



# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2016**

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Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, 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 – John Crocco, Director of Education/CEO/Secretary-Treasurer**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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, Honorary Chair of the Board, the Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School Jazz Choir, school and system administrators, special guests, 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 of all in attendance, the Director expressed gratitude to Bishop Bergie for his faith filled leadership, presence, guidance and teaching, as well as his valued partnership with Niagara Catholic. Niagara Catholic is grateful for Bishop Bergie's 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 and Comments - (Most Rev.) Gerard P. Bergie, D.D., Bishop of St. Catharines Honorary Chair of the Board**

Bishop Bergie opened the 2016 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board with a dedicated prayer.

His Excellency then thanked Director Crocco for his kind words and the opportunity to participate in the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board. He expressed appreciation for the partnership between Niagara Catholic and the Diocese of St. Catharines.

Bishop Bergie described Niagara Catholic as a community of various individuals that help bring our children to Christ. That we are a system working together to bring all closer to Christ our Lord. The holier we become the holier we become as a community. Bishop Bergie thanked Niagara Catholic District School Board for all they do for Catholic Education.

Director Crocco thanked Bishop Bergie for his inspiring message, for his presence and for his continued support.

**3. Roll Call**

Director Crocco noted that Bishop Bergie and all Trustees were in attendance. Student Trustees will be arriving following the Student Senate meeting and Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services was excused from the Board meeting.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Maurice Charbonneau	✓			
Frank Fera	✓			
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓			
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓			
Ted O'Leary	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Pat Vernal	✓			
<b>Student Trustees</b>				
Kira Petriello	✓			
Nico Tripodi	✓			

Special Guest:

Honorary Chair: (Most Rev.) **Gerard P. Bergie**, D.D., Bishop of St. Catharines  
 Bill Amadio, Board Solicitor

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; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Vernal

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of December 6, 2016, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5. 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.

**6. Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School Jazz Choir**

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education, welcomed the Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School Jazz Choir, Joe Zaroda, Principal, Fran Brockenshire and Dominic Scozzafava, Vice-Principals and Angela Maccaroni, Music Director.

The Jazz Choir from Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School performed three advent songs for the Board.

Director Crocco, on behalf of Trustees, Senior Staff and everyone present, congratulated and thanked the students of Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School for sharing their angelic voices.

Trustee MacNeil joined Director Crocco in presenting the students with Niagara Catholic “Excellence in the Arts” pins to wear proudly with their uniform.

**7. Election Procedures**

Director Crocco reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson 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 Bill Amadio, Board Solicitor and Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education, as scrutineers.

**8. Election of Chairperson**

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

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 6, 2016 until the December 2017 Inaugural 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 Charbonneau

**THAT** Trustee Burtnik be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 6, 2016 until the December 2017 Inaugural 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.

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

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

**THAT** the nominations for the position of 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 Chairperson alphabetically by last name with the person drawing the long straw

elected. Trustee MacNeil was elected by straw ballot to the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board until the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board in 2017.

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

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Vernal

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

**CARRIED**

### **9. Election of Vice-Chairperson**

Chair MacNeil called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Board.

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

**THAT** Trustee Burtnik be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 6, 2016 until the December 2017 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

Chair 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 Sicoli

**THAT** Trustee Vernal be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 6, 2016 until the December 2017 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

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

Following three calls for nominations 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, Trustee Burtnik was elected to the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

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**

Chair MacNeil thanked the Board of Trustees for their confidence in his continued role as Board chair. He noted Niagara Catholics unwavering commitment to Catholic education in Niagara and Ontario, the value of a Board of Trustees working together to guide and protect the board and that as we face the future with all its challenges and opportunities, we must face that future together, not just as a board of 8 trustees, but all 25,000 of us.

A copy of Chair MacNeil's remarks are attached to the Minutes for information and are posted on the Board, My Niagara Catholic and My Niagara Catholic Alumni websites.  
(Appendix A)

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

Trustee Burtnik expressed the importance of Catholic Education and the need to hold it sacred, to continue to share the good news with all we meet and to move our staff, students and communities ever closer to the face of God.

A copy of Vice-Chairperson Burtnik's remarks are attached to the Minutes for information are posted 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, in accordance with Board By-Law 19 which calls for Trustee membership on Board Ad Hoc, Statutory, Standing and Liaison Committees until November 30, 2017.

Director Crocco stated that members to the committees are appointed by the Chairperson of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chairperson of the Board. He asked that Trustees submit their completed form to the Office of the Director of Education by the December 20, 2016 Board Meeting.

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the continuation of the following Ad Hoc Committees for the year 2017:

- 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 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 Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

**THAT** the December 6, 2016 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 6, 2016.**

Approved on **December 20, 2016.**

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Fr. Paul MacNeil  
Chairperson of the Board

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John Crocco  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**CHAIRPERSON FR. PAUL MACNEIL'S REMARKS**

**Annual Organizational Meeting  
of the Niagara Catholic District School Board  
December 6, 2016**

Bishop Bergie, Vice chair Burtnik, fellow trustees, director Crocco, superintendents, administration and honoured guests. I would like once again to thank the board of trustees for their confidence in me in my continued role as board chair.

In my role as chair for the past several years, I have learned three things about us as a board.

First, I have learned first hand of our unwavering commitment to Catholic education in Niagara and Ontario. If I may point out one particularly positive initiative, the new religion curriculum developed by the Bishops of Ontario is stunning in its depth and breadth. I must commend the bishops of Ontario and all those who have worked so hard at making this a reality. I foresee over time that this will have an incredibly positive impact on our board.

Secondly, I have learned first hand of the value of a board of trustees working together to guide and protect our board. Now, more so than ever, we are a group of 8 individuals with strong and passionate ideals, but we come together as one body, sharing a deep concern for the spiritual well-being of our children. Scott Peck in his book "The road less travelled" had a name for this care for the spiritual well being of another: he called it love. It is the foundation of our organization.

Thirdly, as we face the future with all its challenges and opportunities, we must face that future together, not just as a board of 8 trustees, but all 25,000 of us. And here I turn to our mission statement:

"The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ."

This statement is anchored in another statement, which comes first in every way: our mission to love one another as Christ has loved us. So I conclude with a quotation from Paul's letter to the Ephesians:

"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3 making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4: 1-6)

May God bless you tonight and always. Fr. Paul MacNeil

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON KATHY BURTNİK'S REMARKS**

**Annual Organizational Meeting  
of the Niagara Catholic District School Board  
December 6, 2016**

We have so much to celebrate in our rich history. We have a remarkable, dedicated staff who constantly bring the light and the life of Christ into our classrooms, hallways, offices and communities. The coming year will be marked with challenges and opportunities. We will only be able to meet those challenges, and take the opportunities if we are committed as trustees, not to our own motives, but to the collective mission of Catholic education here in Niagara. We have our Bishop & a Diocese of parishioners who count on us to keep the gift of Catholic education fully alive. We have parents and guardians who for a multitude of very personal reasons choose Niagara Catholic to help raise their children to be all they can be in this world. We have students from 3 to 93 who are counting on us to be the hands, the feet and the heart of Christ.

We must continue to build relationships with each other and with all those who have an interest in Catholic education. I know I said this last year, but it bears repeating - We are all aware of the constant whispers calling for the discontinued funding of our schools. We cannot dismiss them, we can however diminish their noise by loudly and proudly proclaiming our distinctiveness. If we can continue to do this, as we did this past year, without using words, by simply living out the gospel story of peace, love, acceptance and forgiveness we will have accomplished great things in our community. We will have honoured the sacrifices of those that have gone before us in building the foundation upon which we stand. This moment of promise has been given to each of us, we are not here by mistake, let's hold it sacred and continue to share the good news with all we meet.

I look forward to working with Father Paul in moving our staff, students and communities ever closer to the face of God.

Wishing you all of God's blessings – blessings of Peace, of Love and of Joy.