



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2012

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Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 4, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chief Executive Officer and Director of Education John Crocco, in accordance with section 208-4 of the Education Act.

Director Crocco thanked Bishop Bergie, Principals, Vice-Principals, Managers, special guests, students, family and friends for attending the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco informed the guests in attendance that at the Inaugural Meeting of the Board in 2010, the first action of the elected Board of Trustees was to approve a motion naming His Excellency - Bishop Gerard Bergie as the Honourary Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

On behalf all in attendance, the Director expressed gratitude to Bishop Bergie for his valued partnership with Niagara Catholic, his continuous support and celebration of the importance and excellence of Niagara Catholic schools, the Board, Administrators and staff, as Niagara Catholic models and shares the teachings of Jesus and the church.

2. *Opening Prayer*

Bishop Bergie thanked the Director for his kind words and the opportunity to participate in the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board. The Bishop expressed appreciation for the dedication of Trustees, administrators, staff and everyone involved in the gift of Catholic Education.

His Excellency opened the 2012 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board with a dedicated prayer and inspiration remarks to all in attendance.

Bishop Bergie reflected on the journey of the Advent Season, reminding everyone that it is a time of preparation and waiting, and that the Church asks us to open our hearts and remove the clutter in our lives as we await the great feast of Christmas where we remember the birth of Jesus Christ.

**3. Roll Call**

Director Crocco noted that Bishop Bergie, all Trustees and Student Trustees were in attendance.

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Rhianon Burkholder	✓		
Kathy Burtnik	✓		
Maurice Charbonneau	✓		
Frank Fera	✓		
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓		
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓		
Ted O’Leary	✓		
Dino Sicoli	✓		
<b>Student Trustees</b>			
Vincent Atallah	✓		
Michael Blair	✓		

The following staff were in attendance:

**John Crocco**, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Mario Ciccarelli**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Mark Lefebvre**, Superintendents of Education; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Jennifer Brailey**, Manager of Corporate Services & Communications; **Sherry Morena**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg  
 Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of December 4, 2012, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5. Disclosure of Interest**

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

**6. Holy Cross Catholic High School Concert Band & Choir Performance**

Mario Ciccarelli, Superintendent of Education, welcomed Denice Robertson, Principal of Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, who introduced J.P. Dupont, Program Chair of the Arts, Mr. Ryan Gway, and the Holy Cross Concert Band and Choir students who performed for the Board.

Director Crocco, on behalf of Trustees, Senior Staff and everyone present, thanked the students of Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School for sharing their special gift of song and music.

St. Catharines Trustees Burtnik and Charbonneau presented the students with Niagara Catholic "Excellence in the Arts" pins.

**7. Election Procedures**

Director Crocco reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, and appointed Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells and Mark Lefebvre, Superintendents of Education, as scrutineers.

**8. Election of Chairperson**

Moved by Trustee Fera

**THAT** Trustee Paul MacNeil be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 4, 2012 until the 2013 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 Nieuwesteeg

**THAT** Trustee Burtnik be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 4, 2012 until the 2013 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 accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Fera

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

**CARRIED**

Following the counting of the ballots, Trustee Burtnik was elected to the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Director Crocco turned over the Chairship of the Annual Organization Meeting of the Board to Chairperson Burtnik.

Moved by Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

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

**CARRIED**

**9. Election of Vice-Chairperson**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

**THAT** Trustee Charbonneau be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 4, 2012 until the 2013 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

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

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** Trustee MacNeil be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 4, 2012 until the 2013 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

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

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

**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, Trustee Charbonneau was elected to the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

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

**CARRIED**

#### **10. Chairperson's Remarks**

A copy of Chairperson Burtnik's remarks are attached to the minutes for information and placed on the Board, My Niagara Catholic and My Niagara Catholic Alumni websites.  
(Appendix A)

#### **11. Vice-Chairperson's Remarks**

A copy of Vice-Chairperson Charbonneau's remarks are attached to the minutes for information and placed on the Board, My Niagara Catholic and My Niagara Catholic Alumni websites.  
(Appendix B)

## **B. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. Board Committees**

Director Crocco presented the report on Board Committees, and stated that the report is in compliance with Board Bylaw 17 which calls for Trustee membership on Board Ad Hoc, Statutory, Standing and Liaison Committees until the next 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 of Education by the December 18, 2012 Board Meeting.

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the continuation of the following Ad Hoc Committees for the year 2013:

- Denis Morris, Holy Cross, and St. Francis 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 Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee

**CARRIED**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the establishment of the following Ad Hoc Committees for the year 2013:

- Blessed Trinity 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

**CARRIED**

## **C. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE**

## **D. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

Seconded by Trustee MacNeil

**THAT** the December 4, 2012 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

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Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

Approved on the **18<sup>th</sup>** day of **December 2012.**

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Kathy Burtnik  
Chairperson of the Board

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John Crocco  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**CHAIRPERSON KATHY BURTNİK'S REMARKS**

**Annual Organizational Meeting  
of the Niagara Catholic District School Board  
December 4, 2012**

As I was thinking about what to say this evening in the event that I was elected to the position of Chairperson for the coming year, I was inspired to go to the archives of Niagara Catholic to read what had been said before by those who have come before me. I was profoundly moved by the message of one of the great leaders in Niagara Catholic's rich history in Father Ken Burns' address of 1998 - in his words, "a time of apprehension, uncertainty and challenge"

Much has happened in our history since Father Burns was standing in this very spot, yet the core of who we are has not changed. I was reminded that although different events take place, and continue to challenge us all, we continually respond in a manner that is truly, distinctively Catholic.

I look forward with humble anticipation to fulfilling the role of Chairperson of this dynamic family of Faith. Niagara Catholic is not a place, it is not a single person; it is a community of people at various stages in their individual faith journeys who need to be inspired by the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ. Each of us is called to be a leader, as each of us has someone who is looking to us for an authentic Christ-like response to their life story. To be a Catholic leader, requires first and foremost that we be *followers*, that we recognize the absolute fact that we alone are not capable of that which we are collectively capable of. Jesus himself taught us that He could not do alone what He could accomplish with the group he gathered around Him. To be a follower of Christ, we are called to carry on His story: To love unconditionally, to put the needs of others before our own, to not cast stones or pass judgment, to have meaningful conversations with God, to be thankful for the smallest of things, to know that every human is created in the likeness and image of God - is created to fulfill whatever promise lives within them. The greatest joy of being a follower is to recognize and celebrate that we are fully human, we fall, we fail, we seek forgiveness and we rise again. To be able to live this truth each and every moment of our day at work and at home is an incredible gift.

When asked what we do, we are quick to answer, trustee, principal, teacher, superintendent, manager, director - whatever our title - I ask that each of us pause and preface our title with the more relevant, distinctive *who* we are - "Catholic." Perhaps if we say it often enough, it will begin to have a hold on our beings, it will take deeper root in our schools and in our communities, and we will not be what the world expects of us, but *who* God calls us to be. I offer to you my commitment to embrace this year of Faith and be a leader who is first a follower. How blessed a life it is to be absolutely certain that no matter the "event" or the "challenge" in Niagara Catholic or in our personal lives, we are not alone.

I extend my most sincere appreciation to my seven trustee colleagues for their faith in electing me, to Trustee Charbonneau for his/her willingness to take on the role of vice-chair, to our Honorary Chair, Bishop Bergie, whose friendship, guidance, support and prayers keep us all grounded in our Faith, and to each of you and those you represent, Thank you for your bringing the face of Christ to every person you encounter.

May God continue to bless us all with enough health that we may be helpful to others, enough wealth to be generous to those in need, and more than enough Grace so that all may know that Catholic education is a gift that our society cannot live without. Our students, present and future are counting on it.

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON MAURICE CHARBONNEAU'S REMARKS**

**Annual Organizational Meeting  
of the Niagara Catholic District School Board  
December 4, 2012**

Your Excellency Bishop Bergie, Mr. Crocco, Superintendents, fellow trustees, staff and friends of Niagara Catholic, I am honoured to have been elected as Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

I wish to thank my fellow trustees for the privilege of serving as your Vice-Chair. I pledge to work diligently in building a sense of co-operation and trust. As we all know, individually, we are but one voice, but collectively, we have the power to build one of the strongest Catholic school boards in Ontario.

We are faced with some exciting and daunting decisions over the next year. We are to remain focused on the tasks ahead and I am confident that, as a group of caring and conscientious trustees, we will meet all challenges effectively.

To all members of the Niagara Catholic staff thank you for the hard work and dedication you provide on a daily basis. The quality of your work is reflected in improved test scores and the measured growth of each child. We, as trustees, will continue to assist and support all that you do in the classroom and the schools.

To the parents, we thank you most profoundly for entrusting your children to us. We pledge to continue to provide effective programs, resources and care for your children as they journey with us.

May each of you walk in the light of Christ!