** **The government should increase per-pupil funding of guidance counsellors.** The student to guidance counselor ratio for elementary schools should match the ratio for secondary schools. In both elementary and secondary schools, the gap between the number of students and the number of counselors in a school must be narrowed.
- 6** **The government should ensure students graduate high school with basic training in CPR, First Aid, self-defense, and conflict prevention.** These life skills can be integrated into courses (e.g., CPR and First Aid into physical education) as requirements for graduation.
- 7** **The government should invest in research about emerging markets (e.g., sector growth, the number of new jobs, wage trends).** The findings should be synthesized in a form accessible to students and parents, published, and distributed to guidance counsellors across the province.
- 8** The government should review existing curriculum to integrate technological literacy (e.g., word processing, spreadsheet, database, and programming skills) in all courses.

Equitable Access to Opportunities



The quality of a student's education should not be determined by where he or she lives. All students, whether they live in a rural, northern, or urban community, should have equal access to high quality educational opportunities. Unfortunately, there currently exists a geographic divide in the opportunities and resources available across the province. Two of the most pressing challenges for rural and northern students are transportation funding and class shortages.

Transportation funding

Many school boards with large rural populations do not receive sufficient funding for transportation and, as a result, students have extremely long bus rides, ranging anywhere from an hour to three hours each way. In OSTA-AECO's *Student Survey*, **63%** of students from rural areas said transportation affects or significantly affects their ability to participate in before or after school activities.

A main cause of the transportation challenge is declining enrolment, which has resulted in an increased number of school closures. A report by People for Education found that "34 boards had recommended a total of 121 schools close by June of 2020, affecting 33,000 students and with a 'disproportionate impact' on rural communities."¹⁷ School closures increase the cost of transportation because students must be transported farther to attend the next closest school.¹⁸

In 2016, the Ministry conducted consultations to develop Ontario's Plan to Strengthen Rural and Northern Schools. In September 2017, as a result of these consultations, the Ministry created the Rural and Northern Education Fund, which allocates an additional \$20 million to school boards with a rural student population (an average increase of about \$55 per rural student) to be divided between transportation, operation, and programming at the board's discretion.¹⁹

While additional financial supports are always valuable for students, the Fund is a short-term solution which merely scratches the surface of the transportation problem. Despite the fact that the challenges experienced by school boards are more pressing than ever, the 2017-18 Ministry grant is a decrease from previous years: the Ministry offered \$23 million and \$29.3 million in 2000 and 2001 respectively.²⁰

Most importantly, the grant fails to address the underlying challenge: the province's outdated funding formula. The 2015 Annual Report of Ontario's Auditor General found that "funding for school transportation is not based on need. Instead, it is based on each board's 1997 spending level, with annual adjustments for enrolment and inflation, and other minor adjustments such as fuel costs and safety initiatives. The Ministry of Education's funding formula does not take into account local factors that can significantly influence transportation costs, such as enrolment density, geography, the availability of public transit, the number of students with special needs, and hazards on the route."²¹

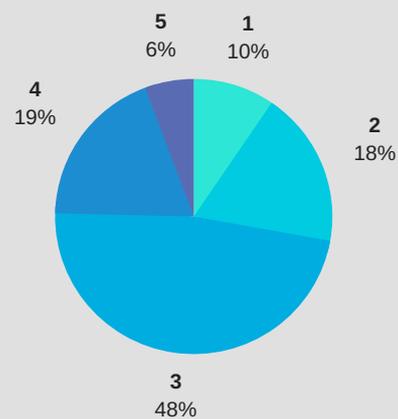
The problem is compounded by the fact that Ontario has no provincial eligibility standard for busing: school boards can determine which groups of students will be provided transportation and benefit from funding. The 2015 Auditor General's report found that the "percentage of students for whom [school boards] have arranged school transportation varies significantly ... from 10% to 87%."²² Ontario's students deserve a transportation funding model which is equitable, modernized, and consistently applied across the province.

Specialized course shortages

Declining enrolment and rural school closures results in a further challenge: a shortage of classes and specialized teachers. When enrolment declines, school boards receive less money from the Ministry of Education and fixed costs are spread over fewer students. Faced with lower funding levels, boards hire fewer teachers. Arts and special education staff are often most significantly affected by hiring cuts. For example, a 2013 report by People for Education found that “62% of elementary schools in the GTA have music teachers, compared to 26% of elementary schools in northern Ontario, and 32% in eastern Ontario.”²³ A 2016 report found that “only 66% of small town/rural elementary schools have a full-time special education teacher, compared to 91% of urban/suburban elementary schools.”²⁴ This inequity is extremely troubling because all students should have the option to take arts classes and the ability to access special education supports.

Online courses are typically offered when there is an insufficient number of students or educators at a school to offer in-person classes. Many students find that learning complex concepts via an online course is extremely difficult and may not always replicate the personalized support offered by traditional classes.

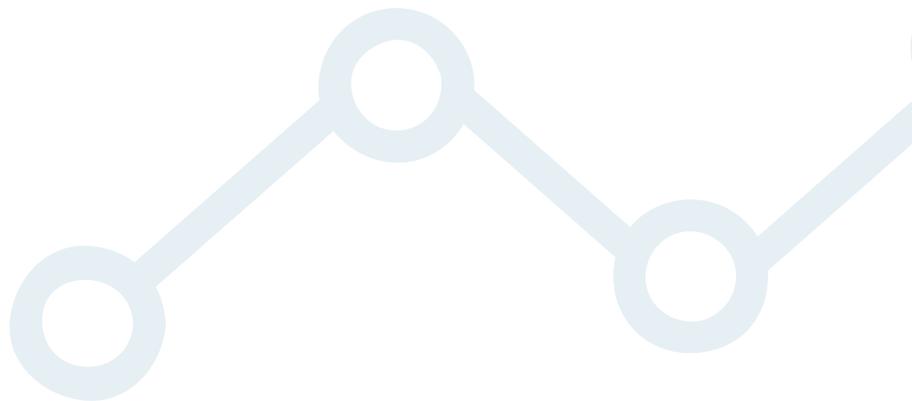
In OSTA-AECO's *Student Survey*, students were asked to rate the extent to which online classes provide comparable quality learning capabilities as in-person classes. On a scale of 1 to 5 (where 1 is 'not at all' and 5 is 'exactly the same'), only **24.6%** of students answered a 4 or 5.





Recommendations

- 1** The government should work with school boards to create provincial standards on student eligibility for school transportation services.
- 2** **The government should update the current funding formula to reflect school boards' local transportation needs.** It must take into consideration factors such as geography, availability of public transit, and the number of students who need transportation services.
- 3** **The government should provide enveloped grants (funds requiring a specific use) to rural and northern school boards for alternatives to online classes.** Examples include traditional in-person classes, in-person and online hybrid classes, night school, dual credit programs with local colleges, etc.
- 4** **The government should expand the Urban and Priority High Schools program (UPHS), which currently provides additional funding to high schools in urban low socioeconomic status communities.** The funding should be available to schools across the province (including rural and northern boards) with low graduation rates and a significant proportion of families living below the poverty line.



Conclusion

The Student Platform is OSTA-AECO's strategy to create the best possible education system for the students of Ontario. The three pillars of the Platform explore the shortfalls in our current system and offer recommendations for improvement. The Platform is a meaningful step towards bridging the gap between adult decision-makers and the students they serve. Ontario's next provincial government must implement innovative changes in order to accomplish an equitable, modernized education system which supports the wellbeing of every student.

On behalf of the 2 million students we represent, OSTA-AECO urges all parties to adopt our policy recommendations in their respective election platforms. We look forward to working with Ontario's next government to create a brighter future for the students of our province.



Student Wellbeing



21st Century Learning



Equitable Access to Opportunities



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Student Platform Recommendations



Student Wellbeing

1. The government should mandate that all Ontario guidance counselors complete ASIST training.
2. In addition to funding suicide intervention and mental health training programs for staff, the government should fund training programs for students (e.g., safeTALK).
3. **The government should legally enshrine the right of students to create a wellbeing club or committee in their school.** Bill 13 (the Accepting Schools Act) requires “boards [to] support pupils who want to establish and lead activities and organizations that promote a safe and inclusive learning environment ... and the creation of a positive school climate.” Organizations promoting student wellbeing, mental, and spiritual health should be included in the list of initiatives schools must support.
4. The government should mandate that every school has a breakfast program accessible to all students and ensure that school boards have sufficient funds to implement and sustain these programs.



21st Century Learning

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**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2018**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
ONTARIO CATHOLIC STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 17-19, 2018**

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Ontario Catholic Student Leadership Conference

October 17-19, 2018

Niagara Falls, Ontario



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
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