



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