



We are a *Christ-centered Catholic faith community*
that celebrates diversity and fosters spiritual growth,
inspiring all to reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit.

AGENDA AND MATERIAL

BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023
6:30 P.M.**



PUBLIC ACCESS LIVE STREAM LINK
<https://niagaracatholic.ca/meetings-livestream/>

FATHER KENNETH BURNS, C.S.C. BOARD ROOM, CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE, WELLAND, ONTARIO

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

- | | | |
|-----|---|------|
| 1. | Land Acknowledgement | - |
| 2. | Opening Prayer – Trustee Bruzzese | - |
| 3. | Roll Call | - |
| 4. | Approval of the Agenda | - |
| 5. | Declaration of Conflict of Interest | - |
| 6. | Minutes of the Board Meeting of June 20, 2023 | A6 |
| 6.1 | Approval of Consent Agenda Items of the Board Meeting of June 20, 2023 | A6.1 |
| 7. | <u>Consent Agenda Items</u> | |
| 7.1 | Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 12, 2023 and Consideration of Recommendations | A7.1 |
| 7.2 | Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of June 7, 2023 | A7.2 |
| 7.3 | In-Camera Agenda Items F1, F2 & F3 | - |

B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

- | | | |
|----|---|----|
| 1. | Mental Health Well-Being Strategy 2021-2024 – Lee Ann | C1 |
| 2. | Communications Multi-Year Strategic Plan – Camillo | C2 |
| 3. | 2023-2024 Budget Booklet – Giancarlo | C3 |

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

- | | | |
|-----|--|------|
| 1. | Correspondence | - |
| 1.1 | E-mail from the Toronto Youth Cabinet | D1.1 |
| 2. | Report on Trustee Conferences Attended | - |

- | | | |
|-----|--|------|
| 3. | General Discussion to Plan for Future Action | - |
| 3.1 | Letter to Bishop Bergie Regarding Concerns with Local Parishes Promoting non-Niagara Catholic Schools | D3.1 |
| 4. | Trustee Information | |
| 4.1 | Calendar of Events – October 2023 | D4.1 |
| 4.2 | Spotlight Gala – October 18, 2023 | D4.2 |
| 5. | Open Question Period
<i>(The purpose of the Open Question Period is to allow members of the Catholic school supporting public to ask about items on that night's public agenda or any previous agendas, and the Board to answer and react.)</i> | |

E. NOTICES OF MOTION

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. | Notice of Motion Submission | - |
| 2. | Notice of Motion Presentation | - |

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

G. REPORT ON IN CAMERA SESSION

H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

J. ADJOURNMENT

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF
JUNE 20, 2023**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of June 20, 2023, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 2023

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 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 Chair Di Lorenzo.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement

Land Acknowledgement statement was delivered by Student Trustee Zylstra.

2. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Trustee Turner

3. Roll Call

Chair Di Lorenzo noted that all Trustees and Student Trustees were in attendance.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Natalia Benoit	✓			
Joseph Bruzzese	✓			
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Danny Di Lorenzo	✓			
Larry Huibers	✓			
Doug Joyner	✓			
Jim Marino	✓			
Paul Turner	✓			
Student Trustees				
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

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Marino
Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Board Meeting of June 20, 2023, as presented.

CARRIED

5. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

A Declaration of Conflict of Interest was declared by Trustee Di Lorenzo with Item F5 of the In Camera Agenda. This trustee has family members who are employees of the Board. He left the meeting during discussion of this item.

6. **Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting**

6.1 **May 23, 2023**

Moved by Trustee Huibers
Seconded by Trustee Benoit

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of May 23, 2023, as presented.

CARRIED

6.2 **June 7, 2023**

Moved by Trustee Huibers
Seconded by Trustee Benoit

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of June 7, 2023, as presented.

CARRIED

7. **Consent Agenda Items**

Trustee Burkholder requested Item 7.1.6 be held. This item was moved to Committee and Staff Reports Section C of the agenda.

7.1 **Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 6, 2023 and Consideration of Recommendations**

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole of June 6, 2023, as presented.

7.1.1 **Employee Workplace Harassment Policy (201.7)**

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Employee Workplace Harassment Policy (201.7), as presented.

7.1.2 Employee Workplace Violence Policy (201.11)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Employee Workplace Violence Policy (201.11), as presented.

7.1.3 Occupational Health and Safety Policy (201.6)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Occupational Health and Safety Policy (201.6), as presented.

7.1.4 Larkin Estate University/College Admission Awards

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the payment of \$5400.00 for the Larkin Estate University/College Admission Awards for eligible students, as presented.

7.1.5 Attendance Area Review – Blessed Trinity Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the commencement of the Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee for the Blessed Trinity Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools in September 2023. The Ad Hoc Committee will include the establishment of an attendance boundary for the New Beamsville Catholic Elementary School, as well as an attendance area review of the existing Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School (Grimsby), St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School (Grimsby), St. Edward Catholic Elementary School, St. John Catholic Elementary School, St. Mark Catholic Elementary School, and St. Martin Catholic Elementary School in accordance with the Attendance Area Policy (301.3) and submit recommendations and/or provide a committee update to the January 16, 2024.

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the following Terms of Reference for the Blessed Trinity Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee:

Establishment of the attendance area for the New Beamsville Catholic Elementary School (located on Greenlane Road, east of Ontario Street); and review and recommend modified attendance area boundaries for Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School (Grimsby), St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School (Grimsby), St. Edward Catholic Elementary School, St. John Catholic Elementary School, St. Mark Catholic Elementary School, and St. Martin Catholic Elementary School, within the Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School – Family of Schools.

Align student enrolment across the Blessed Trinity Catholic Elementary Family of Schools in order to alleviate enrolment pressure.

7.1.6 2023-2024 Original Estimates

Moved to Section 3.1

7.2 Executive Council Power – July & August 2023

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board empower Executive Council to approve any actions, of an emergency nature, recommended by the Director of Education, if a quorum cannot be achieved after a Special Meeting of the Board is called as per Board By-Laws, during the months of July and August 2023.

7.3 The Provisions of Special Education Programs and Services – Special Education Plan Revisions

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the revisions, as set out in Appendix A to be included in the Special Education Plan 2023, as presented.

7.4 EcoSchools Results 2022-2023

Presented for information.

7.5 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of May 10, 2023

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 10, 2023, as presented.

7.6 Approved Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of November 23, 2022

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the approved Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of November 23, 2023, as presented for information

7.7 In-Camera Items F1, F2, F3, F4 & F8.1

Moved by Trustee Joyner
Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

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

B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

1. Student Trustee and Co-Chair – Student Senate 2021-2023 Appreciation

Director Cipriano extended his appreciation of Student Trustee Johnstone and welcomed her back for the 2023-2024 school year. Director Cipriano acknowledged Student Trustee Zylstra for his dedication and his commitment to his role as a student trustee the past two years and wished him well in his future endeavors.

2. Taras Delegation

Ms. Taras presented her delegation.

3. McArthur Delegation

Ms. McArthur presented her delegation.

4. **Student Senate Delegation**

Members of the Student Senate presented their delegation.

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. **Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee**

Director Cipriano provided background information on the Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee.

Trustee Turner, Chair of the Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee expressed gratitude to the committee.

Moved by Trustee Marino
Seconded by Trustee Joyner

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board increase marketing presence on social media platforms by actively promoting and increasing kindergarten and grade 9 open houses and registration, educating and advertising Catholic by sharing good news stories, promotion of positive events and through personal testimonials from students, families and staff, showcasing the value and benefits of a Catholic education.

THAT Niagara Catholic District School Board establish a community outreach for newcomers to the Niagara Region and new Canadians via a welcome centre, real estate agents and local parishes.

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board direct secondary schools to create annual transition plans, utilizing a “Transition Template” to be created by senior staff. The Transition Template should identify specific activities planned (athletic, arts, academic, faith), mentorship opportunities, outreach to families, as well as the budget required for the plan. Each secondary school, in collaboration with their respective family of schools elementary feeder schools, are responsible for the creation and delivery of the plan, subject to review and approval by the FOS superintendent. Principals will be encouraged to share best practices and to duplicate successful strategies, when appropriate. Additionally, Senior Staff is to allocate a larger budget to each secondary school to support the implementation of the transition plan.

CARRIED

2. **Financial Report as at May 31, 2023**

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services presented the Financial Report for information.

Superintendent Vetrone answered questions of Trustees.

3. **Consent Agenda Item A7.1.6**

3.1 2023-2024 Original Estimates

To recognize the significance of the Budget and address it as an individual matter, this item was withdrawn from the consent agenda.

Moved by Bruzzese

Seconded by Burkholder

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Report on the 2023-2024 Original Estimates, as presented.

CARRIED

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

1. Correspondence

Nil

2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended

Trustee Burkholder and Chair Di Lorenzo highlighted the CCSTA AGM that they attended in June.

3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

Reminder that graduations will be commencing this week and into next week for those Trustees that have confirmed their attendance.

4. Trustee Information

4.1 Calendar of Events – September 2023

4.2 OCSTA 2023 Fall Regional Meeting – September 18, 2023

Director Cipriano highlighted the OCSTA 2023 Fall Regional meeting on September 18, 2023.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano.

5. Open Question Period

Chair Di Lorenzo acknowledged receiving three questions specifically for Trustee Benoit. He proceeded to read out the questions and requested Trustee Benoit to provide her response. Trustee Benoit noted that she will respond to the questions via the Director of Education.

E. NOTICES OF MOTION

1. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMISSION

None Submitted

2. NOTICE OF MOTION PRESENTATION

2.1 Niagara Catholic District School Board Co-Hosting 2024 OCSTA Business & AGM

Vice-Chair Burkholder chaired the meeting during discussion of Item 2.1 of the public agenda.

At the May 23, 2023 Board meeting Chair Di Lorenzo submitted a Notice of Motion regarding Niagara Catholic District School Board Co-Hosting 2024 OCSTA Business & AGM.

Chair Di Lorenzo answered questions of Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Di Lorenzo

Seconded by Trustee Turner

THAT the Chair be directed to notify OCSTA and the Chairs of the BHCNDSB, HWCDSB, & NCDSB of their intent to co-host the OCSTA 2024 AGM in Niagara Falls Ontario and;

THAT all three boards will participate equally in planning, executing, and financial responsibilities of this event and;

THAT all three boards agree that the location will be in Niagara Falls for this event and;

THAT in the event one of the three boards does not wish to participate or chooses to withdraw its intent to co-host the remaining two boards will share the responsibility and financial burden of the withdrawal of the third board and;

THAT upon approval by the respective boards, staff will be directed to begin to work collaboratively on the planning and execution of this event in conjunction with OCSTA and;

THAT a steering committee be created between the three boards consisting of the Chair of the Board, and the Director of Education or designate from each board and OCSTA.

CARRIED

2.2 On Line Betting

At the May 23, 2023 Board meeting Trustee Huibers submitted a Notice of Motion regarding On Line Betting.

Trustee Huibers answered questions of Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Huibers

Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board will communicate with appropriate levels of government to address the negative effects associated with gambling.

Additionally, where appropriate, schools will promote education and awareness for students and offer connections to supports for gambling addictions or issues when identified by staff or students.

CARRIED

2.3 Policy Request

At the May 23, 2023 Board meeting Trustee Benoit submitted a Notice of Motion for a Policy Request.

Trustee Benoit answered questions of Trustees.

Trustee Huibers requested a recorded vote to be taken, with non-binding Student Trustees participation.

Moved by Benoit
Seconded by Bruzzese

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board develop a Partisan, Political or Social Advocacy Activities Policy.

DEFEATED

NAME	YEA	NEA
Charlotte Johnstone		✓
Steffen Zylstra		✓
Natalia Benoit	✓	
Joseph Bruzzese	✓	
Rhianon Burkholder		✓
Larry Huibers		✓
Doug Joyner		✓
Jim Marino		✓
Paul Turner		✓
Danny Di Lorenzo		✓

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese
Seconded by Trustee Marino

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

CARRIED

The Niagara Catholic District School Board moved into the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting at 8:34 p.m. and reconvened at 9:17 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese
Seconded by Trustee Marino

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of June 20, 2023.

CARRIED

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese
Seconded by Trustee Marino

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of May 23, 2023, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

Moved by Trustee Joyner
Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Audit Committee Meeting of November 23, 2022, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F2)

Moved by Trustee Marino
Seconded by Trustee Bruzzese

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item F5.1 of the In Camera Agenda.

CARRIED (Item F5.1)

Moved by Trustee Joyner
Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item F8.1 of the In Camera Agenda.

CARRIED (Item F8.1)

H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Marino
Seconded by Trustee Benoit

THAT the June 20, 2023 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **June 20, 2023**.

Approved on **September 26, 2023**.

Danny Di Lorenzo
Chair of the Board

Camillo Cipriano
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS OF THE BOARD
MEETING OF JUNE 20, 2023**

RECOMMENDATION

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees did not approve the Consent agenda items from the June 20, 2023 Board meeting, and **WHEREAS** the Board of Trustees desires to ensure that all actions taken have been approved; be it resolved **THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Consent Agenda Items as of June 20, 2023.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: NIAGARA CATHOLIC MENTAL HEALTH WELL-BEING
STRATEGY 2021-2024**

The Niagara Catholic Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy 2021-2024 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education
Andrea Bozza, Mental Health Lead

Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education
Andrea Bozza, Mental Health Lead

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

Date: September 26, 2023



REPORT TO THE BOARD

NIAGARA CATHOLIC MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING STRATEGY 2021-2024

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Mental Health and Well-Being continues to be a priority for the Ministry of Education, School Mental Health-Ontario and the Niagara Catholic District School Board in the Strategic Plan 2021-2026, with the strategic direction of “Advance student achievement for all students” to support students’ mental health and wellness. In the document [Governance Matters](#), School Mental-Health Ontario details the collaboration between the Board of Trustees, staff, and schools about the mental health and well-being of all students.

In collaboration with Principals, Vice-Principals and staff, the Niagara Catholic Mental Health Team focuses on mental health and well-being promotion, along with prevention and intervention, in alignment with the Niagara Catholic Mission, Vision and Values, “Encountering souls and opening minds so that all students succeed”.

The Board website www.niagaracatholic.ca showcases Mental Health and Well-Being in the areas of: School Supports, Community Supports and Resources, Well-Being Resources, Get Help Now resources for parents/caregivers, educators and students, and crisis support, and the Mental Health and Well- Being Strategy at <https://niagaracatholic.ca/mental-health-and-well-being>.

School Mental Health-Ontario also provides a [Board Mental Health Scan](#) to school boards. This report presents data for 70 boards across the province and is a quality improvement tool for sharing priorities, progress and benchmarks. The scan helps boards to reflect how various strategies are impacting students.

The Niagara Catholic District School Board [Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy 2021-24](#) is in Year 3 and the [Mental Health and Well-Being Action Plan 2023-2024](#) continues with the following priorities:

- COVID Recovery- Continuing to create safe and accepting school environments, addressing the anxiety, isolation, potential trauma and impact of COVID-19 on students
- Equity, Inclusivity and Diversity: Continuing with equity, diversity and inclusion learning and training for staff and students, supporting mentally healthy conversations about cultural humility, anti- discrimination, anti-black racism, and anti- Indigenous racism and supporting 2SLGBTQ+ and specific populations in our community who may require more or unique mental health and well-being supports and services
- Continuing to promote the link between our Faith and Mental Health and Well- Being through intentional messaging to staff and students, about how our faith and mental health and well-being are interconnected for student achievement and well-being
- Continuing with Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) by embedding SEL into our curriculum and learning supporting mental health literacy with Grades 7 and 8 modules
- Continuing to promote *Pathways to Care* by ensuring that students receive timely and responsive, evidence-based prevention and early intervention services at the school and in the community

The Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy 2021-2024 graphic poster and document are available for Principals, Vice-Principals and staff on *My Niagara Catholic* in the Mental Health and Well-Being Folder and is posted on the Board Website: <https://niagaracatholic.ca/mental-health-and-well-being/> .

Niagara Catholic Mental Health and Well-Being Team

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education: Mental Health and Well-Being
Andrea Bozza, Mental Health Lead
Social Workers
Child and Youth Workers
Mental Health and Well-Being School Champions

Highlights/Actions for 2023-2024 to support the Niagara Catholic Goals and Priorities

Niagara Catholic Implementation Action Plan for Mental Health Literacy Modules for Grades 7 and 8 and Health and Physical Education Curriculum

As part of the Health and Physical Education curriculum, the Ontario government has introduced mandatory mental health literacy modules for Grades 7 and 8 teachers and students, in collaboration with School Mental Health-Ontario. Niagara Catholic will be implementing the Ministry of Education approved, teacher-led and culturally responsive mental health literacy learning modules, for students in Grades 7 and 8. The modules respect the individual and diverse needs of students and ensure consistency in mental health literacy learning across the province. The modules align with existing curriculum expectations in the Grades 7 and 8 Health and Physical Education curriculum.

The following topics will be the focus of the modules:

Grade 7

- The relationship between mental health and mental illness
- Signs of a mental health problem and how to seek support
- Mental health and the relationship between substance use

Grade 8

- Mental health vs. mental illness and stigma
- Supporting our mental health and managing stress
- How to help a friend seek support, and caring for yourself

Niagara Catholic Implementation Team:

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education: Mental Health and Well-being
Kim Kinney, Superintendent of Education: Curriculum
Andrea Bozza, Mental Health Lead
Jenn Benoit, Health and Physical Education Consultant
Amanda Wagg-Boyer, Religion and Family Life Consultant

Training Sessions

The Niagara Catholic Implementation Team will be participating in School-Mental Health-Ontario sessions and will be leading the training sessions from September 25, 2023 to October 5, 2023 for Niagara Catholic grades 7 and 8 teachers.

Niagara Catholic Implementation Action Plan for Mental Health Literacy Modules for Grades 7 and 8 and Health and Physical Education Curriculum

Dates	Staff Groups Trained	Description	Trainers
September 7, 2023	Superintendent of Education: Mental Health and Well-being Mental Health Lead	Virtual 1 hour session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level overview of mental health modules and curriculum resources 	SMH-Ontario
Sept 12, 2023	Superintendent of Education: Curriculum Mental Health Lead Health and Physical Education Consultant Religion and Family Life Consultant	Virtual 1 hour session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level overview of mental health modules and curriculum resources 	SMH-Ontario
September 25, 2023 September 26, 2023 September 27, 2023 September 28, 2023 October 5, 2023	All grades 7/8 teachers Principals	Full day, in-person training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Half day professional development focused on mental health and well-being Half day professional development focused on the Physical Education Curriculum and modules dedicated to mental health 	Andrea Bozza, Mental Health Lead Jenn Benoit, Health and Physical Education Consultant Amanda Wagg-Boyer, Religion and Family Life Consultant
October 11, 2023	Mental Health Lead Health and Physical Education Consultant Religion and Family Life Consultant	Collaborative Session with Mental Health Leads in Ontario <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion and feedback about rollout, and sustainability planning 	SMH-ON Ministry of Education

October 6th PA Day

All secondary teaching staff will participate in a morning or afternoon session focused on student mental health and well-being, delivered by our Mental Health Lead and Regulated Mental Health Professionals (Social Workers). This professional development session will focus on:

- Understanding mental health vs mental illness
- Creating mentally healthy classrooms through a trauma lens
- Understanding trauma and how to create trauma informed classrooms for all students

Child and Youth Works: PA Day

Child and Youth Workers will have the opportunity to participate in professional development led by a member of the mental health team. This will include community presentations, and all Child and Youth Workers will be provided with three newly created social-emotional learning programs and tools for implementation in the schools and classrooms.

Secondary Religion and Family Life Teachers: MH Lit Course

MH LIT: Student Mental Health in Action is a series of four lessons to support the development of basic mental health knowledge and help-seeking skills, created by SMH-Ontario. The lessons are designed for use with secondary students, focusing on building their understanding of mental health and mental illness, signs of mental health problems, and how/where to access help when needed. During the 2023-2024 school year, Secondary Religion and Family Life teachers will receive professional development on the resource, through the Mental Health and Well-Being and Curriculum departments, to align the lessons with the Religion Curriculum.

Professional Development Sessions for Select Staff

Throughout the 2023-2024 school year, professional development in the area of mental health and well-being will be available for select staff. This will include a half-day session with Educational Resource Teachers to highlight protocols, early identification of mental health challenges, and community resources. NTIP teachers will receive suicide intervention training, and a half-day session focused on prevention and awareness of mental health in our schools.

Social-Emotional Learning: Child and Youth Worker Summer Learning and Resource Project

Child and Youth Workers deliver evidence-based programs in classrooms for students (Zones of Regulation, Roots of Empathy, Mindup) and Behaviour Resource Teachers (Student Support Services) are delivering tier 1 Social-Emotional Learning programs (“I am a Child of God”) in classrooms with a prevention focus. Over the summer of 2023, through summer learning mental health funding, five Child and Youth Workers were hired to provide social-emotional support to our summer learning students. Another five CYWs were hired for resource development and creation of hands-on resources, for all CYWs to implement in our schools. Each school will receive three new resources and kits that will focus on social-emotional learning in the classroom, in October 2023.

Wellness Wall and Stall Campaign

In partnership with Pathstone Mental Health, all Niagara Catholic schools have a wellness wall highlighting crisis numbers, resources and facts about mental health to support and talk about mental health and well-being in schools. The Wellness Wall campaign has now evolved in the community and can be found in libraries, banks, shopping centers, arenas and community centers. This year, Pathstone Mental Health has created a wellness “stall” campaign that can also be found in the hallways of Niagara Catholic Schools, and in the bathrooms in the Pen Center, Seaway Mall and Landmark Cinemas. This includes graphic images with positive messages, help seeking information and links to community supports. [Pathstone Mental Health and Wellness Posters](#).

Provincial Conferences

The Niagara Catholic Mental Health Lead, Religion and Family Life Consultant and Culinary teacher will represent the Board at the 2023, *When Faith Meets Pedagogy* Conference. They will offer a session called, “Food, Culture and Wellness”. The workshop will focus on a model that Niagara Catholic has created for staff faith formation that staff can implement in classrooms. The Mental Health Lead will also present to Police Officers, Correctional Officers and Education staff at the 2023 COYO conference, focusing on student mental health in schools.

Community Pathways to Care: New Referral Process

Historically, Contact Niagara has been the central hub to access core mental health services. On October 31st, 2023, the Ministry of Health will be reallocating funding for Ministry of Health functions and duties

from Contact Niagara to Pathstone Mental Health. The transition planning has been a collaborative approach with all organizations. Niagara Catholic will be updating internal communication for pathways to care and the internal flow of referrals from Social Workers to Pathstone Mental Health will be messaged to schools.

Implementation of the Cultural Humility Self-Reflection Tool

The [Cultural-Humility Self-Reflection Tool](#) helps others to explore and reflect upon an individual's cultural humility, and will help staff to provide identity-affirming support to every student. This tool was shared with administrators, and will be implemented with Social Workers and Child and Youth Workers in 2023. It will also be implemented in pilot schools in 2023, as a model to implement in the 2024-2025 school year.

ASIST/SafeTALK

Two, 2-day ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) sessions will be provided for select staff (Administrators, Success/Guidance, Consultants, Child and Youth Workers, Chaplaincy Leaders, Educational Resource Teachers and Human Resources staff) to focus on the skills needed to provide a suicide intervention if a student is thinking about suicide. One safeTALK session will be provided for the NTIP program, to provide awareness and prevention strategies for students thinking about suicide.

Mental Health Champions

Mental Health Champions have been identified in all schools, to act as a liaison between the Mental Health Lead and the school community. The Mental Health Champions will have access to additional mental health training and professional development to build capacity in their schools.

Mental Health Leadership Team

The Mental Health and Well-Being Leadership Team is a multi-disciplinary team comprised of varying roles, departments and staff that meet several times during the year. The Mental Health and Well-Being Leadership Team is expected to achieve outcomes that align with the Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy.

Mental Health and Catholic Education Week

Niagara Catholic celebrates both Catholic Education Week and Mental Health Week, by intentionally identifying the links between faith and mental health. This week focuses on faith and wellness activities, concluding with a contest, to highlight the impact that our faith can have on our mental health. This week will be celebrated May 5-10, 2024 and the theme will be "We are Called to Love."

Social Workers and Child and Youth Workers

Niagara Catholic employs a Social Work team of 9 full-time Social Workers who deliver bi-weekly therapy sessions to students with mental health concerns. Niagara Catholic has 25 Child and Youth Workers who are providing evidence-based classroom programming in elementary and secondary schools. Social Workers will be provided evidence-based mental health training through SMH-Ontario in 2023-2024.

SMH-Ontario Resources

SMH-Ontario has provided all school boards with access to mental health resources and staff-specific training. Select staff groups will have the opportunity to register and engage in focused mental health training. Tip sheets and curriculum focused mental health resources are available to all staff. Resources have been posted and sent to select staff groups based on need. [School Mental Health-Ontario](#)

Crisis Response/Compassionate Care Response/Tragic Incidents

Niagara Catholic has a multi-disciplinary team responsible for responses to crisis, tragedy and death. This team not only includes the Mental Health Team (responsible for student wellness), but also includes the Chaplaincy Team to ensure that there is a faith lens, the Student Support Team to ensure teaching staff can

be covered, if necessary, the Human Resources Services Department who is responsible for staff wellness and supports, and the Communications team, responsible for messaging to staff and families.

The Niagara Catholic Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy 2021-2024 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education
Andrea Bozza, Mental Health Lead

Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education
Andrea Bozza, Mental Health Lead

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

Date: September 26, 2023

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The Communications Department Update report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Jennifer Pellegrini, Communications Officer

Presented by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Jennifer Pellegrini, Communications Officer

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

Date: September 26, 2023



REPORT TO THE BOARD SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT UPDATE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Communications Department serves Niagara Catholic in a variety of ways, including internal and external communications, emergency communications, and coordinating advertising and promotion of Niagara Catholic.

To ensure that we continue to meet the evolving needs of a growing system, we undertook a review of our department over the summer and created a three-year strategic plan.

We are pleased to share an overview of our communications strategy with trustees.

The Communications Department Update report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Jennifer Pellegrini, Communications Officer

Presented by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Jennifer Pellegrini, Communications Officer

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

Date: September 26, 2023

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: 2023-2024 BUDGET BOOKLET

The 2023-2024 Budget Booklet is presented for information.

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

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

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

Date: September 26, 2023



**NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

2023-2024 ANNUAL BUDGET



Trustees and Senior Administration

CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Danny Di Lorenzo Fort Erie, Port Colborne, Wainfleet

VICE-CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Rhianon Burkholder Thorold, Merritton

TRUSTEES

Natalia Benoit	St. Catharines, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Joe Bruzzese	Niagara Falls
Larry Huibers	St. Catharines, Niagara-on-the-Lake
Doug Joyner	West Niagara
Jim Marino	Niagara Falls
Paul Turner	Welland

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Charlotte Johnstone	Saint Paul Catholic High School
Emilio Geremia	Notre Dame College School

SENIOR STAFF

Camillo Cipriano	CEO/Director of Education & Secretary-Treasurer
Clark Euale	Controller of Facilities Services
Julia Tiessen	Executive Officer of Human Resources
Kim Kinney	Superintendent of Education
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells	Superintendent of Education
Domenic Massi	Associate Superintendent of Education
Gino Pizzoferrato	Superintendent of Education
Pat Rocca	Superintendent of Education
Giancarlo Vetrone	Superintendent of Business and Financial Services
Joseph Zaroda	Associate Superintendent of Education

OUR MISSION

We are a
CHRIST-CENTERED
CATHOLIC FAITH community
that **celebrates diversity**
and fosters **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**,
inspiring ALL to **REACH**
their **FULL potential** in
MIND, BODY, & SPIRIT

OUR VISION

ENCOUNTERING SOULS
AND
OPENING MINDS
so that **all students**
SUCCEED

OUR VALUES

ACCOUNTABILITY • COMMUNITY • COMPASSION
FAITHFULNESS • INTEGRITY • JUSTICE • STEWARDSHIP



Grants For Student Needs Highlights

GSN funding is projected to be \$27.1 billion, while the average provincial per-pupil base funding¹ is projected to be \$13,125 in 2023–24. Base funding¹ has increased by \$693 million or 2.7 per cent compared to 2022–23. This additional investment in public education demonstrates the government's commitment to providing students with access to the skills and opportunities they need to succeed.

There is a further \$516.2 million in Priorities and Partnership Funding (PPF), bringing the total investment in public education to \$27.6 billion.

This year's GSN includes targeted investments and adjustments for a range of initiatives, with highlights including student transportation funding model reform and related investments; summer learning supports; funding in support of the ongoing labour negotiations; Indigenous education priorities; and previous PPF investments continued through the GSN; new investments for the administration of remote learning and to support safe and clean schools; as well as other updates to support key priorities.

New Funding Formula For Student Transportation

Starting in the 2023–24 school year, the ministry is implementing a new Student Transportation Grant funding framework that is transparent, equitable, and focused on reliability. The Student Transportation Grant is projected to be \$1,233.2 million in 2023–24 and is made up of the following three allocations:

- Transportation Services Allocation - \$1,225.8 million
- School Bus Rider Safety Training Allocation - \$1.7 million
- Transportation to Provincial or Demonstration Schools Allocation - \$5.7 million

As this is the first year of a new funding formula, the grant includes a Transition amount to ensure that no school board experiences a decline in funding compared to their allocation from the 2022–23 school year. The Transition amount is expected to be in place for four years (through the 2026–27 school year) and will be updated annually to reflect changes in enrolment, new routing results, and changes to benchmarks.

Funding for Remote Learning Administration

The ministry is providing a \$10.1 million investment in the School Foundation Grant to support remote learning administration. For students who wish to enroll in remote learning, school boards may offer remote learning instruction directly, they may partner with another school board to provide remote learning instruction on their behalf, or they may work with other school boards to deliver remote learning collaboratively.



Labour-Related Changes

Updates to salary benchmarks and other funding elements are being made to reflect:

- A \$1 per hour increase in education worker salary benchmarks in the 2022–23 school year over the 2021–22 school year, with a further \$1 per hour increase in 2023–24.

This supports the recently ratified Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and Ontario Council of Educational Workers (OCEW) central collective agreements, and a labour provision for other education worker unions.

- A 1.25 per cent increase for teacher salary benchmarks in the 2022–23 school year over the 2021–22 school year, with a further 1.25 per cent increase in the 2023–24 school year as a labour provision.

Employee Life and Health Trust benefits funding amounts are being adjusted for CUPE and OCEW education workers for the 2022–23 school year (in-year) and 2023–24 school year as per their respective central collective agreements.

Realignment Of Indigenous Education Funding

The ministry has reviewed the Indigenous Education Grant and is realigning funding to better support Indigenous education priorities. This realignment is reflected through changes to the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Studies and Board Action Plan allocations within the Indigenous Education Grant, and a one-time realignment mitigation fund.

Non-Staff Benchmarks

The ministry is providing a 2 per cent cost update to the non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation benchmark to assist school boards in managing the increases in commodity prices (i.e., electricity, natural gas, facility insurance, and other costs).

Ventilation Supports

The School Operations Allocation continues to provide funding support to optimize ventilation in schools, which is projected to be \$29.5 million.



Key Priority	Objective	Amount
Math	To support students in meeting provincial math standards.	\$738,400
Mental Health and Well-Being	To support the critical linkage between mental health and well-being and student success. Also provides students with physical health and safety supports.	\$157,300
Special Education	To improve support for children and youth with special education needs and their families and educators.	\$275,900
Student Pathways	To support students throughout secondary school and as they transition to postsecondary destinations, including apprenticeship, community living, college, university, and the workplace.	\$71,000
Supporting Student Potential	To provide supports for students to be successful in de-streamed learning environments. To ensure that all young learners receive the necessary foundational skills and early interventions in reading that are critical to future success. To support vulnerable students, including youth at risk, to stay in school, graduate and succeed.	\$2,066,700



ENROLMENT

(A.D.E. REGULAR DAY SCHOOL)

20,689

ELEMENTARY

SCHOOLS

48

GROUND CAPACITY

87.8%

TOTAL STAFF

(FTEs)

2,248

TRUSTEES

(INCLUDES STUDENT TRUSTEES)

10

SECONDARY

SCHOOLS

8

CONTINUING EDUCATION

(A.D.E.)

248

Mental Health and Well-Being

The mental health and well-being of Niagara Catholic students and staff continues to be a key priority and strategic direction of the Niagara Catholic District School Board supporting students' mental health and wellness. Niagara Catholic continues to follow best practices from the Ministry of Education, the Canadian Mental Health Association, School Mental Health-Ontario, and our local community partner Pathstone Mental Health.

Niagara Catholic's Mental Health and Well-Being Team also recognizes the valuable role that our student leaders play in supporting a safe, open dialogue about mental health and well-being in our elementary and secondary schools.

In support of mental health and well-being initiatives, funding has been allocated in the 2023-2024 budget to support the professional learning of Grades 7 and 8 teachers for the implementation of the Ministry approved, teacher-led and culturally responsive School Mental Health-Ontario Grades 7 and 8 mental health literacy modules. The modules align with the Ministry of Education Health and Physical Education curricular expectations. Professional learning sessions for all secondary teaching staff will be focused on creating trauma-sensitive secondary schools. Mental Health and Well-Being funding will also support the training of select staff in suicide intervention, clinical mental health training for the Mental Health Lead and Social Workers, the creation and provision of social-emotional resources, and staffing to provide mental health and well-being supports and services to all Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary schools.

Special Education

Niagara Catholic believes in providing all students with the opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of their level of ability.

In many instances, early intervention can support students struggling at school. Niagara Catholic's 2022-2023 budget provides funds to provide the Empower reading intervention program to all elementary schools, and to provide supports to

elementary and secondary schools to help students catch up on literacy skills.

We are making strides to reduce the wait times for psychoeducational and speech and language assessments for students and are introducing Centres of Excellence classrooms to address the needs of students in environments with a low teacher-student ratio.



Advanced Placement

The 2022-2023 school year saw the launch of the Advanced Placement academic program at Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School and Saint Paul Catholic High School, ahead of a broader roll-out in the future. AP courses are available to students who express an interest in taking part in a post-secondary prep program. Students who participate in AP classes often gain increased interest in – and knowledge of – their area(s) of student and are better prepared for university workloads upon graduation.

Niagara Catholic's investment in the Advanced Placement program shows the Board's commitment to providing students another opportunity to build toward a stronger future.

The AP Program is a significant investment, with the focus on attracting and retaining students, and ensuring student achievement.

Experiential Learning and Career Exploration

Within this budget are funds to support the provincial mandate to de-stream Grade 9 math, which is intended to support students who traditionally struggle with numeracy to achieve their goals. Funding is also provided to support gaps in learning caused by the pandemic, and to support student success.

Niagara Catholic will continue to promote experiential learning and career exploration through the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program, Cooperative Education, and the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP).

In addition, the Niagara Launch Centre will continue to provide innovative and creative education, training, and inspiration for students in all pathways and fuel student interest and passion for skilled trades through exciting and engaging education.

These opportunities will provide students with enhanced knowledge and skills, and industry recognized qualifications, ensuring they are better prepared for graduation and transition into post-secondary studies, apprenticeship, and the working world.



Indigenous Education

Indigenous education is a priority across the system at the Niagara Catholic District School Board, as is reflected in our 2023-2024 Annual Budget. We strive to ensure the inclusion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit histories, cultures, perspectives, and contributions throughout our school communities. By recognizing and promoting an awareness of these histories and contemporary realities, we support the well-being, engagement, and success of all students.

Self-Identified Indigenous students enrolled in our Catholic elementary and secondary schools are provided expanded supports and may also participate in programming that honours student voice and is supported by the Board's Indigenous team and Indigenous community partners.

Recruitment, Staff Development, and Leadership

Niagara Catholic will continue to focus on building a diverse, dynamic staff in all departments, reflective of the growing diversity in the students we serve. To ensure we continue to attract and retain staff to meet our emerging needs, Niagara Catholic will undertake a Pay Equity and Job Evaluation program in 2023-2024.

Catholic leaders are pivotal to the development of excellent teaching, excellent schools and ultimately, enhanced student achievement and well-being.

We continue to promote leadership opportunities from within and current leaders are encouraged to inspire others to consider leadership positions in their roles. Our leadership development strategy will continue to focus on setting aspiring leaders up for success with important insights about what they will need to learn to be successful. For those already in leadership positions, it serves as a valuable tool for self-reflection and self-assessment. Finally, our strategy also supports the work of those responsible for recruiting, selecting, developing, and retaining new leaders.



ESTIMATES OCTOBER 31 2023	ESTIMATES MARCH 31, 2024	AVG. DAILY ENROLMENT 2023-2024	AVG. DAILY ENROLMENT 2023-2024	% CHANGE
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ALLOCATION

Junior Kindergarten (JK)	1,187	1,187	1,187	1250	-5.0%
Senior Kindergarten (SK)	1,331	1,331	1,331	1343	-0.9%
Grade 1 - Grade 3	4,383	4,383	4,383	4333	1.2%
Grade 4 - Grade 8	7,590	7,590	7,590	7500	1.2%
Secondary (Grade 9 to 12)	6,504	6,420	6,462	6263	3.2%
Total Estimated Enrolment	20,995	20,911	20,953	20689	1.3%

PROJECTIONS

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
Kindergarten	2,613	2,434	2,497	2,323	2,518
Grade 1 - Grade 3	4,188	4,091	4,204	4,151	4,383
Grade 4 - Grade 8	7,411	7,397	7,443	7,364	7,590
Secondary (Grade 9 to 12)	6,298	6,174	6,169	6,084	6,462
TOTAL	20,510	20,096	20,313	19,922	20,953

ELEMENTARY PANEL	2019 2020	2020 2021	2021 2022	2022 2023	2023 2024
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Number of Schools	49	49	49	48	48
Average Daily Enrolment	14,212	13,922	14,144	13,838	14,491
Utilization	83.5%	82.6%	81.9%	83.2%	87.1%

SECONDARY PANEL	2019 2020	2020 2021	2021 2022	2022 2023	2023 2024
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Number of Schools	8	8	8	8	8
Average Daily Enrolment	6,298	6,174	6,169	6,084	6,462
Utilization	6.3%	87.2%	85.4%	84.3%	89.5%



TOTAL PANEL	2019 2020	2020 2021	2021 2022	2022 2023	2023 2024
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Number of Schools	57	57	57	56	56
Average Daily Enrolment	20,504	20,096	19,983	19,922	20,953
Utilization	85.2%	83.6%	82.9%	83.5%	87.7%

GRANTS FOR STUDENT NEEDS (000) THOUSANDS	BUDGET 2022-2023	BUDGET 2023-2024	BUDGET VARIANCE
Pupil Foundation Grant	118,378	121,526	3,148
School Foundation Grant	17,206	17,656	450
Special Education Grant	30,929	32,123	1,194
Language Grant	6,205	6,215	10
Remote and Rural Allocation	33	33	0
Rural and Northern Education Allocation	131	137	6
Learning Opportunities Grant	3,059	3,434	375
Continuing Education and Other Programs	1,609	1,778	169
Cost Adjustment and Teacher QECO	24,990	26,266	1,276
New Teacher Inducation Program	64	114	50
ECE Q&E Allocation	1,449	1,389	(60)
Restaint Savings Allocation	(64)	(64)	0
Student Transportation Grant	11,334	11,907	573
School Board Administration & Governance Grant	6,496	6,717	221
School Operations Allocation	21,238	22,124	886
Declining Enrolment Adjustment	277	277	0
Indigenous Education Grant	366	1,099	733
Mental Health and Well-Being Grant	1,313	1,373	60
Program Leadership Grant	1,000	1,008	8
Supports for Student Fund	2,312	2,435	123
Permanent Financing of NPF	117	117	0
COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund	3,187		(3,187)
Minor Tangible Capital Assets	(6,291)	(6,441)	(150)
Trustees' Association Fee	56	56	0
Total Operating Allocation	245,394	251,279	5,885
Savings from Strike or lock-out	(314)	0	314
CAPITAL			
Capital Grants - Non Land	16,600	15,000	(1,600)
Minor Tangible Capital Assets	6,291	6,441	150
Total School Renewal Allocation	3,832	3,893	61
Capital Grants Temporary Accommodations	424	530	106
Short Term Interest on Capital	309	205	(104)
Capital Debt Support Payments Interest	2,042	1,817	(225)
Total Capital Allocation	29,498	27,886	(1,612)
Total Allocation	274,578	279,165	4,587

**REVENUE BUDGET
(000) THOUSANDS****BUDGET
2022-2023****BUDGET
2023-2024****BUDGET
VARIANCE**

Provincial Grants - Grants for Student Needs	214,500	221,852	7,352
Provincial Grants- OTHER	986	3,609	2,623
Grants from Other Ministries	3,460	1,960	(1,500)
Local Taxation	39,928	37,860	(2,068)
School Generated Funds	8,480	8,480	0
Federal Grants and Fees	734	520	(214)
Investment Income	350	350	0
Fees for Individuals	1,880	1,850	(30)
Rental Revenue	405	405	0
Other Fees and Revenues	1,600	1,500	(100)
Amortization of Deferred Capital Contributions	14,937	15,198	261
Use of Prior Year's Accumulated Surplus	179	775	596
TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET	287,439	294,359	6,920

EXPENDITURE BUDGET (000) THOUSANDS	BUDGET 2022-2023	BUDGET 2023-2024	BUDGET VARIANCE
Salaries and Wages	4,895	4,754	(141)
Benefitis	1,150	1,054	(96)
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	6,045	5,808	(237)
Staff Development	118	126	8
Supplies and Services	1,072	1,110	38
Fees and Contracts	1,068	1,246	178
Other Expenses	222	222	0
Rental Expenses	93	93	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,618	8,605	(13)



ANNUAL STAFFING

BUDGET 2022-2023

BUDGET 2023-2024

BUDGET VARIANCE

CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

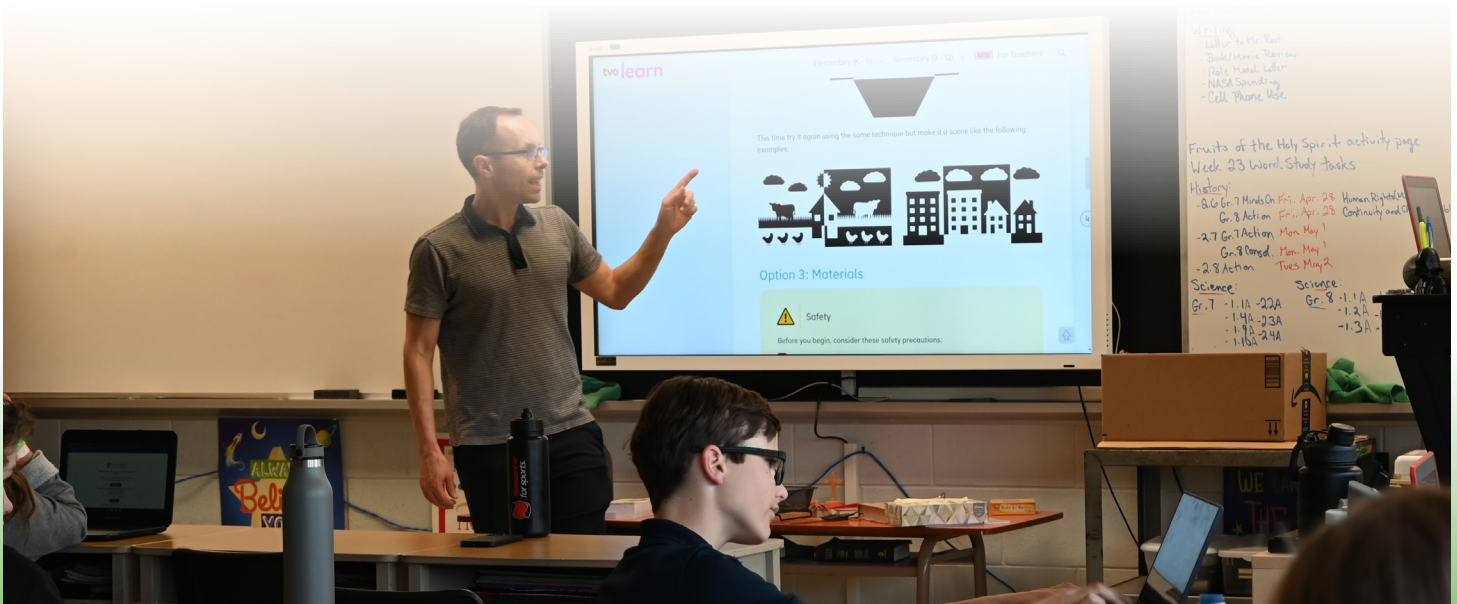
Classroom Teachers	1,233.1	1,243.1	10.0
Coordinators and Consultants	17.5	17.5	0.0
Education Assistants	306.0	310.0	4.0
Early Childhood Educators	87.0	87.0	0.0
Paraprofessionals, and Technicians	138.4	139.4	1.0
Library & Guidance	48.9	49.0	0.1

TOTAL CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION FTE	1,830.9	1,846.0	15.1
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Board Administration	45.2	45.2	0.0
Director and Supervisory Officers	6.0	6.0	0.0
Trustees	10.0	10.0	0.0
Principals and Vice-Principals	74.1	74.8	0.7
School Office	101.1	103.6	2.5
School Operations and Maintenance	163.5	163.0	(0.5)

TOTAL NON-CLASSROOM FTE	399.9	402.6	2.7
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TOTAL FULL TIME EQUIVALENT	2,230.8	2,248.6	17.8
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**SPECIAL EDUCATION GRANT
(000) THOUSANDS**

**BUDGET
2022-2023**

**BUDGET
2023-2024**

**BUDGET
VARIANCE**

Special Education Allocation	29,593	30,778	1,185
SEA Per Pupil	1,336	1,345	9
Total Allocation	30,929	32,123	1,194

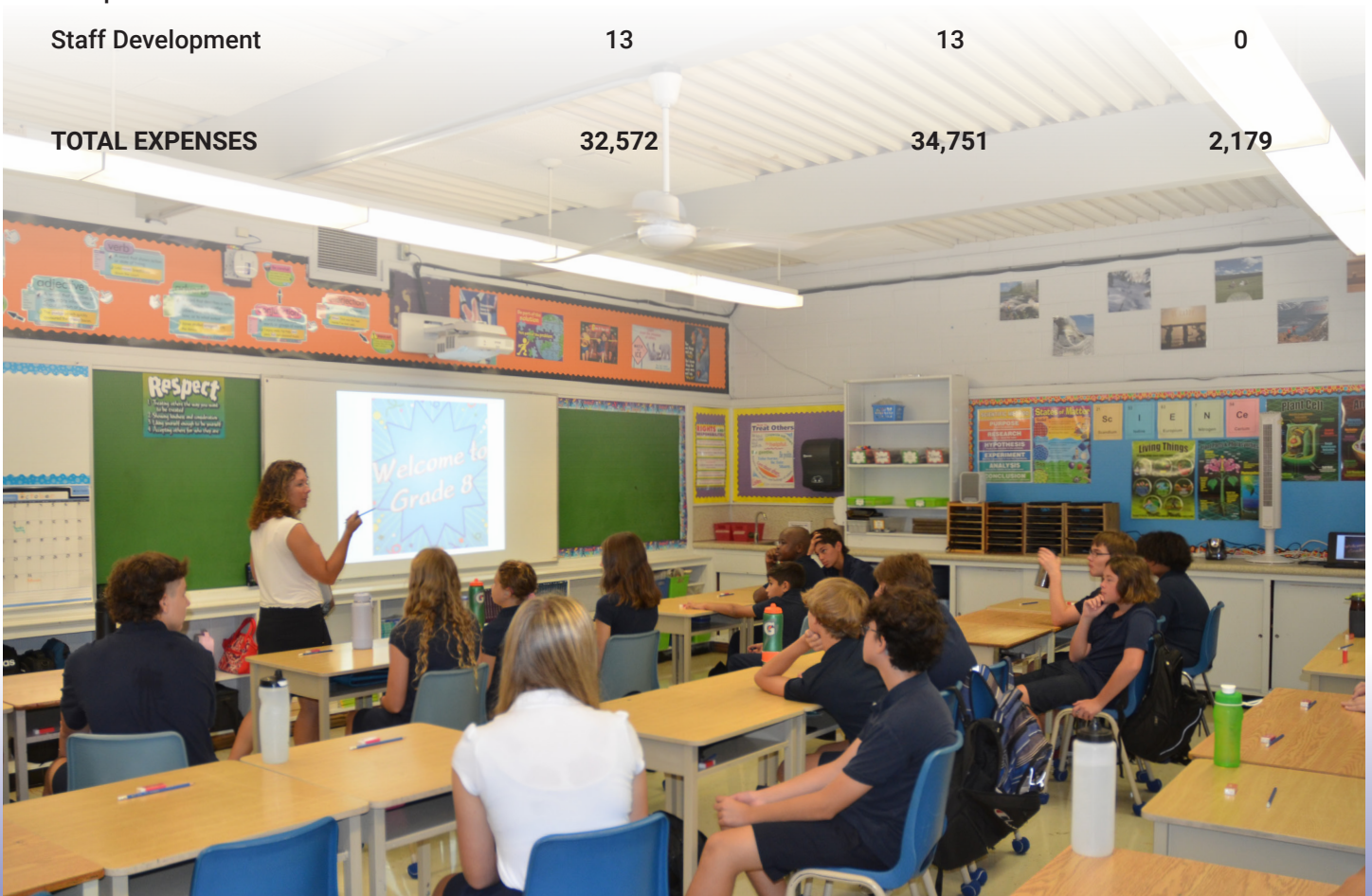
**SPECIAL EDUCATION EXPENSES
(000) THOUSANDS**

**BUDGET
2022-2023**

**BUDGET
2023-2024**

**BUDGET
VARIANCE**

Classroom Teachers	7,736	8,681	945
Supply Staff	1,246	1,221	-25
Education Assistants	18,467	19,787	1,320
Coordinators and Consultants	368	233	-135
Professionals, Paraprofessionals	3,895	3,969	74
Textbooks and Supplies	775	775	0
Computers	72	72	0
Staff Development	13	13	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	32,572	34,751	2,179



**BOARD ADMINISTRATION
& GOVERNANCE
(000) THOUSANDS**

**BUDGET
2022-2023**

**BUDGET
2023-2024**

**BUDGET
VARIANCE**

Salaries and Wages	4,895	4,754	(141)
Benefitis	1,150	1,054	(96)
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	6,045	5,808	(237)
Staff Development	118	126	8
Supplies and Services	1,072	1,110	38
Fees and Contracts	1,068	1,246	178
Other Expenses	222	222	0
Rental Expenses	93	93	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,618	8,605	(13)



TRANSPORTATION (000) THOUSANDS	ANNUAL BUDGET 2022-2023	ANNUAL BUDGET 2023-2024	BUDGET VARIANCE
Salaries and Wages	0	0	0
Benefits	0	0	0
Fees and Contracts	10,886	11,221	335
Other Expenses	361	1,830	1,469
Transfer to Other Boards	495	550	55
Total Transportation Expenses	11,742	13,601	1,859





D1.1

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: CORRESPONDENCE
E-MAIL FROM THE TORONTO YOUTH CABINET**

To: Cipriano, Camillo
Subject: RE: URGENT: Toronto Youth Cabinet Statement - NCDSB Endorsement

From: Danny Di Lorenzo <dannydilorenzo5@gmail.com>
Date: August 22, 2023 at 12:20:43 PM EDT
To: "Cipriano, Camillo" <Camillo.Cipriano@ncdsb.com>
Subject: Fwd: URGENT: Toronto Youth Cabinet Statement - NCDSB Endorsement

This email originated from outside Niagara Catholic.
Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Stephen Mensah <stephen@thetyc.ca>
Date: August 22, 2023 at 11:03:15 AM EDT
To: dannydilorenzo5@gmail.com
Cc: Vanessa Erhirhie <vanessa@thetyc.ca>
Subject: URGENT: Toronto Youth Cabinet Statement - NCDSB Endorsement

Hello Chairperson Di Lorenzo,

I hope all is well. My name is Stephen Mensah, Executive Director of the Toronto Youth Cabinet (TYC), City of Toronto's official youth advocacy body. We were established in 1998 by Toronto City Council with the mandate of advocating on behalf of Toronto's over 623,000 youth.

In 2021, NCDSB supported TYC and joined other school boards in sending letters to the Minister of Education backing up our calls for free menstrual products across Ontario schools. We appreciate your board's support on that which led to our ultimate success.

I am emailing in regards to a current initiative we have been working on to address the rising youth mental health crisis facing students in Ontario. As I am sure you may have heard, the government has headed our various recommendations for mandatory mental health literacy in the curriculum, mandatory mental health training for all school staff and so much more! However, there is still lots more work to do in this area to ensure we take all the steps to improve our students' health and well-being.

TYC, also launched our calls for a universal free school breakfast and lunch program across Ontario schools to ensure no child goes hungry.

<https://www.chch.com/advocates-teacher-unions-call-for-free-school-breakfast-lunch-for-ontario-students/>

Ultimately our request is the same in 2021, for your school board to join the other boards across the Province in endorsing TYC's statement and calling on the Minister of Education to implement our recommendations more specifically Mental Health Days for Students etc etc. as well as our statement calling for a universal school food program in Ontario. Both statements are attached. We are requesting the Board to send 2 separate letters.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you soon. I am cc'ing my assistant Vanessa who will be able to respond to any inquiries on my behalf that I may miss.

Best,

Stephen Mensah (pronouns: He/Him)

Executive Director
Toronto Youth Cabinet
Toronto City Hall
15th Floor, East Tower
[100 Queen Street West](https://www.100queensquare.com/)
<http://thetyc.ca>

The Toronto Youth Cabinet acknowledges that we are situated on the Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee, and most recently the territory of the Mississauga of the New Credit First Nation. Tkaranto is built on sacred land that is part of an agreement between Indigenous peoples and then extended to allied nations to peacefully and respectfully care for it. By making this acknowledgment, we are taking part in an act of reconciliation, honouring the land and Indigenous heritage, which dates back over 10,000 years.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

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April 24th, 2023

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Floor, 438 University Ave
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

RE: JOINT STATEMENT ON ADDRESSING THE RISING MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS FACING CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ONTARIO

Dear Minister Lecce,

We hope this letter finds you well. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected society in many ways, especially the most vulnerable in our communities. Children and youth have been greatly affected by school closures, isolation from peers and other supports, disconnection from community and by the on-going changes to the way in which they attended school. As a result, we continue to witness the devastating impact that COVID-19 has placed on the health and well-being of children and youth.

According to the Children's Mental Health Association, approximately 70 percent of mental illnesses can be diagnosed before the age of 25. This makes adolescence a critical time for mental health promotion and prevention, including early identification, and effective treatment of mental disorders. Mental illness is increasingly threatening the lives of our children; with Canada's youth suicide rate being the third highest in the industrialized world. According to data from Statistics Canada, suicide remains a leading cause of death among children and adolescents aged 10-14, and the second leading cause of death for youth aged 15 to 24. We know that for Black and Indigenous youth these numbers are far greater.

According to data from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), one in seven Ontario students in grades 7 to 12 say they harmed themselves on purpose in the past year, with one in six having serious thoughts of suicide. Research conducted continues to sound the alarm on the growing mental health crisis that Ontario youth are facing. The time to take vigorous and urgent action on this front is long overdue.

We acknowledge that the Government of Ontario has made some investments to address youth mental health, however we must redouble our efforts to deal with this urgent crisis. Therefore, we are asking you Minister Lecce, to build upon what has been done, and go further by supporting students' mental health in Ontario by implementing the following immediately:

1. **Mandatory Mental Health Literacy in the Curriculum**

It is critical to ensure that all students receive the necessary education around mental health and school boards must prioritize mental health literacy to ensure that all students are successful. Mental health literacy will help children and youth identify signs and symptoms to better understand their own mental health and identify when help is needed. In addition, normalising these topics and conversations can address the stigma around mental health that still exists among young people. There must be mandatory age appropriate mental health literacy from K-12 in our curriculum and we must ensure that educators have access to extensive mental health resources and on-going professional development to support the cultural shift that we are seeking.

2. **Mental Health Days for students.**

The Government of Ontario must make changes to the Education Act to allow students to be absent from school for mental or behavioural health reasons; under an excused absence as outlined in the Education Act. The government must also ensure that students who do choose to take *Mental Health Days* are not required to provide their school with a doctor's note. Currently there are seven legally excused absences a student can take from school, and while mental health may be included under the "sickness excused absence" another category will not only emphasize the importance of self-care and prioritizing mental health but will also aid in destigmatizing mental health and allow for more open conversations amongst students, parents and teachers.

3. **Additional mental health clinicians, and student support staff, such as; mental health professionals, school psychologists, child & youth workers, social workers, nurses, guidance counsellors, and mental health crisis intervention workers.**

The current ratio of social worker/child and youth worker to student, school psychologist to student, guidance counsellor to student and mental health worker to student exceeds the recommended average of 1:250, 1:700 and 1:375 respectively. Not only is there a need for additional staff, but we are calling on the province to ensure that these staff are representative of the school populations. Access to culturally appropriate mental health supports, will ensure that all students are able to receive the best support possible from individuals who share their lived experiences. There is also a need to boost up community support, to ensure that a wrap-around of services are available for students to access to the broader system of mental health care.

4. **Collection and reporting of data on mental health supports and services in schools.**

Currently, there is a lack of publicly available data, therefore, we are asking for a province-wide reporting system to track mental health supports and services to ensure that students in need receive support in a timely manner. Examples of data that should

be included in the report are: the ratio of mental health clinician to the number of students, how often they are available to see those students, how long student wait times are from request of support to receiving support, how many students are accessing support, and what students are accessing support. There must also be data to measure the overall mental health status of students. This data should be made available to the public and should be collected in a disaggregated way to expose hidden trends and enable the identification of which students are more vulnerable and may require more support.

5. School-based culturally appropriate mental health screening for all grades.

Culturally appropriate social-emotional screening should be utilised in schools and done throughout a students' education. Screening students in their early years will help in early identification and intervention as well as serve as a preventive measure, with a focus on maintaining wellness.

The recommendations highlighted above have been researched, tested and proven to improve students' mental health. We have seen other jurisdictions take these steps and we must ensure here in Ontario we act on them all expeditiously. These recommendations are inter-connected, and so acting on one without taking action on the other will be detrimental in our quest to improve student mental health in Ontario. We must also ensure that any implementation of these recommendations be done in consultation with students, teacher and education unions, children's mental health stakeholders and other relevant partners.

On January 26th the Toronto Youth Cabinet released their student mental health survey informed by the participation of 1,042 students from across Ontario between the ages of 12 to 19 on the state of their mental health. The data collected provided insights into how best the provincial government and school boards can better address the rising youth mental health crisis.

The results of our survey are as follows:

- 94.9% of students said they would be supportive of mandatory mental health literacy in the Ontario curriculum.
- 98.2% of students said they would be supportive of mandatory mental health training for teachers and all student-facing staff.
- 43.7% of students said their school does not have a mental health professional.
- 79% of students said they struggled to access mental health support in schools.
- 67.7% of students said access to BIPOC mental health workers is important to them.

The full details of the survey can be found on the Toronto Youth Cabinet website.

We acknowledge that the government recently took steps to commit to mandatory mental health training for educators and we thank them for listening to students' voices. An overwhelming majority of students surveyed indicated they support this initiative. It is essential that all staff are

able to not only recognize when a student needs mental health support, but is able to appropriately respond in urgent situations. The province must guarantee that schools are provided with the sufficient resources and funding to ensure that staff are trained and are able to support students' mental health concerns.

Young people made it clear that a prerequisite to their academic success is good mental health. Together with the underlying signatories, stand in solidarity and demand action on the recommendations highlighted. Thank you Minister Lecce for your attention on this matter. We hope for immediate action on this.

CC: Premier of Ontario Doug Ford
Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions Michael A. Tibollo
Minister of Health Sylvia Jones
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education Patrice Barnes
Leader, Official Opposition, Marit Stiles
Education Critic, Chandra Pasma
Mental Health and Addictions Critic, Lisa Gretzky
Health Care Critic, France G elinas

Sincerely,

1. Toronto Youth Cabinet
2. Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA-AECO)
3. Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA)
4. Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF)
5. Association des enseignantes et des enseignantes franco-ontariens (AEFO)
6. People For Education
7. Wellesley Institute
8. Jack.org
9. Youth Wellness Hubs Ontario

NOTE: Toronto Board of Health during their April 17, 2023 meeting endorsed this statement.



Public education. Public good.



May 24th, 2023

The Honourable Michael Parsa
Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
7th Floor, 438 University Ave
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Minister of Education
5th Floor, 438 University Ave
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

**RE: JOINT STATEMENT ON ADDRESSING THE RISING FOOD INSECURITY FACING
CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN ONTARIO**

Dear Minister Parsa and Minister Lecce,

We hope this letter finds you well. Ontario and all parts of Canada and North America are seeing a cost of living crisis, with rising inflation and unaffordability of basic necessities. In Canada, food inflation is at 10.6% as of February 2023, more than double the rate of overall inflation.

According to a 2022 report by Feed Ontario, 30 percent of food bank clients are children and youth under the age of 18. A study by the University of Toronto on food insecurity found that 1 in 5 children are food insecure in Canada. In Toronto according to the Daily Bread Food Bank and North York Harvest Food Bank, 1 in 4 of their users were children in March. The first time in 25 years.

Ontario is facing a calamitous hunger crisis that calls on the government to act, and act urgently to address it. In Ontario the base funding of \$28 million for student nutrition programs has remained consistent since 2014, despite the cost of food having increased dramatically over the last decade.

Across the province student nutrition programs are at a breaking point, with many having to reduce meals given to students or close down operations despite increased demand by schools. No young person should go hungry, but the simple truth is that far too many children are. The ramifications of food insecurity are far-reaching and have a profound impact not only on the health and well-being of individuals, but also the quality of education they receive. Simply, we can not expect a hungry student to do good in math, be focused and attentive, happy and ready to learn.

We acknowledge that the government took steps last year to mandate food literacy and nutrition across all grades and into the science curriculum to ensure students are taught and more knowledgeable of the benefits of locally grown food, different approaches to agriculture and so much more. However, it is indefensible to solely learn about food and its benefits, while being deprived of accessing it yourself.

That is why the Toronto Youth Cabinet and all underlying signatories are calling on the Province of Ontario to provide a universal free school breakfast and lunch program to all Ontario students. The province must also guarantee that schools are provided with the sufficient infrastructure, resources and funding to hire and train staff who will be responsible for preparing these nutritious meals.

In a province as wealthy and abundant as Ontario, it is unacceptable to have children be deprived of their right to food and adequate nutrition in supporting them to reach their full potential. Although I recognize that with rampant inflation, the government will be wary of increased spending, a universal school food program has the huge potential to support families in a meaningful way who are facing unprecedented financial pressures. The benefits of such a program are far-reaching, not only is it a cost-effective way to drive economic growth by investing in local Ontario farmers and producers and creating a healthier society, it has proven to contribute to increased student achievement, reduced absenteeism and increased health promotion.

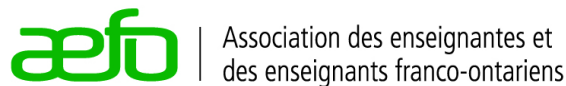
Thank you Minister Parsa and Minister Lecce for your attention on this matter. We hope for immediate action on this. Let us continue to work towards making Ontario's publicly funded education system much stronger, more equitable and the best in the world!

CC: Premier of Ontario Doug Ford
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
Logan Kanapathi
Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education Patrice Barnes
Leader, Official Opposition, Marit Stiles
Children, Community and Social Services Critic, Monique Taylor
Education Critic, Chandra Pasma

Sincerely,

1. Toronto Youth Cabinet
2. Food Banks Canada
3. Breakfast Club of Canada
4. Feed Ontario
5. Daily Bread Food Bank
6. North York Harvest Food Bank

7. Food Share Toronto
8. Food Secure Canada
9. Second Harvest Food Rescue
10. Coalition for Healthy School Food
11. Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association (OECTA)
12. Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF)
13. Association des enseignantes et des enseignants franco-ontariens (AEFO)
14. Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO)





NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education
5th Floor,
438 University Avenue
Toronto, ON, M5G 2K8

June 14, 2021

Dear Minister Lecce:

On behalf of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, I am proud to support a call from youth leaders across this province, including our own Student Trustees and Student Senate, to implore the provincial government to end period poverty in Ontario.

Menstruation is a fact of life and should be considered no differently than any other healthy bodily function. Nevertheless, many who menstruate, particularly students in elementary and secondary school, conceal the fact that they are having their period from classmates out of a sense of shame. It is shocking to learn the impact menstruation has on women, transgendered men and non-binary individuals in this country. One-third of Canadians under the age of 25 who menstruate struggle to afford pads, tampons or other menstrual products, and another 70 per cent of Canadians who menstruate say they have missed school or work due to their period. If students regularly stay home from school due to issues with menstruation, they risk falling behind, which further impacts their physical and emotional well-being.

Providing funding to ensure menstrual products are universally available in schools sends a clear, direct message that Ontario is truly a respectful and equitable society. It allows those who are faced with period poverty to have one less thing to worry about, so that they can focus on learning, participate in sports and other activities and fully participate in their life at their school.

At the May 25 Board Meeting, our board unanimously supported a motion to explore working with local organizations to provide menstrual products to schools at little or no cost to the Board. However, this should be a provincial priority, with menstrual items being considered no different than any other hygiene product supplied to schools through the government.

On behalf of Niagara Catholic, I urge the government to add Ontario to the growing list of provinces where menstrual products are available to students free of charge in all schools in this province.

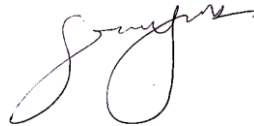
Sincerely,



Larry Huibers
Chair of the Board



Luca DiPietro
Niagara Catholic 2020-2021
Student Trustee



Sydney Yott
Niagara Catholic 2020-2021
Student Trustee



Steffen Zylstra
Student Trustee Elect

D3.1

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: GENERAL DISCUSSION TO PLAN FOR FUTURE ACTION
LETTER TO BISHOP BERGIE REGARDING CONCERNS WITH
LOCAL PARISHES PROMOTING NON-NIAGARA CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS**



St. Denis Catholic Church · Follow



1h · [Globe icon]

The Sisters of the Sacred Heart have started another school year, and have increased their enrolment by 50% from last year.

If you are a parent and trying to decide where to send your children, I would HIGHLY recommend their private school.

Trust me, it will be the best investment you have ever made!



Sisters of the Sacred Heart · Follow

4d · [Globe icon]

Our scholars are working hard! Growing in knowledge, wisdom and virtue. We have expanded to two classrooms thi... See more



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Menu

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
CALENDAR OF EVENTS – OCTOBER 2023**

October

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			SEAC Meeting		Elementary & Secondary PA Day	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Thanksgiving	Committee of the Whole Meeting				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		SAL Meeting				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Board Meeting				
29	30	31				

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
SPOTLIGHT GALA – OCTOBER 18, 2023**

Share



the PENNER HOME HARDWARE SPOTLIGHT Gala

In support of
Kristen French
Child Advocacy
Centre Niagara



TICKET INFORMATION

TICKET TYPE	PRICE	QUANTITY
Individual Ticket	\$175.00	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Table of 8	\$1,200.00	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Corporate Table Sponsor (Table of 10)	\$2,500.00	<input type="text" value="0"/>

Please make a donation if you are unable to attend or can help even more

\$

[Get Tickets](#)

GOAL PROGRESS

Days to Buy

35



1368 Upper's Lane
Thorold, ON L2V 3Y7

18 Oct, 2023

Wednesday, 18 Oct 2023 5:30 PM (ADT)

[Add to my calendar](#)

Volunteering

EVENTS@KRISTENFRENCHCACN.ORG

Organizer

Questions about this event?

Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre
Niagara

[905-937-5435](tel:905-937-5435)

EVENTS@KRISTENFRENCHCACN.ORG

8 Forster Street
St Catharines, ON
L2N 1Z9

OVERVIEW

It's not easy being a kid today. The problems they face are complex.

That's why the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre exists: to bring kids and families together in a safe and secure environment when they can find support, comfort, and the opportunity to heal from traumatic childhood events.

We can't do it alone. We need your help.

Featuring a live & silent auction, entertainment, and the comedy of Niagara's own Joe Pillitteri with other special guests.

Live musical guests to be announced soon!

In support of the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre.

Helping. Healing. Ending Child Abuse.

DETAILS

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 | 5:30 to 10:00pm | John Michaels Banquet & Event Centre

Cocktails at 5:30pm. Dinner to follow.

1368 Upper's Lane, Thorold, ON