



## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2023**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, September 26, 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 Johnstone

2. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Trustee Di Lorenzo

3. Roll Call

Chair Di Lorenzo noted that Trustee Benoit is absent and Trustee Bruzzese joined electronically.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Natalia Benoit			✓	
Joseph Bruzzese		✓		
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Danny Di Lorenzo	✓			
Larry Huibers	✓			
Doug Joyner	✓			
Jim Marino	✓			
Paul Turner	✓			
<b>Student Trustees</b>				
Charlotte Johnstone	✓			
Emilio Geremia	✓			

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 Huibers  
Seconded by Trustee Joyner

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Board Meeting of September 26, 2023, as presented.

**CARRIED**

5. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

A Declaration of Conflict of Interest was declared by Trustee Bruzzese with Item D3.1 of the agenda. This trustee's son is the pastor of the parish being discussed.

6. **Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting of June 20, 2023**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder  
Seconded by Trustee Joyner

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

**CARRIED**

6.1 **Approval of Consent Agenda Items of the Board Meeting of June 20, 2023**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder  
Seconded by Trustee Joyner

**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.

**CARRIED**

7. **Consent Agenda Items**

Trustee Burkholder requested Item 7.1 be held.

7.1 **Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 12, 2023 and Consideration of Recommendations**

Moved to Section 8

**7.2 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of June 7, 2023**

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of June 7, 2023, as presented.

**7.3 In-Camera Items F1, F2 & F3**

Moved by Trustee Marino  
Seconded by Trustee Huibers

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

**CARRIED**

**8. Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 12, 2023 and Consideration of Recommendations**

It was noted that Trustee Benoit was incorrectly marked as excused and should be amended to absent.

Moved by Trustee Huibers  
Seconded by Trustee Turner

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of June 7, 2023, as amended.

**CARRIED**

**B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

**1. Mental Health Well-Being Strategy 2021-2024**

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education provided background information on the Mental Health Well-Being Strategy and introduced Andrea Bozza, Mental Health Lead.

Ms. Bozza presented the Mental Health Well-Being Strategy for 2021-2024.

Ms. Bozza answered questions of Trustees.

**2. Communications Multi-Year Strategic Plan**

Director Cipriano provided background information on the Communications Multi-Year Strategic Plan and introduced Jennifer Pellegrini, Communications Officer.

Ms. Pellegrini presented the Communications Multi-Year Strategic Plan for trustee information.

Ms. Pellegrini answered questions of Trustees.

**3. 2023-2024 Budget Booklet**

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services presented the 2023-2024 Budget Booklet for information.

Superintendent Vetrone answered questions of Trustees.

## **D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Correspondence**

Director Cipriano highlighted information contained in the following:

#### **1.1 E-Mail from the Toronto Youth Cabinet**

Discussion took place regarding the endorsement request from the Toronto Youth Cabinet.

Moved by Trustee Marino

Seconded by Trustee Turner

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board endorse the Toronto Youth Cabinet's initiative to address the rising youth mental health crisis and to endorse a universal school food program in all Ontario schools.

**CARRIED**

Director Cipriano noted that letters will be created and brought to the October Committee of the Whole for review and the October Board for recommendation.

### **2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended**

Trustees Di Lorenzo and Burkholder provided highlights on the 2023 OCSTA Fall Regional Meeting from September 18, 2023.

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

#### **3.1 Letter to Bishop Bergie Regarding Concerns with Local Parishes Promoting non-Niagara Catholic Schools**

Discussion took place regarding addressing a letter to Bishop Bergie regarding concerns with Local Parishes Promoting non-Niagara Catholic Schools.

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board draft a letter addressed to Bishop Bergie and Fr. Paul MacNeil urging their parishes to promote Niagara Catholic schools.

**CARRIED**

A letter will be drafted and brought to the October Committee of the Whole meeting for approval.

### **4. Trustee Information**

#### **4.1 Calendar of Events – October 2023**

Director Cipriano highlighted the October 2023 Calendar of Events.

#### **4.2 Spotlight Gala – October 18, 2023**

Director Cipriano invited the Trustees to attend the Spotlight Gala on October 18, 2023.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano.

## 5. Open Question Period

Trustee Benoit provided the following response from the open question period session of the June 20, 2023 Board meeting;

“We are a catholic school protected under the charter. Protected under the supremacy of God. However my words are limited. Here is the teachings found in Sacred Scripture a letter from Saint Paul to the Romans.

Romans 1:1:15 So (as much as is in me) I am ready to preach the gospel to you also that are at Rome.

1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel. For it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth: to the Jew first and to the Greek.

1:17 For the justice of God is revealed therein, from faith unto faith, as it is written: The just man liveth by faith.

1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and injustice of those men that detain the truth of God in injustice:

1:19 Because that which is known of God is manifest in them. For God hath manifested it unto them.

1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made. His eternal power also and divinity: so that they are inexcusable.

1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they have not glorified him as God or given thanks: but became vain in their thoughts. And their foolish heart was darkened.

1:22 For, professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.

1:23 And they changed the glory of the incorruptible God into the likeness of the image of a corruptible man and of birds, and of fourfooted beasts and of creeping things.

1:24 Wherefore, God gave them up to the desires of their heart, unto uncleanness: to dishonour their own bodies among themselves.

1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

1:26 For this cause, God delivered them up to shameful affections. For their women have changed the natural use into that use which is against nature.

1:27 And, in like manner, the men also, leaving the natural use of the women, have burned in their lusts, one towards another: men with men, working that which is filthy and receiving in themselves the recompense which was due to their error.

1:28 And as they liked not to have God in their knowledge, God delivered them up to a reprobate sense, to do those things which are not convenient.

1:29 Being filled with all iniquity, malice, fornication, avarice, wickedness: full of envy, murder, contention, deceit, malignity: whisperers,

1:30 Detractors, hateful to God, contumelious, proud, haughty, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

1:31 Foolish, dissolute: without affection, without fidelity, without mercy.

1:32 Who, having known the justice of God, did not understand that they who do such things, are worthy of death: and not only they that do them, but they also that consent to them that do them.

If a Saint is still not enough hear it from our Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Revelation 22:14 Blessed are those who wash their robes in the blood of the Lamb. So may they have a right to the tree of life; so may they enter through the gates into the City. 15 Outside are dogs, and drug users, and homosexuals, and murderers, and those who serve idols, and all who love and do what is false. 16 “I, Jesus, have sent my Angel, to testify to these things for you among the Churches. I am the Root and the Origin of David, the bright morning Star.”

From the Douay Rheims Bible.

No catholic school should even call itself catholic if it agrees to do what is abominable in the sight of God. What is abominable is the sins that cry out to Heaven. Even more so teaching those sins to the innocent. Jesus our Lord has said in Luke 17:1 And he said to his disciples: "It is impossible for scandals not to occur. But woe to him through whom they come! 2 It would be better for him if a millstone were placed around his neck and he were thrown into the sea, than to lead astray one of these little ones.

As catholics we have a duty first to God rather than man for God has entrusted these little ones to us. As Jesus has said in Matthew 18:10 See to it that you do not despise even one of these little ones. For I say to you, that their Angels in heaven continually look upon the face of my Father, who is in heaven.

My words are not enough to answer the truth so let it be heard from Almighty God. This is why this was necessary. Although it was rejected at least everyone knows God will not be mocked."

## **E. NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **1. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMISSION**

None Submitted

### **2. NOTICE OF MOTION PRESENTATION**

None Presented

## **F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Joyner

Seconded by Trustee Turner

**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 7:56 p.m. and reconvened at 8:49 p.m.

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

Moved by Trustee Joyner

Seconded by Trustee Turner

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of September 26, 2023.

**CARRIED**

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

Moved by Trustee Marino

Seconded by Trustee Huibers

**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 June 20, 2023, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F1)**

A request by Trustee Benoit to be excused from attending the regularly scheduled meetings of the Board until January 29, 2024 was approved by the Board.

## **H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

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

## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Marino

Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

**THAT** the September 26, 2023 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **September 26, 2023**.

Approved on **October 24, 2023**.

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Danny Di Lorenzo  
Chair of the Board

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Camillo Cipriano  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer