

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING OF DECEMBER 5, 2023**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 5, 2023, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 5, 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 Vice-Chair Burkholder.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Trustee Burkholder.

2. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Burkholder noted that Trustee Benoit asked to be excused and Trustee Turner 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		✓		
Student Trustees				
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, Domenic Massi, Joseph Zaroda**, 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

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 5, 2023, as presented.

CARRIED

4. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No Declaration of Conflict of Interest was declared with any items on the Agenda.

5. **Approval of Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 14, 2023**

Moved by Trustee Joyner

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 14, 2023, as presented.

CARRIED

6. **Consent Agenda Items**

6.1 **Capital Projects Progress Report Update**

Presented for information.

Moved by Trustee Huibers

THAT the Committee of the Whole adopt consent agenda items.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. **Pilgrimage**

Kim Kinney, Superintendent of Education provided background information on the Pilgrimage and introduced Amanda Wagg-Boyer, Religion and Family Life Consultant.

Ms. Boyer presented the Pilgrimage report.

C. GOVERNANCE POLICIES

1. **Governance Policies for Recommendation to the Board**

2. **Governance Policies Prior to Vetting**

3. Governance Policy Review Schedule

Director Cipriano presented the Governance Policy Review Schedule.

D. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Monthly Updates

1.1 Student Trustees' Update

Charlotte Johnstone, and Emilio Geremia, Student Trustees, presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

1.2 Senior Staff Good News Update

Senior Staff highlights included:

Superintendent Kinney

- Last night's Advent Staff Faith Formation event at Denis Morris Catholic High School, open to all Niagara Catholic staff, was a sell-out success. The evening commenced with a liturgy focusing on Jesus' diverse manifestations through Mary's example. Participants journeyed along a candlelit path, encountering five scripture passages for reflection and group discussion on Mary's unwavering commitment. In the cafeteria, participants worked to create their own Nativity scene, with wood cut outs prepped by Lakeshore Catholic's construction program. Participants connected elements of the Nativity to their roles in schools and the community. The event also featured a shared meal, fostering conversations and reflections on the meaningful nativity scenes created.

E. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

Director Cipriano noted that the 94th OCSTA AGM, which we are co-hosting with Hamilton Catholic and Brant Haldimand Catholic, will take place at the Sheridan Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls from May 2nd to May 4th.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

Nil

G. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

H. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Marino

THAT the December 5, 2023 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 5, 2023.**

Approved on **January 16, 2024.**

Rhianon Burkholder
Vice-Chair of the Board

Camillo Cipriano
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: TRUSTEE HONORARIUM FOR THE YEAR NOVEMBER 15,
2023 TO NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Honorarium for the year period from November 15, 2023 to November 14, 2024, as noted in Appendix A, as follows:

\$16,515 for the Chairperson of the Board
\$13,493 for the Vice-Chairperson of the Board
\$10,470 for the Other Trustees.

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

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

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

Date: December 19, 2023



REPORT TO THE BOARD DECEMBER 19, 2023

TRUSTEE HONORARIUM FOR THE YEAR NOVEMBER 15, 2023 TO NOVEMBER 14, 2024

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ontario Regulation 357/06 sets out the method for calculating the limits on honoraria paid to Trustees under Section 191 of the Education Act. The regulation states that the honorarium shall consist of the following four components:

- 1) The base amount for the year
- 2) The enrolment amount for the year
- 3) The attendance amounts payable to the member for the year.
- 4) The distance amounts payable to the member for the year.

A year of a member's term of office begins on November 15 and ends on the following November 14.

In accordance with the provisions of Ontario Regulation 357, the honorarium will be adjusted each year to take into consideration the changes in enrolment from the previous year.

Compensation adjustments are being suspended until the new government can conduct a review and put in place an appropriate expenditure management strategy. As a result, the ministry will not be increasing the base amount for the school board trustees' honorarium as announced in the 2018-2019 GSN memo (2018: B06).

The amendments to O. Reg. 357/06, Honoraria for Board members under the Education Act, implement the updates to trustee honoraria communicated through the August 24, 2018, B-memo for the term of office beginning on December 1, 2018. *The regulation has been amended to maintain the honoraria base amount limit of \$5,900 for district school boards trustees, the rate in place since 2006.*

Please note that the new honorarium for all Trustees will be as follows:

- \$16,515 for the Chairperson of the Board
- \$13,493 for the Vice-Chairperson of the Board
- \$10,470 for the Other Trustees

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Honorarium for the year period from November 15, 2023 to November 14, 2024, as noted in Appendix A, as follows:

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

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

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

Date: December 19, 2023

HONORARIUM PAYABLE TO BOARD TRUSTEES	NOVEMBER 15, 2023 TO NOVEMBER 14, 2024		
	Annual Base Amount	Annual Enrolment Amount	Annual Total Honorarium
MAXIMUM BASE AMOUNT	\$5,900		
Increase in CPI	0.0%		
Maximum Base Amount for the year	\$5,900		
Enrolment ADE - 2022-2023		20,893	
Enrolment Factor		\$1.75	
Enrolment Amount		\$36,563	
Number of Members		8	
MAXIMUM ENROLMENT AMOUNT*		\$4,570	
MAXIMUM AMOUNT FOR MEMEBERS	\$5,900	\$4,570	\$10,470

*Maximum Enrolment Amount = Enrolment Amount / Number of Members

HONORARIUM PAYABLE TO BOARD CHAIR	NOVEMBER 15, 2023 TO NOVEMBER 14, 2024		
	Annual Base Amount	Annual Enrolment Amount	Annual Total Honorarium
MAXIMUM BASE AMOUNT	\$5,900		
Increase in Core Consumer Price Index	0.0%		
Maximum Base Amount for the year	\$5,900	\$4,570	
ADDITIONAL BASE AMOUNT FOR CHAIR	\$5,000		
Enrolment ADE		20,893	
Enrolment Factor		\$0.05	
Enrolment Amount (A)		\$1,045	
Minimum Amount (A < \$500)		\$500	
Maximum Amount (A > \$5000)		\$5,000	
ADDITIONAL ENROLMENT AMOUNT		\$1,045	
MAXIMUM AMOUNT FOR MEMEBERS	\$10,900	\$5,615	\$16,515

HONORARIUM PAYABLE TO BOARD VICE CHAIR	NOVEMBER 15, 2023 TO NOVEMBER 14, 2024		
	Annual Base Amount	Annual Enrolment Amount	Annual Total Honorarium
MAXIMUM BASE AMOUNT	\$5,900		
Increase in CPI	0.0%		
Maximum Base Amount for the year	\$5,900	\$4,570	
MAXIMUM BASE FOR VICE-CHAIR	\$2,500		
Enrolment ADE		20,893	
Enrolment Factor		\$0.025	
Enrolment Amount (A)		\$522	
Minimum Amount (A < \$250)		\$250	
Maximum Amount (A > \$2,500)		\$2,500	
ADDITIONAL ENROLMENT AMOUNT		\$522	
MAXIMUM AMOUNT FOR MEMEBERS	\$8,400	\$5,093	\$13,493

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: TRUSTEE EXPENSES AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE
FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023**

The Trustee expenses and reimbursement for the fiscal year 2022-2023 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: December 19, 2023



REPORT TO THE BOARD DECEMBER 19, 2023

TRUSTEE EXPENSES AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As elected officials, school trustees are guardians of the public trust. The establishment of a distinct trustee expense policy by school boards to promote financial integrity, accountability and transparency improves public confidence in Ontario's public education system.

It is the responsibility of individual Trustees to submit reasonably related specific expenses incurred in the role and responsibility of Catholic Trustees ensuring that all expenses claimed by Trustees are associated with the responsibilities of a Board member in compliance with the Education Act, Regulations and Board Policy.

Pursuant to the Education Act, Boards may establish a policy in order to reimburse trustees for all or part out of pocket expenses reasonably incurred in connection with carrying out the responsibilities of a board member.

In accordance with Niagara Catholic's Board Policy #100.13 Trustee expenses and reimbursement (Appendix A), it is required that all Trustee expenses for the previous year will be posted annually on the Board website and reported publicly to the Board before December 31 of the current year. Expenses are reported under the following categories:

- a. Office equipment
- b. Office supplies
- c. Conference and workshops
- d. Travel for Board sanctioned business
- e. Miscellaneous - Other costs

As required by the Education Act, the Boarder Public Sector Expenses Directive and Board Policy, all Expense Reports for each Trustee will remain on the Board website for one year after the expiry of the term of office.

Attached to the report is Appendix A, which provides the Trustee expenses for the previous fiscal year 2022-2023.

The Trustee expenses and reimbursement for the fiscal year 2022-2023 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: December 19, 2023

**NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
TRUSTEE EXPENDITURES & REIMBURSEMENT SUMMARY
SEPTEMBER 1, 2022 - AUGUST 31, 2023**

2022 - 2023 Trustee Expenditures & Reimbursement								
Trutee Name			Office Equipment	Office Supplies/Phone Charges	Conference & Workshop	Travel (ie. Mileage)	Internet	Total Expenses
Doug Joyner	Trustee	1010	-	-	963.61	200.40	360.00	1,524.01
Kathy Burtnik	Trustee	1011	-	-	590.55	-	120.00	710.55
Natalia Benoit	Trustee	1011	-	-	-	-	240.00	240.00
Larry Huibers	Trustee	1012	-	-	2,859.79	103.90	360.00	3,323.69
Paul Turner	Trustee	1013	-	-	-	-	360.00	360.00
Danny DiLorenzo	Chair of the Board	1014	-	-	4,930.51	867.36	360.00	6,157.87
Joe Bruzzese	Trustee	1015	-	-	-	-	360.00	360.00
Jim Marino	Trustee	1016	-	-	-	451.57	360.00	811.57
Rhianon Burkholder	Vice-Chair of the Board	1017	-	-	5,310.55	287.03	360.00	5,957.58
Central Purchases								
Total - Trustees			-	-	14,655.01	1,910.26	2,880.00	19,445.27

2022 - 2023 Student Trustee Expenditures & Reimbursement								
	Name		Office Equipment	Office Supplies/Phone Charges	Conference Workshop	Travel (ie. Mileage)	Internet	Total
Student Trustee (A)	CHARLOTTE JOHNSTONE	1020			1,825.60		-	1,825.60
Student Trustee (B)	STEFFEN ZYLSTRA	1021	1,061.43		4,597.76		-	5,659.19
Student Trustee (B)	EMILIO GEREMIA	1021			587.42			587.42
Central Purchases								
Total - Student Trustees			1,061.43	-	7,010.78	-	-	8,072.21

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF OCTOBER 4, 2023**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of October 4, 2023, as presented for information.



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023

6:30 PM

Virtual Meeting in Compliance with Education Act Section 207 and
Ontario Regulation 463/97 Section 5.1 (2)

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

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement – Suzy Welsh

Introduction:

The Niagara Catholic District School Board wishes to honour the Indigenous people who have been the protectors of this land, known as Turtle Island, for more than ten thousand years.

We begin this meeting by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

2. Opening Prayer – Chair Somma

3. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Somma, Monique	Community Living (Welland/Pelham) - CHAIR	x	
Morrison, Emily (for Emily Glencross)	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region		x
Maxwell, Michelle	Niagara Children’s Centre	x	
Kelly, Tara	Pathstone Mental Health		x
Andrea Pede	Down Syndrome Niagara	x	
Attree, Alexandria	Autism Ontario Niagara Region		x
T.B.D.	Indigenous Representative		
Smith, Lorraine	Mainstream	x	

Smith, Rita	Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)	x	
Wilson, Alyson	Bethesda Services	x	
Donato, Krystine	Community Representative	x	
Joyner, Doug	Trustee of the Board	x	
Marino, Jim	Trustee of the Board	x	
Filice, Adele	Principal, Secondary	x	
Walsh, Susy	Principal, Elementary	x	
Pizzoferrato, Gino	Superintendent of Education	x	
T.B.D.	Student Senate Representative		
Di Gioia, Jim	Coordinator of Student Support		x
Giancola, Danny	Coordinator of Student Support	x	
Criddle, Ann Marie	Coordinator of Student Support		x

Observers	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Marcella-DiMatteo, Lori	Speech-Language Pathologist	x	
Brochu, Grace	Student Support Facilitator	x	
Price, Angela	Behaviour Analyst	x	
Mancuso, Vince	Behaviour Resource Teacher	x	
Bailey, Babette	Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing	x	
Fisher, Amber	Niagara Support Services (NSS)		x
Hornick, Tina	Special Initiative Teacher		x
Fuller, Kayla	ABA Facilitator		x
Loughhead, Brooke	ABA Lead		x
Davies, Elizabeth	Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary	x	

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Trustee Joyner

Seconded by: Trustee Marino

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No disclosure of interest was declared with any items on the agenda.

6. Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 6, 2023

Moved by: L. Smith

Seconded by: R. Smith

B. PRESENTATIONS

N/A

C. AGENDA ITEMS

1. SEAC Chair's Report- Oct 4, 2023

I can't believe it is already October- welcome back everyone, I am so grateful to see you all here. As I look back on what we have accomplished over the last school year, these are the things that are notable to me; we have planned goals to support our families and students to

better access information that we will roll out this school year; we have shared many presentations about important information to support our families and teachers to access services, learn about opportunities, programs and history; we have a better understanding of the NCDSB special education initiatives that directly impact students and families; we have welcomed many new board members making our SAEC more robust than before with fresh energy. I look forward to an exciting year ahead.

1. For our meeting today, we will be spending time organizing our work for the coming year, collaborating with staff from the special education team and creating action plans.

2. We want your feedback and need you to contribute. Before each monthly meeting, please complete the google form with your information to share at the meeting. If you do not like the form, please simply email Liz your monthly update, so she can include it in the agenda and the minutes of the meeting. We are trying to streamline the number of emails Liz needs to send out to the committee members each month. Even if you do not have a report, please indicate so on the form or in an email. We would like this information ahead of the meeting in order to share it more efficiently.

3. Please consider any presentations that would be beneficial for one of our meetings and send me an email (even if we spoke about it in the spring, please message me again).

2. Ministry Advisory Council on Special Education (MASCE) Form – Superintendent Pizzoferrato

Traditionally MASCE went through Student Support. A change introduced by the Trustee Association for MASCE to go to them and they will co-relate it with Superintendent of Special Education. This change means now it must go to the Board for approval. The new model intentionally seeks partner input and is open to feed back. It provides an opportunity for you to be part of SEAC as an advisory. This will happen twice a year. Deadline is October 20th. Feedback is required by tomorrow at 2pm.

3. Goals – Working Groups – Chair Somma

Each working group will focus on the goals established last year and vetted through Gino's team to develop an action plan for implementation of suggested activities and others where appropriate.

Choose one group to join first then we will pause and switch so you can participate in both groups.

Each group will select a note taker and a facilitator to use the form provided.

Goal 1: Improve transitions for all students (into school for the first time, from elementary to secondary, from secondary to post-secondary and beyond, integrated transition plan.)

Goal 2: Improve/promote access to and knowledge of services outside of the school board and organizations including paraprofessionals and government funding options.

3. Future Meetings – volunteers to host?

D. AGENCY REPORTS

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region – Emily Glencross
N/A

Niagara Children’s Centre – Michelle Maxwell
Consultations by clinicians as part of the transition to school process are available at school staff’s request. These are available across disciplines and services for eligible students until Christmas break.

Please consider supporting our **Superhero Run** (volunteer, participate or donate!). We are back at Brock this year with a 1K family fun walk, as well as a 2.5K and 5K run.
Saturday October 14th <https://niagarachildrenscentre.akaraisin.com/ui/superherorun2023>

Please continue to check and share our Events calendar:
<https://niagarachildrenscentre.com/calendar>

Pathstone Mental Health – Tara Kelly
N/A

Down Syndrome Niagara –Andrea Pede

Annual Friendship Walk 2023:

o Down Syndrome Niagara hosted our annual Friendship Walk on Sunday September 24 at the Grantham Lions Club, and it was a very successful and fun filled day. DSN members, among families and friends, walked together along the Welland Canal Path in St. Catharines to raise awareness about Down Syndrome. Our mission has always been to advocate for individuals with Down Syndrome and their families in the Niagara region, provide our members with current and up to date information about available resources or educational opportunities, and foster a genuine sense of belonging to those looking for guidance or support.

• **DSAO Conference – “Down Right Amazing”:**

o Down Syndrome Niagara is proud to partner and be a sponsor for this year's annual DSAO conference, which is being held at Great Wolf Lodge.

Note: Booking accommodations at GWL is over, but there are still tickets for the event.

o Conference tickets may be reimbursed via training funds (i.e., teachers, Educational Assistants, community organization staff).

• **Upcoming Annual DSN events:**

o Halloween Party on **Saturday, October 28th, 2023 from 3-7 pm @ Church of St.**

Columba, St. Catharine’s, with *special spooky guests!*

o Christmas Party – TBD

Bethesda Services – Alyson Wilson

Bethesda and the Niagara Children’s Centre provided service to 87 children across five classrooms through the Ontario Autism Program’s (OAP) **Entry to School Program (ETS)** between March and August.

ETS is a six-month curriculum-based service that helps prepare children to enter kindergarten or grade 1 for the first time. Children received up to 15 hours a week of interdisciplinary group service. The team prepared Integrated Transition to School Reports that were shared with

caregivers and school staff.

The ETS Program also includes consultations to families and educators to help support the child's transition to school throughout the first term. Educators can request consultations from the ETS team by emailing entrytoschool@bethesdaservices.com.

Bethesda is offering a **Skill Enhancement Group for caregivers of children with Down syndrome**. The program runs weekly on Wednesday from 9:30-11:30am from November 8 through to November 29th, 2023. For more information about the event, please visit [Skill Enhancement Group for Parents of Children with Down Syndrome — Bethesda Services](#).

Bethesda offers a variety of different **Foundational Family Services and Supports** that are available to families registered with the Ontario Autism Program or Children's Behaviour Services. Our latest Service Guide can be found on our website - <https://bethesdaservices.com/en/youth/home>. All of the services are free and immediately available to families! Services include:

- Caregiver and Youth Workshops
- Social Recreational Groups
- Clinical Group Services
- Family Activities and Community Events
- Family and Sibling Support Groups
- Brief Consultation Services (SLP, OT, ABA and Mental Health Services)

For more information about the services offered at Bethesda, please contact our Service Coordinators at (905) 684-6918, ext. 170 or serviceinfo@bethesdaservices.com.

Autism Ontario Niagara Region - Alexandria Attree

N/A

Mainstream – Lorraine Smith

No Update

Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet) – Rita Smith

After School Cooking Program - CLPCW has started hosting an after-school cooking program at St. Therese Elementary School. We hope to be able to partner with other schools to host other programs in our local elementary schools.

Social Skills Game Night - CLPCW has partnered with Bethesda in offering a social skills Games Night program at the center in Port Colborne. This program has been beneficial for those families who find travelling to the Bethesda site in Thorold difficult.

We hope to continue working with Bethesda to offer more programs.

Community Living (Welland/Pelham) – Monique Somma

Annual Dinner Dance and Silent Auction is back! This year we will also be celebrating our 70th Anniversary.

Tickets are now available!

This is our signature event and the night is a lot of fun not to mention it is the best meal in town. We would like to be sold out again this year!

Dinner Dance Details:

November 18, 2023

Croatian National Home

Symposium and Auction - 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Dinner at 7:00pm

Dance will begin after last item is awarded

Tickets are \$75.00 each and you can reserve tables of 8 or 10 people

Please contact Kerry Thomas for tickets. kthomas@clwp.ca

The **Tutoring Program** in partnership with the library will begin shortly. We are currently recruiting tutor and students through Brock, Niagara College; and local schools.

The program will run for 11 weeks on two evenings with two tutors and 6 children (12 total).

This will be repeated in the winter.

If you know anyone interested in tutoring or a family who would benefit, or have any questions, please contact Erin Swatman. eswatman@clwp.ca

CL held their **AGM** on Sept 27 and also commemorated their 70th anniversary.

They developed a history walk with banners showcasing the advances and service the organization has done in partnership with other organizations of the decades to support the education, training and social outcomes for people with developmental disabilities in Niagara. Banners will be on display at the Welland Public Library for the month of October. They are worth checking out.

E. STUDENT REPORT

Student Senate Representative –

N/A

F. STAFF REPORTS

Secondary Principal – A. Felice

Elementary Principal – S. Walsh

1. Student Support Department - Danny Giancola

Upcoming Oct. 6 PD Day

Student Support will be hosting all Niagara Catholic Educational Assistants and intervenors for our upcoming PD day on Oct. 6. Through our partnership with Brock University's SNAP program, our Student Support Facilitators have co-planned the day's events. In this workshop, Educational Assistants will explore interactions and intersections between biological and social factors in developing, designing, implementing, and evaluating meaningful activity programs with diverse school-age populations. We hope that this workshop will give Educational Assistants further meaning behind why/how Brock SNAP is developed for students.

2. Empower

All Niagara Catholic ERTs have completed the Full Empower training or refresher. Elementary schools are now in the process of selecting the best student candidates for this intensive reading program. Lesson delivery should begin in early October. We would like to thank all elementary principals and ERTs for their commitment and dedication to this program.

3. Our next ERT and Special Education Classroom Teacher meeting

will be held October 24 here at the CEC. The day will highlight reading intervention from Andrea Stranges (Literacy Consultant), mental health updates from our Mental Health Lead Andrea Bozza, School Based Rehab Services presentation and updates, Lexia training and refresher and much more.

4. Let's Read After-School Reading Program

We are getting closer to our first Let's Read program session with our LDANR partners. Many students are now enrolled for this program which will begin on Oct. 24. School staff are continuing to find the best candidates for this intensive reading program. We again extend our thanks to school staff for helping to make this opportunity available to our families and to the LDANR for their continued partnership.

5. Applied Behaviour Analysis Specialized Education Program (ABASE) Update

Our ABA team has been working to finalize details and vet student candidates for this program. After months of planning, we are happy to report that our first students have now entered this placement at St. Charles. All ABASE staff are committed to supporting and assisting students to meet their most challenging goals.

6. Deaf/Hard of Hearing Staff workshop

Was held on Sept. 26. 53 Niagara Catholic joined this workshop that focused on teaching deaf students or those with hearing impairments. Our Itinerant Program Resource Teacher team along with our Provincial School partner lead this professional development session.

7. Gifted Student Update

Gifted students in grades 5 – 8 are participating in an outdoor education module held at St. Johns Valley Centre. Students will have the unique opportunity to collect and analyze data about the water system to assess the ecosystem's health. Additionally, students will explore the natural and human-made habitats on the property by working together to design and build a shelter that will withstand the harsh conditions of the upcoming winter.

G. TRUSTEE REPORTS – Trustee Marino

At our May meeting I mentioned some concerns about the serious lack of funding for school nutrition programs that many students depend on, and made reference to for the generous \$40,000 donation from an anonymous Thorold business that would assist in sustaining the food program in Thorold schools until the summer break. I would just like to give an update on some recent actions because the magnitude of the problem is escalating and the search is on for both increased and new funding.

Niagara Nutrition Partners says that a greater increase in the number of students depending on

school nutrition programs, plus higher costs for food and delivery have triggered budgetary challenges, and if there is no increase or newly found funding, there could be serious program cuts, for example from a well-rounded meal to perhaps only a granola bar. The lack of funding is not a restricted worrisome situation faced only in Niagara, but province and country wide.

A letter seeking support which our school board received from the Toronto Youth Cabinet states that Ontario is facing a calamitous hunger crisis, and is calling on the government to create a universal food program for schools.

Efforts are also being made to have the free food program not only in all Ontario schools, but schools all across Canada.

In an attempt to achieve that goal, petitions are now being circulated in different areas of the country, soliciting the required number of signatures in order that local members of parliament can raise the issue in the house of commons.

Petition Information Link:

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-4586>

Some of the information it contains states that Canada is the only G7 country without a national school food program and also that 388 million children in at least 161 countries are receiving free or subsidized school meals at school.

New data from Statistics Canada indicates 1 in 4 children in Canada lives in a food-insecure household. Niagara Nutrition Partners is doing a great job in getting the word out, and there is a very informative article containing an interview with a Niagara Nutrition Partners' employee that was published in Niagara area dailies just a few days ago. The article explains the need to be concerned. I don't know if you have read it, but if you are interested, I have run off copies. Please feel free to take one.

Personally speaking, I think it's a problem that could affect many of our partner agencies.

[Benefits of School Food Programs](#)

H. NCPIC REPORT

N/A

I. NOTICES OF MOTION

N/A

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

N/A

K. MOMENT OF SILENCE / REFLECTION OF LIFE

L. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 6:30 pm

M. ADJOURNMENT: 8:35 pm

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT
INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC) MEETING OF
MAY 11, 2023**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Meeting of May 11, 2023, as presented for information.



**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

May 11, 2023

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

Co-Chair Annen called the meeting to order at 6:32p.m.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer
Superintendent Forsyth-Sells led the Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer.

2. Roll Call:

Regrets: Fr. Paul MacNeil, Julie Bateman, Rita Colling, Stephanie Ireland and Ian Woods

Parent Members	Geographical Area	Present In-person	Present Electronically	Excused	Absent
Lindsey Spanik	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln				√
Alexandria Attree	Merritton/Thorold	√			
Ian Woods	Merritton/Thorold			√	
Julie Bateman	Niagara Falls			√	
Marilyn Fabiano	Niagara Falls	√			
Olivia O'Reilly-Romanoff	Niagara Falls				√
Luciano Robazza	Niagara Falls		√		
Brenda Annen	St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√			
Rita Colling	St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake			√	
Jeremy Harb	St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√		
Stephanie Ireland	St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake			√	
Melanie Oakes-Flegg	Welland/Pelham	√			
Carrie Vernelli	Welland/Pelham	√			
Fr. Paul MacNeil	Bishop/Diocesan Representative			√	
Ava Venzon	Secondary Student Senate Representative	√			
Trustees					
Natalia Benoit	Trustee				√
Joe Bruzzese	Trustee	√			

The following staff attended:

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, **Joe Tornabuono**, Elementary Principal, **Kevin Timmins**, Secondary Principal, **Josie Rocca**, Support Staff and **Yvonne Anderson**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Alexandria Attree

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of May 11, 2023 as presented.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No declarations of conflict of interest were declared with any item on the agenda.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of March 2, 2023

Moved by: Carrie Vernelli

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of March 2, 2023 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

Niagara Catholic Budget 2023-2024-Superintendent of Business and Financial Services, Giancarlo Vetrone

- Superintendent of Business and Financial Services, Giancarlo Vetrone presented the Niagara Catholic Budget for 2023-2024 for information. A brief question and answer session followed.

C. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Feedback Faith Formation/Parent Engagement Event-May 3, 2023 at Denis Morris Catholic High School

- Josie Rocca provided an overview of the event.
- Alexandria Attree reported that positive feedback was received from participants. The presentation by Fr. Tony and his team was energetic and engaging and the parent workshops were informative. Two recommendations were to provide a longer timeframe for future parent workshops and enhanced promotion of the future events (i.e., Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, School Messenger, etc.).

D. POLICY

Co-Chair Annen reported that the Occupational Health and Safety Policy (201.6), Employee Workplace Harassment Policy (201.7) and the Employee Workplace Violence Policy (201.11) are currently being vetted.

1. Feedback to be submitted on behalf of the NCPIC is to be sent to Yvonne Anderson, no later than 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2023.
2. Feedback being submitted as an individual is to be submitted directly to Anna Pisano, no later than 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

E. CO-CHAIRS REPORT

1. Co-Chair Annen reported that she and Co-Chair Vernelli are representing the NCPIC on the Niagara Catholic Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee. The focus of the committee is to discuss best practices to increase enrolment and retention rates. Suggestions have included; the addition of childcare sites to increase kindergarten enrolment; improved communication via social media; updated school websites; and increased interaction between secondary schools and their feeder schools.
2. Co-Chair Annen reported on her volunteer experience with the PROM Project and encouraged donations to this worthy cause. Elementary Principal, Tornabuono stated that the West Lincoln Community Centre also supported a similar program for students.

F. OAPCE REPORT

Co-Chair Annen stated that on April 20, 2023, Ian Woods notified the NCPIC that he would be continuing as a parent representative on the NCPIC, but would be stepping down as the Niagara Catholic OAPCE Regional Director, effective immediately.

G. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

1. Celebrating Excellence Award Ceremony 2023

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided a report on the Celebrating Excellence Award, Catch the Spirit Award and the Distinguished Alumni celebration held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at the Brock University Sean O'Sullivan Theatre. Award recipients have been posted on the Board website.

2. NCPIC Membership and Meeting Dates 2023-2024

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided a report on the NCPIC Membership and Meeting Dates for the 2023-2024 school year.

3. NCPIC Financial Report

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported on the finances of the NCPIC.

H. BISHOP/DIOCSEAN REPORT

Co-Chair Annen, on behalf of Fr. Paul MacNeil provided Fr. Paul's report on:

- the commitment of the Catholic Church to raise funds to support the Indigenous reconciliation efforts across the country
- staying informed through the Vineyard Magazine and the Diocesan website

I. STUDENT SENATE REPORT

Ava Venzon provided a report on the:

- Student Senate Symposium and Elections
- "Time To Shine Formal" for students with special education needs
- Secondary Student Senate Scholarships

J. SEAC REPORT

Alexandria Attree provided a report on the:

- Accessibility Conference for students with Unstoppable Tracy
- Accessibility Conference for parents with Unstoppable Tracy and Dr. Lauren McNamara
- Autism Ontario-Scholarships
- Niagara Catholic Special Education Department was honoured to a recipient of the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (LDANR) “Outstanding Contributor Award”
- SEAC Handbook
- Down Syndrome Trivia Night-June 3, 2023-Merritton Community Centre

K. STAFF REPORTS

Joe Tornabuono, Elementary Principal and Kevin Timmins, Secondary Principal provided reports on all the wonderful spiritual, social, athletic and academic initiatives taking place in our schools.

- Catholic Education Week
- Mental Health Week
- Social Justice Activities
- Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation
- Educational Field Trips and Athletics
- EQAO Assessments in Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Grade 9 Mathematics and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)
- Elementary and secondary graduations and end-of-year community events

L. TRUSTEE REPORTS

- Nil Report

M. NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- No new business or agenda items were received.

N. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., at the Catholic Education Centre
(this is the last meeting of the 2022-2023 school year)

O. CLOSING PRAYER: Superintendent Forsyth-Sells led the closing prayer.

P. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Alexandria Attree

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of May 11, 2023 be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:08p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2023**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: EXTENDED OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP, EXCURSION AND
EXCHANGE APPROVAL COMMITTEE 2023-2024**

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee
2023-2024 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: December 19, 2023



REPORT TO THE BOARD DECEMBER 19, 2023

EXTENDED OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP, EXCURSION AND EXCHANGE APPROVAL COMMITTEE 2023-2024

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee continues to review proposals for 2023-2024 extended overnight field trips, excursions and exchanges as submitted to date. The composition of the approval Committee is as follows:

1 Supervisory Officer	-	Joseph Zaroda
1 Secondary School Vice-Principal	-	Monique Mastroianni
1 Secondary School Principal	-	Krista Moscato
1 Elementary School Principal	-	Rosie Araujo
1 Program Department Consultant	-	Fred Wilson

As defined in the Niagara Catholic Educational Field Trips Administrative Operational Procedures 400.2, an Extended Overnight Field Trip is:

- A field trip that requires four or more nights' lodgings, or requiring an individual flight ticket of \$600.00 or more.
- An extended overnight field trip which involves more than one school will follow the same procedures and will require the approval of the principal/administrator and the Family of Schools' Superintendent of Education of all participating schools at the time of submission for approval.

An Excursion is defined as follows:

- An excursion is a trip that is planned and arranged for secondary school students that would be held during the year when students are not normally expected to be attending classes and that may not adhere to all guidelines and procedures relating to educational field trips. Approval will not normally be granted for excursions that require students and/or staff to be away from school on a regularly scheduled instructional school day.

Attached to this information report is an Executive Summary of a 2023-2024 Extended Overnight Field Trip as submitted on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. (Appendix A)

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee 2023-2024
report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: December 19, 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Appendix A

Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Committee Approval – 2023-2024

SCHOOL	TYPE	APPROVAL REQUIRED	DESTINATION	CURRICULUM UNIT/THEME	EDUCATION VALUE	FAITH COMPONENT	DATE	NUMBER OF STUDENTS, STAFF & CHAPERONES ON TRIP	DURATION	COST (APPROX)	TRANSPORTATION
Blessed Trinity CSS	Extended Overnight Field Trip	Superintendent, Extended Overnight Field Trip Committee and SAC	England, Italy and Croatia	Non-Credit	Allow students to explore the language, history, architecture and cultural traditions in England, Italy and Croatia. They will become more mindful of other people’s culture and values.	Students will attend mass.	March 6-15, 2024	40 students; 2 staff members (no coverage needed), 1 chaperone (retired staff member) and 4 th staff/chaperone to be determined if needed.	10 days (3 school days)	<p>\$5818 includes bus transportation to and from airport, all tours, return air fare, domestic air fare between countries, all breakfasts, dinners and accommodations</p> <p>Additional costs for lunches and personal spending money.</p> <p>Cancellation policy will be clearly communicated with parents.</p>	Airline will be confirmed upon approval.