



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

AGENDA AND MATERIAL

BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021
6:30 P.M.**

*Electronic Meeting in Compliance with Education Act Section 207 and
Ontario Regulation 463/97 Section 5.1 (2)
Public Access Phone No: 1-647-558-0588 Meeting ID: 964 3793 4284 Password: 237932*



A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayers – Trustee Burtnik -
2. Roll Call -
3. Approval of the Agenda -
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest -
5. Minutes of the Board Meeting
 - 5.1 December 15, 2020 A5.1
 - 5.2 December 17, 2020 A5.2
6. Consent Agenda Items
 - 6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 12, 2021 and Consideration of Recommendations A6.1
 - 6.2 Board Committee Membership 2021 A6.2
 - 6.3 Approved Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Meeting of November 5, 2020 A6.3
 - 6.4 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of December 2, 2020 A6.4
 - 6.5 In-Camera Agenda Items F1, F2, F4, F5, F6, F7 & F11.1 -

B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Niagara Catholic System Priorities Mid-Year Achievement Report 2020-2021 C1
2. Financial Reports as at December 31, 2020 C2
3. Multi-Year Strategic Planning C3

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

1. Correspondence -
2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended -
3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action -

- 4. Trustee Information
 - 4.1 Calendar of Events – February 2021

D4.1

- 5. Open Question Period
(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.)

E. NOTICES OF MOTION

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

G. REPORT ON IN CAMERA SESSION

H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

J. ADJOURNMENT

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2021**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF
DECEMBER 15, 2020**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of December 15, 2020, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held electronically on Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Huibers.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Trustee Turner

2. Roll Call

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

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Rhianon Burkholder		✓		
Kathy Burtnik		✓		
Frank Fera		✓		
Larry Huibers		✓		
Daniel Moody		✓		
Leanne Prince		✓		
Dino Sicoli		✓		
Paul Turner		✓		
Student Trustees				
Luca DiPietro		✓		
Sydney Yott		✓		

The following staff were electronically in attendance:

Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education; **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Kimberly Kinney**, **Gino Pizzoferrato**, **Pat Rocca**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Clark Euale**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

3. Approval of the Agenda

Due to time restraints Chair Huibers requested that Item C1 be presented prior to Item B1

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Prince

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Board Meeting of December 15, 2020, as amended.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Disclosures of Interest were declared by Trustees Huibers, Moody and Fera with Item F10.3 of the In Camera Agenda. These trustees have family members who are employees of the Board. They disconnected from the meeting during discussion of this item.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting

5.1 November 24, 2020

Moved by Trustee Prince

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of November 24, 2020, as presented.

CARRIED

5.2 December 1, 2020

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

Seconded by Trustee Prince

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of December 1, 2020, as presented.

CARRIED

6. Consent Agenda Items

Trustee Burtnik requested Items F4 & F5 be held. These item were moved to the In-Camera section of the agenda.

6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 1, 2020 and Consideration of Recommendations

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole of December 1, 2020, as presented.

6.1.1 Audited Consolidated Financial Reports 2019-2020

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Audited Consolidated Financial Reports 2019-2020, as presented.

6.1.2 Revised Estimate for the Year 2020-2021

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Report on the Revised Estimates for the Year 2020-2021, as presented.

6.2 Director of Education Annual Report 2020

Presented for information.

6.3 Trustee Honorarium for the Year December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Honorarium for the year period from December 1, 2020 to November 30, 2021, as noted in Appendix A, as follows:

\$16,458 for the Chairperson of the Board
\$13,441 for the Vice-Chairperson of the Board
\$10,424 for the Other Trustees

6.4 Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Presented for information.

6.5 By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee as presented.

6.6 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of November 24, 2020

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 24, 2020, as presented.

6.7 Approved Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of September 25, 2020

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the approved Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of September 25, 2020, as presented for information

6.8 In-Camera Items F1, F2, F6.1, F6.2, F6.3, F6.4, F7 & F8

Moved by Trustee Burkholder
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

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

Education Development Charges (EDC) By-Laws Renewal

Chair Huibers provided opening remarks on the Education Development Charges By-Laws Renewal proceedings.

Clark Euale, Controller of Facilities Services provided background information on the Education Development Charges (EDC) By-Laws Renewal and introduced Kathy Levinski, Administrator of Facilities Services, Jack Ammendolia from Watson & Associates Managing Partner and Brad Teichman from Overland LLP.

Ms. Levinski, Mr. Ammendolia and Mr. Teichman presented the Education Development Charges (EDC) By-Laws Renewal report.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board grant an exception to the Board's approved By-Laws and allow for questions from the public regarding the presentation of the Education Development Charges.

CARRIED

Ms. Levinski, Mr. Ammendolia and Mr. Teichman answered questions of Trustees.

Chair Huibers asked delegates wishing to speak to press *6.

Following a third request for delegation, Chair Huibers noted the public meeting of the Education Development Charges will now adjourn.

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee Prince

THAT the public consultation portion of the Education Development Charges (EDC) By-Laws Renewal meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Turner

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board resolve that no further public meetings are required in regard to the two education development charges by-laws.

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Prince

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the renewal of Education Development Charge By-Law (former County of Welland) and Education Development Charge By-Law (former County of Lincoln), as presented.

CARRIED

B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Socks for Change

Director Cipriano provided background information on the Socks for Change charity and he, along with Chair Huibers, introduced Sam Baio, the founder of Socks for Change.

Mr. Baio provided a brief history of the evolution of the Socks for Change Charity, and highlighted the good work being done through the Socks for Change. He expressed gratitude to Jennifer Pellegrini, Communications Office, Debbie Ogilvie, Community Outreach Coordinator, Emma Fera-Massi, principal of St. Alfred Catholic Elementary School and Deborah Mercnik, principal of St. Theresa Catholic Elementary School for their guidance and assistance in identifying areas at risk for the distribution of kits to the schools in need.

Mr. Baio answered questions of Trustees.

Chair Huibers expressed gratitude to Mr. Baio for the great work he and his charity are providing to the community.

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Education Development Charge By-Law Borrowing Resolution

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services highlighted the Education Development Charge By-Law Borrowing Resolution.

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Borrowing Resolution for signing and sealing by the Chair of the Board and the Secretary of the Board.

CARRIED

2. IT Services Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Superintendent Vetrone introduced Grant Frost, Chief Information Officer.

Mr. Frost presented the IT Services Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic report for Trustee information.

Mr. Frost answered questions of Trustees.

Trustees expressed gratitude to Mr. Frost and the IT department for their dedication and hard work. Director Cipriano also expressed gratitude to Grant and the IT department. He acknowledged his predecessor, John Crocco and Superintendents Vetrone and Farrell, for having the foresight to recognize the need for investing in technology.

3. Financial Report as at November 30, 2020

Superintendent Vetrone presented the Financial Report for information.

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

1. Correspondence

Nil

2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended

Nil

3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

- 3.1** Director Cipriano discussed the plan to change the Secondary School day model in order to follow the model of our virtual schools for synchronous learning as well as many of the other secondary schools in other boards within the Golden Horseshoe.

Director Cipriano answered questions of Trustees.

- 3.2** Chair Huibers noted, that following discussions with Patrick Daly of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, it was suggested that Trustees limit their activities at schools during the pandemic. Director Cipriano also reached out to Public Health and they suggested that visits to schools should be limited to essential staff only.

4. Trustee Information

4.1 Calendar of Events – January 2021

Chair Huibers highlighted the January 2021 Calendar of Events and reminded Trustees of the OCSTA Virtual Seminar on January 16, 2021.

5. Open Question Period

None Submitted

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

7. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

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 8:25 p.m. and reconvened at 9:48 p.m.

8. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of December 15, 2020.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION A: Student Trustees Present of November 24, 2020, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION A: Student Trustees Present of December 1, 2020, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F2)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Prince

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of November 24, 2020, as amended.

CARRIED (Item F4)

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Prince

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of December 1, 2020, as amended.

CARRIED (Item F5)

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item F6.1, F6.2, F6.3 & F6.4 of the In Camera Agenda.

CARRIED (Item F F6.1, F6.2, F6.3 & F6.4)

9. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

10. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Prince

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the December 15, 2020 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 15, 2020**.

Approved on **January 26, 2021**.

Larry Huibers
Chair of the Board

Camillo Cipriano
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2021**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF
DECEMBER 17, 2020**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of December 17, 2020, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in the Holy Cross Community Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Huibers.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer were led by Trustee Burkholder.

2. Roll Call

Chair Huibers noted that Trustee Moody was excused.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Frank Fera	✓			
Larry Huibers	✓			
Daniel Moody				✓
Leanne Prince	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Paul Turner	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board amend the Agenda of the Special Board Meeting of December 17, 2020 by adding Trustee Code of Conduct Appeal.

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Burkholder
Seconded by Trustee Prince

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Special Board Meeting of December 17, 2020, as amended.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Interest

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

B. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Prince
Seconded by Trustee Turner

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

CARRIED

C. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Prince
Seconded by Trustee Turner

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Special Board Meeting of December 17, 2020.

CARRIED

The Niagara Catholic District School Board moved into the In Camera Session of the Special Board Meeting at 6:12 p.m. and reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

5. Trustee Code of Conduct Appeal

Moved by Trustee Fera
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT upon considering the written submission filed by Trustee Daniel Moody, dated December 1, 2020, and received on December 4, 2020, the determination by the Board of Trustees at its meeting of November 10, 2020 that Trustee Moody's conduct and comments at Loretto Catholic Elementary School on September 21, 2020 constituted a breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct is hereby revoked.

DENIED

Moved by Trustee Prince
Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

THAT upon considering the written submission filed by Trustee Daniel Moody, dated December 1, 2020, and received on December 4, 2020, the determination by the Board of Trustees at its meeting of November 10, 2020 that Trustee Moody's conduct and comments at Loretto Catholic Elementary School on September 21, 2020 constituted a breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct is hereby confirmed.

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Burkholder
Seconded by Trustee Prince

THAT in confirming the determination that Trustee Moody has breached the Trustee Code of Conduct, the sanction imposed by the Board at its meeting held on November 10, 2020 is hereby confirmed, which sanction is as follows;

“That a letter of censure be presented to Trustee Moody outlining Board processes, protocols and expectations when entering all school buildings and sites and to uphold the Trustee Code of Conduct at all times”.

CARRIED

D. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

E. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

THAT the December 17, 2020 Special Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 17, 2020**.

Approved on the **January 26, 2021**.

Larry Huibers
Chair of the Board

Camillo Cipriano
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2021**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2021**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 12, 2021, as presented.

The following recommendations are being presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 12, 2021:

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve that Trustees in conflict, with the exception of Student Trustees, be placed into a holding room during discussion of the item and reenter the meeting, following the discussion of the item, to complete the remainder of the meeting.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2021**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2021

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the 2021 Board Committee Membership, as presented.

Prepared by: Larry Huibers, Chair of the Board
Daniel Moody, Vice-Chair of the Board

Presented by: Larry Huibers, Chair of the Board

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: January 26, 2021



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

2021 BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

STATUTORY COMMITTEES	2021 MEMBERSHIP	TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED
<i>Audit Committee</i> <i>O. Reg. 361/10, s. 7 (1). The term of office of a member of the audit committee who is a board member shall be determined by the board but shall not exceed four years.</i>	Rhianon Burkholder Kathy Burtnik Leanne Prince	<i>3 Trustees required</i>
<i>Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (N.C.P.I.C.)</i>	Leanne Prince Dino Sicoli	<i>2 Trustees required</i>
<i>Special Education Advisory Committee (S.E.A.C.)</i>	Kathy Burtnik Larry Huibers Leanne Prince (Alternate)	<i>2 Trustees required</i>
<i>Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (S.A.L. Committee)</i>	Frank Fera Paul Turner	<i>2 Trustees required</i>

STANDING COMMITTEES	2021 MEMBERSHIP	TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED
<i>Disciplinary Hearing Committee</i> <i>NOTE: All Trustees serve as alternates for this Committee only</i>	Frank Fera Daniel Moody Paul Turner	<i>3 Trustees required</i>
<i>Policy Committee</i>	Rhianon Burkholder Larry Huibers Leanne Prince	<i>3 Trustees required</i>

AD HOC COMMITTEES	2021 MEMBERSHIP	TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED
<i>Blessed Trinity Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i>	Kathy Burtnik Larry Huibers Leanne Prince	<i>3 Trustees required</i>
<i>Denis Morris, Holy Cross, and Saint Francis Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i>	Rhianon Burkholder Kathy Burtnik Larry Huibers	<i>3 Trustees required</i>
<i>Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee</i>	Frank Fera Leanne Prince Paul Turner	<i>3 Trustees required</i>
<i>Lakeshore Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i>	Leanne Prince Dino Sicoli Paul Turner	<i>3 Trustees required</i>
<i>Notre Dame College Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i>	Dino Sicoli Paul Turner Daniel Moody	<i>3 Trustees required</i>
<i>Saint Michael and Saint Paul Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i>	Frank Fera Daniel Moody Dino Sicoli	<i>3 Trustees required</i>

OTHER LIAISON COMMITTEES	2021 MEMBERSHIP	TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP MANDATED
<i>Staff Wellness Committee</i>	Kathy Burtnik	<i>1 Trustee required</i>

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2021**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT
INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC) MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 5, 2020**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Meeting of November 5, 2020 as presented for information.



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

Note: Co-Chair, Kouroushis presided over the meeting until the election of the Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Co-Chair, Kouroushis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells led the opening prayer with special intentions for family members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Welcome

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

2. Roll Call:

Parent Members	Geographical Area	Present	Excused	Absent
Shonna Daly	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	√		
Jessica Coutinho	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	√		
Todd Ulbinas	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	√		
Mary-Kate O'Hara-Skubel	Merritton/Thorold	√		
Rita Colling	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Marilyn Fabiano	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Chris Kouroushis	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Jitto Tom Uthup	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√	
Jeremy Harb	St. Catharines			
George Roussos	St. Catharines	√		
Melanie Oakes-Flegg	Welland	√		
Carrie Vernelli	Welland	√		
Shelley Gilbert	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	√	Arrived at 6:40 p.m.	
Fr. Paul MacNeil	Bishop/Diocesan Representative	√		
Allan Buri	Secondary Student Senate Representative	√		
Trustees				
Dino Sicoli	Vice-Chair of the Board	√		
Leanne Prince	Trustee	√		

Regrets: Jitto Tom Uthup, Joe Tornabuono, Elementary Principal and Lou Stranges,
Secondary Principal.

The following staff attended:

Director of Education, Cipriano, Superintendent Forsyth-Sells, Josie Rocca, Support Staff,
and Yvonne Anderson, Recording Secretary.

3. Commissioning of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

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

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Rita Colling

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of November 5, 2020 as presented.

CARRIED

5. NCPIC Membership 2020-2021 and Terms of Office

Co-Chair, Kouroushis reviewed the parent/guardian membership, and the terms of office were determined by consensus.

Terms of Office NCPIC Parent Members 2020-2021			
Name	Geographical Area	Terms of Office	
		One year term	Two year term
Shonna Daly	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	√	
Jessica Coutinho	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	√	
Todd Ulbinas	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham		√
Mary-Kate O'Hara-Skubel	Merritton/Thorold		√
Rita Colling	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√
Marilyn Fabiano	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√
Chris Kouroushis	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√	
Jitto Tom Uthup	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√	
Jeremy Harb	St. Catharines	√	
George Roussos	St. Catharines		√
Melanie Oakes-Flegg	Welland	√	
Carrie Vernelli	Welland		√

6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Rita Colling and Melanie Oakes-Flegg informed the members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee that they are employees of the Board.

7. Election of Chair

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells, reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chair in accordance with the *Education Act* and By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, appointed Trustee Sicoli and Trustee Prince as scrutineers if required, and asked if there were any questions of the procedures before proceeding.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked for nominations for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee to hold office from November 5, 2020 until September 2021.

Moved by: Shonna Daly

THAT Carrie Vernelli be nominated for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee to hold office from November 5, 2020 until September 2021.

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

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked if there were any further nominations.

Moved by: Jeremy A. Harb

THAT Chris Kouroushis be nominated for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee to hold office from November 5, 2020 until September 2021.

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

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

An election took place and Carrie Vernelli was elected as the Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee from November 5, 2020 until September 2021.

Chris Kouroushis will continue as the Co-Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee until September 2021.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells turned over the Chairship of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting to Chair Vernelli.

8. Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2020

Moved by: Shonna Daly

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of September 10, 2020 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATION

Niagara Catholic Elementary and Secondary Virtual Schools

Elementary Principal, Chris Boyer and Secondary Principal, Adele Filice of the virtual schools provided a brief video presentation on the virtual schools. The video included examples of student engagement and learning.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that there are approximately 2500 elementary students and 950 secondary students enrolled in the virtual schools with approximately 130 elementary teachers and 40 secondary teachers. All educational departments to support student achievement and well-being support the virtual schools. Students enrolled in the virtual schools continue to be connected to their home schools and home school principals may address any question about the virtual schools.

C. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Faith Formation

Josie Rocca stated that as a result of COVID-19 and school closure, faith formation was deferred.

Josie would like to set-up a faith formation subcommittee for the 2020-2021 school year.

Interested members are to email Josie Rocca with their intent.

2. Goals/Parent Engagement Events

Chair Vernelli stated that she would also like to set-up a goals/parent engagement subcommittee for the 2020-2021 school year. Interested members are to email Chair Vernelli with their intent.

D. POLICY FEEDBACK

Chair Vernelli reported that no policies were currently being vetted.

E. CHAIR/CO-CHAIR REPORTS

- Nil Report

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

1. Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee-Newsletter Insert

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells stated that a report was provided on September 24, 2020 to all elementary and secondary principals/vice-principals for the Catholic School Council agenda and the October school newsletters. A report will be provided on a bi-monthly basis to support parent engagement and information about the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

2. Thank you letters on behalf of the NCPIC

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that thank you letters on behalf of the NCPIC were sent to the retirees from Senior Administration, as well as members of the NCPIC that resigned or came to the end of their term and were not returning as members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

3. Review of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee By-Laws

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked for feedback on the By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and reported that the approved By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee would be presented at the Board Meeting of December 15, 2020 and will be reflected in the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Administrative Operational Procedures (800.7). The By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee were approved as presented.

4. 2020-2021 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that for the 2020-2021 school year, the Niagara Catholic District School Board received \$13,792.34 to support parent engagement projects.

Projects for the 2020-2021 school year are to demonstrate a commitment to respecting the role of parents in students' educational experiences by working with parents or seeking parent input on how schools can:

- provide a safe and welcoming school environment;
- maintain open communication with teachers;
- respect parents as valued partners within the education system in relation to decisions about their child's education; and
- inform parents about the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked for any feedback and/or suggestions for parent engagement projects to support the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant. The NCPIC subcommittee will discuss parent engagement projects to present to the NCPIC.

5. NCPIC Financial Report

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported on the finances of the NCPIC for 2020-2021.

G. COMMUNITY REPORTS

Society of St. Vincent de Paul-Shelley Gilbert

Shelley reported that:

- the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Welland Thrift Store is looking for volunteers. Catholic secondary students could receive community hours for their volunteer time.
- the assembling of Christmas Hampers are underway.
- North of 60 received the sea container the end of September.

H. SEAC REPORT

- Nil Report

I. BISHOP/DIOCESAN REPORT-Fr. Paul MacNeil

Fr. Paul MacNeil stated that he was pleased to return to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee as the Bishop's Diocesan Representative. Fr. Paul shared that his goal on this committee is to support the Catholic faith and strengthen the triad of the home, school, and church, and welcomed any feedback and ideas from the members to support the implementation this goal.

J. STUDENT SENATE REPORT-*Allan Buri*

Allan Buri reported that:

- Secondary Senate launched a Mask Sticker fundraiser, for \$2.00, students at participating secondary schools can purchase an iron-on sticker with their school logo, which can be placed on their masks or other suitable clothing item. All proceeds will benefit a local charity unique to each school.
- Secondary Senate is planning two virtual conferences for second semester. One will be a Mental Health Summit where a series of panelists will answer questions related to the pandemic and distance learning. The other will be the “Lead Out Loud” conference for elementary senators to build their leadership skills and engage with other student leaders across Niagara Catholic.
- As each secondary school is pursuing their own initiatives to make this school year positive for everyone, the Senate has acted as a productive forum for students to share their new ideas to improve student experiences.

J. STAFF REPORTS-*Joe Tornabuono and Lou Stranges*

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided the members with elementary and secondary school updates for information.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS-*Dino Sicoli and Leanne Prince*

- Trustee Prince stated that much has changed to the new school year but what has not changed is the “hope and unity” within the Niagara Catholic District School Board.
- Trustee Sicoli reported that two Niagara Catholic elementary schools, Cardinal Newman and Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary Schools were renamed in June 2020. Cardinal Newman Catholic Elementary School was renamed St. John Henry Newman Catholic Elementary School after Pope Francis granted its namesake sainthood, and Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School was renamed St. Teresa of Calcutta in recognition of Mother Teresa’s sainthood.
- Trustee Sicoli reported that earlier today, the students at St. Teresa of Calcutta celebrated the school’s new name with a Mass led by Father Paul MacNeil and Father Richard Kowlachuk.

L. NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Open dialogue with Director Cipriano took place regarding initiatives to continue to support parents/guardians, students and families during the school year. Further discussion will take place at the subcommittee meeting and presented at the NCPIC January 7, 2021 meeting.

M. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

N. CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Paul MacNeil led the closing prayer.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Shonna Daly

THAT the November 5, 2020 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2021**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2020**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of December 2, 2020 as presented for information.



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held on **Wednesday, December 2, 2020**, at 6:30 pm Electronic Meeting in Compliance with Education Act Section 207 and Ontario Regulation 463/97 Section 5.1 (2) Public Access Phone Number: 1-647-749-124 (Tolls), Conference ID # 745 739 256

Chair Racine called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayers

- Chair Racine led opening prayers with an Advent prayer and gave special intentions for Adele Filice who is recovering at home from a recent medical emergency.

2. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Harvey, Dorothy	Niagara Children's Centre	✓	
Helmeczi, Bill	Pathstone Mental Health	✓	
Huxley, Kelsey	Indigenous Community Member	✓	
Murphy, Karen	Autism Ontario Niagara Region Chapter	✓	
Palombo, Pina	Down Syndrome Niagara	✓	
Racine, Anna	Community Member	✓	
Smith, Lorraine	Mainstream		✓
Smith, Rita	Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet		✓
Thomas, Kerry	Community Living Welland/Pelham	✓	
Wilson, Wendy	Indigenous Community Member	✓	
Zoelman, Madeline	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region	✓	
Burtnik, Kathy	• Trustee of the Board	✓	
Butera, Serena	• Student Senate Representative	✓	
Fera, Frank	• Trustee of the Board		✓
Majka, Kelly	• Vice Principal, Secondary	✓	
Kerho, Chris	• Principal, Elementary	✓	

Christalla (Chris) Kouroushis was an observer from NCPIC that evening. The following staff members were in attendance: **Gino Pizzoferrato**, Superintendent of Education, **Camillo Cipriano**, Director of Education, **Jim Di Gioia**, **Danny Giancola** and **David O'Rourke** - Coordinators of Student Support, **Vincent Mancuso**, Behaviour Resource Teacher, and **Jennifer Lanese**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Pizzoferrato.

3. Approval of the Agenda

- Moved by Bill Helmeczi
- Seconded by Kelsey Huxley

THAT THE Special Education Advisory Committee approves the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of **December 2, 2020**.

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 of November 4, 2020

- Moved by Karen Murphy
- Seconded by Madeline Zoelman

THAT THE Special Education Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of **November 4, 2020** as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Update from our Virtual Schools on Special Education – Carla Bianco

- Carla Bianco introduced herself to the group before starting her presentation.
- She shared with the group that the Virtual Schools have 3 Elementary Educational Resource Teachers (ERTs) and 1 Secondary ERT on staff.
- There are approximately 2700 elementary students currently attending the Virtual schools and approximately 500 of these students are on IEPs.
- The Virtual Learning staff are maintaining a positive, strong connection with the Home Schools.
- This is to prepare those students who eventually will be transitioning back to their Home Schools.
- The Virtual School's staff and the Home School's staff have been working very collaboratively together to ensure that these students have a successful year.
- Discussions followed.
- Dorothy Harvey gave her perspective and appreciation to both the DSBN and the NCDSB for supporting these students.
- Through her family contacts at Niagara Children's Centre, she has received a lot of positive feedback.
- Carla Bianco and the Virtual team have been working through this new type of learning

- and things are improving daily.
- Carla Bianco emphasized how committed her staff is, especially being very creative in keeping their students engaged in the virtual world.
 - Carla Bianco and the Virtual teams are addressing some of the challenges and are working towards ensuring that all students are successful.
 - Superintendent Pizzoferrato thanked Carla Bianco for her update and all the work that she and the Virtual Team have accomplished.
 - Superintendent Pizzoferrato ended by concluding that it has been a team effort. Through everyone's efforts, it has been a very positive and successful program.
 - Superintendent Pizzoferrato thanked the tremendous work provided by the Virtual Teams specifically Maria Ruggi Dietsch, Adele Filice, Penny Macklem and the Student Support Coordinators.
 - Superintendent Pizzoferrato concluded by saying, these students may be learning virtually at a distance, but they are certainly present receiving all available resources and support.

C. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Parent Outreach

1.1 Terri Pauco and Lidia Di Lorenzo (February 4, 2021 Presentation)

- The deadline to return the completed survey was extended to **Friday, December 11, 2020.**
- The Committee Members were reminded to return the Presentation Surveys by the due date.
- All completed surveys will be forwarded to Lidia and Terri to help them prepare and plan their presentation.
- Their presentation will take place during February's SEAC meeting.

1.2 Dr. Sheila Bennett (May 2021 Presentation)

- Superintendent Pizzoferrato will forward the completed surveys to Dr. Bennett.
- Her presentation is still tentatively scheduled for the upcoming May's SEAC meeting.
- Once Dr. Bennett returns from her sabbatical, she will confirm the presentation date with Superintendent Pizzoferrato.

2. Other Related Items

2.1 Brochure Updates

- Karen Murphy and Serena Butera provided an update to the Committee Members that they were exploring to modify the format of the current SEAC Brochure to a more condensed version.
- The Communication Sub-Committee Members were looking at possibly making a video to promote SEAC to Niagara Catholic families.
- This video would give parents access to available resources more readily.
- The Communication Sub-Committee were planning to meet again. They hope to have a "draft" copy of their proposed updated SEAC Brochure to share with the Committee Members at the next SEAC meeting.

- Chris Kerho suggested if the Committee Members would be open to creating a SEAC Instagram page.
- Discussion followed and it seemed well-received by all Committee Members.
- Serena Butera noted that she was concerned about having regular content on the Instagram page. She stressed without regular content, there may be a risk of loss of interest which ultimately would result in losing our audience.

2.2 Annual Review of the Special Education Plan

- Superintendent Pizzoferrato discussed the options of completing the annual review of the Special Education Plan.
- Superintendent Pizzoferrato will follow-up with the Student Support Coordinators to discuss this process so we are handling it in more manageable sections of the Special Education Plan.
- More information to follow at upcoming meetings.

2.3 Sub-Committees Update

- Jennifer Lanese asked for the name of the “Lead” representative from each Sub-Committee.
- The Committee Members were provided with an updated Sub-Committee list that identified the “Lead” representative for each Sub-Committee.
- Each Lead representative provided an update to the group.

2.4 Policy Review

- There are currently no Policies and Administrative Guidelines being reviewed as part of the cyclical Policy and Administrative Guidelines Review process at this time.

D. SEAC REPORTS

1. Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region – Madeline Zoelman

- Program applications opened on November 23rd and they already had a waitlist of approximately 20 for JUMP Math and 20 for Reading Rocks.
- This week they will be wrapping up all Fall programs. They have received very positive feedback from their participants.
- They will be sending out a strategic plan survey (as their strategic plan is coming due on July 2021 and will be in effect for the next 3 years). They have also received a lot of feedback that families want to continue participating virtually.
- They will continue to run JUMP Math, Reading Rocks, BEST, and SOAR programs in the Winter
- During the week of December 16th, they will be moving their office to a new location.
- Their new address will be **1338 Fourth Avenue, Unit S215, St. Catharines, ON L2S 0G1.**

2. Niagara Children's Centre – Dorothy Harvey

- They are now offering appointments virtually and in-person, where virtual appointments are not appropriate or preferred. Parents and caregivers can choose the best option for their child(ren) and their family to ensure their child(ren) continue to reach their goals and potential.
- They are working to expand their services for clients available via video conference, including their parent and caregiver educational workshops and family support.
- To learn more about their COVID response, please visit their website:
<http://niagarachildrenscentre.com/ncc/information-for-families/covid-19-response>.

3. Indigenous Community Member – Kelsey Huxley

- NIL Report

4. Autism Ontario Niagara Region – Karen Murphy

- The Holiday Season is approaching quickly! Due to the pandemic, Autism Ontario, Niagara Region has had to put fundraisers on hiatus.
- This year, they will be holding a holiday decoration contest to spread some holiday cheer and to help raise funds for their chapter to continue to offer programs and services to families across Niagara. A portion of the registration fees will also go towards United Way Niagara.
- There will be 2 Contest:

*i) **Register Your Home***

- o Register online from **Monday, November 23, 2020 to Friday, December 11, 2020** and email your pictures to Allyesa Stewart at programs.niagara@autismontario.com.
- o It is only \$10.00 to Register and the Grand Prize is a \$200.00 Pre-paid VISA Card.

*ii) **Vote Your Favourite House***

- o Starting **Monday, December 14, 2020 to Thursday, December 31, 2020**, people will be able to go online to vote for their favourite houses.
- o Each vote cost \$2.00.
- o All those who cast a vote will be put into a draw to win a wine basket, valued at \$60.00.
- o Vote or Register at [Sign-in | Autism Ontario - Niagara \(campbrainregistration.com\)](http://Sign-in | Autism Ontario - Niagara (campbrainregistration.com)).

5. Down Syndrome Niagara – Pina Palombo

- NIL Report

6. Community Living Welland/Pelham – Kerry Thomas

- NIL Report

7. Mainstream – Lorraine Smith

- NIL Report

8. Community Living Port Colborne / Wainfleet – Rita Smith

- Community Living wanted to share the following information:
 - In celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, ARCH is pleased to send you their latest edition of ARCH Alert.
 - INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
 - Note from the Editors.
 - MAiD Gone Wrong: Disability Community Outraged By Bill C-7.
 - Running for Inclusive Education.
 - Ontario Government Confirms the Ontario Triage Protocol is Not to be Followed
 - Celebrating a lifetime of advocacy: Peter Park, Co-founder of Respecting Rights, turns 80!
 - ARCH Intervenes in R v Slatter at the Supreme Court of Canada.
 - Mandatory Mask use in Ontario.
 - Honouring the Legacy of a Tireless Leader and Dedicated Disability Rights Advocate.
 - ARCH Receives the Pat Worth Award!
 - 10 Years After: Reflections on my Legal Battle for Accessibility.
 - Connecting People to Home and Community Care: Survey.
 - OP Lab: Learning, Sharing, Actioning!
 - Do the Rights Thing.
 - Federal Chronic Pain Task Force releases Report.
 - ARCH on Social Media.
 - To access the ARCH **Alert**, copy and paste or select the link directly below:
https://archdisabilitylaw.ca/arch_alert/arch-alert-volume-21-issue-3/.
 - The ARCH Alert can be downloaded in RTF format at the end of the page in the link
https://archdisabilitylaw.ca/arch_alert/arch-alert-volume-17-issue-1/.
 - For more information, please contact the ARCH Disability Law Centre at **1-866-482-2724** or by email at archintake@lao.on.ca.
 - To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the community, protect our staff, and avoid overwhelming our health care system, ARCH is operating remotely until further notice. Please note, they are asking that anyone requiring their services, please do not come to their office/in-person. Kindly call or email the services you require.

9. Pathstone Mental Health – Bill Helmeczi

- NIL Report

E. STAFF REPORTS

1. Elementary Principals – Chris Kerho

- i) **St Alexander Catholic Elementary School**
 - They had a new, very high-needs Grade 2 student with autism transfer to St Alexander Catholic Elementary School from DPCDSB on November 1, 2020.

- Yvonne Benyo, Principal of St Alexander School reported the following: *“Our ABA team has been incredible. Julia Nemko, Julia Nicholson and Darcy Fox have been with us every step of the way attending virtual wrap-around meetings with the previous board, meeting parents, planning transitions, assisting with scheduling and programming and supporting Educational Assistants and our Resource teacher, Kara Eller throughout. They have been outstanding in supporting and assisting us with this student’s transition. Their presence, engagement, hands-on approach and dedication to this process is certainly noteworthy. The child has significantly benefited from their collaboration and building of capacity with our Resource TEAM. I specifically can’t say enough about the work of Darcy Fox who has been teaching and implementing programs such as Stop and WAIT and the READY program with our staff and student. We are so grateful and the good news is Judah is progressing well because of it.”*

- ii) **Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School**

Some good news that was shared by Greg Lewis, Educational Resource Teacher from Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School. *“I just wanted to pass along a "good news" item from Sacred Heart as it pertains to one of our students with exceptionalities, Aidan Kam. Aidan has a myriad of health concerns and learning difficulties, and recently underwent surgery to have a feeding tube inserted. The absence of Aidan in our building was felt deeply by both students and staff. This morning, Aidan's father was able to bring his son for a drive-by visit to our school, where he was met by a teacher and Educational Assistant arranged, student-focused, a socially distant welcome party wishing him a speedy recovery. We all miss part of our family, and wanted him to know it.”*

“The students made signs with the Boston Bruins logo on them. Intramural ball hockey has long been a Sacred Heart tradition. With the new COVID rules, this year's season was obviously in doubt. But the kids deserve some responsible fun too. Instead of games, we are doing a shootout between teams each recess, with social distancing/sanitized equipment in place, and a sound system that allows for music to be played and a microphone to be used to introduce the shooters and do the play by play. During the student-led draft, Aidan Kam was picked in the 2nd of 8 rounds. During his first shootout game, with the entire school listening from their assigned playground cohorts, Aidan Kam broke on the net with his stick and ball and scored 5 goals, each time raising his stick in celebration higher than the last. The students chanted "Aidan, Aidan", much as they did today, holding their signs for a young man who has been so much, and means so much to the Sacred Heart family.”

2. Secondary Principals – Kelly Majka

- i) **Notre Dame College Virtual Music Therapy Sessions**

- Although this school year in the Special Education classroom at Notre Dame College is vastly different from last year, they were able to maintain their Music Therapy sessions with the music therapist, founder and director of Momentum choir, Mendelt Hoektra.
- Instead of Mendelt coming to their classroom every other week, they now meet virtually through Google meet. Students were sent invites through their Board’s Gmail account which allows those who are at home to also participate. Students logged in

using their Board's Google account allowed Mendelt to see every participant's name. He would address each student in Google meet directly, providing personal interaction with everyone involved. The chat feature is used by the Special Education Teacher and the Educational Assistants, or parents in the case of students who are at home, to request songs or comment on what someone liked. At Notre Dame College, they had students singing, clapping and swaying to the music and they even saw lots of at home dancing, clapping and mouths moving as some of them sing along as well.

- These sessions are incredible in person and most preferable when that is allowable again. But in the meantime, they are thrilled that this format, (meeting virtually) has been so successful.

ii) Virtual School -- Weekly Social Skills Class SUCCESS

- All 8 of our secondary schools participated and/or are currently participating in the Virtual Social Skills Class and it most definitely has had positive effects on all who have joined.
- Essentially each week a different topic is introduced to the group which provides students with the opportunity to share their ideas, ask questions and simply interact with one another. Additionally, students work on taking turns, speaking, reading verbal and non-verbal cues, and being an active listener. We discuss topics that focus on reading body language, facial expressions, empathy, and conflict resolution.
- It is amazing how when this all started in September, most of the students didn't really know each other but now they look forward to this time together. They have built friendships and relationships where they can interact with one another in a safe setting where every thought and opinion matters. Students have grown socially and in maturity over the past couple of months while developing genuine friendships even when they are not in-person. Some students who were not inclined to socialize in the past have developed skills that make them want to socialize, contribute and meet with friends.

iii) Saint Francis Showcasing Co-op Placements

- Saint Francis is excited to have 2 of their students who are taking part in Cooperative Education Placements for both terms 3 and 4 (November 16th – February 5th):

Student #1– Swiss Chalet (Fourth Ave, St. Catharines)

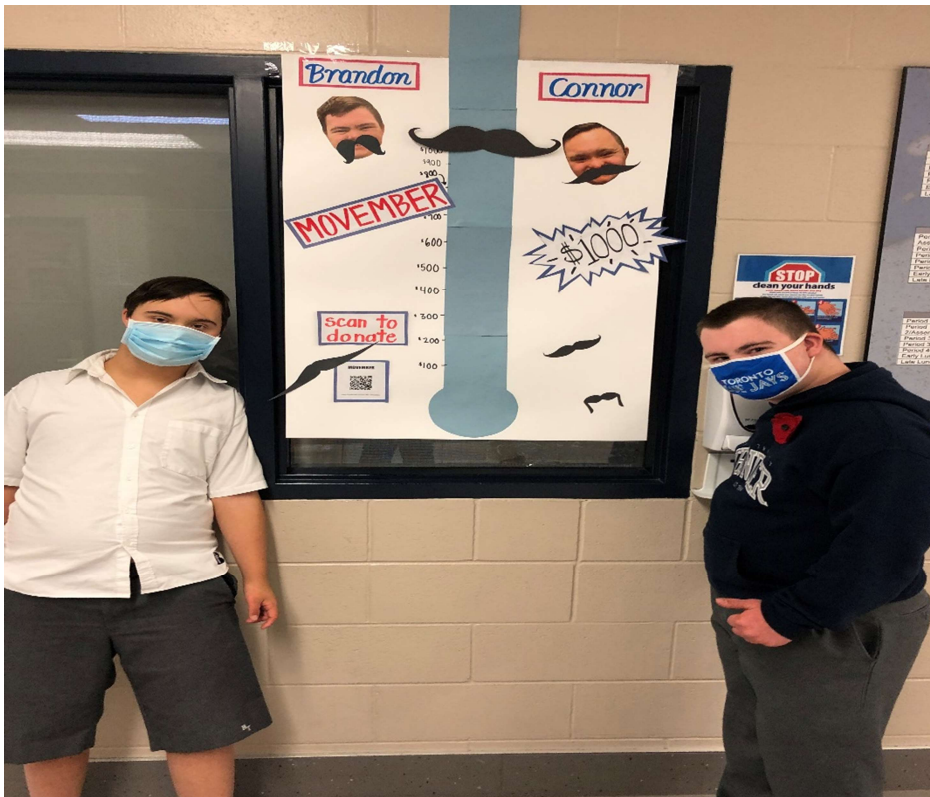
- She works in the kitchen preparing salads and cutting vegetables.
- She also cleans tables and disinfects high touch areas.

Student #2 – Best Western Hotel (North Service Rd, St. Catharines)

- He works in the housekeeping department. He folds towels, vacuums, mops floors and disinfects high touch areas. He, along with an Educational Assistant, take the city bus to and from his placement.
- NOTE: The Saint Francis Special Education Classroom students also continue to help us to organize food for our "Grab and Go" breakfast program each morning (which was previously highlighted in the October SEAC Report).

iv) Blessed Trinity Movember Fundraiser

- November Fundraiser was a HUGE success. Two young men in Blessed Trinity's Special Education Class are participating in a Movember Fundraiser. To date, together they have raised a total of **\$2,035.00**. With the assistance of an Educational Assistant, the boys set up a "Mo Space" online to receive donations, which has surpassed their initial fundraising goal of **\$500.00**. They are so proud to be contributing to such a great cause while building community. They are also so proud to be showing off the mustaches they were growing.



v) Lakeshore Catholic Co-op and Remembrance Day Showcase

- Lauren Patterson (a LCHS student) is currently doing an amazing job at her Co-op placement at Sobey's in Fort Erie. She is working in the bakery department. She is keeping up with the pace of things and is now beginning to show confidence in communicating with other staff and clients.
- Josh Kerton is in his last year of secondary school. He is on his way to earning an OSSD. We are very proud of the work he has put in. He has completed a Co-op placement at Sobey's in Port Colborne and a work placement at Thruway Muffler (via Community Living Port Colborne). Josh is currently connected to adult services (Community Living PC) and will continue developing employability skills via Job Gym after his time at Lakeshore Catholic.
- Their Special Education class walked to the Port Colborne cenotaph for Remembrance Day, and they were highlighted in the newspaper!!! Click on the link below for the newspaper article:
- <https://www.wellandtribune.ca/news/niagara-region/2020/11/11/port-colborne-residents->

[show-up-at-cenotaph-despite-remembrance-day-ceremony-being-cancelled.html](#)

- Furthermore, their class enjoyed making homemade poppies for students, staff, Senior Administrative Staff including the Director of Education, Mr. Cipriano. All recipients wore their poppy proudly on Remembrance Day!



3. Special Education – Danny Giancola

- Student Support welcomes our four new Educational Resource Teachers (ERTs) to the Virtual Elementary School: Joseph Ferrusi, Thomas Cottringer, Jessica Mastroianni, and Joseph Macoretta. Penny Macklem has been placed as an ERT for the Virtual Secondary School. We are looking forward to the service they will provide our Virtual students, teachers and support staff. Our department will be available to support them in their new roles.
- Student Support hosted an ERT meeting on **Thursday, December 3, 2020**. Some of the highlights of the meeting included connecting school ERT staff with the virtual ERT staff, School-Based Rehab process and changes, eLite updates and improvements, LDAO/Trillium School information and SEA Claim Process Updates. Thank you to the ERTs and the Special Education Classroom Teachers who were able to participate.
- For your advanced planning, on **Wednesday, February 10, 2021**, Student Support's Behaviour Resource Teachers: Maria Kish, Alfonso Monachino and Anthony Di Toro will be discussed with parents/caregivers what the Individual Education Plan (IEP) and Identification, Placement, Review Committee (IPRC) process is and what changes they may see when their child transitions into Secondary School. Thanks to those individuals for preparing and delivering this important information.
- The students previously enrolled in the Virtual School Secondary Special Education Class have since returned to their homeschool to receive this same virtual education. These students who

have re-connected back to their homeschool will allow for an improved experience with staff who are familiar with their strengths, programming and goals. We thank the parents who have supported this challenging transition back to their home environment but we know that this will be in their best interest for the long term.

- Niagara Catholic has been working closely with School-Based Rehabilitation Services to launch new referral forms that allow for a more streamlined process when Education Resource Teachers are referring students for Occupational Therapy or Physiotherapy. These new referral forms are now available for use by school staff. We appreciate the close collaboration with SBRS which enables us to best serve students of Niagara Catholic.
- Kindergarten Transition to School, (as early as it may seem), preliminary discussions have begun concerning our young students transitioning to Kindergarten – Year 1 in Niagara Catholic. Given the current circumstances, Niagara Catholic is in communication with our Community Partners to identify necessary changes to the process for everyone’s safety and well-being. In the next several months, the Student Support Coordinators will begin discussions with the Agency Resource Consultants concerning specific students entering Kindergarten – Year 1 requiring transition support. Niagara Catholic will participate in Parent Information Sessions confirmed for **December 9, 2020, December 10, 2020 and January 13, 2021.** Parents will be invited to join a session to receive information regarding the transition to school process. More information will be available soon.

F. TRUSTEE REPORTS

- Trustee Burtnik thanked all Committee Members for their time and commitment sitting on SEAC.
- Trustee Burtnik also extended a special thanks and appreciation for the continued commitment and dedication of all Niagara Catholic staff.
- She shared with the group that Larry Huibers was elected Chair of the Board and that Daniel Moody was elected as Vice-Chair of the Board at the Annual Organizational Meeting on **December 1, 2020.**
- Trustee Burtnik also shared that there may be a change in the Trustee representatives on SEAC. This will be decided at the next Board meeting.
- At the last Committee of the Whole Meeting, they approved the audited financial statements for the year ending August 31, 2020. She emphasized that Niagara Catholic is committed to serving all of our students.
- She concluded by wishing everyone a blessed and joyful Christmas season.

G. STUDENT REPORT

- This month, members of Student Senate have been working on Inclusive Christmas Festivities within their school councils, as well as finalizing their mask stickers’ fundraiser which was a huge success! As a Student Senate, they are working on a variety of projects, such as facilitating the mental health summit, and another summit for elementary school engagement.

H. NCPIC REPORT

- Carrie Vernelli was elected as the Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) to hold a term of office from November 5, 2020 to September 2021. Chris Kouroushis will continue as the Co-Chair for the 2020-2021 school year.
- A bimonthly report will be sent to Principals of all schools to be inserted in the newsletter.

I. NOTICES OF MOTION

- There were no Notices of Motion.

J. FUTURE MEETINGS / INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Planning of the Parent Night Presentations
2. Proceeding of Election Night – January 6, 2021.

K. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION

- Chair Racine offered a moment of silence and reflection.

L. NEXT MEETING

- **Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 6:30 pm** - format to be determined based on current COVID-19 restrictions. The Committee Members would be notified by email of the format of the meeting.

M. ADJOURNMENT

- Moved by Kerry Thomas
- Seconded by Dorothy Harvey

THAT the December 2, 2020 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.
CARRIED

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2021**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: NIAGARA CATHOLIC SYSTEM PRIORITIES MID-YEAR
ACHIEVEMENT REPORT 2020-2021**

The Niagara Catholic System Priorities Mid-Year Achievement Report 2020-2021 is
presented for information.

Prepared by: Senior Administrative Council
Presented by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Senior Administrative Council
Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: January 26, 2021



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT TO THE BOARD JANUARY 26, 2021

NIAGARA CATHOLIC SYSTEM PRIORITIES MID-YEAR ACHIEVEMENT REPORT 2020-2021

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the May 26, 2020 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the following motion was approved;

***THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2020-2021, as amended. (Appendix A)*

The Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2020-2021 are designed to provide the annual focus for the system towards achieving the outcomes of the Niagara Catholic Vision 2020 Strategic Plan. Within the two (2) Strategic Directions and the seven (7) Enabling Strategies are the approved system priorities which provide the specific framework to measure the achievement of each direction and strategy within our multi-year strategic plan.

The Board approved System Priorities 2020-2021 were posted on the Niagara Catholic website and copies were provided to Bishop Bergie, the Diocese of St. Catharines, Alliance Committee (NCAC), Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), Catholic School Council Chairs and the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC).

As we reach the approximate mid-point of the 2020-2021 academic year, Senior Administrative Council conducted its annual mid-year review of the progress in achieving the priorities within each Enabling Strategy. The results of the mid-year review were collated and reviewed by Senior Administrative Council, administrators and Board staff as a measurement of our success to date in achieving each System Priority by the conclusion of the academic year.

Attached to this report (Appendix B) is an electronic copy of the Niagara Catholic System Priorities Mid-Year Achievement Review 2020-2021. Within each Enabling Strategy is the indicator of success, measured by what has been implemented, is in progress and on target.

With the majority of indicators directly linked to final achievement results at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year, members of Senior Administrative Council, administrators and Board staff will collate, analyze and review all data gathered for the 2020-2021 school year and present a final report to the Board and to all stakeholders at the September 2021 Board Meeting.

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

Attached

Appendix A - Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2020-2021

Appendix B - Niagara Catholic System Priorities Mid-Year Achievement Review 2020-2021

The Niagara Catholic System Priorities Mid-Year Achievement Review 2020-2021
is presented for information.

Prepared by: Senior Administrative Council

Presented by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Senior Administrative Council

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

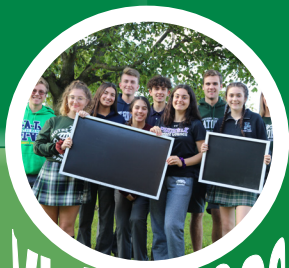
Date: January 26, 2021



NIAGARA CATHOLIC SYSTEM PRIORITIES 2020-2021

Mission Statement

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



Vision 2020
Nurturing Souls and Building Minds

MINISTRY GOALS

- ▶ Achieving Excellence
- ▶ Ensuring Equity
- ▶ Promoting Well-Being
- ▶ Enhancing Public Confidence

BOARD STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

- ▶ Build Strong Catholic Identity and Community to Nurture the
- ▶ Distinctness of Catholic Education
- ▶ Advance Student Achievement for all

ENABLING STRATEGIES

SYSTEM PRIORITIES 2020-2021

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

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

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

Advance Student Achievement for All

ENABLING STRATEGIES

Provide Supports for Success

- Enhance career pathways for students that support individual pathway plans. Enhance career pathway planning and opportunities for all students.
- Ensure that the principles of equity and inclusive education permeate policies, programs, procedures and practices within a Catholic context.
- Employ mental health resources and supports to improve the achievement, resiliency and well-being of students.
- Implement Board and School Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plans to support accepting, equitable and safe schools.
- Implement the principles of Applied Behavioural Analysis to support student independence.

Enhance Technology for Optimal Learning

- Promote the use of emerging technologies to support both student learning and staff professional development.
- Improve WiFi access and capacity for all students in schools.
- Implement Disaster Recovery Plan
- Promote partnerships that align with merging social service models and needs.

Building Partnerships and Schools as Hubs

- Nurture the Catholic identity of schools and the board to promote stronger Catholic values, virtues, and practices, highlighted through the annual theological theme.
- Strengthen the Family-School-Church Triad.
- Facilitate ongoing communication opportunities with parents/guardians to support student success.

Strengthen Human Resource Practices and Develop Transformational Leadership

- Enhance key professional development opportunities and resources for staff to build teacher capacity and efficacy for student success.
- Facilitate ongoing Health, Safety and Wellness initiatives focused on employees returning to work.

Create Equity and Accessibility of Resources

- Enhance resource allocation to identified schools based on specific indicators

Ensure Responsible Fiscal and Operational Management

- Improve our financial stewardship and improved transparency

Address Changing Demographics

- Update the Long-Term Accommodation Plan.
- Enhance community partners to access space in schools.





**NIAGARA CATHOLIC
SYSTEM PRIORITIES
2020-2021**



Vision 2020

NURTURING SOULS AND BUILDING MINDS

VISION

2020

SYSTEM PRIORITIES 2020-2021

MID-YEAR REPORT


BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 26TH, 2021




System Priorities 2020-2021

<p>Provide Supports for Success</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance career pathways for students that support individual pathway plans. Enhance career pathway planning and opportunities for all students. 2. Ensure that the principles of equity and inclusive education permeate policies, programs, procedures and practices within a Catholic context. 3. Employ mental health resources and supports to improve the achievement, resiliency and well-being of students. 4. Implement Board and School Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plans to support accepting, equitable and safe schools. 5. Implement the principles of Applied Behavioural Analysis to support student independence.
<p>Enhance Technology for Optimal Learning</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the use of emerging technologies to support both student learning and staff professional development. 2. Improve WiFi access and capacity for all students in schools. 3. Implement Disaster Recovery Plan 4. Promote partnerships that align with merging social service models and needs.
<p>Building Partnerships and School Hubs</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nurture the Catholic identity of schools and the board to promote stronger Catholic values, virtues, and practices, highlighted through the annual theological theme. 2. Strengthen the Family-School-Church Triad. 3. Facilitate ongoing communication opportunities with parents/guardians to support student success.
<p>Strengthen Human Resource Practices and Develop Transformational Leadership</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance key professional development opportunities and resources for staff to build teacher capacity and efficacy for student success. 2. Facilitate ongoing Health, Safety and Wellness initiatives focused on employees returning to work.
<p>Create Equity and Accessibility of Resources</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance resource allocation to identified schools based on specific indicators.
<p>Ensuring Responsible Fiscal and Operational Management</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve our financial stewardship and improved transparency
<p>Address Changing Demographics</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update the Long-Term Accommodation Plan. 2. Enhance community partners to access space in schools.

1. ENABLING STRATEGY -- Provide Supports for Success

SYSTEM PRIORITY 2020-2021	ACTION PLAN	IMPLEMENTED & IN PROGRESS	ON TARGET
<p>1.1 Enhance career pathways for students that support individual pathway plans. Enhance career pathway planning and opportunities for all students.</p>	<p>i. Further implementation of MyBlueprint career planning software as part of student programming in Grades 7-12.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>myBlueprint</i> portfolio was presented as part of the PD Day on November 18th as a tool for Assessment and Evaluation to further support secondary teachers with ongoing assessment and evaluation practices due to the octomester, and to bring additional focus to <i>myBlueprint</i>'s portfolio as a career pathway planning tool. (1.1.i) • <i>myBlueprint</i> user data is collected monthly to understand user patterns and for future planning purposes. (1.1.i) • The Niagara Catholic plan for the Individual Pathways Plan (IPP) through <i>myBlueprint</i> will be reviewed this year. (1.1.i) 	<p>➤ Provide education to students, parents and staff on education and career potential in all pathways: apprenticeship, workplace, university, college, vocation and Community Living.</p>
<p>1.2 Ensure that the principles of equity and inclusive education permeate policies, programs, procedures and practices within a Catholic context.</p>	<p>i. That the principles of equity and inclusive education inform Board and School Improvement Plans for Student Achievement and Well-Being, and that policies, programs, procedures and practices support the diverse needs of students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote equity goal-setting in school improvement planning and the use of the <i>Equity Continuum</i> to support monitoring and evaluation of equity goals in schools and classrooms. • Provide professional learning for New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) educators about <i>Assessment Through an Equity Lens to Promote Student Well-Being & Belonging</i> • Continue to support staff and student use of resources that support equity and inclusive education, including <i>The Recess Project</i>, <i>EverFi</i>, <i>Rick Hansen Foundation School Program</i> and <i>Unlearn</i> resources. • Continue to collaborate with research and community partners to plan administration of surveys (COMPASS and Middle Development Instrument {MDI}) that can support better understanding of students' needs in order to plan and implement changes that support student health and well-being, and increase a sense of belonging for all students. • Work on Ministry of Education funding applications to support equity work, including demographic data and culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy projects. 	


<p>1.3 Employ mental health resources and supports to improve the achievement, resiliency and well-being of students.</p>	<p>i. That the Board’s Mental Health Strategy and Action Plan for 2020-2021 align with School-Mental Health Ontario and Board resources and supports.</p>	<p>Mental Health Resources to improve the achievement, resiliency and well-being of students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of evidence-informed mental health programming, for prevention, promotion and awareness. This is implemented at the school level, and includes <i>Zones of Regulation, Roots of Empathy, MindUp, and EverFi</i> modules, delivered by Child and Youth Workers. • Professional development provided by the Mental Health Lead and team for all staff, focused on trauma-sensitive schools, managing anxiety, and how to access supports for students. • Embedding mental health literacy in all Faith Formation activities, led by the Chaplaincy team at the school level. The focus is on having conversations about how our faith and mental health are linked, and coping strategies for stressful situations. • Implementing a new 3-year <i>Board Mental Health and Well-being Strategy</i> for 2020-2023 and Action Plan for 2020-2021, aligned with School Mental-Health Ontario and Board resources, in partnership with public health and community agencies, such as Pathstone Mental Health. • Mental Health Supports: Mental Health Team/personnel, and other supports to improve the achievement, resiliency and well-being of students. • Increase in the Social Work team (eight clinical social workers) to provide in-person and virtual therapy for students with mental health issues (both in-school and for students learning virtually) for elementary and secondary schools and alternative programs. • Increase in the Child and Youth Worker team to provide crisis management and prevention /awareness /promotion programming at the school level. • Implementation of a support model for schools with positive COVID-19 cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Mental Health Lead reaches out to the principal to reinforce the ability to consult and to share EAP and counselling resources available to staff. – The Mental Health Lead supports the pre-return meeting for staff the day before isolated staff and students return to school. • Implementation of a grief and bereavement support model in collaboration with the Chaplaincy Team. 	
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<p>1.4 Implement Board and School Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plans to support accepting, equitable and safe schools.</p>	<p>i. That the Board and School Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plans for 2020-2021 align with the Ministry of Education initiatives and Board policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principals/vice-principals have received the <i>Niagara Catholic Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan</i> to inform their <i>School Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plans</i> as part of their <i>School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being</i> for 2020-2021. • Board and school plans promote a whole-school approach, ensuring a safe, accepting, equitable and inclusive environment, free of bullying, harassment and discrimination aligned with Ministry initiatives and Board policies. • Niagara Catholic students and staff participated in <i>Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week</i> activities - Nov 15 to 20. 	
<p>1.5 Implement the principles of Applied Behavioural Analysis to support student independence</p>	<p>i. Provide supports to staff and students through the further implementation of the Applied Behaviour Analysis Team, continue to develop Staff Capacity and promote student independence</p>	<p>ABA to support student independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ABA Supervisors and Facilitators continue to build system capacity by providing student specific intervention when required. • ABA staff provide Tier 1 intervention – “necessary for some....good for all” model. General strategies are shared and modelled for school staff on an individual or staff basis. • Increase and reorganization of ABA Team: 1 Behaviour Analyst (Clinical Supervisor), 3 ABA Leads & 8 ABA Facilitators using a tiered approach to service. • Programs have been offered for after-school and during summer school. • Parent/Staff online presentations during school closure in partnership with Bethesda. 	

2. ENABLING STRATEGY -- Enhance Technology for Optimal Learning

SYSTEM PRIORITY 2020-2021	ACTION PLAN	IMPLEMENTED & IN PROGRESS	ON TARGET
<p>2.1 Promote the use of emerging technologies to support both student learning and staff professional development.</p>	<p>i. Comprehensive review of distant learning service delivery model and experiences during COVID-19.</p> <p>v. Facilitate technology inventory to update and acquire technology licenses that best reflect the needs of both academic programming and corporate applications.</p> <p>vii. SEA-IT Program (an online ordering platform) is being used to facilitate the order SEA equipment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers at the Elementary Virtual School deliver Ontario curriculum using whole group, small group, and individual instruction, using the NCVLE and Google Platform. (2.1.i) Teachers use a wide variety of instructional tools such as slides, video recordings, charts, and teacher created materials.(2.1.i) Total enrollment for the Elementary Virtual School – 2,527; total number of classes – 101. (2.1.i) Completed a board-wide audit of software applications used for education, which included the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standardizing on software and applications used in classroom(s) streamline our software catalogue, reduce redundancy and training required, as well as reduce overall costs. Additional reduction in overall costs due to bulk purchasing of software when possible. Improved service and support from the Digital Learning Team & IT Service Desk. Maintain the current levels of software support which is critical for educators. Leverage OEM and OSAPAC when possible. (2.1.v) Input from multiple stakeholders throughout the process, ensuring the right software, tools and resources. (2.1.v) SEA-iT has been implemented and set-up to meet the needs of Niagara Catholic students. (2.1.vii) SEA-iT is our online platform that initiates, manages and tracks SEA equipment access for students. (2.1.vii) Refresher training will be offered at an upcoming new ERT meeting for those who want to attend. (2.1.vii) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities for new secondary course offerings that use digital platforms to deliver teacher-led virtual learning. Promote use of Brightspace parent portal to include all elementary schools. Expand pilot for deployment of additional endpoint devices for early learning and primary division.

<p>Cont'd....</p> <p>2.1 Promote the use of emerging technologies to support both student learning and staff professional development.</p>	<p>viii. Implement Elite Program to facilitate a digital referral process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eLite offers a multi-use suite of tools to support staff across the system in documenting case conferences, SBT summaries and tracking, and an electronic request for student support submission process. (2.1.viii) • Student Support Area team members is now able to document their consultation and recommendations on requests for student support through eLite, and make them available to the student's school team. (2.1.viii) • ERT/Principal training on October 14-15 began system-wide implementation. (2.1.viii) • <i>Brightspace Parent Portal</i> information has been provided to all principals. This portal can inform parents about what is happening with their child. Younger students are most likely accessing the child's login at home. (2.1.viii) • Use of <i>Brightspace Portfolio</i> (Connections to 3.0) allows the teacher to collect evidence that follows the students throughout their journey with Niagara Catholic. Teachers can add items from school which consist of both photo or video evidence and student's reflection. The educator can select to share and showcase items back with parents. Promoting the connection home. Educators are also able to send home instructions to that parents can help populate this portfolio at home. (2.1.viii) • PD opportunities supporting educators in reflecting on the learning experiences planned and pedagogical documentation that can provide opportunities for children and parents to reflect on the learning and determine next steps in learning, both at school and at home. (2.1.viii) • Provided PD after school session to support Communication of Learning. (2.1.viii) 	
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<p>2.2 Improve WiFi access and capacity for all students in schools.</p>	<p>i. Modernization project that will result in high speed internet.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of the broadband modernization project infrastructure completed for all eight high schools. The launch is scheduled for January 31, 2021. The remaining 54 sites are scheduled to be completed by May 31, 2021, which will include the CEC. • Provided NCVLE and Google Platform training on the September 1st Professional Activity Day to all staff, including Occasional Teachers. • Continue to provide weekly training sessions on NCVLE and Google Platform/Tools to all staff at various times (morning, afternoon after-school) of the day to accommodate teaching schedules. Sessions have been recorded for staff to access when needed. • Continue to embed NCVLE and Google Platform/Tools in training sessions in all curriculum areas (Math, Literacy, Religion/Family Life, Health & PE, Assessment & Evaluation). • Program & Innovation, Research Assessment and Evaluation and Staff development co-created a new website – <i>Ready, Set, Pivot</i> for remote learning to support staff in the transition to remote learning due to COVID-19 school closures. • February 12th PA Day to offer 80 minutes of additional levelled NCVLE and Google Platform/Tools training to all staff. 	
<p>2.3 Implement Disaster Recovery Plan.</p>			<p>➤ Invest in a level of redundancy for key platforms to allow operations to continue.</p> 

3. ENABLING STRATEGY -- Building Partnerships and School Hubs


SYSTEM PRIORITY 2020-2021	ACTION PLAN	IMPLEMENTED & IN PROGRESS	ON TARGET
<p>3.1 Nurture the Catholic identity of schools and the board to promote stronger Catholic values, virtues, and practices, highlighted through the annual theological theme.</p>	<p>i. Staff engagement in faith development opportunities.</p> <p>ii. Staff engagement in faith development opportunities.</p> <p>iii. Enhance and promote the collaboration and integration of faith and mental health resources and supports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith Day (Sept 2020) virtual retreat focused on theological theme <i>Seeds of Faith: Mission</i> and the importance of spiritual self-care in order to fulfill our mission in Catholic Education to spread the Good News. (3.1.i) • Early stages of developing additional virtual staff retreats and faith formation webinar series. (3.1.i) • Expanded elementary mini-retreat program to include all classes from K-7, in addition to the Grade 8 Journey Retreat (this includes virtual retreats for students attending the Virtual School - these will be facilitated in the spring. (3.1.ii) • Inclusion of a mental health component in all elementary and secondary retreats through collaboration with Board Mental Health Lead and Secondary CYWs. (3.1.ii) • Joint Professional Activity Day focusing on positive self-care promoting annual theological theme (2020-2021: <i>Mission</i>) through retreat and mental health training. (3.1.iii) • Inclusion of a mental health component in all school retreats led by the Chaplaincy team (K-8: 9 & 12). (3.1.iii) • Combined Chaplaincy and Mental Health support for grief and bereavement of staff or students in schools. (3.1.iii) 	<p>➤ Enhance opportunities for shared professional development between parish and school staff</p>
<p>3.2 Strengthen the Family-School-Church Triad</p>	<p>i. Encourage family engagement with their local parish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with the Diocese of St. Catharines to develop sacramental preparation classes through the NCVLE to assist parishes in preparing students for the sacraments due to current health and safety restrictions impacting group gathering capabilities. • Chaplaincy leaders and school administrators collaborating with local pastors to maintain the sacramental life of the school, including virtual class visits and live-streamed or pre-recorded Mass. • Developed a Virtual Chapel for the board which is accessible to students, staff, families, and the broader community through the Board website and NCVLE. 	

<p>3.3 Facilitate ongoing communication opportunities with parents/guardians to support student success</p>	<p>i. Provide parents/guardians of secondary students access to real-time attendance/marks through the Maplewood parent portal.</p> <p>ii. Promote Catholic School Councils, activities and membership to represent school communities.</p> <p>iii. Provide parent/guardian learning opportunities in the use of digital learning platforms to support their children at home.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marks are available to parents through Maplewood as teachers publish them. (3.3.i) • Report cards were available to parents online the week of November 30th. (3.3.i) • Parents also have access to community service hours and transcript information through the portal. Parents also have access to their child's timetable. (3.3.i) • Catholic School Councils have met and selected their Chair/Co-Chairs for this school year. (3.3.ii) • Regular Catholic School Council meetings are being held virtually for parent engagement and input. (3.3.ii) • The NCPIC provides a newsletter insert to Catholic School Councils through the principals. (3.3.ii) • A survey will be issued to parents/guardians of the Virtual School to receive feedback about student achievement. (3.3.ii) • Virtual Elementary Parent-Teacher interviews were held virtually to discuss student progress. (3.3.ii) • The Digital Learning team supports parents and guardians. (3.3.iii) 	
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4. ENABLING STRATEGY -- Strengthen Human Resource Practices and Develop Transformational Leadership

SYSTEM PRIORITY 2020-2021	ACTION PLAN	IMPLEMENTED & IN PROGRESS	ON TARGET
<p>4.1 Enhance key professional development opportunities and resources for staff to build teacher capacity and efficacy for student success.</p>	<p>i. Promote and support opportunities in achievement of Additional Qualifications, specifically in the areas of French, Mathematics and teaching and learning through e-learning, and additional Mental Health support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following opportunities were provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Brock University partnership on AQ FSL Part 1 – Offered fall Course – 10 participants. – Brock University partnership on AQ ASD – Offered Fall Course – 20 participants – Fully Subsidized. – Brock University partnership on AQ ASD – Offering Winter Course – Fully Subsidized for 20 teachers. – Applied and received funding for AQ - Math Part 1, 2, or 3 (Fully subsidized 25 teachers). – Offered PQP Part 1 in Cooperation with CPCO. – September PA Day 1 – Health and Safety Training & NCVLE Training. – September PA Day 2 – Mathematics training on new curriculum. – September PA Day 3 – Faith Formation & Mental Health and Well-Being Training – November PA Day – Mathematics Training for System (including keynote speaker. Dr. Suurtam). – November PA Day – EA Training on Special Education Topics (<i>Understanding Function of Behaviour and Providing Students with Replacement Behaviours</i>. Continue to develop work systems for students for positive reinforcement. Easy-To-Implement, Evidence-Informed Mental Health Practices For Catholic Elementary Classrooms). (4.1.i) • Ongoing weekly NCVLE and Google Platform training for staff. (4.1.i) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Promote the Professional Development Calendar and links to job-embedded professional development on NCVLE for all employee groups which extend beyond the Professional Activity Days. ➤ Develop staff capacity to implement practices that honour and engage Indigenous perspectives to provide Indigenous learners with culturally responsive supports

<p>Cont'd... 4.1 Enhance key professional development opportunities and resources for staff to build teacher capacity and efficacy for student success.</p>	<p>ii. Promote opportunities for staff to become familiar with NCVLE, Google Classroom and Brightspace technologies to provide ongoing support for students beyond the classroom instruction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educators have been working with the Digital Learning team through job-embedded virtual coaching. Staff have on-demand support. Staff have also been able to book dedicated time through MS Bookings Pages presented to staff in the NCVLE. (4.1.ii) • Self-paced resources have been presented to all staff online to present them with instruction on utilizing tools in the NCVLE and G-Suite. (4.1.ii) • Time was dedicated to support staff on the November 18th PA day to support all staff through live webinars on various topics. Including the NCVLE and <i>Brightspace</i>. (4.1.ii) • After-school webinars have been presented to staff on various topics, with additional larger webinars in the works. (4.1.ii) • Digital-Led Learners have been identified to support the adoption of technology at each site. These educators will also be presented with information and resources to support changes in technology. (4.1.ii) • Providing monthly PD afterschool webinars - outdoor learning, virtual play experiences, Bitmoji instructional. (4.1.ii) • Creating resources and lesson ideas to support literacy, math, self-regulation, outdoor learning, and all areas of the Kindergarten program and four frames - posted regularly in the Early Years NCVLE portal. (4.1.ii) 	
<p>4.2 Facilitate ongoing Health, Safety and Wellness initiatives focused on employees returning to work.</p>	<p>i. Promote the Use of Applied Behaviour Analysis Principles in the learning environment</p> <p>ii. Making employees aware of the components of a safe working environment including strategies such as; Facilitating Joint Health and Safety Inspections at school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Student Support Department has certified all members of the ABA Team (12 members including Behaviour Analyst, ABA Leads and ABA Facilitators) as Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) Trainers. (4.2.i) • Health and safety monthly inspections continue and are documented on e-base. Safety concerns are addressed through work orders generated from inspections. (4.2.ii). • Training completed for staff on COVID re-opening plan (PA day). (4.2.ii). • Employees sent memo on safe practices when working from home and CEC-trained on office safety protocols when returning. (4.2.ii). 	<p>➤ Monitor and communicate Workplace Violence data received from Online Reporting Tool through Health and Safety memos to all staff and through the provision of data for Joint Health and Safety Inspections.</p> 

<p><i>Cont'd...</i></p> <p>4.2 Facilitate ongoing Health, Safety and Wellness initiatives focused on employees returning to work.</p>	<p>sites upon the return of staff and students.</p> <p>iv. Continue to provide staff with strategies to work from home in a safe manner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New worker orientation ongoing, and when staff return to work through union support and HR Wellness Coordinator. • Staff meetings continue to address minimizing travel of staff between schools. (4.2.ii). • Memos reminding staff of resources available for mental health from mental Health Team. (4.2.ii). • Ongoing training of staff when new information becomes available (4.2.ii). • Communication to all staff on how to safely work from home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In addition to safety, review of Niagara Catholic privacy and security policies, how to set up work spaces, how to work with children present, hazard awareness, and ergonomic adjustments was also presented. (4.2.iv) 	<p>➤ Through the shared ownership of the Staff Wellness Committee, develop a plan to integrate the needs of staff to meet their overall wellness. The definition of wellness will be defined within the parameters of the Committee.</p>
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5. ENABLING STRATEGY -- Create Equity and Accessibility of Resources

SYSTEM PRIORITY 2020-2021	ACTION PLAN	IMPLEMENTED & IN PROGRESS	ON TARGET
<p>5.1 Enhance resource allocation to identified schools based on specific indicators</p>	<p>i. Review and further enhance equity of resources to identify schools, including human resources, to provide programs, supports and services to meet the needs of students and staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to incorporate evidence-based software (i.e. Baragar Systems, Maplewood, EFIS, SFIS, Maplewood, Social Economic Indicators) to inform our decision-making process. (5.1.i) Continue to utilize the Independence Rubrics to assist schools in communicating the support required for student with special education needs. (5.1.i) Utilize programs such as eLite and SEA-IT in order to facilitate the delivery of programs, services, and technology for students with special education needs. (5.1.i) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Board and School data in 2020-2021 to inform decisions for human and material resource allocation. Enhance what is currently being used to engage individuals while utilizing current resources.





6. ENABLING STRATEGY -- Ensuring Responsible Fiscal and Operational Management

SYSTEM PRIORITY 2020-2021	ACTION PLAN	IMPLEMENTED & IN PROGRESS	ON TARGET
<p>6.1 Improve our financial stewardship and improved transparency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improve and increase capacity in our internal financial reporting for management. ii. Improve ministry reporting and internal reliance data iii. Continue to optimize our cash management strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary launch of Jet Reports to key stakeholders, while continuing to expand its capabilities to improved our internal financial management reporting and offers a timely, relevant and reliable monthly reporting tool to monitor and track financial activity. (6.1.i) • Continue to ensure compliance and reporting to the Ministry of Education through data internal auditing procedures and continued professional development for staff. (6.1.ii) • Monitoring our monthly cash flow position to optimize interest revenue and ensure a flexible strategy between short-term and long-term investments to allow for ease of liquidity. (6.1.iii) 	



7. ENABLING STRATEGY -- Address Changing Demographics

SYSTEM PRIORITY 2020-2021	ACTION PLAN	IMPLEMENTED & IN PROGRESS 	ON TARGET 
7.1 <i>Update the Long Term Accommodation Plan</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Use updated enrolment to optimize school utilization throughout the system to address capacity issues as per Ministry Pupil Accommodation Review. ➤ Throughout the updating of the Long Term Accommodation Plan, through a transparent process, dialogue and input will be invited from all stakeholders, including students, staff, parents, pastors and community partners.
7.2 <i>Enhance community partners to access space in schools</i>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Engage community organizations



**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2021**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020

The Financial Report as at December 31, 2020 is presented for information.

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

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

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: January 26, 2021



**REPORT TO THE BOARD
JANUARY 26, 2021**

FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2020

The following information is attached for the review of the Trustees:

APPENDIX A Interim Financial Report as at December 31, 2020

APPENDIX B Detailed Financial Variance Report as at December 31, 2020

The Financial Report as at December 31, 2020 is presented for information.

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

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

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: January 26, 2021

**Niagara Catholic DSB
2020-21 Interim Financial Report**

For the Month Ending December 31st 2020

Summary of Financial Results

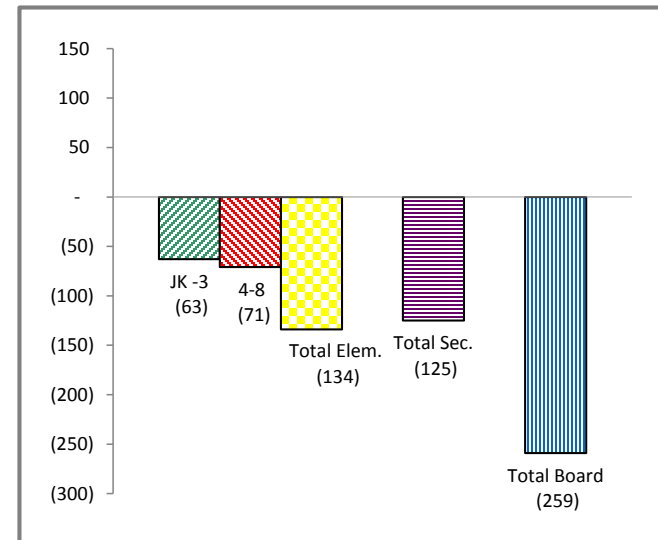
(\$Thousands)	Estimates	Revised Estimates	Forecast	In-Year Change	
				\$	%
Revenue					
Operating Grants	232,593	231,991	231,991	-	0.0%
Capital Grants	23,207	23,127	23,127	-	0.0%
Other	11,713	27,264	27,264	-	0.0%
Total Revenue	267,513	282,382	282,382	-	0.0%
Expenditures					
Classroom	203,845	211,744	210,224	(1,520)	(0.7%)
Other Operating	7,610	7,715	7,993	278	3.7%
Transportation	10,767	11,417	11,317	(100)	(0.9%)
Pupil Accommodation	39,532	40,449	40,234	(215)	(0.5%)
Other	5,631	4,483	5,233	750	13.3%
PSAB Adjustments	128	10,372	10,372	-	0.0%
Total Expenditures	267,513	286,180	285,373	(807)	(0.3%)
In-Year Surplus (Deficit)	-	(3,798)	(2,991)	807	n/a
Prior Year Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	16,258	16,258	16,258	-	0.0%
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit) for Compliance	16,258	12,460	13,267	807	6.5%

Summary of Enrolment

ADE	Revised Estimates	Forecast	In-Year Change	
			#	%
Elementary				
JK -3	6,588	6,525	(63)	-1.0%
4-8	7,468	7,397	(71)	-1.0%
Total Elementary	14,056	13,922	(134)	-1.0%
Secondary <21				
Pupils of the Board	6,294	6,174	(120)	-1.9%
Other Pupils	48	43	(5)	-10.4%
Total Secondary	6,342	6,217	(125)	-2.0%
Total	20,398	20,139	(259)	-1.3%

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

Changes in Enrolment: Budget v. Forecast



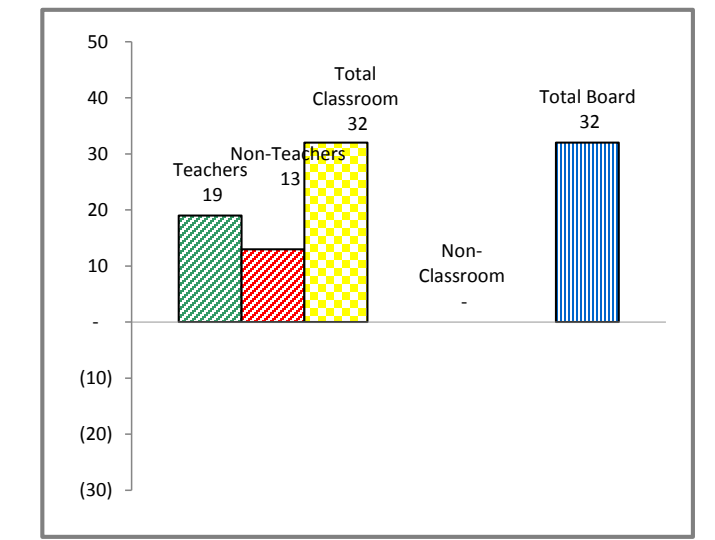
Highlights of Changes in Enrolment:

-

Summary of Staffing

FTE	Revised Estimates	Forecast	In-Year Change	
			#	%
Classroom				
Teachers	1,213	1,232	19	1.6%
Non-Teachers	766	779	13	1.7%
Total Classroom	1,979	2,011	32	1.6%
Non-Classroom	247	247	-	0.0%
Total	2,226	2,258	32	1.4%

Changes in Staffing: Budget v. Forecast



Highlights of Changes in Staffing:

-

	2019-20			2020-21						Material Variance Note
	Rev Estimates	Financial Statements (August 2015)	Variance	Estimates	% Change from Prior Year Actuals	Revised Estimates	Forecast	Change		
								\$ Increase (Decrease)	% Increase (Decrease)	
OPERATING										
Classroom Instruction										
Teachers	133,211	131,197	(1.5%)	132,697	1.1%	138,118	137,664	(454)	-0.3%	Monitoring favourable rate difference
Supply Teachers	6,637	5,670	(14.6%)	6,577	16.0%	6,724	6,915	191	2.9%	Increase in replacement costs
Teacher Assistants and ECEs	21,523	22,412	4.1%	22,559	0.7%	23,564	23,323	(241)	-1.1%	Rate differential permanent/casual
Classroom Computers	636	794	24.8%	744	(6.3%)	888	744	(144)	-19.4%	Shortage of endpoint devices
Textbooks and Supplies	5,382	2,744	(49.0%)	4,582	67.0%	4,792	5,227	435	9.5%	Increase in software to respond to virtual learning
Professionals and Paraprofessionals	8,073	7,548	(6.5%)	8,063	6.8%	8,657	8,547	(110)	-1.4%	
Library and Guidance	3,995	4,360	9.1%	4,040	(7.3%)	4,473	4,315	(158)	-3.9%	
Staff Development	486	207	(57.4%)	504	143.5%	595	199	(396)	-78.6%	More virtual PD initiatives
Department Heads	316	435	37.7%	318	(26.9%)	329	315	(14)	-4.4%	
Principal and Vice-Principals	10,390	10,400	0.1%	10,405	0.0%	10,884	10,540	(344)	-3.3%	Virtual School Administrative Support
School Office	5,370	5,417	0.9%	5,770	6.5%	6,038	5,823	(215)	-3.7%	
Co-ordinators and Consultants	2,440	2,424	(0.7%)	2,588	6.8%	2,666	2,358	(308)	-11.9%	Reallocation and aligned to Ministry requirements
Continuing Education	4,895	4,411	(9.9%)	4,998	13.3%	4,016	4,254	238	4.8%	
Total Instruction	203,354	198,019	-2.6%	203,845	2.9%	211,744	210,224	(1,520)	-0.7%	
Administration										
Trustees	264	244	(7.6%)	263	7.8%	264	255	(9)	-3.4%	
Director/Supervisory Officers	1,204	1,456	20.9%	1,178	-19.1%	1,190	1,254	64	5.4%	Human Resources Department - local bargaining, additional contract employees
Board Administration	5,964	6,110	2.4%	6,169	1.0%	6,261	6,484	223	3.6%	
Total Administration	7,432	7,810	5.1%	7,610	(2.6%)	7,715	7,993	278	3.7%	
Transportation	10,811	10,016	(7.4%)	10,767	7.5%	11,417	11,317	(100)	-0.9%	
Pupil Accomodation										
School Operations and Maintenance	21,627	21,382	(1.1%)	22,425	4.9%	23,342	23,127	(215)	-1.0%	
School Renewal	996	821	(17.6%)	706	(14.0%)	706	706	-	0.0%	
Other Pupil Accomodation	3,392	2,591	(23.6%)	3,037	17.2%	3,037	3,037	-	0.0%	
Amortization and Write-downs	16,104	12,512	(22.3%)	13,364	6.8%	13,364	13,364	-	0.0%	
Total Pupil Accomodation	42,119	37,306	-11.4%	39,532	6.0%	40,449	40,234	(215)	-0.5%	
Other										
School Generated Funds -Expenditures	7,410	4,460	-39.8%	4,366	-2.1%	4,366	4,366	-	0.0%	
Loss on disposal of assets	-	117	0.0%	117	0.0%	117	117	-	0.0%	
Other			0.0%	1,148	0.0%		750	750	65.3%	
Total Other Expenditures	7,410	4,577	-38.2%	5,631	23.0%	4,483	5,233	750	13.3%	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	271,126	257,728	-4.9%	267,385	3.7%	275,808	275,001	(807)	-0.3%	
PSAB Adjustments	173	875		128		10,372	10,372			
	271,299	258,603		267,513		286,180	285,373			

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2021**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Multi-Year Strategic Planning report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Presented by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: January 26, 2021



REPORT TO THE BOARD JANUARY 26, 2021

MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLANNING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Purpose:

Every school board in Ontario is governed by a Board of Trustees. Among its responsibilities, the Board of Trustees has a legislated requirement to create a multi-year strategic plan (MYSP). The MYSP is a visioning and policy document that sets the direction for the board. It is fundamental to ensuring good governance, the success and wellbeing of staff and students, and to building public trust in boards of trustees.

According to section 169.1 of Ontario's Education Act, each school board is required to create a multi-year plan that spans a minimum of three (3) years to a maximum of five (5) years.

In 2010, the Board adopted the Niagara Catholic Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, which includes two Strategic Directions and seven Enabling Strategies which support the Board's Mission Statement: *The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of the 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.*

The Vision 2020 Strategic Plan expires in 2021, and it is time to initiate the planning process for the development of the next strategic plan.

Background Information:

A strategic plan is a road map that outlines the long-term priorities and goals of an organization. The plan details how these priorities and goals will be achieved by adopting specific strategies, approaches and methodologies, including methods for ongoing evaluation and measurement of organizational performance. The multi-year strategic planning process is not the plan itself, but rather the process used to develop a new plan.

The strategic planning process is sequential, with each stage building on the learning and outcomes of the previous stage. The Ministry of Education's 2017 document *Multi-Year Strategic Planning – A Guide for School Board Trustees* outlines four key phases involved in developing and monitoring the strategic plan.

Phase 1 – Getting Organized

- Determine whether a third party facilitator/consultant will be beneficial for any or all components in strategic planning and engage if necessary
- Develop a strategic planning committee
- Review and validate Board's mission, vision and value statements – establish if these remain reflective of the Board's beliefs and needs

- Define timelines for developing the MYSP

Phase 2 – Gathering Information: Collecting Data and Engaging Key Stakeholders

- Gather data on Board’s external operating environment
- Gather data on Board’s internal environment
- Identify emerging issues trends and challenges
- Stakeholder engagement:
 1. Identify Board stakeholders
 2. Decide on the right approach to engagement
 3. Conduct engagements
 4. Analyze the findings

Phase 3 – Setting Strategic Direction: Developing the MYSP

- Define the Board’s mission, vision and values, if necessary
- Determine the length of the new strategic plan (3 – 5 years)
- Draft strategic priorities
- Build corresponding strategic goals to each priority – the objectives that the Board plans to achieve over the course of the strategic plan.
- Identify goal champions and their responsibilities
- Develop an evaluation framework – *How will we know that we are succeeding*
 - Establish outcome statements for each goal
 - Assign realistic targets to each goal (short, medium, long)
 - Define the monitoring and reporting structure for each goal
- Draft MYSP and review with Board of Trustees for approval
- Develop and carry out communications plan to launch strategic plan

Phase 4 – Implementing the MYSP and Monitoring Progress

- Develop annual board operational plan that identifies key initiatives to forward MYSP
- Align MYSP with Board Improvement Plans and school-level plans
- Develop and approve annual operating budget to support MYSP
- Align department plans to MYSP and annual operating plan
- Monitor performance on strategic priorities and goals and initiatives on a regular basis
- Report regularly to the Board of Trustees on the MYSP
- Annually review MYSP to measure success and maintain focus on the Board’s strategic direction
- Annually communicate to stakeholders on the promotion of the MYSP and reporting on achievements and progress made

Conclusion:

The Multi-Year Strategic Planning process is a substantial organizational commitment and an essential tool to provide an overarching rationale and purpose to guide the direction and decisions of the Board of Trustees, the Director of Education, and staff in the accomplishment of their duties and responsibilities.

The MYSP planning process builds on the organizational strengths and seeks to integrate student achievement and well-being, equity and faith formation into the long-term planning process. Being mindful of competing obligations, internal responsibilities and the added challenges of navigating each phase in a global pandemic, a viable strategic planning process must be focused and relevant, but also manageable and reasonable.

The Niagara Catholic District School Board looks forward to the development of a new multi-year strategic plan beyond 2021, using a focused strategic planning framework. Trustees can be assured that work on the current Vision 2020 strategic directions and enabling strategies will continue and be supported until a new plan is in place.

The Multi-Year Strategic Planning report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Presented by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: January 26, 2021

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2021**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
CALENDAR OF EVENTS – FEBRUARY 2021**



FEBRUARY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 SEAC Meeting	4	5	6
7	8	9 SAL Meeting CW Meeting	10	11	12 Elementary & Secondary P.A. Day	13
14	15 Family Day	16	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21	22	23 Policy Meeting Board Meeting	24	25	26	27
28						