



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD DECEMBER 5, 2023

Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on December 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns C.S.C. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chief Executive Officer and Director of Education Camillo Cipriano, in accordance with section 208-4 of the Education Act.

2. **Land Acknowledgement – Student Trustee Johnstone**

Student Trustee Johnstone opened the 2023 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board with a Land Acknowledgement.

3. **Opening Prayer**

Director Cipriano welcomed James Carnegie, Temporary Board Chaplaincy Leader who led the meeting with a prayer.

4. **Roll Call**

Director Cipriano noted that Trustee Benoit was 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	✓			

Special Guest:
 Harry Korosis, Board Solicitor

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

5. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder
 Seconded by Trustee Joyner

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of December 5, 2023, as presented.

CARRIED

6. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the Agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

7. **Election Procedures**

Director Cipriano reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair in accordance with Section 8 Subsection 4 of the Board By-Laws, asked if there were any questions of the procedures before proceeding and appointed Harry Korosis, Board Solicitor and Superintendent Vetrone, as scrutineers if required.

8. **Election of Chair**

Director Cipriano called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Board.

Moved by Trustee Marino
 Seconded by Trustee Turner

THAT Trustee Di Lorenzo be nominated for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 5, 2023 until the 2024 Organizational Meeting of the Board.

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

Following three calls for nominations there were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Marino
Seconded by Trustee Huibers

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

CARRIED

Trustee Di Lorenzo was acclaimed to the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board until the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board in 2024.

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

9. Election of Vice-Chair

Chair Di Lorenzo called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board.

Moved by Trustee Di Lorenzo
Seconded by Trustee Turner

THAT Trustee Burkholder be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 5, 2023 until the 2024 Organizational Meeting of the Board.

CARRIED

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

Following three calls for nominations there were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Joyner
Seconded by Trustee Marino

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

CARRIED

Trustee Burkholder was acclaimed to the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board until the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board in 2024.

10. Chair's Remarks

A copy of Chair Di Lorenzo remarks are attached to the Minutes for information and are posted on the *Board*, and *My Niagara Catholic* websites.
(Appendix A)

11. Vice-Chair's Remarks

A copy of Vice-Chair Burkholder remarks are attached to the Minutes for information are posted on the *Board*, and *My Niagara Catholic* websites.
(Appendix B)

B. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Board Committees

Director Cipriano presented the Report on Board Committees, in accordance with Board By-Law 19 which calls for Trustee membership on Board Ad Hoc, Statutory, Standing and Liaison Committees until 2024.

Director Cipriano stated that members to the committees are appointed by the Chair of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chair of the Board. He asked that Trustees submit their completed form to the Office of the Director of Education by the December Board Meeting.

In compliance with Board By-laws, the Chair, in consultation with the Vice-Chair will appoint trustees to the various committees of the Board. A report on the recommended names will be presented at the January Committee of the Whole meeting for a recommendation to the January Board meeting for approval of Board Committees for 2024.

Moved by Trustee Marino

Seconded by Trustee Huibers

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the continuation of the following Ad Hoc Committees for the year 2024:

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

CARRIED

C. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

D. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Joyner

Seconded by Trustee Turner

THAT the December 5, 2023 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

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

Approved on **December 19, 2023.**

Danny Di Lorenzo
Chair of the Board

Camillo Cipriano
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

CHAIR DI LORENZO'S REMARKS

**Annual Organizational Meeting
of the Niagara Catholic District School Board
December 5, 2023**

I am deeply honoured and humbled to have been re-elected Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Your support and vote of confidence mean a great deal to me, and I am excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for entrusting me with this important responsibility.

As we embark on this journey together, I want to acknowledge the collective dedication of the entire Board to the mission, vision, and commitment of Catholic education. The trust you have placed in me is not taken lightly, and I am committed to working collaboratively with the other trustees to advance our shared goals.

Our current focus on the strategic plan reflects our commitment to enhancing the educational experience of every student entrusted in our care. By working together, we can improve and create an environment where our faith is of the utmost importance in the development of every child. I am confident that through our collective efforts, we will make decisions that will support our students' academic achievement, spiritual growth, and mental wellbeing.

As we move forward, accountability and transparency will be paramount. Open communication and a clear understanding of our responsibilities will strengthen our ability to serve the families who have placed their trust in Niagara Catholic. Our goal is to support every child in reaching their fullest potential.

Equity and inclusion are fundamental principles that guide our faith, and they shall remain the cornerstone of this Board. In making decisions that impact students, we must always prioritize what is best for every individual. One of the top priorities of this Board is to ensure that no student is ever left behind.

I look forward to the upcoming year with optimism and enthusiasm. Together, we can continue to make a positive impact on the lives of our students and their families. I am honoured to serve as your Chair and am eager to collaborate with each of you to build upon our successes and strive for continuous improvement.

Once again, thank you for your trust and confidence.

APPENDIX B

VICE-CHAIR BURKHOLDER'S REMARKS

Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board December 5, 2023

I would like to start by thanking my fellow trustees in entrusting me with the position of Vice-Chair. I promise I won't let you down.

This is an opportunity for all of us to serve in our faith and continue to advocate for Catholic education. Collaboratively, as Danny said, with Chair Di Lorenzo, my fellow trustees, we can make a difference. I believe that we always do the best for Niagara Catholic, our community, staff, and, most importantly, our students.

Thank you again.