

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the** Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 8, 2022, as presented.

The following recommendations are being presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 8, 2022:

**7.1.1 Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars: 2022-2023**

**THAT the** Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars for the 2022-2023 school year, as presented.



## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2022

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, February 8, 2022 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 Trustee Huibers.

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, Pat Rocca**, 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 February 8, 2022, 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 January 11, 2022**

Moved by Trustee Turner

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 11, 2022, as presented.

**CARRIED**

6. **Consent Agenda Items**

6.1 **Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars 2022-2023**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars for the 2022-2023 school year, as presented.

6.2 **Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities**

Presented for information.

6.3 **Capital Projects Progress Report Update**

Presented for information.

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

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

**CARRIED**

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

## C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

### 1. *The Empower™ Reading Program*

Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education provided background information on the Empower Reading Program in Niagara Catholic, and introduced Danny Giancola, Student Success Coordinator.

Mr. Giancola presented the Empower™ Reading Program report for Trustee information.

Superintendent Pizzoferrato and Mr. Giancola answered questions of Trustees.

### 2. *Niagara Student Transportation Services 2021-2022 Annual Plan*

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services presented the Niagara Student Transportation Services 2021-2022 Annual Plan.

### 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:

##### **Superintendent Kinney**

- Superintendent Kinney presented news from the program department regarding;
  - Introduction of Indigenous culture and teachings to Kindergarten classrooms across the system;
  - *Coding With Christ* for Kindergarten and Grade 3 classrooms;
  - *I Am a Child of God* social-emotional learning visits K-8;
  - Kindergarten Open House and Registration;
  - DELF (Diplome d'Etudes en Langue Francaise);
  - Launching of the new Tutors in the Classroom – Secondary School Mathematics program.

##### **Superintendent Forsyth-Sells**

- Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided news on Black History month.

#### 3.3 *Trustee Good News Update*

##### **Trustee Moody**

- Sending out acknowledgement to Father Gerard for his outstanding work for Catholic Education and the Saint Paul Catholic High School community.

## D. INFORMATION

### 1. Trustee Information

Director Cipriano reminded Trustees to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano to the April 2022 OCSTA AGM.

## E. OTHER BUSINESS

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

## F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

## G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

## H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the February 8, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **February 8, 2022.**

Approved on **March 8, 2022.**

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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  
FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL YEAR  
CALENDARS: 2022-2023**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars for the 2022-2023 school year, as presented.

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Prepared by: Domenic Massi, Associate Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Domenic Massi, Associate Superintendent of Education

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: February 22, 2022



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2022

### ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS: 2022-2023

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#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The *Education Act, Regulation 304 - School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days* outlines the requirements and timelines for preparing and submission of school year calendars to the Ministry of Education for approval.

For the 2022-2023 school year calendars, there are 195 possible school days between September 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. Within this total, elementary and secondary schools must have a minimum of 194 school days, of which seven (7) days must be designated as professional activity days. Secondary schools may have a maximum of ten (10) instructional days set as examination days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days.

#### CONSULTATION PROCESS

The 2022-2023 School Year Calendar Committee met to discuss and review the draft calendar and the consultation process.

Members of the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar Committee are:

Domenic Massi	Associate Superintendent (Chair)
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells	Superintendent
Gino Pizzoferrato	Superintendent
Chris Boyer	Elementary Principal
Lou Stranges	Secondary Principal
Anthony Corapi	Administrator of Staff Development
Anna Maxner	C.U.P.E. President
Jennifer McArthur	Niagara Elementary Unit OECTA
Joseph Sorrenti	Niagara Elementary Unit OECTA
John Piccoli	Niagara Secondary Unit OECTA
Carrie Vernelli	Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
Anna Racine	S.E.A.C.

The consultation process provided the elementary and secondary draft calendars to all elementary and secondary Principals, Vice-Principals, Catholic School Council Chairs/Co-Chairs, the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC), the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), OECTA Elementary and Secondary Presidents, CUPE President and staff for feedback by February 2, 2022.

Simultaneously, there has been on-going consultation with the co-terminus Board to achieve a similar school year calendar, where possible.

## SUMMARY OF THE ATTACHED CALENDARS

### Highlights of the Proposed School Year Calendars for 2022-2023.

#### ***Professional Activity Days***

In accordance with the Education Act, Regulation 304 - School Year Calendar, the following seven (7) days have been identified as Professional Activity Days.

#### Elementary:

Monday, October 24, 2022  
Friday, November 25, 2022  
Friday, January 20, 2023  
Friday, February 17, 2023  
Friday, May 19, 2023  
Friday, June 9, 2023  
Friday, June 30, 2023

#### Secondary:

Monday, October 24, 2022  
Friday, November 25, 2022  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023  
Friday, February 17, 2023  
Friday, May 19, 2023  
Thursday, June 29, 2023  
Friday, June 30, 2023

#### Secondary Examination Days

Semester 1 – Wednesday, January 25, 2023 to Tuesday, January 31, 2023  
Semester 2 – Thursday, June 22, 2023 to Wednesday, June 28, 2023

#### Board and Civic Holidays

Civic Holiday	Monday, August 1, 2022
Labour Day	Monday, September 5, 2022
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 10, 2022
Christmas Break	Monday, December 26, 2022 – Friday, January 6, 2023
Family Day	Monday, February 20, 2023
March Break	Monday, March 13 to Friday, March 17, 2023
Good Friday	Friday, April 7, 2023
Easter Monday	Monday, April 10, 2023
Victoria Day	Monday, May 22, 2023
Canada Day	Saturday, July 1, 2023

To comply with the timelines outlined in *Regulation 304 - School Year Calendar*, school boards are required to submit Board approved ***modified*** school year calendars to the Ministry of Education by March 1, 2022 and Board approved ***regular*** school year calendars to the Ministry of Education by May 1, 2022.

Based on feedback from the consultation process, discussions with the School Year Calendar Committee, Senior Administrative Council and our coterminous board, the 2022-2023 Elementary and Secondary ***modified*** School Year Calendars will be submitted immediately following the Board Meeting of February 22, 2022 for approval.

Appendix A: *Proposed Elementary School Year Calendars for 2022-2023*

Appendix B: *Proposed Secondary School Year Calendars for 2022-2023*



## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommends that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars for the 2022-2023 school year, as presented.

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Prepared by:                   Domenic Massi, Associate Superintendent of Education  
Presented by:                 Domenic Massi, Associate Superintendent of Education  
Recommended by:           Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education, Secretary/Treasurer  
Date:                            February 8, 2022

# School Year Calendar 2022 - 2023

**Legend** ▶ **H** - Statutory Holiday    **E** - Scheduled Examination Day    **P** - Professional Activity Day    **B** - Board Designated Holiday    ☐ Half Day

DRAFT - MODIFIED ELEMENTARY  
NCDSB

Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1 <sup>st</sup> Week					2 <sup>nd</sup> Week					3 <sup>rd</sup> Week					4 <sup>th</sup> Week					5 <sup>th</sup> Week				
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
August 2022				1 <b>H</b>	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31		
September 2022	19	1					1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
October 2022	19	1		3	4	5	6	7	10 <b>H</b>	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31				
November 2022	21	1			1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25 <b>P</b>	28	29	30		
December 2022	17						1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
January 2023	16	1		2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20 <b>P</b>	23	24	25	26	27	30	31			
February 2023	18	1				1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17 <b>P</b>	20	21	22	23	24	27	28			
March 2023	18					1	3	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17 <b>B</b>	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31
April 2023	18			3	4	5	6	7	10 <b>H</b>	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21 <b>H</b>	24	25	26	27	28					
May 2023	22			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19 <b>P</b>	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31		
June 2023	19	2					1	2	5	6	7	8	9 <b>P</b>	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30 <b>P</b>
July 2023				3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31				
<b>TOTAL</b>	187	7		<p><b>Note:</b> The 2022-2023 calendar provides for 195 possible school days between September 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days</p>																								

# School Year Calendar 2022 - 2023

**Legend** ▶ **H** - Statutory Holiday    **E** - Scheduled Examination Day    **P** - Professional Activity Day    **B** - Board Designated Holiday    ☐ Half Day

DRAFT - MODIFIED SECONDARY  
NCDSB

Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1 <sup>st</sup> Week					2 <sup>nd</sup> Week					3 <sup>rd</sup> Week					4 <sup>th</sup> Week					5 <sup>th</sup> Week				
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
August 2022				1 <b>H</b>	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31		
September 2022	19	1					1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
October 2022	19	1		3	4	5	6	7	10 <b>H</b>	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31				
November 2022	21	1			1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25 <b>P</b>	28	29	30		
December 2022	17						1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
January 2023	12		5	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30	31			
February 2023	17	2				1 <b>P</b>	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17 <b>P</b>	20	21	22	23	24	27	28			
March 2023	18					1	3	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31
April 2023	18			3	4	5	6	7	10 <b>H</b>	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28					
May 2023	22			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31		
June 2023	15	2	5				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
July 2023				3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31				
<b>TOTAL</b>	177	7	10	<p><b>Note:</b> The 2022-2023 calendar provides for 195 possible school days between September 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days</p>																								

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF  
JANUARY 12, 2022**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of January 12, 2022, as presented for information.



## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held on **Wednesday, January 12, 2022** 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.

Co-Chair Cipriano called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

#### 1. Land Acknowledgement

- Jim Di Gioia, Student Support Coordinator read the Land Acknowledgement.

#### 2. Opening Prayers

- Co-Chair Cipriano read an opening prayer.

#### 3. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Cipriano, Madeline	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region	✓	
Harvey, Dorothy	Niagara Children's Centre		✓
Kelly, Tara	Pathstone Mental Health	✓	
Murphy, Karen	Autism Ontario Niagara Region Chapter	✓	
Palombo, Pina	Down Syndrome Niagara	✓	
Racine, Anna	Community Member		✓
Shawano, Willow	Indigenous Representative		✓
Smith, Lorraine	Mainstream		✓
Smith, Rita	Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)	✓	
Somma, Monique	Community Living (Welland/Pelham)	✓	
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>	✓	
Filice, Adele	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Principal, Secondary</b></li> </ul>	✓	
Walsh, Susy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Principal, Elementary</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, **Jim Di Gioia**, Coordinator of Student Support, **Vincent Mancuso**, Behaviour Resource Teacher and **Jennifer Lanese**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Pizzoferrato.

**4. Election of Chair and Co-Chair**

- Madeline Cipriano was acclaimed as Chair.
- The election for Co-Chair will be deferred until next month's meeting as there were no accepted nominations for that position.

**5. Approval of the Agenda**

- Moved by Karen Murphy
- Seconded by Rita Smith

**THAT** THE Special Education Advisory Committee approves the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of **January 12, 2022**.

**CARRIED**

**6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

**7. Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee of December 1, 2021.**

- Moved by Karen Murphy
- Seconded by Pina Palombo

**THAT** THE Special Education Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of **December 1, 2021**, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**B. AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Board's New Mission Statement, Vision and Values**

- Director of Education Cipriano discussed the Board's MYSP.
- The MYSP was uploaded to the Chat and was shown during his presentation.
- A copy of Niagara Catholic's new mission statement, vision and values were shared with the Committee Members.
- Chair Cipriano opened the floor for questions and discussion.
- For more information, please visit the Board's website. The link for the media release dated **November 24, 2021** can be accessed [here](#).

**2. Review of PPM #81**

- A copy of a letter regarding PPM #81 that was prepared by Sonia Nadon-Campbell, Chair of Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (OCDSB)'s SEAC, was uploaded to the Chat by Jennifer Lanese before the meeting.
- Chair Cipriano provided a summary of the letter.
- Superintendent Pizzoferrato provided additional information on PPM #81.

- Chair Cipriano opened the floor for discussion.
- Due to the complexity of this item, it was decided to continue the discussion of this topic next month.
- To access the Policy/Program Memorandum #81 from the Ministry of Education, please click [here](#).

**3. Letter of Support for Bill 172 from WRDSB's SEAC**

- A copy of the letter was circulated to all Committee Members by Jennifer Lanese before the meeting.
- Chair Cipriano read the letter to the Committee Members from WRDSB's SEAC concerning Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).
- The letter stated,
  - o *"It is essential that education staff including teachers, educational assistants, early childhood educators, and those involved directly with students are aware of FASD, able to recognize the early signs and symptoms, and trained to provide appropriate accommodations. Greater awareness and inclusion of FASD in each Board of Education's policies and guidelines is an important step in achieving equitable access to high quality education for all students."*
- Jim Di Gioia provided additional information about FASD.
- Next month, SEAC will be hosting a presentation to discuss FASD. Dave Peirce from the Niagara FASD Coalition will present, "FASD in the Classroom: Working Together for Success".
- Communication to promote this event will be distributed before the February presentation.
- SEAC members, Niagara Catholic staff and families of Niagara Catholic are encouraged to attend.
- Chair Cipriano opened the floor for discussion.

**4. Annual Review of the Special Education Plan**

- Jim Di Gioia reminded the Committee Members of the annual review of the Special Education Plan.
- We will begin reviewing sections of the Special Education Plan starting next month.
- We will be following the same process as last School Year.
- Jim promised to provide more information next month.

**5. SEAC Sub-Committee Updates**

**a) Communication Committee**

- o No update to report.

**b) Survey Committee**

- o The SEAC survey will be starting the proposal to the Board Research and Ethics Committee for review and feedback. David O'Rourke has been working closely with the Survey Committee during this process.

**c) Ministry Reports Committee**

- o No update to report.

**d) Policy Committee**

- The Policy Committee met and reviewed in detail the current policies that were being reviewed and they did not have any further feedback to submit to Jennifer Pellegrini.
- Discussion and questions followed after the Sub-Committee updates.

**6. Policy Review**

- The following Policies and Administrative Guidelines are currently being reviewed as part of the [Establishment and Cyclical Review of Policies Policy, Policy No. 100.5](#) review process.
- To be considered, all submissions must identify the specific policy and include your name, phone number, address and affiliation with Niagara Catholic.
- Anonymous or pseudonymous submissions will not be considered.
- [Accessibility Standards Policy 800.8](#)
- Please submit your feedback to [Jennifer Pellegrini](#) by **February 22, 2022**, before 12:00 pm.

**C. AGENCY REPORTS**

**1. Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region – Madeline Cipriano**

- The LDANR will begin its Winter programs virtually on **January 31<sup>st</sup>**. Applications are still being accepted for their self-advocacy programs which include: BEST, SOAR Secondary, and SOAR Post-Secondary. Interested participants can apply by clicking [here](#).
- They will also be holding their January Webinar on **Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00 – 7:30 pm which will feature Dr. Michelle Lohnes speaking about psychoeducational assessments. These webinars are open to the general public and anyone interested in attending can register, for free, on the LDANR's EventBrite web page which can be found [here](#).

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

- NIL Report

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

- As of **January 10<sup>th</sup>**, they have a new Fund Development Coordinator, Chrissy Sadowski. Chrissy has many years of experience in the non-profit sector, and working as a wellness coach. She will be the contact for any fundraising, grants or questions regarding upcoming volunteer opportunities. Chrissy can be contacted via email: [Chrissy Sadowski](#).
- Due to the provincial restrictions, they have moved all of their events and activities back online for the time being. They are carefully watching numbers, and hoping that they will be able to open up more in-person activities in the coming months.
- Autism Ontario is now hosting a transition hub to aid families across the province with transitioning to adulthood: For more information on Autism Ontario's Journey to Adulthood, please click [here](#).
- Autism Ontario is also offering free online modules for autistic employers and workers in conjunction with Apex Academy online. For more information, please click [here](#).

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

- Pina Palombo read the following report from the Canadian Down Syndrome Society,
  - Thank you for your dedication to and support within the Down syndrome



community.

- CDSS has just released a **new** series of resources that support educators, the broader school community, and ultimately students with Down syndrome. Offering insights about Down syndrome and the learning issues that may arise, along with practical tips and suggestions for the classroom, the series includes:
    - **Learning Together in the School Community**
      - This is a comprehensive teacher resource featuring classroom ideas, accommodations, building independence, technology, behavioural concerns, planning for changes, and so much more.
    - **The Quick Guide Resources for the School Community**
      - This features information geared for school support staff, teaching assistants, administration, substitute teachers, and classmates. There are also different resources to help educate about Down syndrome.
  - All of these resources are available in English and French. It's easy to download, print and share these resources across your entire school district and beyond!
  - The Canadian Down Syndrome Society has recently shared the new resources with every school district across the country so that every student can learn, contribute and participate in all aspects of school life.
- If you haven't already done so, they ask you to help them by further sharing the new resources with your community and school boards in your area! They hope that the educational resources will be helpful as students in your school community learn together.

**5. Mainstream – Lorraine Smith**

- NIL Report

**6. Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet) – Rita Smith**

- NIL Report

**7. Community Living (Welland/Pelham) – Monique Somma**

- Monique Somma shared information about Community Living Ontario's "**Together We're Better**" contest to celebrate, "Inclusive Education Month".
- This contest is open to all elementary and secondary schools from across Ontario to participate in a contest that promotes and raises awareness about inclusive education.
- Schools and classrooms can participate in this contest by creating a video, story or poem that shows how together we're better because students of all abilities are included.
- The deadline for the video, story, or poem submission is **Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**. Winners will be announced by **Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>**.
- A system-wide memorandum was distributed to all school Principals and Vice-Principals to share with staff and students.
- A copy of the Contest Flyer was later distributed to the Committee Members to share at their discretion.
- For more information, you can visit their website by clicking [here](#).

**8. Pathstone Mental Health – Tara Kelly**

- NIL Report

**D. STAFF REPORTS**

**1. Elementary Principals – Susy Walsh**

- Susy Walsh shared with the group that Student Support Services continues to serve students, often being required to think outside the box, when it comes to offering students a variety of learning opportunities during an ongoing pandemic. The gifted modules returned virtually in December. Students explored self-identity, and from the perspective of a participant, *“it was a different experience, one that I would not have chosen on my own; it was nice to see students from other schools.”*
- In January, the second gifted educational module, CSI Part One is being offered to exceptional students.

**2. Secondary Principals – Adele Filice**

- Adele Filice shared that all Special Education students with complex learning have returned to school today.
- She shared that it has been an exciting time and she is looking forward to welcoming all of their students back to in-person learning.

**3. Superintendent of Pizzoferrato**

- Superintendent Pizzoferrato shared with the group that as of **January 12<sup>th</sup>**, 74 students were attending school in-person. It was announced by the Ministry of Education that all students can return to in-person learning on **Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**.
- Superintendent Pizzoferrato congratulated the staff for working so quickly to expedite things last week to ensure a smooth transition for all of our students.
- At the start of the meeting, Jennifer Lanese emailed Niagara Catholic’s proposed School Year Calendar for Elementary and Secondary Schools to the Committee Members. A copy of the School Year Calendars were also uploaded to the Chat.
- Superintendent Pizzoferrato encouraged all Committee Members to forward any feedback or comments to Jennifer Lanese.
- Superintendent Pizzoferrato opened the floor for discussion and questions.

**4. Student Support Department – Jim Di Gioia, Danny Giancola & David O’Rourke**

***Literacy Program Update***

- A Student Support Memorandum is being issued tentatively next week for the launch of Lexia Learning. This memorandum will provide directions to school staff on how to initiate the Lexia Literacy program for selected students. Program Resource Teachers will be providing optional virtual tutorials for staff who wish to participate and receive further support in rolling out the initiative. We wish to acknowledge the support of Niagara Catholic’s IT department and the immense efforts of our Program Resource Teachers: Tania Barrick, Diane Bishop, and Ann Marie Criddle. The PRTs were key players to get Lexia up and running at Niagara Catholic. As well, a special thank you to Danny Giancola for his leadership in bringing Lexia to Niagara Catholic.

### **BMS Annual Refresher for Educational Assistants, ECEs, CYWs, and Secondary ERTs and Special Education Classroom Teachers**

- Student Support staff who serve as Behaviour Management Systems Trainers (who are a member of our ABA team) will be delivering a series of virtual training sessions for Educational Assistants, ECEs, CYWs, and Secondary ERTs and Special Education Classroom Teachers on **January 20<sup>th</sup>** (for elementary-based staff) and **February 2<sup>nd</sup>** (for secondary-based staff). These sessions will conclude the annual refreshers for employee groups who require BMS training. The sessions continue to be virtual, and a review of the schedule for the 2022-2023 school year is underway to determine a timely and safe way to resume in-person training if possible.
- Student Support staff are also undertaking a review of the process for reporting incidents of physical interventions where school staff employ a containment on students. The outcome of the review will be a clear workflow of the steps schools will take in reporting the incident, the follow-up that Board BMS trainers will undertake in response to an incident, and how training and capacity building fit into the workflow.

### **Gifted Education Module**

- An upcoming virtual gifted education module called CSI: 101 - Part 1. This will be held on **Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>** and **Thursday, January 27<sup>th</sup>** for students identified as exceptional. Students will have the opportunity to explore Crime Scene Investigation techniques through an introduction to DNA and Forensic Science. Students will conduct an experiment that takes a closer look at the scientific method and DNA extraction. We are looking forward to running this module.

### **SEAC Parent Survey Update**

- The SEAC Parent Survey is going forward to the Board Research and Ethics Committee for review and feedback. The Survey Committee will provide an update to SEAC once the ethics review is completed.

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

- NIL Report

### **E. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

#### **1. Chair of the Board Huibers**

- NIL Report

#### **2. Trustee Burtnik**

- Trustee Burtnik shared her appreciation to staff for always going above and beyond.
- She also announced that Dino Sicoli and Kathy Burtnik will be the newly appointed SEAC Representatives for the next term.
- For more information, please visit the Board's website. The link for the media release dated

**December 8, 2021** can be accessed [here](#).

## **F. STUDENT REPORT**

### **1. Serena Butera**

- Chair Cipriano shared with the group, on behalf of Serena Butera, that the Student Senate is hard at work planning their annual Mental Health Week Initiative. This year, they've decided to focus on a video to be played in all classrooms board-wide to promote the importance of mental health and coping strategies.
- Students can access an online resource to explore the information covered in the video.

## **G. NCPIC REPORT**

- NIL Report
  - We are still appealing for a Committee Member to represent SEAC at the NCPIC meetings. If you're interested in volunteering, please email [Jennifer Lanese](#).
  - Yvonne Anderson will be providing the group with an update until a Committee Member volunteers to represent SEAC at the NCPIC's meetings.

## **H. NOTICES OF MOTION**

- There were no Notices of Motion.

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

- Superintendent Pizzoferrato will provide the group with an update next month on the format of our future meetings.

## **J. MOMENT OF SILENCE / REFLECTION OF LIFE**

- Chair Cipriano offered a moment of silence and reflection.

## **K. NEXT MEETING**

- **Wednesday, February 2, 2022 at 6:30 pm** – Format to be determined.
- Superintendent Pizzoferrato will provide more information closer to the meeting.

## **L. ADJOURNMENT**

- Moved by: Karen Murphy
- Seconded by: Pina Palombo

**THAT** the **January 12, 2022** meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.