



# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2020

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Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 1, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns C.S.C. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

## A. ROUTINE MATTERS

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chief Executive Officer and Director of Education Camillo Cipriano, in accordance with section 208-4 of the Education Act.

Director Cipriano welcomed guests and thanked Bishop Bergie, Honorary Chair of the Board for attending the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board for 2020.

### 2. Land Acknowledgement – Sydney Yott, Student Trustee

Student Trustee Sydney Yott opened the 2020 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board with a Land Acknowledgement.

### 3. Opening Prayer – (Most Rev.) Gerard P. Bergie, D.D., Bishop of St. Catharines, Honorary Chair of the Board

Director Cipriano informed the guests in attendance that at the Organizational Meeting of the Board in 2014, 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 and support, as well as his valued partnership with Niagara Catholic.

His Excellency then thanked Director Cipriano for his kind words and the opportunity to participate in the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Bishop Bergie led the 2020 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board with a dedicated Advent reflection and prayer.

On behalf of the Board and the students of Niagara Catholic, Director Cipriano presented Bishop Bergie with a box of Christmas cards designed from artwork submitted by students of Niagara Catholic.

4. **Roll Call**

Director Cipriano noted that all Trustees and Student Trustees were in attendance.

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Present Electronically</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Frank Fera	✓			
Larry Huibers	✓			
Daniel Moody	✓			
Leanne Prince	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Paul Turner	✓			
<b>Student Trustees</b>				
Luca DiPietro	✓			
Sydney Yott	✓			

Special Guest:

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

The following staff were in attendance:

**Camillo Cipriano**, Director of Education; **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Kimberly Kinney**, **Gino Pizzoferrato**, **Pat Rocca**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Clark Euale**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services

5. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Burtnik  
 Seconded by Trustee Prince

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of December 1, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED**

6. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

7. **Election Procedures**

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

8. **Election of Chair**

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

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

**THAT** Trustee Huibers be nominated for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 1, 2020 until the December 2021 Organizational Meeting of the Board.

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

Moved by Trustee Turner

**THAT** Trustee Fera be nominated for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 1, 2020 until the December 2021 Organizational Meeting of the Board.

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

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

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

Seconded by Trustee Moody

**THAT** the nominations for the position of Chair 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 Chair. Straws were drawn alphabetically by last name with the person drawing the long straw elected. Trustee Huibers was elected by straw ballot to the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 1, 2020 until the December 2021 Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

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

**CARRIED**

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

9. **Election of Vice-Chair**

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

Moved by Trustee Prince

**THAT** Trustee Burkholder be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 1, 2020 until the December 2021 Organizational Meeting of the Board.

**CARRIED**

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

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** Trustee Moody be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 1, 2020 until the December 2021 Organizational Meeting of the Board.

**CARRIED**

Chair Huibers asked Trustee Moody if he wished to stand for the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Moody accepted the nomination.

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

Moved by Trustee Prince

Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

**THAT** the nominations for the position of Vice-Chair 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-Chair. Straws were drawn alphabetically by last name with the person drawing the long straw elected. Trustee Moody was elected by straw ballot to the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 1, 2020 until the December 2021 Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

Seconded by Trustee Prince

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

**CARRIED**

10. **Chair's Remarks**

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

## 11. Vice-Chair's Remarks

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

## B. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

### 1. Board Committees

Director Cipriano presented the Report on Board Committees, in accordance with Board By-Law 19 which calls for Trustee membership on Board Ad Hoc, Statutory, Standing and Liaison Committees until November 30, 2021.

Director Cipriano stated that members to the committees are appointed by the Chair of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chair of the Board. He asked that Trustees submit their completed form to the Office of the Director of Education by the December 15, 2020 Board Meeting.

In compliance with Board By-laws, the Chair, in consultation with the Vice-Chair will appoint trustees to the various committees of the Board. A report on the recommended names will be presented at the January 12, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting for a recommendation to the January Board meeting for approval of Board committees for 2021.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Turner

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the continuation of the following Ad Hoc Committees for the year 2021:

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

**CARRIED**

## C. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

## D. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Prince

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the December 1, 2020 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 1, 2020.**

Approved on **December 15, 2020.**

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Larry Huibers  
Chair of the Board

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Camillo Cipriano  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

## APPENDIX A

### CHAIR HUIBERS' REMARKS

#### **Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board December 1, 2020**

Good Evening your Worship Bishop Bergie, fellow trustees and all supporters of Catholic Education.

As we embark on this year, we are thankful for the many gifts we have been afforded in the past year. Past Chair Frank Fera has guided us forward, thank you for your leadership and unwavering commitment to Catholic Education. Our new Director, Camillo Cipriano has taken the helm at a difficult period however the legacy of our former Director John Crocco has left us ready to face the challenges ahead. Covid has changed the landscape and created new stressors that we will all need to be mindful of. More than ever we need to look out for one another and be the support system for each other, especially our students, who we are entrusted to help them actualize all the potential God has given them.

As Trustees for the Niagara Catholic District School Board we have walked many paths, some met at the same place, some did not. The purpose of our different paths is as varied as the unique skills and attributes we each have. Our role as Trustees is not to be the same but to be unique and be willing to share the gift of our experience and commitment to Catholic education. Through open, honest dialogue our differences become the strength of the Board. We are witness to this when we look at the diversity of each table we support, be it students, staff, clergy or community. All of us that make up Niagara Catholic have an opportunity and obligation to continue to respect diversity, to support all our students, their families, all staff and the church community. Together this is the essence of Niagara Catholic.

There is a call to action that all of us who support Catholic Education must recognize. These are complex and difficult times. Supporting the staff of Niagara Catholic has never been more critical for a strong, effective Catholic Education system in Ontario. Allowing staff to do the work their vocation has called them to do is paramount for our students to succeed. We will all be tested in the upcoming year. Our collective response will be guided by our faith. The knowledge that by finding a louder voice on our shared needs and values we will be able to offer an exceptional educational experience for all those that we have the blessings of engaging with. There is also the opportunity that gaining knowledge on our differences and making those differences strengths not weaknesses will ensure that we are being receptive to the whole of the Niagara Catholic community.

We must all commit to supporting one another and while we may not always agree, we will use the teachings of Christ as our compass to navigate the waters ahead.

I ask for all your prayers, support and guidance as we move forward for the 2021 year.

## APPENDIX B

### VICE-CHAIR MOODY'S REMARKS

#### Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board December 1, 2020

Thank you Bishop, fellow Trustees, Student Trustees, Superintendents, Unions and everybody in attendance as support staff.

The story I'm going to tell is going to relate to a little while back when I was working. I had an opportunity to watch and guard over for a period of time, Jesse Jackson. Everybody knows who Jesse Jackson is, he's quite the dynamic speaker, and I watched him, it was during the negotiating with the free trade and I was assigned to him to spend the day with him, and I learned a lot from that guy. I'm going to mention him for a reason, and I'm going to tell you why. I was with him when he was giving his speeches, and I watched the way he gave his speeches, I watched how dynamic this guy was. I was stunned that he could do it on the whim, and I asked him when I was sitting in the car going to Toronto, I asked him, where do you get the inspiration? How come you're not reading it? He said, "Dan, scripted speeches, people can tell, they can tell by looking at you if they're scripted. It doesn't have the impact it does when you say it from your heart".

So today's speech I'm going to speak from my heart. I never forgot what he told me. It's not a question of being prepared. It's a lot harder to do this, in my view, than to read something. So, I'm going to start off by telling everybody, thank you very much. My intentions as Vice-chair are simply as follows;

I'm going to support the students and the staff and I'm going to support them. I'm going to do everything I can, and that's the reason why I'm a trustee. For no other reason. Being a trustee is a little bit different than I originally had thought. I thought I was going to come here, show up, help some kids and go home. It's not like that. What an education I had for the last two years. There's hurdles we are going to have to face. They're tough. I got to suck it up in certain areas. I know I'm going to have to do that. I'm going to do the best I can, but being Irish Italian, my head's like this table. It's true, it's very difficult, but my intentions as vice-chair are very straight and forward, I'm here to support our working staff. That's what we're supposed to do, and I'm going to make sure it gets done. I can tell you, but I got to show you, and you'll see it, and I base my reputation on that. But, like I said, I am speaking from the heart. I'm looking at each and every one of you, and that's my intent.

So, I thank you for your time, and, you'll see.

Thank you very much.