



*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, APRIL 24, 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 Vernal -
2. Roll Call -
3. Approval of the Agenda -
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest -
5. Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 20, 2018 A5
6. Consent Agenda Items
  - 6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 10, 2018 and Consideration of Recommendations A6.1
    - 6.1.1 Naming Request – Our Lady’s Chapel of the Apparitions at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, Grimsby A6.1.1
  - 6.2 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of March 7, 2018 A6.2
  - 6.3 In-Camera Agenda Items F1, F2, F2.1, F4, F5, F6 and F7 -

### **B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

### **C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

1. School Excellence Program St. John Catholic Elementary School C1
2. Financial Reports as at March 31, 2018 C2

### **D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Correspondence -
  - 1.1 March 1, 2018 Letter from the Ontario Catholic School Trustees’ Association D1.1
  - 1.2 March 28, 2018 Letter from the District School Board of Niagara D1.2
  - 1.3 April 17, 2018 Letter to Minister of Education from Limestone District School Board D1.3
2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended -
3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action -

- |     |  |      |
|-----|--|------|
| 4.  | Trustee Information  |      |
| 4.1 | Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – April 10, 2018   | D4.1 |
| 4.2 | Calendar of Events – May 2018  | D4.2 |
| 4.3 | Institute for Catholic Education: Renewing the Promise – Continuing the Conversation   | D4.3 |
| 4.4 | Catholic Education Week 2018 Planner   | -    |
| 4.5 | Ontario Legislative Highlights – April 20, 2018  | D4.5 |
| 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  
APRIL 24, 2018**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF  
MARCH 20, 2018**

---

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 20, 2018, as presented.



## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, March 20, 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 7:07 p.m. by Chair MacNeil.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Trustee Nieuwesteeg.

2. Roll Call

Chair MacNeil noted that Trustee Sicoli and Superintendent Vetrone 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	✓			
<b>Student Trustees</b>				
Nico Tripodi	✓			
Hannah Tummillio	✓			

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; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Board Meeting of March 20, 2018, 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 of February 27, 2018**

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Vernal

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of February 27, 2018, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. Consent Agenda Items**

**6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 6, 2018 and Consideration of Recommendations**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole of March 6, 2018, as presented.

**6.1.1 Trustee Code of Conduct Policy (100.12)**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Code of Conduct Policy (100.12), as presented.

**6.1.2 Student Trustee Policy (100.4)**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Student Trustee Policy (100.4), as presented.

**6.1.3 Trustee Determination and Distribution 2018**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board determine that the number of trustees in its jurisdiction be a total of 8 trustees in the 2018 Elections.

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board confirm that it has decided not to designate and low population areas in the 2018 Elections.

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board confirm that the 8 trustees in its jurisdiction be distributed in the 2018 Elections, as follows:

1 for Fort Erie, Port Colborne, Wainfleet  
1 for Grimsby, Lincoln, Pelham, West Lincoln  
2 for Niagara Falls, Niagara-on-the-Lake  
2 for St. Catharines (less Merritton Area)  
1 for Thorold (including Merritton Area)  
1 for Welland

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board in 2019-2020 conduct an in depth consultation study of Electoral Boundaries for the 2022-2026 Term of Office of Trustees.

**6.1.4 Attendance Area Review – Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School and Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the following Terms of Reference for the Denis Morris, Holy Cross and Saint Francis Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee for Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School and Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School:

Align the secondary attendance boundary for Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School to include the entire St. James Catholic Elementary School boundary following the approval of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

**6.1.5 Attendance Area Review – St. Alexander Catholic Elementary School and St. Kevin Catholic Elementary School**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the following Terms of Reference for the Notre Dame College School Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee for St. Alexander Catholic Elementary School and St. Kevin Catholic Elementary School:

Align student enrolment to facility capacity at St. Alexander Catholic Elementary School.

Align student enrolment to facility capacity at St. Kevin Catholic Elementary School. Adjust attendance area boundaries for St. Alexander Catholic Elementary School and St. Kevin Catholic Elementary School following approval of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

**6.2 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of January 10, 2018**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of January 10, 2018, as presented.

**6.3 In-Camera Items F1, F2, F4, F5, F6 and F7**

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg  
Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

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

## **B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

## **C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. School Excellence Program – St. Ann Catholic Elementary School, St. Catharines**

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education provided background information on the monthly School Excellence Program and introduced Scott Root, Principal of St. Ann Catholic Elementary School.

Principal Root, with the assistance of staff showcased St. Ann Catholic Elementary School as part of the School Excellence Program.

Principal Root answered questions of Trustees.

Chair MacNeil and Trustees Burtnik and Charbonneau thanked Principal Root and staff for their presentation.

### **2. Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction Policy (100.7)**

Director Crocco noted that during a meeting of the Niagara Catholic Award of Distinction Committee Trustee Burtnik, Chair of the Policy Committee and Trustee Vernal, Vice-Chair of the Board noticed a slight edit to the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction Policy to reflect the intent of the Policy Committee.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik  
Seconded by Trustee Vernal

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction Policy (100.7), as presented.

**CARRIED**

### **3. Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction 2018**

Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education announced that at the Selection Committee Meeting of March 8, 2018, the committee selected Eileen McCarthy (posthumously) and Peter Ferron as the recipients of the Award of Distinction 2018. With the notification of the Board, Director Crocco and Superintendent Iannantuono will contact Mrs. McCarthy family and Mr. Ferren to inform them of the selection.

### **4. Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline – Draft – Submission**

Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education presented the revisions to the Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline for submission to the Ministry of Education.

Superintendent Farrell answered questions of Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik  
Seconded by Trustee Vernal

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board endorse the report from Senior Staff to the Ministry of Education's proposed revisions to the Ministry of Education Draft Pupil Accommodations Review Guideline – January 2018 for submission to the Ministry of Education, as amended.

**CARRIED**

**5. Financial Report as at February 28, 2018**

On behalf of Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services Director Crocco presented the monthly report which provides information as of February 28, 2018. Superintendent Vetrone will answer any questions on the report upon his return.

Director Crocco answered questions of Trustees.

**D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Correspondence**

Director Crocco, highlighted information contained in the;

**1.1 February 21, 2018 Letter from Holy Childhood Association**

**1.2 March 1, 2018 Letter to Parents/Guardians of St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School**

**2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended**

Nil Report

**3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action**

Director Crocco noted that Senior Staff continues to work on key reports for upcoming Committee of the Whole meetings. The continued implementation of this year's System Priorities, the design of the System Priorities and Budget for 2018-2019 and with the approval the Board revisions to the Pupil Accommodation Review the submission will be forwarded to the Ministry of Education.

**4. Trustee Information**

**4.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – March 6, 2018**

Director Crocco highlighted the March 6, 2018 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic.

**4.2 Calendar of Events – April 2018**

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

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on April 16, 2018 and asked Trustees to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano.

Director Crocco answered questions of Trustees.



**4.3 Ontario Legislative Highlights – March 9, 2018**

Director Crocco presented the Ontario Legislative Highlights of March 9, 2018.

**4.4 OCSTA 2018 AGM & Conference – April 26-28, 2018**

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the OCSTA 2018 AGM and Conference being held on April 26-28, 2018

**4.5 St. Martin Catholic Elementary School Official Blessing & Opening – May 29, 2018**

Director Crocco invited Trustees to the Official Blessing and Opening of St. Martin Catholic Elementary School on May 29, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Director Crocco noted the Bishop Bergie will be joining the celebration and asked Trustees to confirm attendance with Anna Pisano for seating arrangements and acknowledgement.

Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services announced that the Ministry of Education has approved funding for the consolidation of Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School and St. Charles Catholic Elementary School.

Vice-Chair Vernal expressed appreciation to Controller Whitwell and Superintendent Farrell for their hard work throughout the Pupil Accommodation Review process.

Controller Whitwell announced that the New Child Care Centre at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, Grimsby has received its license and is currently under operation.

**5. Open Question Period**

None Submitted

**E. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

**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 8:36 p.m. and reconvened at 10:06 p.m.

**G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of March 20, 2018.

**CARRIED**

## **SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT**

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

**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 February 27, 2018, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F1)**

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

**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 March 6, 2018, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F2)**

## **SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED**

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

**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 February 27, 2018, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F4)**

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

**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 March 6, 2018, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F5)**

## **H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

## **I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE**

## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

**THAT** the March 20, 2018 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

---

---

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **March 20, 2018**.

Approved on **April 24, 2018**.

---

Fr. Paul MacNeil  
Chair of the Board

---

John Crocco  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2018**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2018**

---

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the** Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 10, 2018, as presented.

The following recommendation is being presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 10, 2018:

**6.1.1 *Naming Request – Our Lady's Chapel of the Apparitions at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, Grimsby***

**THAT the** Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Naming Request – Our Lady's Chapel of the Apparitions at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, Grimsby, as presented.



## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

### TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 2018

---

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, April 10, 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 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	✓			
<b>Student Trustees</b>				
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; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee MacNeil

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 10, 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 March 6, 2018**

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 6, 2018, as presented.

**CARRIED**

6. **Consent Agenda Items**

6.1 **Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of March 20, 2018**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole receive the Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of March 20, 2018, as presented.

6.2 **Naming Request – Our Lady’s Chapel of the Apparitions at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, Grimsby**

**THAT** Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Naming Request – Our Lady’s Chapel of the Apparitions at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, Grimsby, as presented.

6.3 **Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Committee**

Presented for information.

6.4 **Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities**

Presented for information.

6.5 **Capital Projects Update**

Presented for information.

## **6.6 In Camera Items F1 and F3**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole adopt consent agenda items.

**CARRIED**

## **B. PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

## **C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. Information Technology – Data Centre Relocation Project**

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services provided background information on the Information Technology Data Centre Relocation Project and introduced Grant Frost, Chief Information Officer.

Mr. Frost introduced the Technology team and presented the Information Technology – Data Centre Relocation Project report for Trustee information.

Mr. Frost answered questions of Trustees.

### **2. Niagara Catholic Mental Health and Addictions Strategy Update 2018**

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education provided background on the Niagara Catholic Mental Health and Addictions Strategy and introduced Andrea Bozza, Mental Health Leader, Andrea Prest and Jennifer Monteith, Social Workers.

Ms. Bozza, Ms. Prest and Ms. Monteith presented the Niagara Catholic Mental Health and Addictions Strategy Update 2018 for Trustee information.

Ms. Bozza, Ms. Prest and Ms. Monteith answered questions of Trustees.

### **3. Grants for Student Needs 2018-2019**

Superintendent Vetrone presented the Grants for Student Needs 2018-2019 report for Trustee Information.

Superintendent Vetrone answered questions of Trustees.

### **4. Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2017-2018 Update**

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

Director Crocco and Senior Administrative Council answered questions of Trustees.

### **5. Monthly Updates**

#### **5.1 Student Trustees' Update**

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

## **5.2 Senior Staff Good News Update**

Senior Staff highlights included:

### **Superintendent Farrell**

- Hunter Murdoch, a Grade 12 student at Saint Michael Catholic High School won Best in Fair at the 56<sup>th</sup> annual Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair on April 3, 2018 at Brock University. Hunter was selected for Team Niagara 2018 to compete at the Canada Wide Science Fair in May.
- Mike Accursi, teacher at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School was inducted into the Rochester Knighthawks Hall of Fame on March 31, 2018.
- Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School Grade 9 student Gage Meller strikes a double Bronze fencing sabre at the Ontario Winter Games.
- Avery Clark, grade 10 student at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School an her Burlington Nexxice synchronized skating team won bronze at the Leon Lurje Trophy 2018 in Gothenburg, took gold at the Ontario Regional Synchronized Skating Championships, earned silver at the Canadian National Synchronized Skating Championships and placed eight at the ISU World Junior Synchronized Skating Championships in Zagred, Croatia.

### **Superintendent Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**

- STEM Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics is very much alive at St. Alfred Catholic Elementary School. The Junior Team placed 1<sup>st</sup> in both the St. Ann Catholic Invitational Tournament and the Niagara Catholic Skills Competition at the Scotia Bank Center. The team has advance to the Provincial Vex IQ Skills Tournament in Toronto. The Intermediate Team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and won the Judges Award for Robot Design in Aurora. The team followed up with an impressive 1<sup>st</sup> place finish at both the St. Ann Catholic Invitational Tournament and the Niagara Catholic Skills Competition, and ranked in the top 10 at the Ontario Provincial Championships. The intermediate team will also compete in the Provincial Vex IQ Skills Tournament.

## **D. INFORMATION**

### **1. Trustee Information**

#### **1.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – March 20, 2018**

Director Crocco highlighted the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – March 20, 2018 issue for Trustees information.

#### **1.2 Calendar of Events – April 2018**

Director Crocco presented the April 2018 Calendar of Events for Trustees information.

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast on April 16, 2018 at 8:00 a.m. and asked Trustees to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano.

Director Crocco also reminded Trustees of the Bishop's Gala on April 20, 2018 and asked Trustees to confirm availability with Anna Pisano.



**1.3 Ontario Legislative Highlights – March 16, 23, 28 and 29, 2018**

Director Crocco highlighted the Ontario Legislative Highlights of March 16, 23, 28 and 29, 2018.

**1.4 The Summiteer – Newsletter for Members of Team Canada 1972**

Director Crocco highlighted The Summiteer – Newsletter for Members of Team Canada 1972 which included an article on Niagara Catholic's educational partnership with Team Canada 1972.

Director Crocco announced that Niagara Catholic will be participating in the Jersey day on Thursday April 12, 2018 in support of the Humboldt Broncos, their families and the community. Flags will continue to fly at half mast throughout the system until April 13, 2018 in their honour.

**E. OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action**

Director Crocco informed the Board of the continued implementation of this year's System Priorities and the design of the 2018-2019 System Priorities and Budget with a draft report to be presented at the May Committee of the Whole meeting.

Director Crocco noted that the Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committees will be meeting this week and will be bringing a report to an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting.

**F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

**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 8:47 p.m. and reconvened at 10:06 p.m.

**G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 10, 2018.

**CARRIED**

**SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES INCLUDED**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

**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 March 6, 2018, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F1)**

## **SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

**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 March 6, 2018, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F3)**

## **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

**THAT** the April 10, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

---

---

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **April 10, 2018.**

Approved on **May 8, 2018.**

---

Pat Vernal  
Vice-Chair of the Board

---

John Crocco  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2018**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: NAMING REQUEST – OUR LADY’S CHAPEL OF THE  
APPARITIONS AT OUR LADY OF FATIMA CATHOLIC  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, GRIMSBY**

---

---

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Naming Request – Our Lady’s Chapel of the Apparitions at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, Grimsby, as presented.

---

---

Prepared by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education  
Brian Palujanskas, Principal of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, Grimsby  
Krista Wood, Board Chaplaincy Leader

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

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: April 24, 2018



## **REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE APRIL 10, 2018**

### **NAMING REQUEST – OUR LADY’S CHAPEL OF THE APPARITIONS AT OUR LADY OF FATIMA CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, GRIMSBY**

---

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Niagara Catholic District School Board received over \$4.5 million in funding from the provincial government to add an addition onto Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School in Grimsby. On Tuesday, June 6, 2017, Niagara Catholic broke ground to officially begin the start of the addition.

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School first opened in 1968 as an open concept school. The school grew over time and in 2010 a new building was constructed on the same site. The new building consisted of 17 classrooms and had a student capacity of 400. The original building was removed from the site except for the gymnasium which was converted into the Cyberquest building. Students in grade 7 and 8 from Lincoln and the west end of St. Catharines would travel to Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School to attend the Cyberquest program and explore nutrition, animation, robotics, auto mechanics and more. However, Grimsby continued to grow and the population of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School reached 540 students with 5 portables and the Cyberquest Building was converted into temporary classrooms. The Niagara Catholic District School Board went back to the provincial government and was approved for an addition that would consist of six classrooms, a full day daycare facility with 3 rooms and a beautifully appointed school chapel at the entrance of the school. On January 22, 2018, the students moved into their new classrooms and on March 12, 2018 the daycare facility opened and is operated by the YMCA of Niagara.

In accordance with Board Policy 100.15, Naming of a Board Facility, Designated Area or Chapel,

All Chapels in the Niagara Catholic District School Board will be named after the Blessed Trinity, or a name for Christ, or a mystery of his life already accepted in the liturgy, or the name of the Holy Spirit, or a name for the Blessed Virgin Mary, or a name of a holy angel, or the name of a Saint, or the name of a blessed provided the Bishop has given permission.

1. All requests will be presented to the Family of Schools’ Superintendent of Education for consideration.
2. If supported by the Family of Schools’ Superintendent of Education, a recommendation will be made to the Director of Education for consideration.
3. The Director of Education will consult with the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines for endorsement.
4. If supported by the Director of Education and endorsed by the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines, the Director will present the recommendation to the Board of Trustees for consideration.
5. The Board of Trustees will approve the naming or renaming of a Chapel within a Board facility.

6. The name of the Chapel within a Board facility will be displayed with an appropriate interior sign or lettering.

### **Recommendation**

A recommendation has been made by the Family of Schools' Superintendent of Education, and Principal of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School to the Director of Education - to name the chapel at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, Grimsby – Our Lady's Chapel of the Apparitions. The Director of Education has consulted with the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines and received Bishop Bergie's endorsement of the recommended name for the chapel.

The little Chapel of the Apparitions in Fatima, Portugal was constructed in 1919 in the place of the apparitions of Our Lady to the three shepherd children – Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta. In the apparition of October 13, 1917 Our Lady called to them, "I want to tell you that a chapel is to be built here in my honor. I am the Lady of the Rosary" (First Memoir of Sister Lucia).

Out of the six apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Fatima, five of them happened at this place – May, June, July, September and October. Though it was subjected to minor changes, the little Chapel of the Apparitions maintains the original traits, which are characteristic of a popular hermitage. The plinth where the statue of Our Lady lies marks the site where the small holm oak on which the Lady of the Rosary appeared used to be.

We are requesting the chapel at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School be named Our Lady's Chapel of the Apparitions to honour Our Lady in a way which models that of St. Francisco, St. Jacinta, and Servant of God Lucia. These three shepherd children heard the call of Mary and stopped to listen. Our Lady's Chapel of the Apparitions will be a space where students of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School can come to stop and listen to Mary as she draws them closer to Our Lord.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Naming Request – Our Lady's Chapel of the Apparitions at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, Grimsby, as presented.

Prepared by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education  
Brian Palujanskas, Principal of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, Grimsby  
Krista Wood, Board Chaplaincy Leader

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

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

Date: April 10, 2018

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2018**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF  
MARCH 7, 2018**

---

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of March 7, 2018 as presented for information.



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2018

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 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	✓		
Karen Murphy	Autism Ontario Niagara Region	✓		
Rob Lavorato	Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara)	✓		
Bill Helmeczi	Pathstone Mental Health		✓	
Andrew Howcroft	Community Living Welland Pelham	✓		
Dorothy Harvey	Niagara Children's Centre		✓	
Rita Smith	Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet	✓		
Brittani Ali	Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region	✓		
<b>Trustees</b>				
Pat Vernal		✓		
Maurice Charbonneau		✓		
<b>Student Senate Representative</b>				
Justine Bourak		✓		

The following staff were in attendance:

**Pat Rocca**, Superintendent of Education; **Jim Di Gioia**, Coordinator – Special Education; **Lisa Selman**, Principal, Elementary; **Tina DiFrancesco**, Recording Secretary

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Andrew Howcroft  
Seconded by Trustee Vernal

**THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of March 7, 2018.

**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 January 10, 2018**

Moved by Rob Lavorato  
Seconded by Andrew Howcroft

**THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of January 10, 2018 as presented.

**CARRIED**

**\*\* There are no minutes from the February 7<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting, due to no quorum. \*\***

## **B. PRESENTATIONS**

**1. 2018-2019 System Priorities and Budget Presentation**

Director Crocco and Superintendent Vetrone presented information pertaining to *Niagara Catholic Design of System Priorities 2018-2019 and Balanced Budget*. Superintendent Vetrone presented the revised estimates for the 2017-2018 enrolment projections, staffing, expenditures, and Special Education. Director Crocco provided a handout and reviewed the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan Enabling Strategies, inviting SEAC members to submit a measurable action verb System Priority for 2018-2019 by April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Questions were asked and answered during the presentation.

**2. Individual Education Plans**

Jim Di Gioia, Special Education Coordinator presented *Supporting Niagara Catholic Students through the Individual Education Plan (IEP)*. Information included Niagara Provincial standards for development, implementation, monitoring and reviewing; requirements under *Regulation 184/98* and *Policy/Program Memorandum Nos. 140 and 156*; “What is an IEP”, developing IEPs, the NCDSB Problem Solving Model for Student Success, the Tiered Approach for Intervention, Accommodations for Learning, Modifications to Curriculum and Alternative Learning Expectations. Questions were asked and answered during the presentation.



## C. VISIONING

### 1. Goals and Vision for 2017-2018

#### 1.1 Goals and Vision for the 2017-2018 School Year

A decision was made to have the next SEAC meeting at Denis Morris Catholic High School following the *Niagara Catholic Well-Being Learning and Achievement Fair*. Principals will be notified via Student Support memo and are asked to share this information with their Catholic School Community.

## D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2018

### 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

The following policies were presented for review.

*Christian Community Service Policy (400.3)*

*Electronic Communications Systems Policy (Students) (301.5)*

*Employee Hiring and Selection Policy (203.1)*

Feedback can be submitted to [jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com](mailto:jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com) by April 12, 2018.

## E. SEAC REPORT

### 1. Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for Catholic School Council Agenda

- The notification regarding the change in location for the April 4<sup>th</sup> SEAC meeting being held at Denis Morris High School will be sent to Principals to share with their Catholic School Community.

## 2. Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for School Newsletters

- Same as above.

## F. AGENCY REPORTS

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

- Trivia Night - March 10 at the Armenian Community Centre in St. Catharines. Raffle, silent auction, door prizes, pizza, cash bar. Tickets \$20 or \$150 per table of 8. Proceeds to benefit Down Syndrome Caring Parents Niagara.
- World Down Syndrome Day - March 21. Handouts were provided to the SEAC members.
- Twenty Valley School in Vineland invited members of DSCPN to attend a presentation at their school on March 23. They have raised \$280.00 from Candy gram sales to be given to our group.
- AGM meeting on April 8, new executive to be named.
- June 16 - Texas Hold-em Poker night fund raiser is being held at the Armenian Community Centre.

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

- Nil Report

### 3. Pathstone Mental Health – Bill Helmeczi

- Nil Report

### 4. Community Living Welland Pelham – Andrew Howcroft

- Article entitled, *People with disabilities deserve more than just a cute Gerber baby*, by Andre Picard, speaks about Gerber naming a boy with Down syndrome as its ‘spokesbaby’ for 2018.

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

- Winter Programs are up and running and space is still available.
- Adult social Club hosted a Valentine’s Day Dance at the chapter on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- World Autism Day falls on Easter Monday this year; therefore celebration to raise the flag will take place on Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. I am happy to report that all 57 schools have been registered and will be raising flags on this day.

### 6. Niagara Children’s Centre – Dorothy Harvey

- Nil Report

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

- Nil Report

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

- S.M.A.R.T. Math program is being offered again in May.
- Program applications open March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00a.m.
- S.L.A.M. Camp – a full day summer camp that includes fun, hands-on literacy games and recreational activities. Locations include St. Catharines, Welland and Niagara Falls. Applications open March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00a.m. at LDANiagara.org. Please see the latest research done on the program at <http://dr.library.brocku.ca/handle/10464/12947>

## **G. STAFF REPORTS**

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

*Happening in Elementary Schools*

- Nil Report

2. **Denice Robertson – Principal, Secondary  
Report Submitted**

- We are in the midst of organizing and participating in transition meetings and visits for some incoming Special Education students next year. These transition events include the sharing of information about some new students who will be joining our Special Education Classroom for the 2018-2019 school year.
- We are in the midst of completing the draft versions of the Individual Education Plans for Semester 2. These will be sent home at the end of March.
- We have been assisting our students with their course selections and ensuring that their choices coincide with their appropriate pathway.
- Students with Individual Education Plans who require additional support are currently taking part in preparation activities related to the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, which will take place on April 10, 2018

Saint Francis

- One of our Special Education Classroom students travelled to Windsor on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> to participate in the OFSAA Swimming competition. The student placed fourth in the 50 metre freestyle, swimming a personal best time. This student also placed fourth in the 50 metre backstroke and just missed a bronze medal in each of her events.
- Two of our Special Education Classroom students will be participating in the Niagara Catholic District School Board Technological Skills Competition at the Scotia Bank Centre on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. They will be competing in the Horticulture component, under the direction of the APC Horticulture teacher. We are very proud of these students' hard work!
- We continue to support our Saint Francis community through our Breakfast Program and through the preparation of the nutrition breaks for our P3 program each week.

### Blessed Trinity

- After a successful Pathways Evening, we are setting up many visits with students and parents and look forward to providing a good transition experience for all incoming Grade 9 students.
- We are assisting the Grade 12 students who will be attending post-secondary institutions next year – they will be aware of how to access the accommodations they require and advocate for themselves as they transition to college or university.
- Students in the Special Education Class have integrated well into a variety of classes, including English, Math, Geography, Religion, Physical Education, Drama, Music, Co-Op etc. The list is extensive and they are having a wonderful semester.
- The Special Education department continues to work with Contact Niagara and Community Living to develop Integrated Transition Plans for our Transitional Aged Youth.

### Holy Cross

- February was a busy month in the Holy Cross Special Education Class. We welcomed two new students and embraced the change of a new semester for all. It felt as though it was party season, with celebrations for several student birthdays, a Carnival themed lunch, a Mardi Gras party on Shrove Tuesday, and a Valentines party for exchanging cards and treats. In the days following our Ash Wednesday prayer service students were encouraged to share and discuss their Lenten promises and the reasons for their choices. We look forward to the longer days of spring and celebrating new life in the risen Christ. We wish everyone a safe and happy March Break and extend a thank you to SEAC member, Andrew for visiting Holy Cross.

### Denis Morris

- The Special Education Class continues to prepare for the Special Olympics Events planned throughout the spring. Two bocce teams competed on March 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Best Buddies, *Hooping it Up* event is happening March 7<sup>th</sup>. Students are encouraged to donate \$2.00 for a chance to throw as many free throws as possible in one minute. Top scorers will win movie passes. Profits will be used for our next Best Buddies event – a large group visit to the movies.
- Another visit to Bridges for Autism is being organized to expose our students to further programming that the facility offers.

### Saint Paul

- Students are integrated in many different classes including Math, English, Science, and Food and Nutrition. The students in the Food and Nutrition class prepared several types of different pizzas this week – they were delicious! Earlier in February, the students participated in SNAP and had a wonderful time, as always! Today, the Special Education Class participated in the Special Olympics Bocce Qualifier at Sinnicks Field in Niagara Falls; they went 3-1 and played great. Hopefully, their performance and sportsmanship earns them a place in the Provincial Finals.

Saint Michael

- Educational Resource Teachers attended a Mohawk College presentation about alternative pathways and programs for Special Education students. This will be shared with parents and students who would not have the standard requirements necessary for College admission.
- TAY meetings are being held to discuss transitions for students with Developmental Disabilities.

3. Pat Rocca – Superintendent of Education

- Friday, April 20 is the annual Bishop's Gala being held at Club Roma.
- Superintendent Rocca presented a video clip of the Grade 4 class at St. James Catholic Elementary school in St. Catharines who won second place in Community Living's 5<sup>th</sup> annual *Together We're Better Contest*.

4. Jim DiGioia – Coordinator Special Education

- Nil Report

## H. TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. Pat Vernal – Trustee

- Nil Report

2. Maurice Charbonneau – Trustee

- Nil Report

## I. STUDENT REPORT

1. Justine Bourak– Student Senate Representative

- Nil Report

## 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**

1. Letter received from the Grand Erie District School Board – Deferred to future meeting

## **N. QUESTION PERIOD**

## **O. NOTICES OF MOTION**

## **P. AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

## **Q. INFORMATION ITEMS**

## **R. NEXT MEETING:**

**Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 7:00p.m. at Denis Morris Catholic High School**

## **S. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Andrew Howcroft

Seconded by Rob Lavorato

**THAT** the March 7, 2018 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 9:20p.m.

---

---

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2018**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM  
ST. JOHN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

---

---

The School Excellence Program report is presented for information.

---

---

Prepared by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: April 24, 2018



## SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM ST. JOHN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

---

---

### Contact Info

5684 Regional Road 81,  
Beamsville, ON L0R 1B0  
P. 905.945.5331  
F. 905.945.1877

[Contact](#)

### Grades

K – 8

### French Immersion

Grades 1 through 5

### Enrolment

443 as of October 2017

### Principal

Deborah Guthrie

### Vice-Principal

Timothy Atkinson

### Superintendent

Pat Rocca

### Catholic School Council

Chair: Nicole  
Chamberlain  
Co-Chair: Lisa Milan-  
Schuster

### Parish

St. Joseph



St. John Catholic Elementary School is located on Old Highway #8, (now Regional Road 81) between Beamsville and Grimsby. The school is halfway between the two urban centres. St. John was built in 1958 as a four-room school and has had three major additions. It is a beautiful setting for a school with orchards on both sides and the Bruce Trail just behind the school.

St. John Catholic Elementary School is a part of the [Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School](#) Family of Schools

### School Mission Statement

*We are a community of Catholic learners, independent and respectful of self and others, developing to our fullest potential while fostering a climate of uniqueness and equity for each individual in our community.*

---

Prepared by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: April 24, 2018



**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2018**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT MARCH 31, 2018**

---

---

The Financial Report as at March 31, 2018 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: April 24, 2018



**REPORT TO THE BOARD  
APRIL 24, 2018**

**FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT MARCH 31, 2018**

---

---

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Financial Report is presented in Appendix A

Also attached;

Appendix B – Financial Report as at March 31, 2018

The Financial Report as at March 31, 2018 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: April 24, 2018



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### YEAR TO DATE MARCH 31, 2018

Niagara Catholic District School Board continues to put into action the 2017-2018 risk management strategies to offset in-year unanticipated expenditures. Niagara Catholic is working in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the team within the Accountability Branch to ensure our strategies to mitigate a \$2.2M year-end deficit is curtailed. With the 2017-2018 risk management strategies put in place, the District is now forecasting a reduced in-year deficit of approximately \$524,000. The mitigating risk management strategies to offset some of the \$2.2M deficit currently in place are as follows:

- Information Technology – pause in central hardware investment
- Facilities – pause in minor repairs that have no risk to staff, students and parents
- Professional Development – only Education Program Other (EPO) and other one-time grants will support replacement for staff attending professional development sessions confirmed after March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Central Positions – freeze of all postings for central non-union positions
- Replacement – change in existing replacement procedures for Caretakers, Cleaners and Library Technicians
- Implementation of Supervised Study at the Secondary Panel
- No replacement for absent central office staff due to personal illness
- Postpone redevelopment of Niagara Catholic webpage project

As previously reported, the first seven months of operations have identified increased costs pressures in comparison to the 2016-2017 fiscal year cost structure. These cost pressures are as follows:

The 2017-2018 weather season has presented challenges with inclement weather and increased costs associated with utility costs and the frequency of our snowplowing and salting. The School District had planned for 2017-2018 \$1.1M in snowplowing and salting, which is an increase of \$300,000 in resources from our 2016-2017 annual budget versus 2017-2018. However, the inclement weather has resulted in approximately \$1.6M in costs for 2017-2018, which has resulted in an additional \$500,000 in cost pressures unnoted in prior months.

The number of absences due to personal illnesses are trending substantially higher in the first seven months of the calendar school year. The number of average sick days for all staff is approximately 10.6 for 2017-2018. This has resulted in an increase of almost 8% more sick days than the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Strategies to reduce the average number of sick days with associated replacement costs will be put in place for the 2018-2019 school year.

	<b>2016-2017 YTD</b>	<b>2017-2018 YTD</b>	<b>Diff 2017-2018 vs</b>	<b>Average Sick Days</b>
<b>TOTAL STAFF</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>
<b>Number of Illnesses</b>	8,376	14,809	<b>6,433</b>	
<b>CUPE</b>	3,625	5,935	<b>2,310</b>	12.00
<b>OECTA-E</b>	2,981	5,556	<b>2,575</b>	10.38
<b>OECTA-S</b>	1,665	2,696	<b>1,031</b>	9.75
<b>Non Union*</b>	351	622	<b>271</b>	3.50

*\*All Non Union personnel are not replaced when ill, except for long-term illnesses.*

The next phase of the Provincial Employee Life and Health Trust solution for Principals and Vice Principals will now commence for April 1, 2018. The final phase of the ELHT will include all other non-union staff, this transition is expected to be for June 1, 2018. Our current benefit provider will continue to provide coverage until the transition to the trust for all staff is completed. It should be noted that NCDSB's original estimates had an increase of approximately 7.0% in benefit costs that was effective for October 1, 2017 and these additional costs 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, with the continued support of the Ministry of Education, will be initiating a multi-year plan to ensure specific financial targets are achieved by August 31, 2019.

Niagara Catholic DSB  
2017-18 Interim Financial Report

For the Month Ending March 31, 2018

Summary of Financial Results

(\$Thousands)	Estimates	Revised Estimates	Forecast	In-Year Change \$	%
<b>Revenue</b>					
Operating Grants	228,732	231,831	232,620	789	0.3%
Capital Grants	25,234	22,338	22,338	-	0.0%
Other	14,800	13,272	13,272	-	0.0%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>268,766</b>	<b>267,441</b>	<b>268,230</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>0.3%</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>					
Classroom	204,036	204,583	204,121	(462)	(0.2%)
Other Operating	7,889	7,871	7,815	(56)	(0.7%)
Transportation	9,829	9,829	9,794	(35)	(0.4%)
Pupil Accommodation	37,820	39,098	38,907	(191)	(0.5%)
Other	8,180	7,112	7,112	-	0.0%
PSAB Adjustments	1,005	1,005	1,005	-	0.0%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>268,759</b>	<b>269,498</b>	<b>268,754</b>	<b>(744)</b>	<b>(0.3%)</b>
<b>In-Year Surplus (Deficit)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>(2,057)</b>	<b>(524)</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>n/a</b>
Prior Year Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	10,894	10,894	10,894	-	0.0%
<b>Accumulated Surplus (Deficit) for Compliance</b>	<b>10,901</b>	<b>8,837</b>	<b>10,370</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>17.3%</b>

Summary of Enrolment

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

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

Summary of Staffing

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

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2018**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: CORRESPONDENCE  
MARCH 1, 2018 LETTER FROM OCSTA**

---



Ontario Catholic School  
Trustees' Association

Box 2064, Suite 1804  
20 Eglinton Avenue West  
Toronto, Ontario M4R 1K8  
T. 416.932.9460 F. 416.932.9459  
[ocsta@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:ocsta@ocsta.on.ca) [www.ocsta.on.ca](http://www.ocsta.on.ca)

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

March 1, 2018

Fr. Paul MacNeil  
Chairperson  
Niagara Catholic District School Board  
427 Rice Road  
Welland ON L3C 7C1

Dear Fr. Paul:

I would like to thank you, the trustees and senior staff of the Niagara Catholic District School Board for the warm welcome Nick Milanetti and I received at your recent meeting. We very much appreciated the opportunity to provide an update on a number of provincial issues and respond to the trustees' questions.

We particularly enjoyed the outstanding presentation made by the students and staff of St. Denis School. We know that they give witness to the high level of faith formation and academic excellence which exists throughout the Niagara Catholic School System.

Thank you once again.

Yours very truly,

Patrick J. Daly  
President

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2018**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: CORRESPONDENCE  
MARCH 28, 2018 LETTER FROM DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
OF NIAGARA**

---





March 28, 2018

Director of Education & Secretary-Treasurer  
Niagara Catholic District School Board  
427 Rice Road  
Welland, Ontario  
L3C 7C1

**Re: 2018 Trustee Determination and Distribution**

On March 27, 2018, the Trustees of the District School Board of Niagara approved the following recommendations with respect to Trustee Determination and Distribution for the 2018 Municipal Elections.

*"That the District School Board of Niagara not designate any municipality within the Board's area of jurisdiction as a low population municipality."*

And

*"That the distribution of District School Board of Niagara Trustees for the October 2018 elections be confirmed, as follows:*

<b>Fort Erie / Port Colborne</b>	1
<b>Grimsby / Lincoln</b>	1
Niagara Falls	2
<b>Pelham / Thorold</b>	1
<b>St. Catharines / Niagara-on-the-Lake</b>	4
Welland	1
<b>West Lincoln / Wainfleet</b>	1."

In accordance with Ontario Regulation 412/00, the electoral quotients for several municipalities in adjacent geographic areas have been combined to result in the number of trustees allocated to these areas, as indicated above, with the lead municipality identified in bold print. The Trustee determination and distribution and lead municipalities remain unchanged from those established for the 2014 municipal elections.

Attached is a copy of the calculations used in arriving at the determination and distribution of Trustees for the District School Board of Niagara.

Yours truly,

Stacy Veld, CPA, CMA  
Superintendent of Business Services  
& Board Treasurer

:blb

Encl.

## Trustee Determination & Distribution Calculator

### Trustee Distribution

#### Submitted Data

District School Board	District School Board of Niagara
Population of Board's Electoral Group	288,250
Number of elected trustees (If your board has passed a resolution to reduce its trustee positions, pick a new number from the drop-down menu)	11

#### Trustee Distribution – Template A

Column 1 Name of Municipality / Ward	Column 2 Electoral Group Population	Column 3 Electoral Quotient
St. Catharines	84,730	3.233
Niagara Falls	52,616	2.008
Welland	30,160	1.151
Fort Erie	21,810	0.832
Grimsby	18,235	0.696
Lincoln	16,560	0.632
Niagara-on-the-Lake	13,111	0.5
Port Colborne	12,382	0.473
Pelham	12,128	0.463
Thorold	10,950	0.418
West Lincoln	10,847	0.414
Wainfleet	4,721	0.18
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>288,250</b>	<b>11</b>

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2018**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: CORRESPONDENCE  
APRIL 17, 2018 LETTER TO MINISTER OF EDUCATION FROM  
LIMESTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

---



We're Putting Wellness First



We're Turning Innovation into Action



We're Committed to Collaboration

220 Portsmouth Ave., Kingston, ON K7M 0G2

P: 613-544-6920 | F: 613-544-6804

TF: 1-800-267-0935 | TTY: 613-548-0279

April 17, 2018

Minister Naidoo-Harris  
Ministry of Education  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Naidoo-Harris,

At Limestone District School Board, we are committed to maximizing student engagement and ensuring that students find their learning experiences engaging and relevant. We continue to place great value on gathering feedback through student voice, and are proud of our Student Trustees who liaise with our Board on behalf of their peers.

At the March 21, 2018 Board Meeting, Student Trustees Marie-Ange Kanellos and Ayrison Haynes referenced the recent report from the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO): *"Student Platform: Education policy recommendations for the 2018 provincial election – created by students, for students."*

The Board reviewed the report and, on April 10, 2018, unanimously approved the following motion:

*"That the Limestone District School Board endorse the Ontario Student Trustees' Association Student Platform Report and that the Limestone District School Board communicate the endorsement to the Minister of Education and all Boards across the Province."*

We congratulate OSTA-AECO for their fine work and request that the Ministry of Education give consideration to their report.

Sincerely,

Paula Murray  
Board Chair

Cc: Ontario School Boards  
Trustee Associations

SEE YOURSELF IN LIMESTONE

*Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe & Haudenosaunee.*

Paula Murray (Chair) | Debra Rantz (Director of Education and Secretary) | Paul Babin (Treasurer)

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2018**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION  
SPOTLIGHT ON NIAGARA CATHOLIC – APRIL 10, 2018**

---



**April 10, 2018**

### **Our Lady of Fatima's Chapel to get New Name**

During the April 10 Committee of the Whole Meeting, trustees recommended that the Board approve a request to name the new chapel at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School, which was included as part of the expansion and renovation to the school in 2017.

If approved, the name of the new chapel will be Our Lady's Chapel of the Apparitions. Trustees will consider the recommendation at the April 24 Board Meeting.

### **Mental Health and Addictions Strategy – 2018 Update**

Niagara Catholic has made the mental health of students and staff a key priority through the enabling strategies created to support our Strategic Directions. This support is incorporated into our Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being (BIPSAW) and school improvement planning across the system.

During the April 10 Committee of the Whole Meeting, trustees heard a presentation by Board Mental Health Lead Andrea Bozza, and Superintendent of Education Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, updating the Board's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy and explaining the roles and responsibilities of those involved in mental health initiatives in schools.

Read the complete report in section C2 of the [April 10 agenda](#), and the Mental Health and Addictions Strategy is available [here](#).

### **Capping Class Sizes for Students Part of Grants for Student Needs**

The Province will invest nearly \$500 million more in publicly funded education in the 2018-2019 school year.

Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, class sizes for students in Full-Day Kindergarten will be capped at 29 students. At the same time, class sizes for students in Grades 4-8 will be reduced to 23.84 students in a class. By the 2022-2023 school year, that figure will drop to 22.85 students.

As well, the provincial government has committed \$300 million to school boards over the next three years to address current waitlists for students with special education needs. The report can be found in section C3 of the [April 10 Committee of the Whole Agenda](#).

### **Jerseys for Humboldt**

Niagara Catholic students and staff have joined Canadians – and people around the world – in mourning the loss of 15 people killed in the horrific accident in Humboldt, Saskatchewan April 6. In addition to flying our flags at half-staff and saying a system-wide prayer for those killed, the 14 injured, their families, friends and the community, we will participate in Jersey Day on April 12. Students and staff are encouraged to wear their favourite sports jersey or green shirt in support of the Humboldt Broncos. We have also placed hockey sticks outside the door of the Catholic Education Centre, and our chapel, as a symbolic gesture “for the boys who will need them to play in Heaven.”



### **Good News!**

If it's been a while since you visited our Good News section of this website, be sure to check to see what you've missed! forget to check our [Good News](#) section of this website to see great stories on the programs and events taking place in our schools. Read about our outstanding [Learning, Well-Being and Achievement Fair](#), and about [Nicholas Carobonara](#), a student at Denis Morris Catholic High School who will get the opportunity of a lifetime this summer.

### **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  
APRIL 24, 2018**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

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

---





# MAY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 SEAC Meeting	3 NCPIC Meeting	4	5
6	7 Catch the Spirit Awards	8 SAL Meeting CW Meeting	9	10	11 Distinguished Alumni Awards	12
Catholic Education Week						
13	14	15	16	17 Class of 2018 Grad Celebration Partners in Catholic Education	18 Elementary and Secondary PA Day Faith Day	19
20	21 Victoria Day	22 Policy Committee Meeting Board Meeting	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2018**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION  
INSTITUTE FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION: RENEWING THE  
PROMISE – CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION**

---

---



**thought**exchange - *results and insights*



**RENEWING**  
*the promise*



# Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Exchange Overview.....	4
Participation.....	4
Question.....	4
A Summary of the Conversations.....	5
Moving to Action.....	6
Nurture Community and Relationships.....	6
Rekindle Mission and Values.....	7
Develop Faith and Catholic Identity.....	7
Live Faith.....	8
Engage Student Voice.....	8
Invite and Sustain Leadership.....	9
Key Takeaways.....	10
Conclusion.....	10

# Introduction

In November of 2017, ICE and OPÉCO gathered together more than 650 participants of our Catholic community in a provincial symposium to explore the theme, 'Renewing the Promise'. The dialogue was designed to provide opportunity for open conversation to name and understand the challenges we face as a community, better understand the changing context for our mission, and identify and build consensus around new possibilities to shape our future.

The symposium was structured around the principles for discerning conversations, and four sessions included opportunities for journaling personal reflections, rounds of structured sharing, and group dialogue and discussion.

The first session invited participants, in their 'home' or board groups, to reflect on the results and insights that surfaced from Thoughtexchange processes that preceded the symposium.

In the second session groups, comprised of mixed board and partner members, shared their reflections from the first session, surfaced common themes, and identified one question for each table group to explore in the next session. The questions were gathered in a Thoughtexchange and were later themed to determine the focus and variety of questions.

The third session began with an exploration of the hopes for Catholic education and possible steps to actualize that hope. The group discussion in this round asked the group to identify the key insights emerging from their conversation and to enter these thoughts in the second Thoughtexchange.

The final session saw participants return to their home group to share the question and insights gathered during the previous two sessions. Following a brief opportunity for group discussion, participants were invited individually to engage in a 'Star' process to prioritize the ideas and possible actions that most resonated with them before a final round of dialogue invited each group member to share, in one sentence, what most inspired them at the end of the day.

The Most Rev. Gerard Bergie, Bishop of St. Catherines, provided a keynote address to the symposium participants on the second day. His comments incorporated some of the results of the two Thoughtexchange processes from the previous day, based on a preliminary review that was completed overnight and shared with Bishop Bergie Wednesday morning.

The Bishops of Ontario both observed and participated in the symposium, and their experience will inform the development of a pastoral letter, *Renewing the Promise*, which will reflect on the challenges and opportunities that accompany this moment in time in Catholic education in Ontario. This renewed vision of Catholic education will offer guidance, encouragement, and support for those who share responsibility for the stewardship of publicly funded Catholic education in the province today, and in the coming years.

*M. Pautler* - Institute for Catholic Education

*L. Hughes* - Office provincial de l'éducation de la foi catholique en Ontario


# Exchange Overview

Two exchanges took place during the symposium. In the first, each table group was invited to identify the topic or question they wished to explore during the dialogue that followed. In the second exchange, the same groups were asked to share the most significant insights that emerged as they explored their question or topic. Subsequently, all symposium participants were invited to review and prioritize the thoughts of others by placing stars next to the ideas that they felt were most important or most resonated with them.

## Participation

 276     218     20,158

## Question

 What key insights emerged in your group conversation and what are we learning about how God is calling us to respond to our question or topic?



## A Summary of the Conversations

The thoughts shared by participants were organized into themes. Both the content of the thoughts, sorted thematically, and the ratings assigned to individual thoughts through the starring process, were analyzed to determine participants' priorities and identify possible areas for action. Sample thoughts, representative of the content and sentiment of each theme, are provided as examples to illustrate each theme summarized.

In total, seven themes were identified, and while there were slight variations in the relative weight or priority attached to each, the same seven themes were identified within both the English and French language conversations. The first theme prioritized within the English language conversation was "**Moving to Action**," in which participants issued a strong call for moving beyond talk to action. A recurring idea emerging in this conversation is the idea that the faith community (school and church) should actively reach out to the community to share the faith, rather than waiting for the community to come to them. The subsequent themes detail ways in which Catholic schools should seek to make a difference in their local communities, and in the world, through their actions.

The subsequent thematic strands that emerged as part of the symposium conversation identified specific areas of focus or opportunities for initiative as individuals, schools and school systems respond to the need for action.

Each of the emergent themes reflects a distinct conversational thread, yet each of the themes is interrelated:

- / Nurture Community and Relationships
- / Rekindle Mission and Values
- / Develop Faith and Catholic Identity
- / Live Faith
- / Engage Student Voice
- / Invite and Sustain Leadership

## Moving to Action

- In the conversations at the symposium, the sense of urgency about the need for action was palpable. Participants emphasized the importance of the school and church taking action and suggested ways in which they can innovate and reach out to community members. Suggestions included:

- Communicate the gospel using non-traditional means
- Reach out and living out faith in the community, rather than waiting for people to come to church
- Nurture a welcoming and inclusive environment
- Connect the actions of the parish and school to extend their reach and reflect the same message to the community

**“We need a common approach that is shared between the parish, home and school.** We need everyone in the picture. We have to work together.”

## Nurture Community and Relationships

- Living and working in right relationship, with God, and with one another, is at the core of our faith tradition.
- Participants identified the need to work at strengthening the connection between the parish, school and home to foster relationships and a deeper sense of community.
- Many of the thoughts in this theme focus on creating an environment in which all feel welcome and diversity is celebrated, and emphasize the importance of strengthening individual relationships through dialogue and shared understanding.

**“Creating a strong relationship between Home, School & Parish.** Grassroots promotion. It isn’t about being boastful it is about advocating, promoting and evangelizing. Not how we are better, but how we are different.”



## Rekindle Mission and Values

- Participants recognized the value of common language and shared understanding to articulate the crucial role that Catholic schools play in the mission of the Church.
- The idea that parish, school and home share this responsibility is echoed in this theme with a focus on mission and vision as a mechanism to assist in bringing the triad into a closer working relationship.
- Participants suggested that schools and Church work together in their shared mission to nurture the faith of students and encourage involvement of families in faith communities.

**“The purpose of the school and Church partnership is to inspire the students’ love of Christ.”**

## Develop Faith and Catholic Identity

- Participants identified the need for all members of the community to know the language of our faith, and called on the partners to work together to encourage and support programs and opportunities to deepen knowledge and understanding of the faith.
- Participants recognized that rich, varied and innovative opportunities must be vigorously supported at all levels – for students, for parents, for staff and for leaders
- Participants suggested that opportunities for individuals to be active in identifying their personal needs and faith-related interests would help staff to live out and share their beliefs.

**“We believe it’s important for all stakeholders in Catholic education to have opportunity to develop their faith. We cannot teach what we do not know or are not confident in.”**

## Live Faith

- Participants emphasized the importance of aligning words with actions, and identified the opportunity for all involved in Catholic education to witness to their faith both in word and in deed.
- Participants shared the insight that members of the community and leadership reflect their faith in their relationship with God, and in their relationships with each other and with the wider community.
- Participants suggested that adults be encouraged to be open and share the joy of their faith with youth, and with their families.

**“Need to be faithful to our core - live the gospel in our daily lives.** Make the correlation of the gospel to our lives; walk our talk and invite others to do so.”

## Engage Student Voice

- Participants recognized that encouraging students’ participation in living out the mission of the Church within the local and global community is a way to encourage a deeper exploration of their faith.
- Participants identified the need for students to be actively engaged to share their perceptions, experiences, needs and aspirations.
- Participants encouraged schools and parishes to be guided by student voice in developing programs, approaches and opportunities for faith expression that will assist students to grow in their personal relationship with God.

**“Ask the kids - engage Student Voice!**  
Students will engage if their voice is heard!”

## Invite and Sustain Leadership

- Participants focused on supporting leaders to enable and support action in areas suggested during the symposium.
- Participants recognized the critical need for faith formation opportunities, most especially for leaders, that is comprehensive, systematic, thoughtful, intentional and well-resourced.
- Participants also recognized the integral relationship between the expression of one's faith and the exercise of leadership.

**“How do we encourage authentic leadership and for those leaders to step forward?”** It is important to continue to support and sustain the leaders we currently have while engaging new ones.”



## Key Takeaways

Through respectful dialogue, and through the process of communal discernment, symposium participants were invited to focus on the common ground and shared purpose that unite all those who together must assume responsibility for Catholic education – the understanding that we are each called to embrace both parts of Jesus’ commandment to love. The more that we, as individuals, enter into scripture, doctrine and worship, the more we are impelled to express our faith in acts of love for our neighbor. Participants recognized the importance of shifting away from “Either/Or” thinking, instead expressing a preference for thinking in terms of “The more/The More”:

- / The more we love God, the more we love our neighbor;
- / The more deeply we are formed in Catholic faith and morals, the more we will be able to bear witness in acts of service and justice;
- / The more we share the Good News within our Catholic community, the more all members of our Catholic community will be able to reach beyond our boundaries in service to all with a sense of vocation and mission;
- / The more we foster Catholic identity, the more we ought to promote the expression of that identity in service and witness to the world.

## Conclusion

We are grateful to all participants in this process for their many contributions and willingness to share in the responsibility for the stewardship of publicly funded Catholic education in the province. As we seek to renew the promise of Catholic education, we are reminded that we must seek to listen, to discern and to ask the question ‘how is the Spirit calling us to respond individually and communally to the signs of our times’? School communities, and School Boards, parishes and Dioceses across the province are encouraged continue to reflect on the insights generated throughout the process of consultation, honest dialogue and discerning conversation. The forthcoming pastoral letter, *Renewing the Promise*, will offer guidance and encouragement as Catholic School Boards, in partnership with home and parish, develop plans and take action at the local level.



# + A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE

Contemporary Issues Series | Monograph #3 Winter 2018 | Published by Institute for Catholic Education

## Heart, Head and Hands: A Framework for Considering Contemporary Issues in Catholic Education

by Marcelle DeFreitas and Deirdre Kinsella Biss

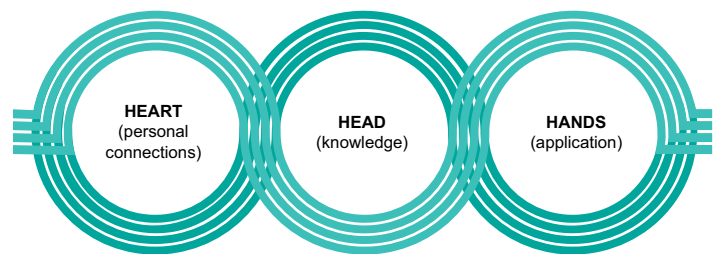
*“As Catholic educators, “we are called to be in this place — whatever this place is — to make this place more just, more peaceful because we are here. There is more wisdom because we are here.” (Sr. Elizabeth Davis, Sister of Mercy)*

“ In our schools today, we plant seeds as the beginnings of a new future. As Catholic educators we sometimes find ourselves working in hard ground, and to be sure, signs of growth are sometimes slow to appear. But we are attentive to our work, believing in the growth, tending to the seeds so that their harvest time can surely come. As we nurture our students’ growth in faith, we consciously reflect on our past, meaningfully participate in the present and courageously shape our future.

### Why is it important to address the challenges that face Catholic Education at this time?

- To find the courage to name and articulate issues that face our Catholic Schools in the 21st century
- To be knowledgeable and ready to communicate our distinctive Catholic voice
- To serve our Catholic community and respond confidently to the needs of students
- To work together to address issues effectively

- while maintaining our Catholic identity
- To respond to challenges posed by current realities
- To effectively understand changing societal influences within our Catholic context
- To successfully integrate faith and contemporary culture
- To nurture and develop leaders who express their faith in very tangible ways



### Framework for Understanding and Responding to Contemporary Issues:

Catholic educators begin with their own story and reflect on how their personal story fits into our faith story. We inspire our students to connect the faith story to their own lives, create meaning for the present and ignite hope for the future. The framework of “Heart, Head and Hands” integrates

our Catholic faith story with our personal story and serves as a vibrant process that empowers us to teach, challenge and nurture our students to feel

God's love. The framework creates an approach for educators to address and respond to contemporary issues.

HEART	HEAD	HANDS
How do you personally relate to this issue?	What are the myths and facts about this issue?	How do you give students voice about this issue?
What personal biases do you hold?	What does the Catholic curriculum teach about this matter?	How do you create a safe space for students to acknowledge and share their struggles?
How can you address your biases to move your own thinking forward?	What Catholic resources can be accessed to find out more about this subject?	What actions can you take to dispel misconceptions that students may hold?
What do you know about church teaching on this matter?	What are the students' perceptions about this issue?	How do you explain church teachings on this matter to students?
What do you need to do to bring your heart to a place of peace and acceptance about this challenge?	How do you respond to parents about their concerns?	What activities can students take part in to promote a deeper understanding of this issue?
What next steps do you need to take to resolve this issue for yourself?	How do you seek wisdom and provide counselling to students?	How do your actions support the students in achieving the Catholic Graduate Expectations?

## Renewing the Promise

In November of 2017, more than 650 participants of our Catholic community gathered for a provincial symposium to explore the theme, ***Renewing the Promise***. The dialogue was designed to provide opportunities for open conversation in which we would name the challenges we face as a community, better understand the changing context for our mission, and identify and build consensus around new possibilities to shape our future. The symposium was structured around the principles for discerning conversations. Four sessions included opportunities for journaling, personal reflections, rounds of structured sharing, and group dialogue and discussion.



The tables presented on pages 3-5 address the key themes which emerged from the discerning conversations that took place at the symposium.

THEME #1		MOVING TO ACTION
Challenge	To communicate the Gospel using effective means.	
Insights from the Catholic Tradition	...“human being are the living sparks, the thinking hearts, called to be co-creators with God in shaping the world.” – St. Hildegard of Bingen	
Catholic Educators Response	Each of us needs to take ownership for the students in our schools.	
Heart Feels	We all need to work together (student, parent, educator, priest) so people feel loved by God, for who they are.	
Head Thinks	How can we partner with the parish to engage our students and extend and deepen their faith?	
Hands Do	Build a community that is welcoming and inclusive and centers around the life and teachings of Jesus.	

THEME #2		NURTURE COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS
Challenge	To foster relationships and a deeper sense of community.	
Insights from the Catholic Tradition	Community enables us to welcome and help people and we do this best by working together in relational trust.	
Catholic Educators Response	Create a school culture that creates space for everyone and accepts all.	
Heart Feels	Care deeply about the well-being of all people.	
Head Thinks	Be willing to learn from people whose perspectives are different from our own.	
Hands Do	Promote a way of life rooted in call to service. Integrate social issues in the learning process.	

THEME #3		REKINDLE MISSION AND VALUES
Challenge	To inspire the students to love God more.	
Insights from the Catholic Tradition	Each person is essentially good and made in the divine image.	
Catholic Educators Response	Enthusiastically teach about Jesus, our faith tradition and the powerful connection this has to our lives.	
Heart Feels	Our faith is something wonderful and exciting to know about.	
Head Thinks	There is a great mystery here and we need to help our student make meaning and relate to it to their own lives.	
Hands Do	Provide learning experiences that engage students to do God’s work and feel God’s presence in the school community.	

**THEME #4****DEVELOP FAITH AND CATHOLIC IDENTITY**

Challenge	To infuse faith formation into all our interactions with students, staff and parents.
Insights from the Catholic Tradition	We are of infinite worth and dignity - we are gifts. Our very being gives glory to God.
Catholic Educators Response	Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible. – St. Francis of Assisi.
Heart Feels	Trust in the slow work of God.
Head Thinks	Christ has no body on earth but ours and we need many opportunities to develop our faith.
Hands Do	Give each person assurance and support as they struggle and grow in faith.

**THEME #5****LIVE FAITH**

Challenge	To be genuine in our relationships with each other, the wider community and God.
Insights from the Catholic Tradition	He [Jesus] burns with the desire to come into your heart. – St. Therese de Lisieux
Catholic Educators Response	Be open to recognizing and proclaiming Jesus and explicit about sharing the hope that is in our hearts.
Heart Feels	We need to be faithful to our core beliefs and live our faith everyday.
Head Thinks	Walk our talk, share our gifts and invite others to do so.
Hands Do	Teach Gospel values as part of the learning process. Engage students in virtues and values formation/affective learning.

**THEME #6****ENGAGE STUDENT VOICE**

Challenge	To engage meaningfully with students and meet them where they are on their faith journey.
Insights from the Catholic Tradition	A Catholic outlook is open to being enriched by the entire breath of human knowledge and wisdom.
Catholic Educators Response	The most significant person is the student sitting across from you right now. Ask the student, listen and engage their voice.
Heart Feels	Engaging student voice is an opportunity to deepen participation in their faith.
Head Thinks	“You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope.” – Thomas Merton
Hands Do	Empower students to ask questions, share their wonderings and offer opinions in classrooms where they can confidently express challenges of faith, be respectfully heard and feel included.



THEME #7	ENCOURAGE AND NURTURE LEADERSHIP
Challenge	To nurture and develop educators who show tangible expressions of their faith.
Insights from the Catholic Tradition	Real leadership is about enabling teachers and students to use talents and abilities to deepen and spread Catholic Education.
Catholic Educators Response	“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.” St. Catherine of Siena
Heart Feels Head Thinks	We need to deepen the formation of leaders and empower them to bring the message of Jesus’ life and teachings to today’s school. Leaders have a strong sense of core responsibilities and commitment to the faith growth of everyone in the school community.
Hands Do	The school is Jesus’ message and that message continues to be alive and well in Catholic Education. Welcome the gifts people bring and recognize leadership as shepherding and serving those we lead.

## Summary

The Catholic education symposium in 2017 encouraged individual reflection, and communal discernment. It posed the broad question, “How is each of us called to respond to God’s invitation, in this time and place?”. Seven key themes that impact on Catholic education today have been identified through the process, and presented in the preceding tables. The insights and results that emerged from the symposium are presented in more detail in a summary report developed for The Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) and Office Provincial de l’Éducation de la foi Catholique de l’Ontario (OPÉCO). Each of these emergent themes reflects a distinct conversational thread, yet each of the themes is interrelated.

In May of this year, the bishops of Ontario will offer a pastoral letter, *Renewing the Promise*, which will further contribute to the ongoing conversations, as they offer their insight and encouragement to the work of Catholic educators in support of the mission of the Church.

Neither the themes and insights from the symposium, nor the pastoral letter, are intended to bring closure to the important conversation that has

begun, but rather to serve as a point of departure for deeper dialogue, and creative response at a local level. In order to support and further contribute to this ongoing dialogue, a monograph series is currently under development through the Institute for Catholic Education to deconstruct and go deeper with some of the challenges presented.

Each of us is invited to continue the conversations initiated prior to, and explored during the symposium, within our local school communities. As individuals, as part of Catholic education communities, and as part of local parishes and dioceses we can continue to reflect and to engage in this honest and respectful dialogue. As we remain open to all those around us, keeping the conversation alive, we come to recognize our shared responsibilities for this mission, and to identify our personal faith needs and opportunities for growth. We remain grounded in the present, engaging joyfully with the students we serve in our Catholic schools today, while entering into ongoing communal discernment to positively shape the future.

## Continuing the Conversation

In an atmosphere of trust and respect, we seek to understand, and we find shared purpose when we listen actively and speak from the heart. When we engage with one another in conversation, we honour and welcome each person, and each person's point of view in the conversation should be received respectfully, and considered seriously. This presence to each other allows deeper, more meaningful communication and invites the Spirit's involvement as we seek wisdom and understanding.

The suggested approach to the conversation is universally applicable; always respectful, always with constructive intent, and always an expression of a sincere desire to understand. The focusing questions that prompt and guide the conversation, and the content of the dialogue that ensues, is more a reflection of specific time, place, and situation. Contextualized within a school community, a faith community, a School Board, an organization or group, the specific questions to be explored emerge from the shared history, current challenges, and expressed needs of the community.

The "Heart, Head and Hands" Framework is intended as a tool for ongoing reflection and dialogue about contemporary issues in Catholic Education. By coming together as community, engaging in prayer and building relational trust through ongoing dialogue, we can meaningfully integrate our faith with our experience of contemporary culture, and find opportunities to make this world better, more just, and more peaceful because of our presence.

**How can we help Catholic Educators articulate what is distinctive about Catholic Education?**

**How can we empower our students to be able to articulate their Catholic faith?**

**How can we develop deeper partnerships within our Catholic community?**

**How do we make Catholic culture visible in our schools?**

Published by:



Ontario Institute for Catholic Education  
44 Hunt Street, Suite 2F  
Hamilton, Ontario, L8R 3R1  
Tel: 905-523-2469  
E-mail: office@iceont.ca

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 24, 2018**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION  
ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS  
APRIL 20, 2018**

---

# ENTERPRISE

## ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

---

 [enterprisecanada.com/ontario-legislative-highlights-april-20](http://enterprisecanada.com/ontario-legislative-highlights-april-20)

**April 20, 2018**

---

### WEEKLY ROUNDUP

---

**HORWATH PATH** – “I’m here today because there’s hope.” NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** was referring to Ontarians in general with that statement, but it very much applied directly to her. For years, polls have shown Horwath as the most popular of Ontario’s party leaders, but far more so than the party itself. This week she took a decisive step toward translating her own positive vibe into actual votes, releasing a comprehensive election platform aimed at both neutralizing the Liberals and framing the NDP as a legitimate alternative to **Doug Ford’s** Tories. It is also, notably, unapologetically NDP. Previously, Horwath seemed to be caught in a political limbo between the socialist philosophies of the NDP’s core and the more centrist approach deemed necessary to win power in moderate Ontario. With Premier **Kathleen Wynne’s** Liberals banking to the left – epitomized by their high-spending Budget-cum-platform – the door was open for Horwath to present a government-heavy plan of her own that doesn’t seem as extreme as it might have in years past. Indeed, what she put on the table is just like the Liberals, only more so. To wit: ‘Pharmacare for Everyone’ providing universal, albeit limited, free prescription drugs; free child-care – with the stipulation that it be at not-for-profit daycare centres – for families earning less than \$40,000 and a sliding scale of subsidies for everyone else; 2,000 new hospital beds immediately and annual hospital funding increases of 5.3%; 2,600 new mental health care workers, including 400 in high schools; and of course previously announced pledges like post-secondary grants instead of student loans and returning Hydro One to public hands. All of this to be paid for through deficits, income tax increases for those earning more than \$220,000 (few of whom would be inclined to vote NDP anyway) and a luxury tax on vehicles costing more than \$90,000 (Maserati owners tending not to be socialists). As *Globe and Mail* columnist **Adam Radwanski** commented on the upbeat tone, “The New Democrats know that if anger is the primary emotion driving voters when they cast their ballots, Mr. Ford will win. If there is a desire for something more optimistic, they think, Ms. Horwath could tap into it.”

**RUNNING LOW** – Neither Ford nor Wynne offered much comment on the NDP platform, but in many ways they played right into Horwath’s strategy by taking their animosity toward one another to new depths. Ford triggered the verbal brawl when he vowed to bring in an outside auditor to examine the province’s books, to root out “answers about how big Kathleen Wynne’s mess really is.” He bitingly referenced the recent conviction of former senior Liberal staff **David Livingston** for destroying government documents, sniping, “If Kathleen Wynne tried to pull these kinds of shady tricks in private life, then there would be a few more Liberals joining David in jail.” This infuriated Wynne, who served notice she won’t take such comments passively. “He all but chanted: ‘Lock Her Up,’ talking about me,” Wynne seethed, alluding to **Donald Trump**’s attacks on **Hillary Clinton** during the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign. Lest anyone miss that reference, Wynne spelled it out: “Doug Ford sounds like Donald Trump and that’s because he *is* like Donald Trump. He believes in [an] ugly, vicious brand of politics that traffics in smears and lies. He’ll say anything about anyone at any time because – just like Trump – it is all about him.” And then she really threw down the gauntlet, citing former U.S. First Lady **Michelle Obama**’s philosophy of “when they go low, we should go high” as no longer applicable. “I loved that idea when she said it – until we ended up with Donald Trump in the White House. So, I’m sorry, but not again. Not here, not in Ontario ... You have to name the behaviour for what it is, because that is how you deal with a bully ... He may be Donald Trump, but I’m not Hillary Clinton.” Ford was, of course, unfazed by such sabre-rattling. “I’m not going to make it personal,” he shrugged, then added a personal, “If I did I’d be here for a month.”

**AD FUEL TO THE FIRE** – On top of the war of words is a rapidly escalating war of ads – another indication that Ontario is now in full campaign mode even if the official writ drop is still a couple of weeks away. Wynne’s Liberals launched a million-dollar advertising blitz this week, saturating print, radio, TV and online outlets with anti-Ford messaging. Dubbed “The Real Doug Ford,” the ad campaign aims to dispel the plain-folks persona that enamours Ford Nation. Liberal campaign co-chair **Deb Matthews** offered hints at the public opinion research behind the strategy, noting that a lesson from the U.S. Presidential campaign was to focus on policies rather than personality, and that when voters (presumably in focus groups) learn more about Ford’s views they like him less. Hence the ad copy painting Ford as wanting to give tax cuts to wealthy corporations, curtail women’s choices on abortion, fire nurses and teachers, and turn a blind eye to polluters. (In response to the ads, the Tories coined a new refrain to add to their arsenal, chiding that the Liberals have nothing to offer but “fear and smear.”) In previous campaigns, the anti-Tory ads might have come from the Working Families Coalition – freeing up the LIBs to espouse a more positive tone in their own ads – but restrictions on third-party advertising have largely thwarted such external participation. There is still some, however, notably the TV spots created by the pro-Tory Ontario Proud, a humorous take on the old K-Tel album commercials, flogging “Wynne’s Greatest Hits ... 15 years of scandal for one absurdly high price.”

**PEOPLE MOVER** – While the other leaders have to show up at Queen’s Park at least occasionally, without a seat in the Legislature Ford is free to roam the province. He is doing just that, now in the campaign bus he unveiled this week. Emblazoned on the side of the bus is

the campaign slogan Ford has landed on: “FOR THE PEOPLE.” It’s not quite the “Stop the Gravy Train” catchphrase that helped propel his late brother **Rob Ford** into the Toronto mayoralty eight years ago (and is very much a theme in much of Doug’s daily discourse) or Trump’s “Make America Great Again” (again, not dissimilar to Ford’s dig-us-out-of-a-hole posture). But Ford feels it’s right for him, explaining, “Everywhere I’m going, I’m hearing ‘Doug, do it for the people.’”

**HARD PROMISES** – Ford has made it clear he won’t be putting forward the kind of platform Horwath did – in her case, a 97-page opus – but he is dropping election commitments along the campaign trail. Aside from promising to bring in private auditors, Ford also announced that if he is Premier, minimum wage earners will not have to pay any income taxes. He has previously pledged to freeze the minimum wage at \$14/hour (cancelling a planned increase to \$15/hour next year) but touted the income tax savings at about \$800 a year on average. Horwath scoffed that exemptions and credits for most low-wage earners mean they don’t pay income tax anyway, dismissing the promise as “bumper-sticker talk.”

**CAMPAIGN AND SUFFERING** – Noticing that the province has shifted into campaign mode, former PC MPP – and current Ford campaign advisor – **Frank Klees** tried to make hay out of it, calling the Liberals’ post-Budget rollout “scandalous,” accusing them of “shamelessly campaigning on the taxpayer’s dime.” Wynne brushed off the accusations, arguing the Budget blitz is no different than any other year – or any other government. Her Press Secretary **Andrea Ernesaks** went further, issuing a pot-calling-the-kettle-black statement. “As the leader of the Opposition, Ford relies on a large number of staff at the legislature who are paid by the taxpayer,” Ernesaks wrote. “He has not fired those people or moved to pay for them, as a wealthy man, out of his own pocket.”

**CAMBRIDGE OF SIGHS** – Last weekend’s ice storm forced the Tories to postpone their nomination meeting in Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas (it’s been rescheduled for April 24), meaning they’ll have to wait to finally bring closure to what has been a troubled nomination process fraught with allegations of cheating, lawsuits and police investigations. And it looks like their nomination drama isn’t over in Cambridge either. **Belinda Karahalios** narrowly won the PC nod in Cambridge, which could be problematic in that she is the wife of **Jim Karahalios** – who was stripped of his membership and sued by the party. Jim had been a thorn in the side of former PC Leader **Patrick Brown**, spearheading Axe the Carbon Tax and Take Back Our Party campaigns.

## IN THE HOUSE

---

Labour Minister **Kevin Flynn** introduced Bill 53, the *Government Contract Wages Act*, to establish minimum pay rates under government contracts for workers in construction, building cleaning and security.

## FOR THE RECORD

---

“Sometimes they’ll win a few votes, but there’s also a lot of buyer’s remorse here. Certainly you can see that in the United States now.”

California Governor **Jerry Brown** – in Ontario to meet with the Premier on their joint cap-and-trade program with Quebec – decrying PC Leader **Doug Ford**’s vow to eliminate carbon pricing altogether. As a side note, the Liberals wanted Gov. Brown to address the Ontario Legislature while he was in town, but that would have required all-party approval and the Tories nixed it.

---

“In the North, trailers are more accepted than buses.”

Northern Ontario Party Leader **Trevor Holliday**, quipping about the old trailer serving as his mobile campaign headquarters.

---

“‘Separatist’ is negative. We’re not leaving the country. We’re not proposing to leave the country. We’re creating the idea of, instead of just saying we’re Northern Ontario, let us be Northern Ontario. If the people of the North want it, then why wouldn’t we want to try? Is it impossible? Nothing’s impossible.”

Holliday, with a more serious explanation of his fledgling party’s aims.

---

“Unorthodox, outrageous, irreverent, bombastic, ostentatious, loud, dramatic, incredibly funny, sometimes profane, excitable, intelligent, compassionate, likable — he had an infectious grin, of course — wide-eyed, quick-witted and politically incorrect. There used to be a show on television called Politically Incorrect. Stockwell would have been the person who could host that easily, because he was politically incorrect, but in a very nice way.”

Veteran Liberal MPP **Jim Bradley**, paying tribute to the late **Chris Stockwell** in the Legislature. Stockwell, the former PC MPP and Speaker, died in February.