



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

*SAINT MICHAEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL  
8699 MCLEOD ROAD, NIAGARA FALLS*

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Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at Saint Michael Catholic High School, 8699 McLeod Road, Niagara Falls.

### **A. ROUTINE MATTERS**

1. **Meeting Call to Order – Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chief Executive Officer and Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer Camillo Cipriano, in accordance with section 208-5 of the Education Act.

Camillo Cipriano, on behalf of all in attendance, thanked Bishop Gerard Bergie for celebrating the Commissioning Mass of Trustees and for participating in the Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

Appreciation and gratitude was expressed to Principal Gifford, the students, Choir, Student Council and staff of Saint Michael Catholic High School for hosting and participating in the Inaugural Meeting, and to Alec MacDonald, Grade 10 student from Notre Dame College School for piping in the procession of Trustees-Elect.

Camillo Cipriano welcomed the His Worship Bruce Phillips; Board Solicitor, Harry Korosis, Principals, Vice-Principals, Administrators, staff, family friends, partners and guests to the Mass and Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

The Singing of our National Anthem was led by Saint Michael student Sofia Covelli.

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

The Land Acknowledgement statement was delivered by Student Trustee Zylstra.

3. **Opening Prayer**

Bishop Bergie opened the 2022 Inaugural Meeting of the Board with a prayer.

4. **Roll Call**

Director Cipriano indicated that all Trustees-Elect and Student Trustees were in attendance.

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Present Electronically</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Natalia Benoit	✓			
Joseph Bruzzese	✓			
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Danny Di Lorenzo	✓			
Larry Huibers	✓			
Doug Joyner	✓			
Jim Marino	✓			
Paul Turner	✓			
<b>Student Trustees</b>				
Charlotte Johnstone	✓			
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; **Julia Tiessen**, Executive Officer of Human Resources; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services

Special Guests: **Bishop Gerard Bergie**, Bishop of St. Catharines Diocese; **His Worship Bruce Phillips**, Justice of the Peace; **Harry Korosis**, Board Solicitor

5. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

6. **Returns of Election**

In accordance with Board By-Laws section 7, subsection iii and the Education Act, Director Cipriano presented the Returns of Election as certified by municipal clerks.

7. **Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance**

His Worship Phillips offered words of congratulations to all Trustees-Elect. Justice Phillips with Bishop Bergie, and assisted by Director of Education Cipriano, administered the Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance to all Elected-Trustees.

**8. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Director Cipriano reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair, and appointed Harry Korosis, Board Solicitor and Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services, as scrutineers if a vote was required.

**9. Election of Chair**

Moved by Trustee Marino

**THAT** Trustee Di Lorenzo be nominated for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from November 22, 2022 until the 2023 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Cipriano asked Trustee Di Lorenzo if they wished to stand for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Di Lorenzo accepted the nomination.

Moved by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** Trustee Burkholder be nominated for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from November 22, 2022 until the 2023 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Cipriano asked Trustee Burkholder if they wished to stand for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Burkholder accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

Seconded by Trustee Joyner

**THAT** the nominations for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be closed.

**CARRIED**

Following the counting of the ballots Trustee Di Lorenzo was elected to the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board until the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board in 2023.

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

**THAT** the ballots for the election of the Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, be destroyed.

**CARRIED**

Director Cipriano turned over the Chairship of the Inaugural Meeting of the Board to Chair Di Lorenzo.

**Election of Vice-Chair**

Moved by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** Trustee Burkholder be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board from November 22, 2022 until the 2023 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Chair Di Lorenzo asked Trustee Burkholder if they wished to stand for the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Burkholder accepted the nomination.

Moved by Trustee Di Lorenzo

**THAT** Trustee Marino be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board from November 22, 2022 until the 2023 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Chair Di Lorenzo asked Trustee Marino if they wished to stand for the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Burkholder accepted the nomination.

Moved by Trustee Turner

Seconded by Trustee Joyner

**THAT** the nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be closed.

**CARRIED**

Following the counting of the ballots, a tie was declared. A second vote was taken and was also declared a tie. In compliance with Board By-Laws, the two nominees drew straws for the position of Vice-Chair. Straws were drawn alphabetically by last name with the person drawing the long straw elected. Trustee Burkholder was elected by straw ballot to the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board until the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board in 2023.

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

Seconded by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the ballots for the election of the Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, be destroyed.

**CARRIED**

## **10. Chair's Remarks**

A copy of Chair Di Lorenzo's remarks is attached to the minutes for information and placed on the Board website.  
(Appendix A)

## **11. Vice-Chair's Remarks**

A copy of Vice-Chair Burkholder's remarks is attached to the minutes for information and placed on the Board website.  
(Appendix B)

## **B. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. Board Committees**

Director Cipriano presented the report on Board Committees, and stated that the report is in compliance with Board Bylaw section 19 v (b) which calls for Trustee membership on Board Ad Hoc, Statutory, Standing and Liaison Committees until the 2023 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Cipriano stated that membership to the committees are appointed by the Chair of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chair of the Board, and asked that Trustees submit their completed form to the Office of the Director by the December 6, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Moved by Trustee Turner

Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the continuation of the following Ad Hoc Committees for the year 2023:

- Blessed Trinity Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- Denis Morris, Holy Cross, and Saint Francis Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- Growth & Retention Ad Hoc Committee
- Lakeshore Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- Notre Dame College Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- Saint Michael and Saint Paul Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee

**CARRIED**

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

## **D. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

Seconded by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the November 22, 2022 Inaugural Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **November 22, 2022.**

Approved on **December 20, 2022.**

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Danny Di Lorenzo  
Chair of the Board

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Camillo Cipriano  
Director of Education/Secretary –Treasurer

## APPENDIX A

### **Remarks from the Chair – Danny Di Lorenzo Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board November 22, 2022**

Good evening everyone and thank you for joining us this evening. I would like to congratulate my fellow Trustees who were elected to the Board and I very much look forward to working with this team to continue to advance student achievement and foster our Catholic identity as the Niagara Catholic District School Board. I also thank my fellow Trustees for having the faith and confidence in electing me as Chair. I am looking forward to working with all of you and making a difference and having a positive impact as a productive and united Board of Trustees.

As a Catholic school system, we are not an alternate for public school, but a system built on the guiding principle of our Gospel value, where Jesus is the center of our teaching. Children at a very young age are taught to value the love of God and learn to live out their faith every day in all aspects of life. It is important that we all work together as stakeholders in Catholic education continue to foster and build on what we have.

As Trustees we are involved in the Governance of the Board and not the day to day operation. Director Cipriano and members of Senior Administration will provide the direction, leadership and knowledge to carry out the Board's Strategic Plan while keeping in mind the Mission, Vision and Values of Niagara Catholic. It will be our job to support their work and make sure that we achieve the goals and expectations set forth through a process ensuring accountability and transparency.

With this said we must remember that Niagara Catholic has many traditions and practices in place which make it unique and distinct from other Boards. Other Boards have emulated many of our practices across the Province, and many times, we have been the leaders in Catholic education across the province. It is important to keep this distinctiveness and keep our identity of who we are. Secondly, we are not a Board for elite students only, but rather an as our Mission would imply, an elite Board that prides itself on inclusivity and equitable practices, and provides educational programs for all students regardless of ability, disability or any other distinguishing factor. Upon completion of school, all students must have the knowledge, skills, confidence and "the edge" to pursue and be successful in their desired pathway. It is our job through Governance to assure that this indeed is reality for all as we work through the Board Strategic Plan.

As a Board, our greatest resource is our staff and most precious asset is our students. Our staff needs to be supported, nurtured and valued so that their worth can be truly maximized in a safe work environment. The staff has made our school board unique and distinct with enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to Catholic Education. Like a family, the parents provide the foundation upon which the child learns and develops. This is the same in our schools. The staff creates a solid foundation that affords our students the benefit of a quality Catholic education superior to any other.

As a Catholic school system we are part of a faith community, we form the Triad between the home, school and church. No partner is less or more important in fostering this Triad...as a school system we need to work very closely with our Parishes and do our part to be part of the community. At a time when secular forces impact and influence the values and morals of our children, it is important that the schools play an important role in promoting the importance of the Church and role that the Church can play in one's life.

In conclusion, I look forward to my term as a Trustee and Chair. Hopefully, as a united Board we can continue to build upon the success of those who have gone before us while forging and exploring new paths along the journey of Catholic Education.

God Bless all of us!

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Remarks from the Vice-Chair – Rhianon Burkholder Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board November 22, 2022**

I would like to start by thanking Bishop Bergie , family and friends, administration, and staff that have come to show support for Niagara Catholic. I have not forgotten the students that have given up their evening to come out tonight. Thank you to all the students, student senate, volunteers, culinary and the music students.

You are the reason we are all here tonight.

I am honored to be serving this Board as Vice-chair. I have big shoes to fill and promise I will give the same faith filled commitment as those that have been before me. I feel confident to help navigate my fellow Trustees to lead this Board in its continued success of Catholic Education. Catholic education is a gift that we have received and I will make sure that I with all of you, we will to continue to fight for this gift.

Thank you.