

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING OF DATE**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 16, 2024, as presented.

The following recommendations are being presented for the Board’s consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 16, 2024:

7.1.1 2024 Board Committee Membership

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the 2024 Board Committee Membership, as presented.

7.1.2 Dress Code – Secondary Uniform – Safe Schools Policy (302.6.6)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Dress Code – Secondary Uniform – Safe Schools Policy (302.6.6), as presented.

7.1.3 Safe and Accepting Schools Policy (302.6)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Safe and Accepting Schools Policy (302.6), as presented.

7.1.4 Corporate Cards, Purchasing Cards and Petty Cash Policy (600.4)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Corporate Cards, Purchasing Cards and Petty Cash Policy (600.4), as presented.



MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 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 Joyner.

2. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Burkholder noted that Trustee Turner and Student Trustee Geremia asked to be excused.

Vice-Chair Burkholder noted that Trustee Benoit 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 Huibers

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 16, 2024, 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 December 5, 2023

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

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

CARRIED

6. Consent Agenda Items

6.1 Holy Child Association Fundraiser

Presented for information.

6.2 Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities

Presented for information.

6.3 Capital Projects Progress Report Update

Presented for information.

Moved by Trustee Joyner

THAT the Committee of the Whole adopt consent agenda items.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

Nil

C. GOVERNANCE POLICIES

1. Governance Policies for Recommendation to the Board

1.1. Dress Code – Secondary Uniform – Safe Schools Policy (302.6.6)

Domenic Massi, Superintendent of Education, presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Dress Code – Secondary Uniform – Safe Schools Policy (302.6.6), following the vetting process.

Following discussion, the Committee of the Whole recommended the following additional amendments:

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee Marino

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Dress Code – Secondary Uniform – Safe Schools Policy (302.6.6), as presented.

APPROVED

1.2. Safe and Accepting Schools Policy (302.6)

Superintendent Massi presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Safe and Accepting Schools Policy (302.6), following the vetting process.

Following discussion, the Committee of the Whole recommended the following additional amendments:

- Paragraph 1 – keep “*students staff, parents/guardians and community members involved in Board and school programs, events and activities.*”

Moved by Trustee Joyner

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Safe and Accepting Schools Policy (302.6), as amended.

APPROVED

1.3. Corporate Cards, Purchasing Cards and Petty Cash Policy (600.4)

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services, presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Corporate Cards, Purchasing Cards and Petty Cash Policy (600.4), following the vetting process.

Following discussion, the Committee of the Whole recommended the following additional amendments:

- Add a phrase ensuring that safeguards are in place to protect public funds being abused.

Moved by Trustee

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Corporate Cards, Purchasing Cards and Petty Cash Policy (600.4), as amended.

APPROVED

2. Governance Policies Prior to Vetting

2.1. Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy (800.7)

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, presented the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy (800.7).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy (800.7), be vetted from January 17, 2024 to February 21, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in March, for consideration to the Board in March.

2.2. Code of Conduct Policy (302.6.2)

Superintendent Massi presented the Code of Conduct Policy (302.6.2).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- Paragraph 2 – add “; *students, parents/guardians, staff, trustees, volunteers, and visitors*” remove “*and especially persons in positions of authority*” change “*Aggressive or hostile*” to “*Aggressive, hostile or inappropriate*”

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Code of Conduct Policy (302.6.2), be vetted from January 17, 2024 to February 21, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in March, for consideration to the Board in March.

3. Governance Policy Review Schedule

Director Cipriano presented the Governance Policy Review Schedule.

D. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Literacy Plan

Kim Kinney, Superintendent of Education presented the Niagara Catholic Literacy Plan for Trustee information and introduced Andrea Stranges, K-12 Literacy Consultant.

Superintendent Kinney and Ms. Stranges answered questions of Trustees.

2. Monthly Updates

2.1 Student Trustees' Update

Student Trustee Johnstone presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

2.2 Senior Staff Good News Update

Senior Staff highlights included:

Superintendent Pizzoferrato

- Through the Kids Helping Kids Campaign, Niagara Catholic has received a letter of appreciation from the Niagara Children's Centre for the longstanding partnership and support to the centre. This year's campaign will take place from February 12th to the 23rd. Teaching staff at St. Theresa have met to determine their teaching/learning need in mathematics. Each teacher has developed a mission on the resource Knowledge Hook. The teaching and learning will be analyzed and moderated by staff during the learning cycle for the continuous improvement of student achievement in mathematics.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells

- Students and staff at St. Theresa Catholic Elementary School were blessed with a Christmas gift from Merrittville Speedway and Hits FM on December 18th. The donors shared that they were impressed by the positive reception from students and staff.
- On January 12th, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Elementary School, in conjunction with Niagara Region Public Health, hosted a vaccination clinic in the school gymnasium to assist families in getting vaccinations up to date. The enrolment at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary continues to grow with a current enrolment of 732 students and approximately 170 new registrations since September 2023.

Superintendent Rocca

- Through the generosity of the Nights of Columbus, over 300 brand new coats were delivered to students and families in need across the system.
- Margaret Moody, a former student of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School and Denis Morris Catholic High School took it upon herself to raise funds for families in the Niagara Catholic community and filling 23 gift bags valued at over \$65.00 each and provided to schools that reached out for support. Further to these gifts, 23 grocery cards were distributed with a total value of \$1,150.00.

E. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

1.1 Draft 2024 Board Committee Membership

Chair Di Lorenzo presented the Draft 2024 Board Committee Membership.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

- 1.1 Reminder of the OCSTA Seminar taking place Thursday January 18th.
- 1.2 Preceding the Board meeting on January 30th, there will be an in-service session at 5:00 pm specifically for Trustees and any senior staff members interested in attending.

G. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

H. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Huibers

THAT the January 16, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **January 16, 2024.**

Approved on **February 13, 2024.**

Rhianon Burkholder
Vice-Chair of the Board

Camillo Cipriano
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2024

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the 2024 Board Committee Membership, as presented.

Prepared by: Chair Di Lorenzo
Vice-Chair Burkholder

Presented by: Chair Di Lorenzo

Recommended by: Chair Di Lorenzo

Date: January 30, 2024



2024 BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Members to the Committees are appointed by the Chair of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chair of the Board.

STATUTORY COMMITTEES	TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED	2024 MEMBERSHIP
<p><i>Audit Committee</i> <i>O. Reg. 361/10, s. 7 (1). The term of office of a member of the audit committee who is a board member shall be determined by the board but shall not exceed four years.</i></p>	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Joseph Bruzzese Rhianon Burkholder Larry Huibers
<p><i>Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (N.C.P.I.C.)</i></p>	<i>2 Trustees required</i>	Natalia Benoit Joseph Bruzzese
<p><i>Special Education Advisory Committee (S.E.A.C.)</i></p>	<i>2 Trustees required & 1 Alternate</i>	Doug Joyner Jim Marino Larry Huibers (Alternate)
<p><i>Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (S.A.L. Committee)</i></p>	<i>2 Trustees required</i>	Danny Di Lorenzo Paul Turner

STANDING COMMITTEES	TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED	2024 MEMBERSHIP
<p><i>Disciplinary Hearing Committee</i> <i>NOTE: All Trustees serve as alternates for this Committee only</i></p>	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Danny Di Lorenzo Jim Marino Paul Turner

AD HOC COMMITTEES	TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED	2024 MEMBERSHIP
<p><i>Blessed Trinity Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i></p>	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Natalia Benoit Doug Joyner Jim Marino
<p><i>Denis Morris, Holy Cross, and Saint Francis Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i></p>	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Natalia Benoit Rhianon Burkholder Larry Huibers
<p><i>Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee</i></p>	<i>4 Trustees required</i>	Natalia Benoit Joseph Bruzzese Danny Di Lorenzo Paul Turner
<p><i>Lakeshore Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i></p>	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Danny Di Lorenzo Doug Joyner Paul Turner
<p><i>Notre Dame College Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i></p>	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Joseph Bruzzese Danny Di Lorenzo Paul Turner
<p><i>Saint Michael and Saint Paul Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i></p>	<i>3 Trustees required</i>	Joseph Bruzzese Rhianon Burkholder Jim Marino

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: DRESS CODE – SECONDARY UNIFORM – SAFE SCHOOLS
POLICY (302.6.6)**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Dress Code – Secondary Uniform – Safe Schools Policy (302.6.6), as presented

Prepared by: Domenic Massi, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Domenic Massi, Superintendent of Education

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: January 30, 2024



Niagara Catholic District School Board

DRESS CODE – SECONDARY UNIFORM POLICY
(Safe Schools)

STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE POLICY

300 – Schools/Students

Policy No 302.6.6

Adopted Date: June 26, 2001

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: November 24, 2020

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board and in accordance with the dress code requirements of the *Safe Schools Act*, all secondary schools within the Niagara Catholic District School Board will implement a secondary uniform that creates a unified sense of belonging for all students from Grades 9 to 12.

This Policy acknowledges a respect for self and others by supporting each student to actively and equitably participate fully in the Catholic learning environment through the creation of safe, inclusive and accepting school climates.

The secondary uniform promotes Catholic school identity, instills pride and spirit and supports the commitment of students to be visible Catholic role models of the Gospel Values and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations in our Catholic school communities.

All Niagara Catholic secondary school uniforms as defined in the Administrative Operational Procedures must be purchased through Board uniform suppliers in compliance with the Niagara Catholic Purchasing and Supply Chain Management Policy.

This Policy has been developed in compliance with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the *Ontario Human Rights Code* and the *Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario*. For the purpose of this Policy, the term secondary school uniform aligns with the *Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario* term dress code.

The Director of Education will issue [*Administrative Operational Procedures*](#) for the implementation of this policy.

References

- ***Ephesians 4:1 “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”***
- [*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*](#)
- [*Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario - Regulation 298 S.23 \(1\) \(f\)*](#)
- [*Ontario Human Rights Code*](#)
- [*Safe Schools Act, 2007. Education Act S. 301 \(1\) \(3\), 302 \(3\) \(5\)*](#)
- [*Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations*](#)
- ***Niagara Catholic District School Board Policies/Procedures***
 - [*Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy \(302.6.10\)*](#)
 - [*Purchasing / Supply Chain Management Policy \(600.1\)*](#)
 - [*Religious Accommodation Policy \(100.10.1\)*](#)
 - [*Fundraising \(301.4\) AOP*](#)

Adopted Date:	June 26, 2001
Revision History:	May 28, 2002 June 12, 2012 February 23, 2016 November 24, 2020

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: SAFE AND ACCEPTING SCHOOLS POLICY (302.6)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Safe and Accepting Schools Policy (302.6), as presented

Prepared by: Domenic Massi, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Domenic Massi, Superintendent of Education

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: January 30, 2024



Niagara Catholic District School Board
SAFE AND ACCEPTING SCHOOLS POLICY
STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE POLICY

300 – Schools/Students

Policy No 302.6

Adopted Date: June 26, 2001

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: May 28, 2019

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Board is committed to fostering caring, safe, equitable, inclusive and accepting learning and teaching environments for all students, staff, parents/guardians and community members involved in Board and school programs, events and activities. A whole school approach to creating a positive environment for learning and working requires a shared commitment amongst all stakeholders in a school. To maintain and improve student success and achievement, we must ensure that students continue to feel safe, nurtured, welcomed, respected and included.

This shall be achieved by establishing and maintaining high expectations for behaviour, while offering programs that emphasize early, ongoing, and proactive practices and supports. Appropriate programs and supports include, but are not limited to:

- promoting healthy relationships and well-being,
- inclusive and culturally responsive learning environments,
- mentorship programs,
- equity and inclusive education,
- culturally responsive pedagogy,
- student leadership,
- bullying prevention and intervention,
- conflict prevention and intervention,
- restorative mindset and practices,
- character development and education,
- counselling, and
- the inclusion of social emotional learning in the curriculum

The Niagara Catholic District School Board has established Governance Policies and Administrative Operational Procedures linked to this Safe and Accepting Schools Policy, which foster increased respect, responsibility and civility in compliance with current legislation. The Board will provide professional development for staff to support prevention of inappropriate student behavior and strategies for promoting positive school climate.

Therefore, the Niagara Catholic Safe and Accepting Schools Policy and Administrative Operational Procedures will:

- create schools that are caring, safe, inclusive and accepting of all students, staff, parents/guardians; and members of the school community by implementing Board Policies and Administrative Operational Procedures;
- provide students with a caring, safe, inclusive and accepting learning and teaching environment;
- promote a positive school climate in all schools and prevent inappropriate behaviour, including but not limited to, bullying, discrimination, harassment, violence and sexual assault;
- endeavour to be responsive to the diversity, cultural and individualized needs of students;
- address, report, and respond to inappropriate student behaviour in accordance with Board Policies and Administrative Operational Procedures and promote early prevention, intervention and supports;
- provide support to students who are impacted by the inappropriate behaviour of other students; and

- establish progressive disciplinary approaches that promote positive behaviour with measures that include appropriate consequences and supports for students to address inappropriate behaviour.

The Director of Education will ensure the implementation of Policies and Administrative Operational Procedures linked to the Safe and Accepting Schools Policy.

References

- [*Ephesians 5:21 “Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.”*](#)
- [*Accepting Schools Act*](#)
- [*Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act 2005*](#)
- [*Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario*](#)
- [*Child & Family Services Review Board*](#)
- [*Child, Youth and Family Services Act 2017*](#)
- [*Education Act and Regulations*](#)
- [*Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*](#)
- [*Ontario Catholic School Graduation Expectations*](#)
- [*Ontario Human Rights Code*](#)
- [*Policy/Program Memorandum 120: Reporting Violent Incidents to the Ministry of Education*](#)
- [*Policy/Program Memorandum 128: The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct-Issued October 17, 2018*](#)
- [*Policy/Program Memorandum 144: Bullying Prevention and Intervention-Issued October 17, 2018*](#)
- [*Policy/Program Memorandum 145: Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour –Issued October 17, 2018*](#)
- [*Provincial Code of Conduct*](#)
- [*Regulation 472/07: Behaviour, Discipline and Safety of Pupils*](#)
- [*Smoke-Free Ontario Act 2017*](#)
- [*Niagara Catholic District School Board Policies/Procedures and Documents*](#)
 - [*Access to Board Premises \(302.6.3\) AOP*](#)
 - [*Accessibility Standards Policy \(800.8\)*](#)
 - [*Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy \(302.6.8\)*](#)
 - [*Catholic School Councils \(800.1\) AOP*](#)
 - [*Code of Conduct Policy \(302.6.2\)*](#)
 - [*Complaint Resolution Policy \(800.3\)*](#)
 - [*Criminal Background Check \(302.6.7\) AOP*](#)
 - [*Dress Code – Secondary Uniform Policy \(302.6.6\)*](#)
 - [*Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy \(302.6.10\)*](#)
 - [*Electronic Communications System \(Students\) \(301.5\) AOP*](#)
 - [*Equity and Inclusive Education Policy \(100.10\)*](#)
 - [*Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy \(800.7\)*](#)
 - [*Ontario Student Record \(301.7\) AOP*](#)
 - [*Opening or Closing Exercises \(302.6.1\) AOP*](#)
 - [*Progressive Student Discipline \(302.6.9\) AOP*](#)
 - [*Privacy Policy \(600.6\)*](#)
 - [*Records and Information Management Policy \(600.2\)*](#)
 - [*Safe Physical Intervention with Students \(301.8\) AOP*](#)
 - [*Student Suspension \(302.6.4\) AOP*](#)
 - [*Student Expulsion Policy \(302.6.5\)*](#)
 - [*Student Transportation Policy \(500.2\)*](#)
 - [*Volunteering in Catholic Schools \(800.9\) AOP*](#)
 - [*Pope Francis Centre Alternative Learning Manual: Niagara Catholic Fresh Start Program*](#)
 - [*Protocol between the Niagara Regional Police Service and the Niagara Catholic District School Board*](#)

- [*Protocol between Niagara Catholic District School Board and Family and Children's Services Niagara*](#)

Adopted Date:	June 26, 2001
Revision History:	May 28, 2002 February 1, 2008 June 17, 2008 February 26, 2013 May 28, 2019

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: CORPORATE CARDS, PURCHASING CARDS AND PETTY
CASH POLICY (600.4)**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Corporate Cards, Purchasing Cards and Petty Cash Policy (600.4), as presented

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

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

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: January 30, 2024



Niagara Catholic District School Board

CORPORATE CARDS, PURCHASING CARDS AND PETTY CASH POLICY

STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE POLICY

600 – Business Services

Policy No 600.4

Adopted Date: March 27, 2007

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: May 28, 2019

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board and the Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Policy (600.1) and Administrative Operational Procedures, the Board recognizes that the purchase and payment of low value goods and services can be expedited through the use of Corporate Cards, Purchasing Cards and Petty Cash.

The Niagara Catholic District School Board authorizes the Superintendent of Business and Financial Services or designate to approve the issuance of Corporate Cards, Purchasing Cards and Petty Cash to users, as well as to establish single transaction and monthly purchase credit limits.

All Cardholders and immediate supervisors are responsible for ensuring that they adhere to and understand all internal controls outlined in the administrative operating procedures to minimize risk.

The Director of Education will issue the [*Administrative Operational Procedures*](#) for the implementation of this policy.

References

- [***Broader Public Sector Accountability Act \(BPSAA\), 2010***](#)
- [***Niagara Catholic District School Board Policies/Procedures***](#)
 - [***Employee Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy \(201.17\)***](#)
 - [***Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Policy \(600.1\)***](#)

Adopted Date:	March 27, 2007
Revision History:	December 17, 2013 May 28, 2019

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 2023**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of December 6, 2023, as presented for information.



**MINUTES OF THE
 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 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/>

APPROVED

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement – Susy Walsh

*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	
Cipriano, Madeline	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region	x	
Maxwell, Michelle	Niagara Children’s Centre	x	
<i>vacant</i>	Pathstone Mental Health		
Andrea Pede	Down Syndrome Niagara		
Attree, Alexandria	Autism Ontario Niagara Region		
<i>vacant</i>	Indigenous Representative		
<i>vacant</i>	Mainstream		

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

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

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Alyson Wilson

Seconded by: Madeline Cipriano

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 October 4, 2023

Moved by: Alyson Wilson

Seconded by: Babra Alli

7. Minutes from November 1, 2023 shared for information only. (no quorum)

8. Gino welcomed Babra Alli – Student Representative to SEAC

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. SEA Coaching/Screening/Reading Intervention – Bryan Nesbitt

2. ABASE Classroom Update – Julia Nemcko, ABA Lead; Tina Hornick, BRT

C. AGENDA ITEMS

Chair's Report – Chair Somma

December brings much business and preparation. We have spent over a year preparing for the goals that are in the works this year and I am very happy to share this work as we welcome back Madeline as SEAC rep for LDANR! We have collectively worked hard to support children in various capacities and have learned a great deal about how SEACs can support school boards to better meet the needs of students and families. I look forward to what 2024 has in store for Niagara Catholic!

Update on GOAL #1 – Improve Transitions for all students (into school for the first time from elementary to secondary)

Adele: Invited grade 7 & 8 families to open house Nov 30. 300 attended. Formal invites were sent to feeder schools. Good turnout. Mainstream presented, Grace Brochu and AL Monachino presented/supported. Kids used sensory room. We introduced them to Holy Cross and staff they will see as they transition. Principals and teachers also attended. Next opportunity for elementary spec ed students would be during exam times. Provides opportunity to meet EA's.

Update on GOAL #2 – Improve/promote access to and knowledge of services outside of the school board and organizations including paraprofessionals and government funding options

Susy: Goal is January to go into February newsletter.

D. AGENCY REPORTS

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region – Madeline Cipriano

LDANR has opened their Winter program applications for the program season which will begin the week of January 29th. We currently still have spots available in our online JUMP Math Program as well as BEST and our Social programs.

Wrapping up our Let's READ program in partnership with Niagara Catholic and the feedback has been very positive, with some parents sad that we will not be continuing the program into the Winter.

Some families have applied to our Reading Rocks program so they will continue on with our organization which is great to see.

Seen great success in our new Parent and Student Socials with many of the kids in our student social becoming friends over the 4 sessions together.

Fortunate to have the Resource Consultant from Trillium come speak at our Parent Social.

Hosting an Ice Dogs Fundraiser on December 14th for our supporters to attend.

Niagara Children's Centre – Michelle Maxwell

Pathstone Mental Health – Vacant

N/A

Down Syndrome Niagara –Andrea Pede

N/A

Autism Ontario Niagara Region - Alexandria Attree

Celebrating 50 years!

Mainstream – Vacant

N/A

Bethesda Services – Alyson Wilson

Thanks to connections made through participation in SEAC, representatives from Bethesda attended the Open House at Lakeshore Catholic High School and the parent, teacher interview night at St. Christopher in November to share information about funded transition services that are available at Bethesda for youth and their caregivers.

Bethesda is hosting a Caregiver Appreciation Dinner on December 20, 2023. Amici's is donating their hall for the evening and the Culinary Program at Niagara College is providing the meal. We will host 160 caregivers and show our appreciation for all they do for their loved ones.

Please visit our website for a listing of the extra holiday program offered to children, youth and families registered at Bethesda.



The flyer features a background image of a child in winter gear. It includes a registration notice, a table of activities, and a 'Swipe for details' button.

Free registration
for families registered with Ontario Autism Program (OAP) and Children's Behaviour Services (CBS)

Activity	Date	Time
Holiday Family Photos	December 5 and 12	5:00pm - 7:00pm
Holiday Crafting	December 7	6:00pm - 7:30pm
Holiday at Balls Falls	December 9	9:00am - 12:00pm
Open Mic Night	December 13	6:00pm - 7:30pm
Paint Night	December 19	5:00pm - 6:30pm
Teen Dance	December 21	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Cookie Decorating	December 29	9:30am - 11:30am
Teen Chill	January 2	1:00pm - 4:00pm
Frosty Fun PD Days	January 2, 3 and 4	9:00am - 12:00pm and 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Holiday Drop-In: Pancakes and Pajamas	January 5	10:00am - 12:00pm

Swipe for details

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.

Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet) – Rita Smith

N/A

Community Living (Welland/Pelham) – Monique Somma
No report

E. STUDENT REPORT

Student Senate Representative - Babra
Met yesterday – planning next special ed semi formal

F. STAFF REPORTS

Secondary Principal – A. Felice

Notre Dame:

We just finished our swimming season for the year. We had three of our special education students participate in weekly practices at the YMCA as well as in two meets at Brock University.

Our swimmers competed in their first mini meet at Brock University in the month of November in the para 50m free style and para 50m back. They also just competed at Brock this past week at the Notre Dame Relay Meet. All swimmers swam in the para 50m back, the rookie relay and the para relay which allowed for them to swim with many of the other students on our team.

Lakeshore Catholic

- On Tuesday, December 5th we have arranged for Community Living Port Colborne to complete STAR training with our special education students.
- LCHS enjoyed a very successful Open House evening this past Thursday, November 30, 2023. We arranged a Special Education Support Hub that included representatives from Bethesda, Contact Niagara and both Community Living Fort Erie/Port Colborne. Many rich discussions were had with families about in-school and community support(s) available for those students who are on an IEP and/or have special needs.
- On December 1 our class started a new Christmas/Advent initiative, called “The Spectacular Christmas Advent Event”. For 15 straight school days, students from our class take turns reading Christmas movie quotes each morning over the PA system. Classes are invited to send one student to the special education class to have the chance to reveal who said the quote and which movie it is from. All of the student participants are invited into the classroom to mingle and get to know our students. Each morning a winner is selected and given a small classroom prize, as well as a point towards their class running total. Not only are our students interacting with other students, they are helping read the quotes and tabulate the scores. A grand prize will be awarded to the class who has the most points. The special education class will be preparing the prize (fresh made cookies and milk). On December 21st our class will share in this treat along with the winning class in the school cafeteria.
- Each morning in the great hall our special education students participate in a 20 minute DPA (daily physical activity) session lead by Mr. Oort. The routine involves basic physical activity exercises and stretches focusing on balance, coordination, cardiovascular fitness, and cooperation/listening skills. For the holiday season our mainstream classes have been invited to join in, which has provided wonderful social interaction opportunities (and proud moments) for our students.

Holy Cross

- Grade 7 & 8 Open house was successful- invites went out to all Holy Cross feeder schools
- Special education transition planning meeting was held in our new space
- Mainstream attended and provided families with the transition tool kit
- Grace Brochu and Al Monachino attended from the Student Support team
- The presentation was well received by parents

2. Elementary Principal – S. Walsh

N/A

Student Support Department - Danny Giancola

Next Educational Resource Teacher and Special Education Classroom Teacher meeting

will be held Dec. 13 here at the CEC. This meeting will be specifically for secondary staff. The day will focus on Pathway planning for students and a glimpse of the new electronic IEP.

The Nov./Dec. Gifted module

Took place Nov. 21, 23, 30 and Dec. 1. Students learned about WeVideo software, focusing on using green screens, a technique used to create special effects in films. Students took on various roles involved in filmmaking while collaborating in small groups to write a short script and film scenes to make their finished product. Students will also had an opportunity to share their creations once prepared.

Full BMS certification

Is underway for many employee groups including principals, vice principals, educational resource teachers, secondary special education classroom teachers and Student Support Staff. These groups have completed the theory portion of BMS and are scheduled to receive the physical certification at an upcoming date. Our Educational Assistants, Early Child Educators, Library Technicians and Child and Youth Workers will be receiving this important training in January 2024. Thank you to all those that facilitated the training sessions and those that participated.

Lexia PowerUp

Professional Learning Sessions were offered throughout November to help staff with continued implementation of this reading program. The virtual session focused on introduction, data interpretation or a deep dive into the program, depending on the user's knowledge of Lexia PowerUp. All sessions have been recorded and will be made available to all staff for access.

Superintendent Pizzoferrato – To expand on the transitions and pathways planning we brought in an outside consultant. It was a positive experience for everyone involved. In the delivery of the model in secondary schools evidence differently in our schools.

Pointed recommendations to suggest a need for us to shift slowly in a safe environment

Extended an invitation to our secondary principals to participate in a pilot. We are looking for input at five sites. There will be an extension to elementary school as well.

Look forward to bringing you update in future months with how we are progressing. We are excited about the possibilities.

G. TRUSTEE REPORTS –Trustee Marino

The Board of Trustees held its organizational meeting last evening and both the Chair Danny DiLorenzo and Vice Chair Rhianon Burkholder were re-elected by acclamation. In his acceptance remarks, Chair DiLorenzo was very positive in acknowledging the collective dedication of the entire board in its mission, values and commitment to the Catholic faith. The chair was emphatically positive and encouraging by his remarks of working together collectively and collaboratively. In doing so, student achievement will be improved and an environment will be created where our faith is of the utmost importance in the development of every child. The board chair was confident that collective efforts would result in significant strides in the students aspiring to achieve their educational, spiritual and emotional goals, and stated equity and inclusion are fundamental principles that guide our faith and they shall remain the cornerstone of the board. He went on to say that decisions that impact students must always be prioritized as to what is best for each individual and one of the Board's top priorities is to ensure that no student is left behind. Chair DiLorenzo stated that with a continued focus on the strategic plan in a commitment to enhancing the educational experience for every student attending Niagara Catholic District School Board schools, and in moving forward, accountability and transparency will be paramount.

Some good news was delivered when the board was informed of another successful annual Pilgrimage fundraiser by Niagara Catholic District School Board Secondary Schools. To date \$98,000 has been collected that will assist Developing Countries.

Prior to the organizational meeting trustees heard a presentation by Dr. Niigaan Sinclair former head of the Department of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba, and currently holds the faculty of Arts Professorship in Indigenous Knowledge of Aesthetics. Dr. Sinclair worked with our Board's indigenous education Team last year and continues to do so as part of the Board's Indigenous Professional Development Series. He has spoken to staff, students and the Board's senior team with presentations about Indigenous Society, the many problems, injustices and inequities it experienced, and stressed the need for reconciliation and education. Dr. Sinclair stated reconciliation is possible and it will all come from love. He said Jesus took a lead in multiculturalism, the Catholic church has an important role to play in the reconciliation process, noting that all human beings matter, and are all meant to live together. He noted the special love and understanding that Pope Francis has shown for the Indigenous people and said history was made this past October when the first premier of Native Decent was elected Premier of Manitoba.

H. NCPIC REPORT

Catholic School Council Chairs and Co-Chairs were invited to attend the NCPIC meeting of November 2, 2023. A meet and greet was held at 6:00 p.m.

Highlights of the meeting included:

- The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee was established and all members participated in the annual commissioning, as per the By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.
- Kim Kinney, Superintendent of Education presented the Niagara Catholic Math Achievement Action Plan to support student achievement in Mathematics for K to 12 students.
- Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education provided a presentation on the role and responsibilities of Catholic School Councils and Chairs/Co-Chairs.

- Director Cipriano, encouraged all parents /guardians to review the *Niagara Catholic Chronicle* to keep informed and connected to all of the good news and happenings throughout Niagara Catholic.

NCPIC Community Representatives and Parent/Guardian Nomination Forms for the 2024-2025 school year will be available at schools and on the Board website in April 2024.

The next meeting of the NCPIC will take place on January 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., at the Catholic Education Centre.

On behalf of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, we wish all Niagara Catholic parents/guardians, students, staff and all stakeholders a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

I. NOTICES OF MOTION

N/A

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

N/A

K. MOMENT OF SILENCE / REFLECTION OF LIFE

L. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:30 pm

M. ADJOURNMENT: 8:35 PM

Motion to Adjourn: Madeline Cipriano

Seconded by: Alyson Wilson

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 30, 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT
INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC) MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 2, 2023**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Meeting of November 2, 2023 as presented for information.



**MINUTES OF THE
NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 2, 2023**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., in the Father Kenneth Burns c.s.c. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee extended an invitation to all Niagara Catholic School Council Chairs and Co-Chairs to attend the November 2, 2023 meeting. A meet and greet was held at 6:00 p.m. Co-Chair Vernelli shared that the meetings of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee are open to the public, livestreamed and recorded.

Co-Chair Vernelli called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer

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

Welcome

Co-Chair Vernelli welcomed Niagara Catholic School Council Chairs and Co-Chairs, and the new and returning members of the NCPIC to the meeting. Co-Chair Vernelli requested that the members of the NCPIC introduce themselves before proceeding with the meeting.

Co-Chair Vernelli acknowledged and thanked the NCPIC members that would not be returning for the 2023-2024 school year for their dedication, commitment, and support of Catholic education and parent engagement throughout the years in the Niagara Catholic District School Board: Parent members, Rita Colling, Jeremy A. Harb, Olivia O'Reilly-Romanoff, Melanie Oakes-Flegg, Luciano Robazza, Ian Woods and Secondary Student Senate Representative: Ava Venzon.

2. Roll Call:

Parent Members	Present In-person	Present Electronically	Excused	Absent
Brenda Annen, Co-Chair	√			
Carrie Vernelli, Co-Chair	√			
Alexandria Attree	√			
Julie Bateman	√			
Chris Campbell	√			
Marilyn Fabiano	√			
Kate Hingston	√			
Maria Imbriano			√	
Stephanie Ireland			√	
Leanne Prince	√			

Bishop/Diocesan Representative				
Fr. Paul MacNeil			√	
Secondary Student Senate Representative				
Myla Novak	√			
Trustees				
Danny Di Lorenzo, Chair of the Board	√			
Joe Bruzzese			√	

The following staff attended:

Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, Superintendent of Education, **Joe Tornabuono**, Elementary Principal, **Kevin Timmins**, Secondary Principal, and **Yvonne Anderson**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant.

Regrets Received: Fr. Paul MacNeil, Joe Bruzzese, Maria Imbriano, Stephanie Ireland and Josie Rocca

Co-Chair Vernelli invited the Catholic School Council Chairs and Co-Chairs in attendance to introduce themselves before proceeding with the meeting.

3. Commissioning of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

In the absence of Fr. Paul MacNeil, Superintendent Forsyth-Sells presided over the commissioning ceremony of the members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee as they publicly proclaimed their commitment to promote the Mission of Catholic education and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Leanne Prince

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

CARRIED

5. NCPIC Membership 2023-2024 and Terms of Office

Co-Chair Vernelli reviewed the parent/guardian membership. The terms of office were determined prior to the meeting.

Terms of Office NCPIC Parent Members 2023-2024		
Parent Members	Terms of Office	
	One-year term	Two-year term
Brenda Annen, Co-Chair	√	
Carrie Vernelli, Co-Chair	√	
Alexandria Attree	√	
Julie Bateman	√	
Chris Campbell	√	
Marilyn Fabiano	√	
Kate Hingston		√
Maria Imbriano	√	
Stephanie Ireland	√	
Leanne Prince	√	

6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

7. Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2023

Moved by: Alexandria Attree

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

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Niagara Catholic Math Achievement Action Plan

Kim Kinney, Superintendent of Education presented the Niagara Catholic Math Achievement Action Plan to support student achievement. A brief Q&A followed the presentation.

2. Catholic School Councils

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the role of Catholic School Councils and the responsibilities of the Chair and/or Co-Chairs. A brief Q&A followed the presentation. The PowerPoint Presentation and the links to the Governance Policies and Administrative Operational Procedures that support the operation of Catholic School Councils will be emailed to the Chairs and Co-Chairs to share with their committee members.

C. CO-CHAIR REPORTS

1. NCPIC Meetings and Composition 2024-2025

Meetings: Co-Chair Vernelli proposed that the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) meetings align with Catholic School Councils meetings from September to June during the school calendar year, commencing September 2024. The NCPIC meetings will continue to take place on a bi-monthly basis.

Membership on the NCPIC will be promoted through the school principal and Catholic School Councils in March/April of each school calendar year. NCPIC nomination forms will be made available to parents/guardians at the school and on the Board website. NCPIC nomination forms must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on the date determined. Late or incomplete submissions will not be eligible for consideration.

Co-Chair Vernelli asked for approval of the proposal by consensus.

CARRIED

Composition: Co-Chair Vernelli, proposed that the NCPIC parent members would support all Niagara Catholic parents/guardians regardless of geographical area/school boundaries they represent.

Co-Chair Vernelli asked for approval of the proposal by consensus.

CARRIED

2. Review of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee By-Laws

Co-Chair Vernelli reviewed the NCPIC By-Laws and asked if there any questions or concerns. None were forthcoming.

Co-Chair Vernelli asked for the approval of the NCPIC By-Laws as presented by a show of hands.

CARRIED

3. Accessibility Planning Committee

Co-Chair Vernelli reported that she is the NCPIC parent representative on the Board Accessibility Planning Committee. All areas of the Board are represented on this committee. A meeting was held on October 25, 2023 at the Catholic Education Centre to review accessibility requirements for school boards. The Board Accessibility Policy and Multi-Year Strategic Plan are posted on the Board website under Accessibility. For this school year, funding has been received for projects to increase accessibility awareness with Niagara Catholic students.

D. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Faith Formation
2. Parent Engagement Events

Co-Chair Vernelli requested that all members send an email to both Co-Chairs with their intent to support the Faith Formation and/or Parent Engagement Events no later than Friday, November 17, 2023. Once the subcommittees have been formed, subcommittee meetings will be scheduled to further discuss Faith Formation and Parent Engagement Events.

E. POLICY

Co-Chair Vernelli reported that the following policies are currently being vetted:

1. Safe and Accepting Schools Policy (302.6)
2. Dress Code – Secondary Uniform Policy (302.6.6)
3. Corporate Cards, Purchasing Cards, and Petty Cash Policy (600.4)

- 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, December 12, 2023.
- Feedback being submitted as an individual, is to be sent directly to Anna Pisano no later than 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 13, 2023.

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

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells thanked Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education for his attendance and support at the meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and invited him to share a few words.

Director Cipriano, welcomed and thanked all members of the NCPIC and the Catholic School Council Chairs and Co-Chairs for their support and volunteering in our Catholic schools and school communities.

Director Cipriano reported that the Board Communications Department created the *Niagara Catholic Chronicle* as an additional resource to communicate with parents/guardians. The *Chronicle* will be provided to all parents/guardians on a monthly basis through *SchoolMessenger* to keep them updated and informed of the happenings throughout Niagara Catholic schools and school communities.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells shared her reports.

1. Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Annual Report

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the NCPIC Annual Report and shared that the Catholic School Councils and the NCPIC Annual Reports were presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 10, 2023 for information.

2. Parent Study: *Mentalization, Identity and Well-Being in Adolescents: Role of Kindness*

Sandra Bosacki, Professor, Educational Studies, Brock University

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the Niagara Catholic Research and Ethics Committee approved the research project: Parent Study: *Mentalization, Identity and Well-Being in Adolescents: Role of Kindness* proposed by Sandra Bosacki, Professor, Educational Studies, Brock University. The study examines the development of child and adolescent social-cognitive skills, identity, and well-being. Parents of 11 to 18-year-olds, are invited to participate in an online interactive study that involves questionnaires and responding to short stories and videos. Compensation is provided to participants. More information about the Parent Study will be included in the November Edition of the *Niagara Catholic Chronicle*.

3. Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE)

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided background information about OAPCE and their support of Catholic education. Niagara Catholic is seeking a parent member to represent Niagara Catholic, as the Niagara Catholic OAPCE Regional Director for the 2023-2024 school year. Interested parties are to complete and submit the OAPCE application form no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 17, 2023.

4. NCPIC Financial Report

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the Ministry of Education has provided funds to all Parent Involvement Committees to support parent engagement. The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee received \$8,557.00 and each elementary and secondary school received \$500.00 for the 2023-2024 school year.

The Ministry of Education has also provided funds to school boards through the GSN to support parent engagement. Niagara Catholic has received \$30,500 to support parent engagement projects for the 2023-2024 school year. Catholic School Councils may apply for additional funds up to \$1000.00 to support parent engagement activities at the school level through an application process. Applications and funding allocations will be approved in alignment with Ministry criteria, and on a first come, first served basis.

G. SEAC REPORT

Alexandria Attree reported that:

- the Niagara Catholic District School Board embraces diversity in Niagara Catholic schools and supports the educational needs of all students. Special education students are eligible and welcome to attend school until they reach 21 years of age.
 - Director Cipriano shared that students from K-12 are supported throughout their educational journey so that they may live a more independent life.
- SEAC meetings take place on a monthly basis on the first Tuesday of the month at the Catholic Education Centre from 6:30p.m. to 8:30p.m. and are open to the public and are livestreamed.
- Niagara Catholic is fortunate to have a variety of committee members that sit on SEAC (Autism Ontario Niagara Region, Bethesda, Community Living, Down Syndrome Niagara, Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region, Mainstream, Niagara Children's Centre, and Pathstone) as well as Trustees of the Board and Board staff members.
- Niagara Catholic is supporting and bringing awareness to Niagara College's Community Integration through Cooperative Education (CICE) Program for students with intellectual disabilities and other significant learning challenges. Students who meet the admission requirements and complete the program will obtain a college level certificate and develop the skills necessary to transition into paid employment.

H. BISHOP/DIOCESAN REPORT

Nil report-regrets sent.

I. STUDENT SENATE REPORT

Myla Novak reported that:

- the Secondary Student Senate is comprised of two students from each secondary school and they meet on a monthly basis to discuss various student lead initiatives.
- the Lead Out Loud Conference will take place on November 15, 2023 with the elementary student senate members. This year, Secondary Student Senate has partnered with the organization *unlearn*. *unlearn* will be a keynote speaker and will provide interactive seminars for workshops for all participants.

- Secondary Student Senate attended the When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference held in Toronto and Fr. Tony Ricard was the guest speaker.

J. STAFF REPORTS

Elementary Principal, Tornabuono and Secondary Principal, Timmins provided elementary and secondary school updates for information.

Highlights included:

- Monthly Masses and the partnerships between schools and parishes
- Meet the Teacher Curriculum Night
- Co-curricular Activities and Educational Field Trips
- Emergency Response Drills (Fire Drill, Shelter in Place, Lockdown)
- Social Justice Activities (Food Drives, Terry Fox Walk, Pilgrimage, Gift Baskets, Toy Drives)
- National Truth and Reconciliation Day/Treaties Recognition Week
- Professional Development for Staff to advance student achievement and well-being
- Progress Reports and Parent Teacher Conferences
- Grade 8 Transitions, Take Your Kids to Work Day, Skilled Trades and Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM)
- Advent preparations and the anticipation of the birth of Jesus

MOTION:

Moved by: Leanne Prince

THAT the meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be extended by 15 minutes to complete the agenda items.

CARRIED

K. TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Di Lorenzo shared that all stakeholders in Catholic education are encouraged and welcome to attend the meetings of the Board as they are open to the public and livestreamed. Information and the link to join the livestream are available on the Board website.

- The next Board Meeting will take place on November 28, 2023 at 6:30p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.
- The Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board will take place on December 5, 2023 at 6:00p.m. The elections of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board for the upcoming year will take place at this meeting.

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

Co-Chair Annen would like to initiate a Prom Project subcommittee to support Niagara Catholic students. Leanne Prince added that we should also include the faith component and include First Eucharist and Confirmation. Interested parties are to send an email to both Co-Chairs with their intent no later than Friday, November 17, 2023.

M. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.

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

O. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Brenda Annen

THAT the November 2, 2023 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:45p.m.
