

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 14, 2021, as presented.



## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 in the Father Kenneth Burns c.s.c. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice-Chair Moody.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Student Trustee Sydney Yott

2. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Moody 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	✓			
<b>Student Trustees</b>				
Sydney Yott	✓			
Steffen Zylstra	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

**Camillo Cipriano**, Director of Education; **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Kimberly Kinney, Gino Pizzoferrato**, Superintendents of Education; **Domenic Massi, Joseph Zaroda**, Associate Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Clark Euale**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Prince

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 14, 2021, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

**5. Approval of Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 8, 2021**

Moved by Trustee

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 8, 2021, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. Consent Agenda Items**

**6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of June 15, 2021**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole receive the Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of June 15, 2021, as presented.

**6.2 2021-2022 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants**

Presented for information.

**6.3 Capital Projects Progress Report Update**

Presented for information.

**6.4 In Camera Items F1 and F3**

Moved by TrusteeFera

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

**CARRIED**

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

**C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

**1. Director of Education and Senior Staff Introduction to the 2021-2022 School Year**

Director Cipriano and Senior Staff presented the Introduction to the 2021-2022 School Year report for Trustee information.

Director Cipriano and Senior Staff answered questions of Trustees.

**2. Niagara Catholic Mental Health & Well-Being Strategy 2021-2024**

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education provided highlights of the Niagara Catholic Mental Health & Well-Being Strategy and introduced Andrea Bozza, Mental Health Lead.

Ms. Bozza presented the 2021-2024 Niagara Catholic Mental Health & Well-Being Strategy.

Ms. Bozza answered questions of Trustees.

**3. Monthly Updates**

**3.1 Student Trustees' Update**

Sydney Yott and Steffen Zylstra, Student Trustees, presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

**3.2 Senior Staff Good News Update**

Senior Staff highlights included:

**Controller Euale**

- Niagara Catholic, through the Community Outreach Coordinator, received 950 pencil cases that included many supplies such as pens, pencils, rulers, a \$25.00 Walmart Gift Card and a \$25.00 Grocery Card for a total of \$47,500.00. This initiative was provided through our partnership with United Way Niagara and Niagara Nutrition Partners. Principals at 20 of our schools, that were identified using the Niagara Region neighbourhood data, received these pencil cases and were asked to distribute them to students and families in need..
- This year Niagara Nutrition Partner Programs will be delivered in a way that any student who wishes to participate can do so in a Grab and Go format. Our in-school programming plan will include a snack bin delivered to each classroom containing pre-packaged snacks and whole fruits. Principals have been informed they can start offering the program as of September 13th. We are hopeful to return to full programming if/when regulations allow.
- Community Crew provides nutritious lunches at no cost to students throughout the school year and serve up to 80 percent of the student population at schools. Principals send the forms home to families, once returned Lunch Angels provide lunch to the student. Lunches are offered 2 times per week and currently they are in 10 of our schools and will be expanding into October.

**Associate Superintendent Massi**

- Over 200 interviews were conducted successfully over the past two weeks involving Human Resources staff and elementary school principals.

**Associate Superintendent Zaroda**

- Over the summer, through retired Superintendent Farrell's initiative and the leadership of Director Cipriano, two positions have been filled to expand our Indigenous Education team, an Indigenous Consultant and an Indigenous Graduation Coach.
- Orange shirt day will be held on September 30, 2021, and the Niagara Parks commission will be lighting the Falls at 10:00 p.m. for 15 minutes to recognize the 10,000 students affected by the residential schools.

## **D. INFORMATION**

### **1. Trustee Information**

#### **1.1 Calendar of Events – September 2021**

Director Cipriano highlighted the calendar of events for September 2021.

#### **1.2 OCSTA 2021 Fall Regional Virtual Meeting – September 21, 2021**

Director Cipriano highlighted the requirements for registration to the OCSTA 2021 Fall Regional Virtual Meeting.

## **E. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

#### **1.1 Review of Board Meeting Efficiencies**

Discussion took place regarding effectiveness of Committee of the Whole meetings. A report will be brought to the Board at a future date regarding meeting structures and timelines.

## **F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Turner

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

**CARRIED**

The Committee of the Whole moved into the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 9:41 p.m. and reconvened at 9:43 p.m.

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

Moved by Trustee Turner

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 14, 2021.

**CARRIED**

### **SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES INCLUDED**

Moved by Trustee Fera

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - In Camera Session (Section A: Student Trustees Included) held on June 8, 2021, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F1)**

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

Moved by Trustee Fera

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - In Camera Session (Section B: Student Trustees Excluded) held on June 8, 2021, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F3)**

## **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Prince

**THAT** the September 14, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **September 14, 2021.**

Approved on **October 12, 2021.**

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Daniel Moody  
Vice-Chair of the Board

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Camillo Cipriano  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2021**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of September 14, 2021, as presented.



# MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns c.s.c. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Policy Committee Chair Prince.

**1. Opening Prayer**

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Trustee Burkholder

**2. Attendance**

Committee Members	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Leanne Prince (Committee Chair)	✓			
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Larry Huibers	✓			

**Trustees:**

*Kathy Burtnik*

**Staff:**

*Camillo Cipriano*, Director of Education  
*Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells*, Superintendent of Education  
*Joe Zaroda*, Associate Superintendent of Education

*Anna Pisano*, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services/Recording Secretary



**3. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

**THAT** the September 14, 2021 Policy Committee Agenda be approved, as presented.

**APPROVED**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

**5. Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of June 15, 2021**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

**THAT** the Policy Committee approve the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of June 15, 2021, as presented.

**APPROVED**

**6. Governance Policies**

***ACTION REQUIRED***

**GOVERNANCE POLICIES - FOR RECOMMENDATION OF THE BOARD**

Nil

**GOVERNANCE POLICIES - PRIOR TO VETTING**

**6.1 Naming of a Board Facility, Designate Area or Chapel Policy (100.15)**

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, presented the Naming of a Board Facility, Designate Area or Chapel Policy (100.15).

The Policy Committee suggested the following amendments:

- Add *“The Board of Trustees will approve the naming of a Board facility, designated area or Chapel, in whole or in part in a motion at a Board meeting.”*

The Policy Committee requested that the Naming of a Board Facility, Designate Area or Chapel Policy (100.15), be vetted from September 15, 2021 to October 28, 2021 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Policy Committee on November 9, 2021, for consideration of the Board on November 2021.

**6.2 Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement Policy (100.13)**

Director Cipriano, presented the Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement Policy (100.13)

The Policy Committee suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Policy Committee requested that the Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement Policy (100.13), be vetted from September 15, 2021 to October 28, 2021 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Policy Committee on November 9, 2021, for consideration of the Board on November 2021.

**6.3 Trustee Honorarium Policy (100.11)**

Following discussion the Policy Committee requested the Trustee Honorarium Policy be brought back to the November Policy Committee meeting.

***INFORMATION***

**6.4 Governance Policies Currently Being Vetted**

- Nil

**6.5 Governance Policy Review 2021-2022 Schedule**

Director Cipriano presented the Governance Policy Review 2021-2022 Schedule.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

November 9, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING OF  
NOVEMBER 27, 2020**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of November 27, 2020, as presented for information.



# MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING (PUBLIC SESSION)

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2020

Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (public session) of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on November 27, 2020 electronically via Zoom Meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Chair, Kathy Burtnik.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Chair, Kathy Burtnik.

2. Roll Call

Committee Member	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Paul Turner	✓			
Mario Falvo	✓			
Louie Finelli	✓			

Resources to the Audit Committee were in attendance:

- Camillo Cipriano**, Director of Education, Secretary/Treasurer
- Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services
- Rosa Rocca**, Controller Business and Finance
- John Forte**, Regional Internal Audit Team
- Melanie Dugard**, Grant Thornton LLP
- Chris Guglielmi**, Grant Thornton LLP

Staff in attendance:

- Shari Bush**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Business and Financial Services

3. Approval of the Public Agenda of November 27, 2020.

Moved by Dino Sicoli. \_\_\_\_\_

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee approve the Agenda of the Audit Committee Meeting (Public Session) of Friday, November 27, 2020.

**CARRIED**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

**5. Approval of Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (Public Session)**

**5.1 September 25, 2020**

Moved by Paul Turner.

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee approve the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (Public Session) of September 25, 2020.

**CARRIED**

**B. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

The meeting was moved to the Business In-Camera Session at 10:06 a.m.

**C. OTHER BUSINESS**

Giancarlo Vetrone and Rosa Rocca presented the Draft Consolidated Financial Statements for approval to the committee

Moved by Mario Falvo. \_\_\_\_\_

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee approve the Draft Consolidated Financial Statements as presented.

**CARRIED**

**D. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Next Audit Committee Meeting is Friday, June 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT  
INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC) MEETING OF  
MAY 6, 2021**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Meeting of May 6, 2021 as presented for information.



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE  
NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

**MAY 6, 2021**

Minutes of the Electronic Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Chair Vernelli called the meeting to order at 6:34p.m.

**A. ROUTINE MATTERS**

**1. Opening Prayer**

Fr. Paul MacNeil led the opening prayer.

**2. Roll Call: *Guest-Maria Sanchez-Keane, Consultant-Multi-Year Strategic Planning***

Before roll call, Chair Vernelli welcomed special guest, Maria Sanchez-Keane, Consultant to the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee to the meeting. Chair Vernelli reported that Maria has begun to implement the multi-year strategic planning process and is hoping to hear the voices and perspectives of students, parents, staff, leaders, our faith leaders and community partners. Maria will be making a presentation this evening and will request feedback on ideas and perspectives on the future of Niagara Catholic. Maria will also be hosting a virtual meeting with Catholic School Council Chairs/Co-Chairs on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. to gather their ideas and perspectives on the future of Niagara Catholic.

<b>Parent Members</b>	<b>Geographical Area</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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	√		
<b>Parents</b>				
Shelley Gilbert	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	√		
<b>Representatives</b>				
Fr. Paul MacNeil	Bishop/Diocesan Representative	√		
Allan Buri	Secondary Student Senate Representative	√		
<b>Trustees</b>				
Dino Sicoli	Trustee	√		
Leanne Prince	Trustee	√		

Regrets: Shonna Daly, Josie Rocca and Jitto Tom Uthup.

The following staff were in attendance: **Camillo Cipriano**, Director of Education, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, Superintendent of Education, **Joe Tornabuono**, Elementary Principal, **Lou Stranges**, Secondary Principal and **Yvonne Anderson**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Forsyth-Sells.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: Co-Chair Kouroushis

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of May 6, 2021 as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No disclosures of conflict of interest were declared with any items on the agenda.

**5. Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2021**

Moved by: Co-Chair Kouroushis

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of March 4, 2021 as presented.

**CARRIED**

**B. PRESENTATION**

Maria Sanchez-Keane, Consultant to the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Committee thanked the NCPIC for the opportunity to present to the members and introduced her colleague, Kathleen Schreurs who provided technical support.

Maria presented an interactive PowerPoint gathering data on responses provided by NCPIC members regarding Catholic education. Questions focused on faith, overall planning and living out our mission, student achievement, closing the education gap, community trends, impact of technology, demographics and the effect on Catholic education, criteria to support facilities, top strategic priorities for the next five years and advice for the leaders of the school board. A question and answer period followed. Maria thanked the members for their participation and stated that the data collected will inform the creation of the new Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

**C. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. Faith Formation**

- Nil Report

**2. Goals/Parent Engagement Events**

Under parent engagement, Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that:

1. On May 3, an email was sent to all Principals/Vice-Principals, School Council Chairs/Co-Chairs and the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee to share the Ontario



Association for Parents In Catholic Education (OAPCE) Newsletter and promote participation in the OAPCE Virtual Conference held on May 14 and 15, 2021.

2. On May 4, a letter was sent on behalf of Chair of the Board, Larry Huibers and Director of Education Cipriano to NCPIC members inviting them to attend a virtual training session on Board Governance presented by Governance Consultant, Marion Thomson Howell at the May 11, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting. The 90-minute session will include the following:
  - Best practices in governance
  - What you should expect of your trustees
  - The difference between governance (trustees) and management (senior staff)
  - The roles and responsibilities of trustees (and senior staff) and
  - Why policies matter

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells stated that this an excellent opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about school board governance.

#### **D. POLICY FEEDBACK**

Chair Vernelli reported that the Trustee Code of Conduct Policy (100.12) is currently under review and asked for feedback. None was forthcoming.

Feedback may be sent to Yvonne Anderson by Friday, May 28, to be submitted on behalf of the NCPIC or no later than 12 p.m. on Monday, May 31, to Jennifer Pellegrini as an individual submission.

#### **E. CHAIR/CO-CHAIR REPORTS**

1. February 24, 2021-EDU Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Summary Report  
Chair Vernelli reported that the summary report of the EDU Parent Involvement Committee and Board Leads Meeting that took place on February 24, 2021 was provided to all members for information. Chair Vernelli asked if there were any questions or comments. No questions or comments were forth coming.
2. EDU Parent Involvement Committee & Board Leads Conference-April 20, 2021  
Chair Vernelli invited Co-Chair Kouroushis to make a report on the EDU Parent EDU Parent Involvement Committee & Board Leads Conference, as she was unable to participate.

Co-Chair Kouroushis reported that the purpose of the conference was to provide PICs an opportunity to network with peers about the challenges and successes of parent engagement as pandemic conditions continue to evolve, and to discuss promising practices and lessons learned about PIC activities that parents found supportive during the pandemic. Participants were assigned breakout rooms to continue to discuss the challenges, promising practices and lessons learned regarding parent engagement throughout the pandemic. Unfortunately, due to technical issues some participants were unable to access the breakout sessions. Further details will be provided in the summary report.

The second part of the meeting was to discuss the future of de-streaming in Ontario's secondary schools. The Ministry of Education reported that the de-streaming of Grade 9 Mathematics will be implemented in September 2021. According to the Ministry, research shows students from racialized communities, low-income households and other marginalized groups are more likely to be steered away from academic courses, which in turn affects everything from graduation rates to employment prospects later in life. Therefore, in order to provide a more equitable education system, students entering grade 9 will participate in a destreamed Grade 9 Mathematics course.

**3. Proposed Letter to the Ministry of Education on behalf of the NCPIC: School Closures and Student Mental Health and Well-Being**

Chair Vernelli reported that NCPIC parent member Todd Ulbinas proposed that the NCPIC send a letter to the Minister of Education to address School Closures and Student Mental Health and Well-Being. Chair Vernelli invited Todd to provide further clarification.

Todd stated that he felt that student mental health is important for student success and that many children are struggling throughout this pandemic. Todd believes that the NCPIC has an opportunity to have the parent voice heard at the Ministry level.

There was consensus to draft a letter for approval by the Board to send to the Ministry to address concerns with school closures and the impact on student mental health and well-being. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells in consultation with Todd, the Chair and Co-Chair will draft a letter to share with all committee members for approval before presenting to the Board for consideration to send to the Ministry of Education.

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

**1. Update: Niagara Catholic Skilled Trades and Technology**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that as a follow-up to the NCPIC meeting of March 4, a summary report was sent to all members for information regarding the Niagara Catholic Skilled Trades and Technology Programs, prepared and submitted by Ivana Galante, K-12 Consultant: Business-Technology/Specialist High Skills Major.

**2. Update: Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that after consultation on the parameters on how the funds may be spent with the Ministry of Education and follow-up with Chair Vernelli and Co-Chair Kouroushis, the 2020-2021 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants funding was used to continue to support Niagara Catholic families in need through the distribution of grocery gift cards. A memo was sent to all principals/vice-principals on March 23, to advise them of the availability of grocery gift cards to support families in need. An overwhelming response was received, and Niagara Catholic on behalf of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee sent gift cards to support 108 parents and their families. The accompanying letter that was sent with the grocery gift cards has been shared with all members for information.

### 3. 2021-2022 NCPIC Membership and Meeting Dates

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that a memo was sent to all principals/vice-principals on April 20, to promote the nomination process for parent/guardian and community representatives on the NCPIC for the 2021-2022 school year. Nomination forms have been posted on the Board website.

- Community representatives are to complete and submit their application no later than Wednesday, September 15, 2021.
- Parents/Guardians are to complete and submit the parent/guardian nomination form no later than Friday, October 8, 2021.

Members coming to an end of their term are encouraged to complete a nomination form for the 2021-2022 school year. For the 2021-2022 the following parent/guardian positions are available.

Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	2 positions
Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	1 position
Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	2 positions
St. Catharines	3 positions
Thorold/Merritton	1 position
Welland	1 position

#### 2021-2022 Meeting dates:

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the NCPIC will continue to meet on the first Thursday of the month on a bi-monthly basis in-person or electronically. The meeting dates for the 2021-2022 school year are as follows:

- September 9, 2021 (last meeting of the 2020-2021 school year)
- November 4, 2021 (first meeting of the 2021-2022 membership)
- January 13, 2022
- March 3, 2022
- May 5, 2022
- September 2022 (TBD)

### 4. 2021-2022 Budget Consultation Feedback

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the 2021-2022 Budget Consultation feedback survey sent on April 21, to all parents/guardians would be open for completion until midnight tomorrow, Friday, May 7, 2021 and encouraged members to respond to the survey.

### 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 Gilbert reported that:

- St. Vincent de Paul is still handing out bag lunches at the soup kitchen and are seeing between 90-100 people per day.

- this year for the North of 60 project, St. Vincent de Paul is sending food to support Fr. Daniel's afterschool program. Approximately 30-40 attend the afterschool program at the church. St. Vincent de Paul is hoping to collect cereal, granola bars, applesauce, etc. and art and crafts, paper, crayons, games, coloring books etc.
- some of the schools were able to run an Easter Food Drive to support our food banks.
- most of the St. Vincent de Paul food banks are still handing out food and are helping other food banks that are closed. No one is ever turned away.
- Shelley now represents St. Vincent de Paul across Ontario.

**H. SEAC REPORT-Co-Chair Kouroushis**

On behalf of SEAC, Co-Chair Kouroushis reported that:

- SEAC hosted an evening with Dr. Sheila Bennett that was well received entitled, "Inclusion Means Everyone!"
- the next SEAC meeting will be on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., and items on the agenda includes presentations from the Niagara Catholic Continuing Education Department, Learning Strategies Classrooms and a hour segment working through the Multi-Year Strategic Planning process.

**I. BISHOP/DIOCESAN REPORT-Fr. Paul MacNeil**

Fr. Paul MacNeil:

- reported that our parishes have been reduced to a maximum attendance of 10 people during the current stay-at-home order. We are looking forward to reopening. Please continue to support your parishes and clergy as they continue to work hard to keeping our Churches accessible and safe.
- reminded the NCPIC about the Bishop's letter concerning vaccines: "In summary, I wish to state that from a moral perspective, if certain conditions are met, a Catholic can receive this COVID-19 vaccine in good conscience". Our Diocesan Directives Document helps to explain those conditions as clearly as possible. You will find information concerning the COVID-19 vaccines in the resource document entitled, "Directives Concerning COVID-19 Vaccines" at [www.saintcd.com](http://www.saintcd.com). This brief two-page document summarizes the essential criteria for reflection on this issue and contains links to other Church documents that you should find useful.

**J. STUDENT SENATE REPORT-Allan Buri**

Allan Buri reported that:

- applications are open for the NCDSB Student Senate Scholarship. The application deadline is May 14, 2021. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to two students considered most deserving based on their responses to two questions regarding involvement and achievement in their schools and communities.
- the Secondary Student Senate selected three extraordinary new community representatives for next year. This is the third year this position has been available. These representatives represent a specific community rather than a school and may be non-Catholic.
- on April 23, Niagara Catholic held the annual student leadership symposium virtually. Student leaders from each school across the Board heard from three incredible keynote speakers via YouTube Live. Student Senate also elected a new student trustee, Steffen Zylstra to replace outgoing trustee Luca DiPietro. Steffen Zylstra will serve alongside Sydney Yott for the 2021-

2022 school year. New student councils for each school along with elementary Co-Chairs have also been selected.

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

Principal Tornabuono, provided elementary and secondary school updates for information.

**L. TRUSTEE REPORTS-***Leanne Prince*

Trustee Prince:

- encouraged everyone to check out twitter as good news is being shared from our schools with a focus on Catholic Education Week.
- reported that Trustees will be participating in Governance Information Session with Marion, Thompson-Hall next week.
- reported that the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) funding was released this week and the Board is working on the 2021-2022 budget.
- shared many thanks to Director Cipriano and the Senior Administrative Team for working with Niagara Public Health and leading the way for Ontario in terms of educators and support staff being vaccinated. Niagara Catholic made the front page of the Toronto Star for positive reasons.

Trustee Sicoli:

- reported that next year, two elementary students will be co-chairing student senate, Nethum Perera and Ava Dechellis.
- thanked outgoing student trustee, Luca DiPietro for his commitment to, and the sharing of his vision for Niagara Catholic over the years and wished Luca much success in his future endeavours.

**M. NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

- No items were brought forward.

**N. NEXT MEETING:** September 9, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

**O. CLOSING PRAYER:** Fr. Paul MacNeil led the closing prayer.

**P. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by: Co-Chair Kouroushis

**THAT** the May 6, 2021, meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE TO  
THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT  
COMMITTEE 2021-2022**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of the following community member to serve as Community Representatives on the NCPIC for the 2021-2022 term:  
Shelley Gilbert-St. Vincent de Paul Society (Appendix A)

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Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education  
Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education  
Recommended by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer  
Date: September 28, 2021



**REPORT TO THE BOARD  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

**APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE NIAGARA  
CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE  
2021-2022**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The composition of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee membership includes Community Representatives.

In the Education Act O.Reg. 330/10 School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees Part III, Composition of Committees, Transition S. 32 (3) subsection 4 states that in regards to community representatives that the Board shall appoint the following people to the committee:

“The number of community representatives, up to three (3), the board determines appropriate.”

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy No. 800.7 states that the composition of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee shall include the following:

- The number of Community Representatives as specified in the By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee By-Laws state that the membership will include:

- Up to three (3) community representatives will be appointed to the committee who are voting members.

The following letter of reference have been received for the position of Community Representative on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Shelley Gilbert-Society of St. Vincent de Paul-Appendix A

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of the following community member to serve as Community Representatives on the NCPIC for the 2021-2022 term:

Shelley Gilbert –Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Appendix A)

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

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

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

Date: September 28, 2021



# ***The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul***

## ***St. Catharines Central Council***

### ***Diocese of St. Catharines***

September 7, 2021

Larry Huibers, Chair of the Board  
Niagara Catholic District School Board  
427 Rice Rd.  
Welland, ON  
L3C 7C1

Dear Larry Huibers:

I am pleased to write this letter in support of Ms. Shelley Gilbert's application to serve as a community representative, for the St. Catharines Diocesan Central Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Shelley is an integral member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and has represented our council for several years on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Shelley is always willing to pitch in, offer assistance whenever and wherever needed, and she does so with great joy and a desire to see change.

Shelley will continue to be an asset on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

If you have any further questions or comments please feel free to contact me.

Josie Rocca,

President,  
St Catharines Diocesan Central Council Society of St Vincent de Paul.

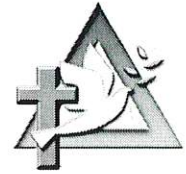
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Community Representative

Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee 2021-2022



Date: August 27 2021

Name: Shelley Gilbert

Address: 39 Leaside Dr. APT 302

Phone No.: 905 329 8568

Agency/Organization: Society of St.Vincent de Paul

Brief Biography: I have been a member of St.Vincent de Paul for 30 years. In those 30 years I have filled different roles. I am currently the accessibility co lead at the Welland flat waters for the Canada summer games 2022. I am currently on the executive for St.Vincent De Paul for Ontario. When I am not volunteering I enjoy many of my para sports with the Brock Niagara Peguins or I can be found on the water with South Niagara Canoe Club.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

A letter of recommendation from the community agency, association, or organization has been attached.

Complete applications packages must be received no later than **4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, September 15, 2021.**

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 28, 2021**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF JUNE 2, 2021**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of June 2, 2021, as presented for information.



## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held on **Wednesday, June 2, 2021**, 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 6:32 pm.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. **Land Acknowledgement**

- Superintendent Pizzoferrato read the Land Acknowledgement.

2. **Opening Prayer**

- Chair Racine led with an opening prayer.

3. **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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trustee of the Board</b></li> </ul>	✓	
Huibers, Larry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chair of the Board</b></li> </ul>		✓
Butera, Serena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Student Senate Representative</b></li> </ul>	✓	
Kerho, Chris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Principal, Elementary</b></li> </ul>		✓
Majka, Kelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vice-Principal, Secondary</b></li> </ul>	✓	

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, **David O'Rourke**, Coordinator of Student Support, **Vincent Mancuso**, Behaviour Resource Teacher, and **Jennifer Lanese**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Pizzoferrato.

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

- Moved by Madeline Zoelman
- Seconded by Serena Butera

**THAT** THE Special Education Advisory Committee approves the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of **June 2, 2021.**

**CARRIED**

5. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

6. **Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee of May 5, 2021.**

- Moved by Serena Butera
- Seconded by Madeline Zoelman

**THAT** THE Special Education Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of **May 5, 2021** as presented.

**CARRIED**

## **B. PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Continuing Education Programs – Robert Di Persio**

- Robert Di Persio shared a PowerPoint presentation showcasing Niagara Catholic's Continuing Education Programs which includes:
  - Obtaining a Secondary School Diploma
    - Adult Day School
    - Online Learning
    - Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students (PLAR)
  - Multi-Language Programs
    - English as a Second Language
    - International and Indigenous Languages for Elementary students
    - Language instructions for new individuals to Canada (LINC)
  - School to Work Programs
    - Cooperative Education
    - Personal Support Worker
    - Specialized Language Training Program
    - Teach English as a Second Language (TESOL)
  - Student Support Programs
    - Academic and Core Skills
    - Literacy and Numeracy Programs

- Niagara Catholic has many convenient locations to serve our community:
  - St John Learning Centre, located at 145 Niagara Street, St Catharines, ON (905-682-3360)
  - St Ann Learning Centre located at 5895 North Street, Niagara Falls, ON (905-354-3531)
  - Father Fogarty Learning Centre located at 269 Thorold Road W., Welland, ON (905-734-4495)
  - St John South Learning Centre located at 54 Jarvis Street, Fort Erie, ON (905-991-8951)
  - eLearning Centre (905-682-3360)
  
- For more information, please visit our website: [www.niagaracontinuingeducation.ca](http://www.niagaracontinuingeducation.ca) or call toll-free at 1-866-727-8401.

## 2. **Learning Strategies Classes – Susy Walsh**

- Susy Walsh shared with the group the focus of the Learning Strategies Social Skills Class (LSSSC):
  - Does the existing Learning Strategies Social Skills class framework serve our greatest system-wide?
- The Committee members are comprised of the following Niagara Catholic staff members: a Student Support Coordinator, 2 Behaviour Resource Teachers, LSSSC Classroom Teachers, the LSSSC School Principals, the Home School Principals and/or the Educational Resource Teachers, the Mental Health Lead, and the Behaviour Analyst (ABA).
- The following were discussed during the Open Forum discussions:
  - What would be the ideal profile of a candidate for a LSSSC placement? Does this profile meet the greatest needs in our system?
  - What would an effective transition plan include for students entering and leaving a LSSSC placement, and how would the integration process fit into it?
  - What is the role of the home school? What common practices and supports are needed for the home school throughout the transition process?
  - What should Student Support and/or other board-level support look like in order to achieve wrap-around services that support mental health and well-being for all stakeholders?
  - What staff training and professional development would be of greatest benefit? (i.e., ABA, crisis intervention, trauma training).

## 3. **ABA Presentation – Julia Nemcko**

- Julia Nemcko, Board Certified Behaviour Analyst provided a summary of Niagara Catholic's ABA Team.
- She described how the team structure has shifted over the past year. We now have a lead Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA), 3 Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Leads (an increase from 2 last year), 8 ABA Facilitators (an increase from 6 last year).
- The principles of ABA align directly with the mission, vision and values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) and the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations (OCSGE) in that interfering behaviours in student learning ultimately interfere with a child's ability to build meaningful relationships with themselves, with others and with God.

- ABA is a targeted intervention that has the potential to leverage equity, inclusion and full accessibility for all learners, especially our most vulnerable learners, so that every student may assume their rightful position as a faith-filled contributor and valued member of a Catholic Learning Community.
- This vision requires:
  - Seeing behaviour and behaviour intervention through the lens of our faith and Christ's eyes.
  - Adopting an ABA for all lens where ABA is embedded in all teaching and learning practices to bring dignity to all.
  - An interdisciplinary approach where clinical and educational excellence meets to create new and innovative spaces for student learning, student dignity and student wellness.

#### **Direct Student Support Data**

- 46 schools have had involvement (81%) of schools; 275 students have accessed ABA service; **Number of Contacts** 340 (Direct and indirect observations, Behaviour Skills Training (BST) - directly working with staff in classrooms through skill acquisition or behaviour reduction programs; **Number of Training:** 248.

#### **Support for Students During COVID-19**

- We continue to provide in-person support during school closures for students with complex Special Education needs utilizing our Targeted ABA Intervention (TABAI) model.
- In-Person-Direct Student Supports:
  - Tier 1 Classwide Supports-Superflex Program
  - Peer Awareness; Program for the Education and Enrichment of Relational Skills (PEERS) Curriculum.
- Virtual Direct Student Supports:
  - Summer camps
  - After-school programs
  - Social Skill programs

#### **Support for Staff During COVID-19**

- Our team continues to provide in-person staff support through TABAI and Behaviour Skills Training (BST). Virtual ABA Staff Supports: conducting virtual training including Behaviour Management Systems (BMS); PD day workshops to EAs, CYWs, ECEs, elementary and secondary teachers, and principals and vice-principals; Conducting virtual case conferences and school meetings/consultations; conducting virtual observations; booster sessions on student programming.

#### **Support for Families During COVID-19**

- ABA services are student-focused in collaboration with families and/or caregivers. Families and/or caregivers benefit from our support in navigating services within NCDSB and outside community agencies as ongoing shifts and pivots occur.

- Ongoing supports include:
  - Virtual consultation through case conferences
  - Skill development programs
  - Tip Sheets
  - Parent Workshops

4. **Multi-Year Strategic Plan – Maria Sanchez-Keane**

- All the Committee Members were required to join the Zoom Meeting created by Maria.
- During the presentation, the group anonymously answered questions and provided feedback on various Board related topics.
- All Committee Members participated.
- The data will be collected as part of the MYSP process.

**C. AGENDA**

**1. Other Related Items**

**1.1 Annual Review of the Special Education Plan**

- David O'Rourke summarized the process of the final stages of the Special Education Plan.
- He thanked the Committee Members for providing their feedback.
- The Ministry of Education requires district School Boards to publicly make available a comprehensive report regarding the current special education programs and services of the Board. Building Bridges to Services 2020 and Beyond is our Board's current version of the Ministry of Education mandated Special Education Plan that includes the components that are defined in Special Education in Ontario Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy and Resource Guide 2017 as well as the protocols established in Policy and Program Memorandum 149.
- In compliance with Regulation 464/97, Student Support staff consults with the Niagara Catholic's Special Education Advisory Committee in the preparation and update of the Special Education Plan.
- A checklist that notes the plan's parts, updated sections and the URL leading to the Special Education Plan on our Board's website is annually completed and submitted to the London Regional Education Office by **July 30, 2021**. The 2021 Special Education Plan can be accessed from the Board's website. Select <Programs>, Select <Special Education>, Select <Special Education Plan> or by clicking on the direct link: [Special Education Plan](#).

**MOTION**

Moved by Dorothy Harvey

Seconded by Madeline Zoelman

**THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the revisions to the Provisions of Special Education Programs and Services to be included in the Special Education Plan, Building Bridges and Services 2021 and Beyond, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION**

Moved by Dorothy Harvey

Seconded by Madeline Zoelman

**THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee forwards the Special Education Plan, Building Bridges and Services 2021 and Beyond, to the Committee of the Whole for their consideration and approval.

**CARRIED**

**1.2 Ministry Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) Community Collaboration Forms – Summary**

- The due date for the submission of the completed MACSE forms was on **Friday, May 21, 2021**.
- Superintendent Pizzoferrato anonymously thanked those Committee Members who submitted a MACSE form.
- Superintendent Pizzoferrato and the Student Support Coordinators collated the submitted forms into 1 document.
- The collaborated feedback was emailed to Peggy Blair of the HWDSB on May 25, 2021.

**1.3 Letter to SEAC Chair from Renfrew County CDSB in support of Bill 172.**

- A copy of the letter was emailed to the Committee Members and it was also uploaded to the Chat before the start of the meeting.
- Chair Racine provided a summary of the letter.
- Discussion followed.
- It was decided that the letter would be for information only and we will revisit it next September.

**2. 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.

**3. SEAC Sub Committees Update**

- a) The Communication Sub-Committee Members
  - No new information was shared. Superintendent Pizzoferrato will work with the provided template provided by the Sub-Committee. This will get re-visited in September.
- b) The Survey Sub-Committee
  - There was not any additional information shared. The Survey Sub-Committee members were waiting for feedback from the Student Support staff.
  - Jennifer Lanese emailed some last-minute feedback to Chair Racine and Co-Chair Zoelman during the meeting.
  - Superintendent Pizzoferrato requested to meet with the Survey Sub-Committee members after the meeting to discuss the submitted feedback.
- c) No update from the Policy Report Sub-Committee.
- d) No update from the Ministry Report Sub-Committee.



## **E. AGENCY REPORTS**

### **1. Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region – Madeline Zoelman**

- The LDANR was given the go-ahead to run their in-person SLAM Summer Camp which is currently full. They are offering a Summer Reading Rocks session which has 4 different time slots to choose from that will take place over 6 weeks this summer. Their Fall program applications are open on their website which will be offered online again. They are also working on a partnership with Niagara Catholic to offer 60 spots of their S.O.A.R. Secondary Transition Program and 20 spots of their S.O.A.R. Post-Secondary Transition program running in the morning or afternoon from August 4<sup>th</sup> to August 13<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please visit their website: [www.ldaniagara.org](http://www.ldaniagara.org).

### **2. Niagara Children’s Centre – Dorothy Harvey**

- Dorothy Harvey shared that the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services has increased funding which will increase access to services for students and School Boards. This is an acknowledgment that this is an underfunded program and a valued program that was inherited from the Ministry of Health. More information to follow in September on the amount of additional funding.
- She also spoke about a program in collaboration with Bethesda for an Ontario Autism program. It is an entry to school program for children diagnosed with autism and it is a 6 month targeted program.
- For more information about these programs, please visit their website: <https://niagarachildrenscentre.com>.

### **3. Indigenous Community Member – Kelsey Huxley**

#### ***Findings of 215 Indigenous Children Buried at Kamloops Residential School:***

- Tk’emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation leaders have confirmed the bodies of 215 children were recently found buried in unmarked graves at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia. Please see the statement from the Métis Nation of Ontario.
- <https://www.metisnation.org/news/statement-from-mno-on-recent-revelations-from-kamloops-indian-residential-school/>

#### ***Bear on Wood Slab Art Workshop:***

- The Niagara Region Métis Council is hosting a Metis Community Virtual Art Circle Event. The event is open to Métis citizens living in Niagara 10 years of age and up. The event will take place through zoom on **Sunday, June 27th from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon**, please contact Kelsey Huxley at [Kelsey\\_562@hotmail.com](mailto:Kelsey_562@hotmail.com) to register.

#### ***STEP Resource Centre St. Catharines:***

- The STEP Youth Resource Centre supports provides FREE services for Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth ages 14-24. Since 2019 at the inception of the STEP center, they have helped youth connect with community resources that meet the basic needs of youth: food, housing, clothing and employment. They also provide a variety of programming and mental health and wellness support. For more information, please call **289-362-4404** or you can email them at [stepstgeorges@gmail.com](mailto:stepstgeorges@gmail.com).

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

- It has been a crazy year and all of their summer camps are taking place virtually. They are hopeful to resume to in-person next year.

**5. Down Syndrome Niagara – Pina Palombo**

- They are trying to coordinate with their Down Syndrome group a summer virtual picnic. The details are still being finalized.

**6. Community Living Welland/Pelham – Kerry Thomas**

- They just wrapped up Community Living month across the province of Ontario. Due to COVID-19, it was celebrated differently this year. This year they lit up Welland Bridge 13 in blue and green at the beginning of May.
- They are very excited to be partnering with the City of Welland to offer an inclusive camp again this summer.

**7. Mainstream – Lorraine Smith**

- NIL Report

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

- NIL Report

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

- Bill Helmeczi emailed his regrets to Jennifer Lanese before the meeting. In his email message to Jennifer Lanese, he stated that he was resigning from the Special Education Advisory Committee after 12 years of service.
- Jennifer Lanese asked Chair Racine to share that information with the group during the meeting.
- Chair Racine acknowledged Bill's resignation and thanked Bill for his dedication and commitment to the Special Education Advisory Committee.
- Once a new nomination is appointed by Pathstone Mental Health to sit on the Special Education Advisory Committee, the members will be notified.

**F. STAFF REPORTS**

**1. Elementary Principals – Chris Kerho**

- NIL Report

**2. Secondary Principals – Kelly Majka**

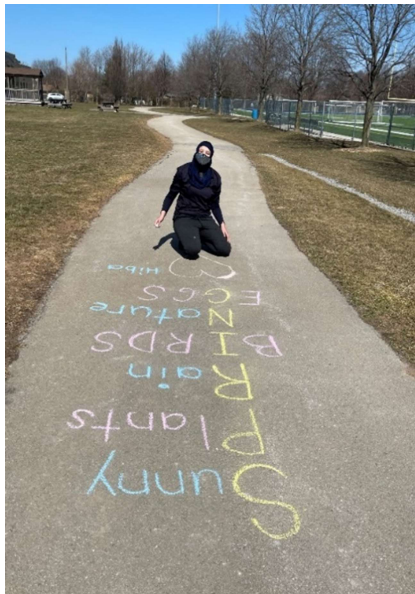
- Kelly Majka shared some good news from our Secondary Schools.

***Saint Paul Catholic High School, Niagara Falls***

- The Saint Paul Special Education class has had a busy few months. They have celebrated **Pink Shirt Day**, **Rock your Socks for World Down Syndrome Day**, and **Raise the Flag for World Autism**. Drew Jakobsons, a Saint Paul CHS student put together an amazing video encouraging the Saint Paul students to wear brightly coloured socks for World Down Syndrome Day. The video was played in each classroom and shared on the Saint Paul Instagram feed. The Special Education class, both in-person and virtual, tie-dyed socks for the event. The students celebrated Raise the

Flag for Autism on **Tuesday, April 6**. A flag was raised outside of Saint Paul Catholic High School and the student made and decorated their flags.

- The students also showed their creative side by decorating eggs for Easter! Some of the featured eggs were minions, ninja turtles, and emojis.
- On the first Monday of spring, the student wrote an acrostic poem about spring. After the poems were finished, the students wrote their poems on the track with sidewalk chalk to spread spring vibes.
- The Saint Paul Special Education department is participating in the Virtual Torch Run for Special Olympics. They are walking 34 km over 34 days to raise funds for Special Olympics Ontario. If anyone would like to donate, here is the link for our donation page:
- <https://give.specialolympicsontario.com/torchrun/campaigns/saint-paul-patriots/>.



**Lakeshore Catholic, Port Colborne**

- Former Denis Morris CHS student Josh Kerton, will age out of their program this June.
- This last term he will begin working towards his 30th credit to complete his OSSD!
- Lauren Patterson has been accepted to the Niagara College CICE program and she will enroll for school in September.

**3. Superintendent of Education – Gino Pizzoferrato**

- Superintendent Pizzoferrato shared with the group that he had an opportunity to attend the “Social Hour” hosted by Penny Macklem, our Secondary Special Education Teacher. On that particular day, it was their weekly “Joke Day” when Superintendent Pizzoferrato attended and upon his arrival, the room became “silent” because they saw Superintendent Pizzoferrato as a “stranger”.
- He shared how Penny helped make the students feel more comfortable having another person joining their “Joke Day”. He complimented how well Penny has worked with these students this past year. Superintendent Pizzoferrato left the “Social Hour” and promised to return another day, unannounced. He hopes that these students will no longer see him as “stranger”.
- He thanked the Committee Members for their participation and for representing their agencies on the Special Education Advisory Committee. He acknowledged the many initiatives that the Committee Members have organized this School Year. He also thanked the group for their tireless commitment and dedication for our students.
- He is looking forward to meeting the group in-person next year. Hopefully, we will resume in-person meetings during School Year 2021-2022.
- He concluded by wishing everyone a safe and healthy summer.

**4. Student Support Coordinator – David O’Rourke**

- David O’Rourke, Student Support Coordinator provided an update to the group.

**Michael Jacques Classroom Presentations**

- A following up on a very successful set of presentations to Niagara Catholic staff in **February 2021**, Michael made himself available for speaking engagements to individual classrooms if requested by school principals. The NCDSB entered into a book buying agreement where the Board would purchase 1 book for each classroom that received a presentation. Schools were asked to match that contribution as well. As of last week, 65 books were ordered by the Student Support Department which emphasizes the relevance of Michael’s message of positivity and inclusion. We are blessed to have the unwavering support of Michael Jacques at Niagara Catholic.

**Lexia Reading Program Software**

- Student Support is pleased to announce the purchase of over 550 licenses for the Lexia reading program. Lexia is a research-based, individualized program that gives educators more tools to help specific students develop their literacy. These licenses will be applied throughout the system next School Year to those students who have demonstrated the need for this type of intervention.

### **Summer Camps**

- The Student Support Department is pleased to announce several plans and partnerships with local agencies to help students with various needs remain engaged in their learning and assist with transition planning for September 2021. Internally, the ABA Team will be expanding their summer camp opportunities for students with ASD from 15 last year to 30 students this summer. In addition, 10 spaces for online coding camps offered through LEARNstyle software have been secured. Niagara Catholic will once again partner with Bethesda to offer a transition to secondary school program for students with ASD. Finally, a partnership with LDANR is being formed to offer additional literacy, numeracy and transition programs for students.

### **5. Director of Education – Camillo Cipriano**

- Director of Education Cipriano updated the group on the Opening Plan for September.
- He told the group that all elementary parents have been shared the Opening Plan for September.
- The Board will offer a Virtual School for those interested families.
- The Board is hopeful that the enrolment at the Virtual School will be significantly lower in September than it is currently for School Year 2020-2021.
- Parents should feel confident that our schools are safe for students and staff.
- The current plan is ever-changing and it will change as directives from Public Health and the Ministry of Education change.
- The Board will be sharing the Opening Plan with secondary parents next week.
- The Board is looking at a hybrid module.
- He concluded by wishing everyone a safe and healthy summer.

### **G. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

- Trustee Burtnik also acknowledged how quickly the School Year has gone by. She emphasized that it has been a busy year for the Board and the Board Trustees.
- She also complimented the support, love and understanding that the group has expressed to our students this past School Year.
- She referred to the group as “influencers” and that she was proud to sit on the Special Education Advisory Committee along with this dedicated group.
- She shared that the Board has now implemented the reciting of the **Land Acknowledgment** at the start of all meetings/functions and in all of our schools.
- Each school will be provided with a wooden plaque that was made by the students at the Launch Centre. The purpose of the plaque is to recognize our past and to not repeat the atrocities and the unkindness.
- The Board has put forth a motion to fly the **Rainbow Flag** for the first week in June. They will be a full consultation between now and June 2022.
- Two great motions have been recently forwarded by Trustee Prince, specifically a poverty reduction for female students accessing menstrual products and the single-use of plastic in all of our school cafeterias. The later motion was originally suggested by our Student Senate and brought forth by Trustee Prince to the Board. Both motions have been approved by the Board.
- They have been discussing the Opening Plan for September as it is forever changing.
- She concluded by thanking the group for their commitment and dedication this year and wished them a restful summer break.

#### **H. STUDENT REPORT**

- This month, the Student Senate has been transitioning for the new school year. They recently just elected their new Student Trustee, Steffen Zylstra. As well as their new community representatives and evaluating recipients for our Student Senate Scholarship.
- Similarly, Student Councils across the board are transitioning with new executives and wrapping up the school year with awesome activities! They are looking forward to the summer break, and are hopeful for a full-time return to in-person learning in September!
- Serena concluded that she has enjoyed being the Student Senate representative on the Special Education Advisory Committee and is hopeful to be able to return as the representative for School Year 2021-2022.

#### **I. NCPIC REPORT**

- NIL Report

#### **J. FUTURE MEETINGS / INFORMATION ITEMS**

- The Committee Members were reminded of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meetings for School Year 2021-2022. All Meetings have been scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month (i.e., September 2021 to June 2022) except for September and March. September's meeting will take place on **Wednesday, September 8, 2021** because of Labour Day and March's meeting will take place on **Wednesday, March 9, 2021** because of Ash Wednesday. All Committee Members will be reminded again of the meeting dates during School Year 2021-2022.

#### **K. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND REFLECTION**

- Chair Racine offered a moment of silence and reflection.

#### **L. NEXT MEETING**

- The next meeting is **Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm** (format to be confirmed in September).

#### **M. ADJOURNMENT**

- Moved by Serena Butera
- Seconded by Karen Murphy

**THAT the June 2, 2021 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.**  
**CARRIED**

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

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In closing, Superintendent Pizzoferrato thanked all members of the Special Education Advisory Committee for their hard work, continued support and representation of behalf of their individual community agencies and for building strong relationships within the Niagara Catholic District School Board. He wished everyone a blessed and restful summer.