



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2014
7:00 P.M.

*DENIS MORRIS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
40 GLEN MORRIS DR., ST. CATHARINES*

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 2, 2014, at Denis Morris Catholic High School, 40 Glen Morris Dr., St. Catharines.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. **Meeting Call to Order – John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chief Executive Officer and Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer John Crocco, in accordance with section 208-4 of the Education Act.

Director Crocco, on behalf of all in attendance, thanked Vicar General Monsignor Vladimir Zivcic for celebrating the Commissioning Mass of the Board of Trustees 2014-2018 and for participating in the Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

Appreciation and gratitude was expressed to the students, choir, Prefects, Student council and staff of Denis Morris Catholic High School for hosting and participating in the Inaugural Meeting.

Director Crocco welcomed the Honourable Mr. Justice Joseph Henderson; Board Solicitor, Bill Amadio; Principals, Vice-Principals, Managers, staff, family friends and guests to the Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

2. **Opening Prayer**

The Director welcomed Vicar General Monsignor Vladimir Zivcic of the Diocese of St. Catharines. Monsignor Zivcic opened the Inaugural Meeting of the 2014-2018 Board with a prayer.

3. **Roll Call**

Director Crocco indicated that all Trustees-Elect and Student Trustees were in attendance.

Trustee	Present	Electronically Present	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	√			
Maurice Charbonneau		√		
Frank Fera	√			
Fr. Paul MacNeil	√			
Ed Nieuwesteeg	√			
Ted O’Leary	√			
Dino Sicoli	√			
Pat Vernal	√			
Student Trustees				
Jessica DiPasquale	√			
Chloe Demizio	√			

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Mark Lefebvre**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Jennifer Brailey**, Manager of Corporate Services & Communications; **Linda Marconi**, Recording Secretary/Executive Assistant – Director of Education.

Special Guests: **Monsignor Vladimir Zivcic**, **Honourable Mr. Justice Joseph Henderson**, **Bill Amadio**

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No Declarations of Conflict of Interest were declared with any items on the agenda.

5. Returns of Election

In accordance with Board By-Laws section 7 (iii) and the Education Act, Director Crocco presented the Returns of Election as certified by municipal clerks.

6. Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance

Honourable Mr. Justice Joseph Henderson offered words of congratulations to all Trustees. Justice Henderson with Monsignor Vladimir Zivcic, and assisted by Director of Education Crocco, administered the Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance to all elected Trustees.

7. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

Director Crocco reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, and appointed Bill Amadio, Board Solicitor and Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services, as scrutineers.

Election of Chairperson

Moved by Trustee Vernal

THAT Trustee MacNeil be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 2, 2014 until the 2015 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco asked Trustee MacNeil if he wished to stand for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee MacNeil accepted the nomination.

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

THAT Trustee Burtnik be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 2, 2014 until the 2015 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco asked Trustee Burtnik if she wished to stand for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Burtnik respectfully declined the nomination.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

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

CARRIED

Director Crocco declared that Trustee MacNeil was acclaimed to the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Director Crocco turned over the Chairship of the Inaugural Meeting of the Board to Chairperson MacNeil.

Moved by O'Leary

Seconded by Nieuwesteeg

THAT the ballots for the election of the Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, be destroyed.

CARRIED

Election of Vice-Chairperson

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT Trustee Burtnik be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board from from December 2, 2014 until the 2015 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Chairperson MacNeil asked Trustee Burtnik if she wished to stand for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Burtnik accepted the nomination.

Moved by Trustee Fera

THAT Trustee Sicoli be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board from from December 2, 2014 until the 2015 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Chairperson MacNeil asked Trustee Sicoli if he wished to stand for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Sicoli accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

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

CARRIED

Following the counting of the ballots, a tie was declared. A second vote was taken and was also declared a tie. In compliance with Board By-Laws, the two nominees drew straws for the position of Vice-Chairperson alphabetically by last name with the person drawing the long straw elected. Trustee Dino Sicoli was elected by straw ballot to the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board until the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board in 2015.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the ballots for the election of the Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, be destroyed.

CARRIED

8. Chairperson's Remarks

A copy of Chairperson MacNeil's remarks is attached to the minutes for information and placed on the Board website.
(Appendix A)

9. Vice-Chairperson's Remarks

A copy of Vice-Chairperson Sicoli's remarks is attached to the minutes for information and placed on the Board website.
(Appendix B)

10. Appointment of Board Auditor

Director Crocco presented the report on the Appointment of Board Auditor.

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of Crawford, Smith & Swallow as Board Auditors for the term December 1, 2014 to November 30, 2018.

CARRIED

11. Board Committees

Director Crocco presented the report on Board Committees, and stated that the report is in compliance with Board Bylaw 17 v (a) which calls for Trustee membership on Board Ad Hoc, Statutory, Standing and Liaison Committees until the November 30th, 2015 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco stated that membership to the committees are appointed by the Chairperson of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chairperson of the Board, and asked that Trustees submit their completed form to the Office of the Director by the December 16, 2014 Board Meeting.

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the continuation of the following Ad Hoc Committee for the year 2015:

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

CARRIED

B. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

C. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the December 2, 2014 Inaugural Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 2, 2014.**

Approved on the **16th** day of **December 2014.**

Fr. Paul MacNeil
Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary –Treasurer

APPENDIX A

Remarks from the Chairperson - Fr. Paul MacNeil Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board December 2, 2014

I would like to begin my remarks by thanking all those who work so diligently, those here present today and those who have gone before us, to make Catholic education a reality today. In particular, I would like to thank our guests here tonight, and all of the principals and senior staff who have taken time out of their busy schedules to join us. Your leadership and your connection with our students is important and appreciated.

Two thousand years ago, several of the followers of Jesus were arguing with each other about which one of them was the greatest. Jesus took them aside and gently challenged them to be better, to think more clearly and to be humble: "You know," he said, "how those who exercise authority among the gentiles lord it over them; their great ones make their importance felt. It cannot be like that with you. Anyone among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest, and whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all."

I would like to assure you that I have always felt my role of trustee to be one of service and I would encourage everyone in our system to be mindful of Jesus call of humility. At times, we all need to be reminded of the words of St. Paul: "I beg you: make my joy complete by your unanimity, possessing the one love, united in spirit and ideals. Never act out of rivalry or conceit; rather let all parties think humbly of others as superior to themselves, each of you looking to others interests rather than to his own. Your attitude must be that of Christ."

And what better model for education do we have than Jesus himself. "Then," scripture tells us, "he took a little child, stood him in their midst, and putting his arms around him, said to them: "Whoever welcomes a child such as this for my sake welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me, but the one who sent me." (Lk. 9: 36-37). So let us continue to act in service of one another and our children, not only for the benefit of a prosperous, caring and civil society, but for the building up of the Kingdom of God. "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them," Jesus said, "it is to just such as these that the kingdom of God belongs" (Lk. 10:14)

APPENDIX B

Remarks from the Vice-Chairperson – Dino Sicoli Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board December 2, 2014

I am deeply honored and it is certainly a GREAT privilege to be nominated and elected as Vice- Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Thank you!

In this evening's first reading at Mass, Isaiah says
"The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of the wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might ,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
He shall judge the poor with justice."

When I hear these words, I think of the Advent refrain, "Come, Lord Jesus."
This little prayer asks for the *whole* Jesus, not just the infant but also the Lord who comes to establish justice. You can't stay at the Christmas crèche in peaceful, private contemplation of God's love. You also have to respond to that love by taking up God's call for justice and peace. The psalmists and prophets call this 'social justice.' This consistent, systematic care for people in need is what the Messiah – King was going to bring about.

As Vice- Chair I pledge to do all I can to ensure that the Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) focuses on what is best for students, their parents, their communities, staff and on providing quality Catholic education for all students in Niagara.

Every decision I make at the Board table will be informed by "what is best for students and staff."

I will listen with a compassionate ear and respect the ideas that my peer Trustees have to offer in order to come to the best decision based on what is right rather than who is right. In all of my open meetings with parents, I will do all I can to support the development of their abilities to be effective and informed advocates for their children.

As your Vice-Chair, I will act with the highest level of integrity, honesty and professionalism that being an elected official demands; be it a strong advocate for Catholic Education and ensure transparency along with accountability.

I will ensure that all policies promote positive and effective working relationships between trustees, staff, parents and the community.

Finally, as Vice- Chair, I will commit to the simple idea that NCDSB resources should be used in the best interests of all of our students and that transparency about the use of all public resources is critical.

In prayer, I say, Come Lord Jesus! Give me the wisdom and courage to build your kingdom and work for your justice and peace. Pray for me!

May GOD bless all of you!!!!