



*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.*

*AGENDA AND MATERIAL*

## **BOARD MEETING**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020  
6:30 P.M.**

*FATHER KENNETH BURNS, C.S.C. BOARD ROOM  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE, WELLAND, ONTARIO*



**SEEDS OF FAITH**  
MASS • MERCY • MISSION  
2018-2021

### **A. ROUTINE MATTERS**

1. Opening Prayers – Trustee Huibers -
2. Roll Call -
3. Approval of the Agenda -
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest -
5. Minutes of the Board Meeting
  - 5.1 September 29, 2020 A5.1
  - 5.2 October 13, 2020 A5.2
6. Consent Agenda Items
  - 6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 13, 2020 and Consideration of Recommendations A6.1
    - 6.1.1 Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10) A6.1.1
    - 6.1.2 Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration Policy (201.2) A6.1.2
    - 6.1.3 Volunteer Recognition Policy (800.4) A6.1.3
    - 6.1.4 Revised Secondary School Year Calendar 2020-2021 A6.1.4
    - 6.1.5 Welcoming and Supporting International Students During COVID-19 A6.1.5
  - 6.2 Approved Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of June 19, 2020 A6.2
  - 6.3 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of September 9, 2020 A6.3
  - 6.4 In-Camera Agenda Items F1, F2, F4, F5, F6, F7, F8 & F12.1 -

### **B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

### **C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

1. Virtual School Update (Ted Farrell and Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells) C1
2. 2019-2020 Unaudited Year-End Financial Results (Giancarlo Vetrone) C2

### **D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Correspondence -
2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended -
3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action
  - 3.1 Education Development Charges Public Meeting – November 10, 2020 5:30 p.m. -

- 4. Trustee Information
  - 4.1 Calendar of Events – November 2020 (Camillo Cipriano) D4.1
  - 4.2 Draft Letter to Premier Ford and Stephen Lecce (Camillo Cipriano) D4.2
- 5. Open Question Period  
*(The purpose of the Open Question Period is to allow members of the Catholic school supporting public to ask about items on that night's public agenda or any previous agendas, and the Board to answer and react.)*

**E. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

**G. REPORT ON IN CAMERA SESSION**

**H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

**I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE**

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2020**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of September 29, 2020, as presented.



## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, September 29, 2020, 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 Chair Fera.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Trustee Burtnik

2. Roll Call

Chair Fera noted that all Trustees and Student Trustees were in attendance.

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

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 & Communications

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Board Meeting of September 29, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Disclosures of Interest were declared by Trustees Huibers, Moody and Fera with Item F9.3 of the In Camera Agenda. These trustees have family members who are employees of the Board. They left the meeting during discussion of this item.

**5. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting**

**5.1 June 22, 2020**

Moved by Trustee Huibers  
Seconded by Trustee Turner

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of June 22, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5.2 June 23, 2020**

Moved by Trustee Huibers  
Seconded by Trustee Turner

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of June 23, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5.3 June 26, 2020**

Moved by Trustee Huibers  
Seconded by Trustee Turner

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of June 26, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5.4 June 30, 2020**

Moved by Trustee Huibers  
Seconded by Trustee Turner

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of June 30, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5.5 July 14, 2020**

Moved by Trustee Huibers  
Seconded by Trustee Turner

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of July 14, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5.6 August 24, 2020**

Moved by Trustee Huibers  
Seconded by Trustee Turner

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of August 24, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. Consent Agenda Items**

**6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 15, 2020**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole of September 15, 2020, as presented.

**6.2 Approved Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of November 22, 2019**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting of November 22, 2019, as presented.

**6.3 Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of June 3, 2020**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of June 3, 2020, as presented.

**6.4 Approved Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) of May 7, 2020**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the approved Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of May 7, 2020, as presented for information

**6.5 Appointment of Community Representatives to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee 2020-2021**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of the following community members to serve as Community Representatives on the NCPIC for the 2019-2020 term:

Shelley Gilbert –St. Vincent de Paul Society (Appendix A)

**6.6 In-Camera Items F1, F2, F4.1, F4.2, F4.3, F5, F6, F7, F8, F12.1.1, F12.1.2, F12.1.3 and F12.1.4**

Moved by Trustee Turner  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board adopt the consent agenda items.

**CARRIED**

## **B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

## **C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. Niagara Catholic Reopening Plan Update**

Director Cipriano along with senior staff provided an update on the Niagara Catholic Reopening Plan.

Director Cipriano and members of senior staff answered questions of Trustees.

### **2. In Person Versus Virtual Learners**

Director Cipriano presented the In Person Versus Virtual Learners report for information.

### **3. System Priorities Achievement Report 2019-2020**

Director Cipriano presented the System Priorities Achievement Report 2019-2020 for information.

### **4. Financial Reports**

#### **4.1 2019-2020 Update**

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services provided an update on the 2019-2020 Update.

#### **4.2 2020-2021 Budget Booklet**

Superintendent Vetrone Services presented the 2020-2021 Budget Booklet for Trustee information.

## **D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Correspondence**

Nil

### **2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended**

Trustee Burkholder reported on the OCSTA virtual regional meeting, noting it was a good opportunity to hear from other Trustees regarding their concerns as well as positive feedback on how other boards are adapting to the new changes in the education system.

Trustee Burtnik acknowledged that we are not alone. The challenges, successes and the hopes that were expressed this evening were expressed by other boards in the region during the OCSTA virtual regional meeting.

**3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action**

Director Cipriano noted that with the possible social distance restriction changes, and in order to accommodate access for the public to attend future public Board meetings, the Board may have to decide on a hybrid type model for future meetings to safely accommodate the public.

Superintendent Vetrone provided an update on the live streaming and modernization project for the Father Burns Board room.

**4. Trustee Information**

Director Cipriano highlighted item D4.1 for the information or questions of Trustees.

**4.1 Calendar of Events – October 2020**

**5. Open Question Period**

None Submitted

**E. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Huibers

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board move into the In Camera Session.

**CARRIED**

The Niagara Catholic District School Board moved into the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting at 8:22 p.m. and reconvened at 8:48 p.m.

**G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Moved by Trustee Huibers

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of September 29, 2020.

**CARRIED**

**SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT**

Moved by Trustee Turner

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION A: Student Trustees Present of June 23, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F1)**



Moved by Trustee Turner  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION A: Student Trustees Present of September 15, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F2)**

## **SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED**

Moved by Trustee Turner  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of June 23, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F4.1)**

Moved by Trustee Turner  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of July 14, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F4.2)**

Moved by Trustee Turner  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of August 24, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F4.3)**

Moved by Trustee Turner  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of September 15, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F5)**

Moved by Trustee Turner  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the motion from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting – SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of F6

**CARRIED (Item F6)**

Moved by Trustee Turner  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item F12.1.1 of the In Camera Agenda.

**CARRIED (Item F12.1.1)**

Moved by Trustee Turner  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item F12.1.2 of the In Camera Agenda.

**CARRIED (Item F12.1.2)**

Moved by Trustee Turner  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item F12.1.3 of the In Camera Agenda.

**CARRIED (Item F12.1.3)**

Moved by Trustee Turner  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item F12.1.4 of the In Camera Agenda.

**CARRIED (Item F12.1.4)**

## **H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

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

## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Turner  
Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

**THAT** the September 29, 2020 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **September 29, 2020**.

Approved on **October 27, 2020**.

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Frank Fera  
Chair of the Board

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Camillo Cipriano  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OF  
OCTOBER 13, 2020**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of October 13, 2020, as presented.



# MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020**

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 8:30 p.m. 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 8:57 p.m. by Chair Fera.

## A. ROUTINE MATTERS

### 1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer were led by Trustee Fera.

### 2. Roll Call

Chair Fera noted that Trustee Moody was excused

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Frank Fera	✓			
Larry Huibers	✓			
Daniel Moody				✓
Leanne Prince	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Paul Turner	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

**Camillo Cipriano**, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Prince

Seconded by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Special Board Meeting of October 13, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4. Disclosure of Interest**

A Disclosure of Interest was declared by Trustee Moody with item B1.1 of the In-Camera agenda.

**B. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Prince

Seconded by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board move into the In Camera Session.

**CARRIED**

The Niagara Catholic District School Board moved into the In Camera Session of the Special Board Meeting at 8:59 p.m. and reconvened at 9:34 p.m.

**C. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Moved by Trustee Prince

Seconded by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Special Board Meeting of October 13, 2020.

**CARRIED**

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Prince

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item B1.1 of the In Camera Agenda.

**CARRIED (Item B1.1)**

**D. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE**

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Prince

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the October 13, 2020 Special Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

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Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **October 13, 2020**.

Approved on the **November 24, 2020**.

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Frank Fera  
Chair of the Board

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Camillo Cipriano  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE MEETING OF OCTOBER 13, 2020**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 13, 2020, as presented.

The following recommendations are being presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 13, 2020:

**6.1.1 Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10)**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10), as presented.

**6.1.2 Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration Policy (201.2)**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration Policy (201.2), as presented.

**6.1.3 Volunteer Recognition Policy (800.4)**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Volunteer Recognition Policy (800.4), as presented.

**6.1.4 Revised Secondary School Year Calendar 2020-2021**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Revised Secondary School Year Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.

**6.1.5 Welcoming and Supporting International Students During COVID-19**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board maintain its long-standing commitment to its International Education Program by continuing to welcome and support our international students during the COVID-19 pandemic, in compliance with the guidelines outlined by the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Federal Government of Canada.





## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 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 Sicoli.

#### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Trustee Fera

2. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Sicoli noted that all Trustees and Student Trustees were in attendance.

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

The following staff were in attendance:

**Camillo Cipriano**, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Pat Rocca**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 13, 2020, 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 September 15, 2020**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 15, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. Consent Agenda Items**

Trustee Sicoli requested Item A6.4 be held. This item was moved to Committee and Staff Reports Section C9 of the agenda.

**6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of September 29, 2020**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole receive the Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of September 29, 2020, as presented.

**6.2 Approval of Policies**

**6.2.1 Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10)**

**THAT** the Policy Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole approval of the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10), as presented.

**6.2.2 Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration Policy (201.2)**

**THAT** the Policy Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole approval of the Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration Policy (201.2), as presented.

**6.2.3 Volunteer Recognition Policy (800.4)**

**THAT** the Policy Committee recommend to the Committee of the Whole approval of the Volunteer Recognition Policy (800.4), as presented.

**6.3 Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities**

Presented for information.

**6.4 Capital Projects Progress Report Update**

Moved to Section C9

**6.5 In Camera Items F1 and F3**

Moved by Trustee Prince

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole adopt consent agenda items.

**CARRIED**

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

**C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

**1. COVID-19 Reopening Plan Update**

Director Cipriano provided an update on the COVID-19 Reopening Plan and presented the Niagara Catholic COVID-19 Administrator's Guide.

A consensus was reached that a letter addressed to the Government of Ontario with a copy to OCSTA be drafted addressing the issue of declining confidence in publicly funded Catholic education be brought to the Board.

Director Cipriano and members of Senior Administrative Council answered questions of Trustees.

**2. Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2020-2021 Update**

Director Cipriano and members of Senior Administrative Council presented Committee of the Whole System Priorities 2020-2021 Update.

**3. A Curriculum for the Heart of Young People – A Monograph Series**

Kimberly Kinney, Superintendent of Education presented the Curriculum for the Heart of Young People – A Monograph Series report for Trustee information.

**4. Revised Secondary School Year Calendar 2020-2021**

Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education presented the Revised Secondary School Year Calendar 2020-2021.

Superintendent Farrell answered questions of Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Fera

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Revised Secondary School Year Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.

**CARRIED**

**5. Continuing Education Update**

Superintendent Farrell provided background information on Continuing Education and introduced Robert Di Persio, Principal of Continuing Education.

Mr. Di Persio presented an update on Continuing Education.

Mr. Di Persio answered questions of Trustees.

**6. Welcoming and Supporting International Students During COVID-19**

Superintendent Farrell provided background information on International Students and introduced Fred Wilson, Administrator of International Education.

Mr. Wilson presented the Welcoming and Supporting International Students During COVID-19 report.

Mr. Wilson answered questions of Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Prince

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board maintain its long-standing commitment to its International Education Program by continuing to welcome and support our international students during the COVID-19 pandemic, in compliance with the guidelines outlined by the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Federal Government of Canada.

**CARRIED**

**7. Accountability Financial Report 2020-2021 as of September 30, 2020**

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services presented the Accountability Financial Report 2020-2021.

Superintendent Vetrone answered questions of Trustees.

**8. Monthly Updates**

Trustee Moody left the meeting at this time.

**8.1 Student Trustees' Update**

Jade Bilodeau and Luca DiPietro, Student Trustees, presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

**8.2 Senior Staff Good News Update**

Senior Staff highlights included:

**Director Cipriano**

- Pleased to state the completion of a successful first octomester.
- Excited to announce that construction has begun at Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School.
- Director Cipriano noted he has been able to visit a majority of the Niagara Catholic sites and departments and is pleased to report the high level of expertise in all sites and departments.

9. **Consent Agenda Item A6.4 Capital Projects Progress Report Update**

Controller Euale answered questions of Trustees.

**D. INFORMATION**

1. **Trustee Information**

Chair Fera shared a caption from the Young Authors Award booklet he received from the Catholic Teachers Association.

**E. OTHER BUSINESS**

1. **General Discussion to Plan for Future Action**

Director Cipriano discussed the possibility of holding partial virtual meetings in the future.

**F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole move into the In Camera Session.

**CARRIED**

The Committee of the Whole moved into the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:27 p.m. and reconvened at 8:54 p.m.

**G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION**

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 13, 2020.

**CARRIED**

**SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES INCLUDED**

Moved by Trustee Prince

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - In Camera Session (Section A: Student Trustees Included) held on September 15, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F1)**

**SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED**

Moved by Trustee Prince

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - In Camera Session (Section B: Student Trustees Excluded) held on September 15, 2020, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F3)**

## H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Prince

**THAT** the October 13, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **October 13, 2020.**

Approved on **November 10, 2020.**

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Dino Sicoli  
Vice-Chair of the Board

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Camillo Cipriano  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION POLICY (100.10)**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10), as presented.

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Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education  
Presented by: Policy Committee  
Recommended by: Committee of the Whole  
Date: October 27, 2020



Niagara Catholic District School Board

## **EQUITY AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION POLICY**

STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE POLICY

100 – Board

Policy No 100.10

Adopted Date: June 15, 2010

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: June 16, 2015

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board the Board acknowledges that; any form of discrimination is incompatible with Catholic moral principles and the teachings of the Church; that all persons are created equal, in the image of God, each with inimitable characteristics deserving of dignity (Genesis: 1:27); and that every person has the right to freedom from discrimination and harassment.

Niagara Catholic provides in all of its operations an educational and working environment which supports and enables diversity within its Catholic community in accordance with the denominational rights of the Catholic school system.

The Board is committed to serving staff, students, and families in its diverse Catholic community by incorporating the principles of equity and inclusive education in its policies, programs, procedures, and practices that are consistent with the *Ontario Human Rights Code* and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Please refer to the *Administrative Operational Procedures* for the implementation of this policy.

### **References:**

- [\*Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario \(2014\)\*](#)
- [\*Accepting Schools Act\*](#)
- [\*Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario, \(letter dated October 4, 2010\)\*](#)
- [\*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms\*](#)
- [\*Constitution Act, 1982\*](#)
- [\*Equity and Inclusive Education in Ontario Schools: Guidelines for Policy Development and Implementation, 2014\*](#)
- [\*Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act \( 2005\)\*](#)
- [\*Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations: Institute for Catholic Education, Third Edition 2019\*](#)
- [\*Ontario Human Rights Code\*](#)
- [\*Ontario Leadership Strategy\*](#)
- [\*Ontario Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy\*](#)
- [\*Ontario Ministry of Education - Policy/Program Memorandum No. 108\*](#)
- [\*Ontario Ministry of Education - Policy/Program Memorandum No. 119\*](#)
- [\*Supporting Students Who Identify as Transgender in our Catholic Schools: Institute for Catholic Education 2019\*](#)
- [\*Niagara Catholic District School Board Policies/Procedures\*](#)
  - [\*Access to Board Premises \(302.6.3\) Administrative Operational Procedures\*](#)
  - [\*Accessibility Standards Policy \(800.8\)\*](#)
  - [\*Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy \(302.6.8\)\*](#)
  - [\*Code of Conduct Policy \(302.6.2\)\*](#)
  - [\*Employee Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy \(201.17\)\*](#)
  - [\*Employee Hiring and Selection \(Teachers\) \(203.1\) Administrative Operational Procedures\*](#)
  - [\*Employee Workplace Harassment Policy \(201.7\)\*](#)
  - [\*Employee Workplace Violence Policy \(201.11\)\*](#)



- [\*Opening and Closing Exercises \(302.6.1\) Administrative Operational Procedures\*](#)
- [\*Privacy Policy \(600.6\)\*](#)
- [\*Progressive Discipline \(302.6.9\) Administrative Operational Procedures\*](#)
- [\*Religious Accommodation Policy \(100.10.1\)\*](#)
- [\*Safe and Accepting Schools Policy \(302.6\)\*](#)
- [\*Voluntary and Confidential Indigenous Students First Nation, Métis and Inuit Self-Identification \(301.9\) Administrative Operational Procedures\*](#)

<b>Adopted Date:</b>	<b>June 15, 2010</b>
<b>Revision History:</b>	<b>November 23, 2010 June 16, 2015</b>

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: RETIREMENT AND SERVICE RECOGNITION CELEBRATION  
POLICY (201.2)**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration Policy (201.2), as presented.

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Prepared by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education/Human Resources  
Presented by: Policy Committee  
Recommended by: Committee of the Whole  
Date: October 27, 2020



Niagara Catholic District School Board  
**RETIREMENT & SERVICE RECOGNITION  
CELEBRATION POLICY**

STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE POLICY

200 – Human Resources

Policy No 201.2

Adopted Date: March 24, 1998

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: June 16, 2015

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Board values and appreciates dedicated service by its employees and members of the clergy serving its schools.

Annually, the Board will invite its partners, OEETA, CUPE, and the Diocese of St. Catharines to co-host a Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration to formally express its appreciation to:

1. Employees who are retiring;
2. Employees who have contributed 25 years of service;
3. Clergy who have served within the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Catharines and the jurisdiction of the Niagara Catholic District School Board who are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> or 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service as members of the clergy.

Please refer to the [Administrative Operational Procedures](#) for the implementation of this Policy.

<b>Adopted Date:</b>	<b>March 24, 1998</b>
<b>Revision History:</b>	<b>March 26, 2002 June 15, 2010 June 16, 2015</b>

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION POLICY (800.4)**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Volunteer Recognition Policy (800.4), as presented.

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Prepared by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer  
Presented by: Policy Committee  
Recommended by: Committee of the Whole  
Date: October 27, 2020



Niagara Catholic District School Board  
**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION POLICY**  
STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE POLICY

800 – Schools and Community Councils

Policy No. 800.4

Adopted Date: April 24, 2007

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: April 28, 2015

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values, the Niagara Catholic District School Board recognizes and values the positive contribution that individuals make while volunteering in our Catholic school communities, committees and organizations.

With approval from the authorized administrator, Niagara Catholic volunteers undertake, without pay, assigned tasks that support and enhance the mission, vision and values of the Board.

The Board recognizes that volunteers make a positive, meaningful and significant contribution to a school and/or the Board. Through their spirit of volunteerism, they help in building a strong Catholic identity and community that nurtures the distinctiveness of Catholic education and advances student achievement.

Please refer to the [Administrative Operational Procedures](#) for the implementation of this Policy.

**Reference**

- **Niagara Catholic District School Board Policies/Procedures**
  - [Volunteering in Catholic Schools \(800.9\) AOP](#)

<b>Adopted Date:</b>	<b>April 24, 2007</b>
<b>Revision History:</b>	<b>April 28, 2015</b>

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: REVISED SECONDARY SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2020-  
2021**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Revised Secondary School Year Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.

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Prepared by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: October 27, 2020



## **REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OCTOBER 13, 2020**

### **REVISED SECONDARY SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2020-2021**

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#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The *Education Act, Regulation 304 - School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days* outlines the requirements and timelines for preparing and submission of school year calendars to the Ministry of Education for approval.

For the 2020-2021 school year calendar, there are 194 possible school days between September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Within this total, elementary and secondary schools must have a minimum of 194 school days of which seven (7) days must be designated as professional activity days. Secondary schools may have a maximum of ten (10) instructional days set as examination days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days.

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Board received a message indicating that in light of the recent release of the Ontario's Approach to Re-opening Schools for the 2020-2021 School Year, the Minister of Education is encouraging school boards to start their school year by September 1. It is also advised that boards schedule three PA days prior to the start of student instruction.

The School Year Calendar for Niagara Catholic was approved, following the usual consultation practice, at the July 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. The calendar was subsequently approved by the Ministry of Education.

#### **REQUIRED CHANGES**

Secondary schools across Niagara Catholic are operating in an ocotomester model, completing 8 courses consecutively.

The current approved school year calendar for secondary has ten exam days, five at the conclusion of each semester.

The proposed revised Secondary School Year Calendar includes an exam day at the conclusion of each of the courses and an additional exam day at the conclusion of each of the semesters. The additional day at the end of each semester may be used in the event of inclement weather and for any credit recovery/rescue initiatives to ensure student success.

The proposed calendar also moves the previous Professional Activity Day on Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 to Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.

The updated calendar continues to have 177 instructional days, 10 exam days and 7 Professional Activity Days.

## CONSULTATION PROCESS

The revised school year calendar does not require the approval from the Ministry of Education, and is attached for the board's approval. With many variables in play for the start of the school year and possibly throughout the school year, the following information is provided for the board's consideration regarding the ability to change dates in the school year calendar if required.

- A board can change the date of a professional activity day on an approved calendar.
- Where a board chooses to alter the date of a professional activity day or an examination day on an approved calendar, the board shall notify the parents concerned as far in advance as possible.
- As well, the board must notify the Regional Manager that a change has been made to the calendar through the school year calendar application and that the calendar has been re-submitted.
- This change does not require the Minister's approval.

The Unit President of OECTA Secondary, Secondary Principals, and School Staffing Committees were consulted in the development of the revised Secondary School Year Calendar. In addition, the co-terminous school board and NSTS were consulted.

## SUMMARY OF THE ATTACHED CALENDARS

### Highlights of the Revised Secondary School Year Calendars for 2020-2021.

#### *Professional Activity Days*

In accordance with the *Education Act, Regulation 304 - School Year Calendar*, the following seven (7) days have been identified as Professional Activity Days.

#### Secondary:

Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020  
Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020  
Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020  
Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Tuesday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### Secondary Examination Days

Semester 1 – Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
Semester 2 – Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, Friday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, and Monday June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

#### Board and Civic Holidays

Board Holiday	Friday, September 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Labour Day	Monday, September 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
Christmas Break	Monday, December 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2020 to Friday, January 1, 2021
Family Day	Monday, February 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
March Break	Monday, March 15 <sup>th</sup> to Friday, March 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 (ten month employees only)
Good Friday	Friday, April 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2021
Easter Monday	Monday, April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Victoria Day	Monday, May 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2021
Canada Day	Thursday, July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2021

*Appendix A - Revised Secondary School Year Calendar for 2020-2021.*



**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Revised Secondary School Year Calendar for the 2020-2021 school year.

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Prepared by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education

Recommended by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: October 13, 2020



# 2020-2021 Secondary School Year Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

OCTOBER 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOVEMBER 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DECEMBER 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

FEBRUARY 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

MARCH 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

APRIL 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
				Holy Thursday	Good Friday	Holy Saturday
				HOLY WEEK		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Easter	Easter Monday					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MAY 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK MAY 2-7						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNE 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JULY 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

AUGUST 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

- Course 1: September 8 - October 8
- Course 2: October 13 - November 12
- Course 3: November 16 - December 17
- Course 4: January 4 - February 2
- Course 5: February 8 - March 11

- Course 6: March 22 - April 22
- Course 7: April 26 - May 26
- Course 8: May 28 - June 24

	P.A. Day		Statutory/Other
	Exam Day		School Holidays

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: WELCOMING AND SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS DURING COVID-19**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board maintain its long-standing commitment to its International Education Program by continuing to welcome and support our international students during the COVID-19 pandemic, in compliance with the guidelines outlined by the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Federal Government of Canada.

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Prepared by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education  
Fred Wilson, Administrator of International Education

Presented by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education  
Fred Wilson, Administrator of International Education

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: October 27, 2020



## REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OCTOBER 13, 2020

### WELCOMING AND SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS DURING COVID-19

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#### CONTEXT

This report will update the Niagara Catholic Committee of the Whole on current federal and provincial requirements directly affecting international students, school districts and private schools that welcome international students to Ontario. The report also seeks Board support and endorsement of our long-standing participation in, involvement with, and strong commitment to international education and our international students, especially during challenging times as the one we are currently facing with the COVID-19 pandemic. To that end, this report will demonstrate the readiness of Niagara Catholic's International Education Division to continue to welcome international students safely into our schools and local communities. Requirements of Federal Public Health and the Ontario Ministry of Education will be outlined and clarified. The plan and protocol created to support the safe arrival of our international students will be explained.

Niagara Catholic is recognized as a provincial leader in international education initiatives, programs and practices that benefit both our visiting and local students in our schools. In alignment with the [Ontario Strategy for K-12 International Education](#), our programs and services strive for one or more of the following goals, as outlined in the 2015 Ministry document:

1. Future-oriented learning for Ontario (and international) students
2. High-quality programs and services for K–12 international students studying in Ontario
3. Opportunities for sharing and developing Ontario education expertise
4. Pathways to postsecondary education, work and living in Ontario

With these goals in mind, and with a vision of fostering global competencies in students of all ages (local and international), as well as in our staff, over the last 15 years the International Program has successfully welcomed over 6,500 international students, who have in turn enriched our school communities with their energy, enthusiasm and culture. As non-ministry-funded initiatives, these many programs generated gross revenues in the realm of \$26M during the same timeframe. The 2019-20 school year was on course to seeing the highest international student enrolment levels to date, with over 800 short-term and full-year students projected to join Niagara Catholic by year's end. Regrettably, the March 2020 shutdown resulted in a number of individual and group cancellations, as was the case for other Ontario school boards and beyond.

#### BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 crisis has significantly impacted all levels of international education around the world. Aside from health, the primary concern, the economic and psychological impact on families has reduced the level of student mobility, thus affecting engagement in international education globally. In Canada,

travel restrictions related to border closures and reduced flight availability have limited the ability for international students to enter our country with International borders closed to non-essential travel on March 18, 2020. International students with Study Permits approved prior to March 18, 2020 were provided an exemption; however, students with permits issued after that date are currently not eligible to enter the country, as per the Government of Canada ([see here](#)). An update to the travel exemption was released on October 2, 2020 and may be accessed [here](#).

The measures above have resulted in a significant reduction in international student enrolment for the current school year, as traditionally most new students apply for Study Permits in March or April for a September start. With the travel uncertainty last spring, the majority of students who were planning to continue their studies with Niagara Catholic in the new school year remained in Canada, so they were able to return to school. Existing students who did go back home are able to continue their studies through distance learning as they await the lifting of Federal restriction to return to Niagara for in-class learning. As a mitigating strategy, the Ontario Ministry of Education has permitted school districts to issue OEN's to students new to our school system so they may begin their learning in their home country. However, the goal is to have these students travel to Canada as soon as borders open so they can have the full Canadian, and in our case, Niagara Catholic experience.

As both levels of government work together to ease restrictions and allow international students to, once again, enter Canada, the Ministry of Education (MOE) has outlined a set of requirements to determine the readiness of school boards to welcome international students, Appendix A. These requirements must be met by Ontario School Districts and Private Schools before they are approved to be on the Federal Government list of DLI (Designated Learning Institutions). Broadly speaking, the requirements govern publicly funded schools and private schools across Canada. Hence, the requirements encompass the readiness of the school system to manage and respond to an outbreak in addition to the management of the international student population. At a system level, the [Niagara Catholic Reopening Plan](#) fully meets the provincial government guidelines. Specific to international students, staff has developed a robust [International Student Pre-Departure, Arrival and Support Plan](#), which addresses each specific area outlined by the Ministry.

#### **Federal/Provincial Requirements:**

- School Districts must have a plan in place with details on how they will meet provincial and federal criteria and demonstrate readiness to welcome international students
- 14-Day Self-Isolation strategy for international students and any co-arriving family members
- Communication protocols to inform the public of outbreaks

#### **Specific Provincial Requirements:**

- A board resolution/motion approving the international student program and its readiness plan that meets current federal and provincial requirements for the 2020-21 school year
- A negative COVID-19 test result obtained during or immediately following the quarantine for international students who have entered Canada within two weeks prior to the start of studies
- A signed “Attestation for School Boards – Public Health Institutional Readiness Requirements for International Students in Ontario”

In compliance with the federal and provincial requirements outlined above, the Niagara Catholic “*International Student Pre-Departure, Arrival and Support Plan*” specifically addresses all key areas, as indicated below:

#### **Key Pre-Arrival Requirements (Pages 6-9, 14, 18-21):**

- All pre-arrival requirements are communicated and sent to international students, including:
  - A copy of the international student support plan
  - Planning checklists for Pre-Departure, Travel and Self-Isolation
  - Documentation outlining a clear quarantine strategy
  - ArriveCAN App

**Key Requirements for 14-Day Self-Isolation (Pages 8, 11- 14, 19-21):**

- Direct transportation by student custodian from the point of entry to the quarantine location
- Quarantine arrangements are in place for arriving international students and co-arriving family members
- Daily monitoring of symptoms and compliance
- Communication protocols in place in the event of symptomatic cases or compliance issue
- Ensure quarantine location provides suitable isolation, does not put vulnerable individuals at risk
- COVID-19 infection control information and training
- COVID-19 test during or immediately following self-isolation

**Post Quarantine Requirements (Pages 14-17):**

- Support student onboarding in their schools after quarantine to ensure successful integration
- Support students and immediate family members with both mental and physical health, anti-racism and COVID-19 related stigma supports in schools and the community
- Mitigation of social barriers to support student compliance with individual COVID-19 infection control practices

Once supported, the Board Motion will serve as an Attestation of Readiness for the Niagara Catholic District School Board to continue to provide education for international students. The approved Board Motion and other supporting documentation will be submitted to the Ministry of Education for review, jointly with Federal health authorities, to determine our eligibility to be on the list of approved school districts (Designated Learning Institutions). This approval will open the way to our few international students presently studying through distance learning in their home country, as well as our many new students applying to Niagara Catholic for February 2021 and September 2021.

*Appendix A - Ministry of Education Memo to Directors of Education re: School Boards' readiness to welcome international students*

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board maintain its long-standing commitment to its International Education Program by continuing to welcome and support our international students during the COVID-19 pandemic, in compliance with the guidelines outlined by the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Federal Government of Canada.

Prepared by: Fred Wilson, Administrator of International Education  
Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Fred Wilson, Administrator of International Education  
Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education

Recommended by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: October 13, 2020

**From:** Ministry of Education (EDU) <[MinistryofEducation@ontario.ca](mailto:MinistryofEducation@ontario.ca)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 28, 2020 5:35 PM

**To:** Ministry of Education (EDU)

**Subject:** School Boards' readiness to welcome international students | État de préparation des conseils scolaires en vue d'accueillir les étudiants étrangers

**Memorandum to:** Directors of Education  
School Authorities

**From:** Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

I am writing today to inform you of the requirements specific to welcoming students coming to Ontario from outside of Canada for the 2020-21 school year.

Ontario has been participating in ongoing discussions with the federal government on how to confirm and support school boards' readiness to welcome back international students. In July, the federal government issued some guidance and direction and on August 7, 2020, the Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health, received a letter from Health Canada setting out further requirements to be met by Designated Learning Institutions (DLIs) in order to welcome international students.

The direction from Health Canada now requires that some additional criteria be demonstrated as part of plans for schools, and that both provincial and local public health authorities have a role in determining whether schools are ready to accept students from outside Canada (please see Appendix 1 for criteria).

All school boards intending to accept students from outside Canada must have plans in place that include specific details about how they will meet the provincial and federal criteria to demonstrate readiness (as described further below). Plans should be submitted to the ministry to facilitate the ministry providing the federal government with an ongoing list of DLIs that have been deemed ready. That list will be updated regularly as plans are submitted to the ministry and the ministry shares them with the necessary local and provincial officials.

School boards in Ontario have the option to provide online learning for international students for the partial or full 2020-21 school year. The ministry will support an ongoing review process, without specific deadlines, as we anticipate that school boards may transition international students from online learning to in-person learning in Ontario throughout the 2020-21 school year.

Please note that school boards that do not plan to enroll international students in the 2020-21 school year do not need to provide a response. Health Canada has also indicated that it will review a sample of school board plans in collaboration with Ontario officials to confirm the plans meet federal expectations. The Ministry of Education will work with Health Canada on this request and provide further updates to you as needed.

A checklist has been developed to assist school boards in submitting their plans to the ministry. Please do not submit your plans to your local public health unit. The ministry, working with other government partners, will facilitate the review of your plans, including working with local public health officials for the necessary review and approvals.

I would draw your attention to the following criteria in particular: as part of your plans, school boards will need to address how they will oversee the 14-day quarantine period for all international students coming to Ontario from outside of Canada. This should include transporting arriving international students from the airport to their quarantine or isolation location and supporting and regularly checking in on those students to ensure they complete the required 14-day quarantine.

In addition, while this is not a federal requirement, the Ontario government is requiring that school boards ensure that both international and domestic students who are in quarantine as a result of having entered Canada within two weeks prior to the start of their studies are tested for the COVID-19 virus at least once during their quarantine period. This requirement is over and above the normal protocols for individuals who show symptoms.

Please note that submission of a plan will not guarantee that school boards will be able to welcome international students in the 2020-21 school year and the timelines for confirmation of approval will vary, though efforts will be made to prioritize review and approval by the multiple provincial government partners as expeditiously as possible.

Again, following local and provincial review and approval, the plans will need to be submitted to the Government of Canada which has the sole discretion regarding the decision to allow international students to enter Canada.

Please note that the ministry will not be providing any additional funding to boards to support these requirements.

As part of your submission to the ministry, please complete and include the attached Attestation for School Boards – Public Health Institutional Readiness Requirements for International Students in Ontario. Please also include a board resolution approving an international student program that meets current federal and provincial requirements for the 2020-21 school year.

Submissions should be sent to [international.education@ontario.ca](mailto:international.education@ontario.ca). If you have any questions, please contact **Matt Bera, Manager (A), Private Schools and International Education Unit (PSIE)** at [matthew.bera@Ontario.ca](mailto:matthew.bera@Ontario.ca)

Thank you for your ongoing work in preparing for the Fall semester including the preparation of comprehensive plans.

Sincerely,

Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister



**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF JUNE 19, 2020**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting of June 19, 2020, as presented for information.



## MINUTES OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING (PUBLIC SESSION)

**FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2020**

Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (public session) of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on June 19, 2020 electronically in compliance with Education Act Section 207 and Ontario Regulation 463/97 Section 5.1(2).

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Chair, Kathy Burtnik.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Trustee Dino Sicoli

2. Roll Call

Committee Member	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik		✓		
Dino Sicoli		✓		
Paul Turner		✓		
Mario Falvo		✓		
Louie Finelli		✓		

Resources to the Audit Committee were in attendance:

**John Crocco**, Director of Education, Secretary/Treasurer  
**Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services  
**Rosa Rocca**, Controller of Business and Finance  
**Sherry Morena**, Coordinator of Information Management  
**Jenny Baker**, Regional Internal Audit Manager  
**John Forte**, Regional Internal Audit Team  
**Melanie Dugard**, Grant Thornton LLP

Staff in attendance:

**Shari Bush**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Business and Financial Services

3. Approval of the Public Agenda of June 19, 2020.

Moved by Dino Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee approve the Agenda of the Audit Committee Meeting (Public Session) of Friday, June 19, 2020.

**CARRIED**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

**5. Approval of Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (Public Session) of November 22, 2019**

Moved by Mario Falvo

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee approve the Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting (Public Session) of November 22, 2019.

**CARRIED**

**B. REPORTS**

**1. Regional Internal Audit Status Report**

**1.1 Annual Independence Assertion**

Jenny Baker presented the Annual Independence Assertion in the Regional Internal Audit Status Report to the committee members.

**2. 2019-2020 Audit Seven Month Engagement Letter**

Melanie Dugard presented the 2019-2020 Audit Seven Month Engagement Letter to the committee members.

**3. 2019-2020 Financial Report-YTD May 31, 2020**

Giancarlo Vetrone presented the 2019-2020 Financial Reports-YTD, May 31, 2020 to the committee members.

**4. Advertisement for the Non Board Member Positions of the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee Section 7 of the Ontario Regulation 361/10**

Giancarlo Vetrone presented the Advertisement for the Non Board Member Positions for discussion.

**C. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Paul Turner

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee move into the In Camera Session

**CARRIED**

The Niagara Catholic Audit Committee moved into the In Camera Session of the Committee Meeting at 10:32 a.m. and reconvened at 11:56 a.m.

**D. FUTURE MEETINGS**

Next Audit Committee Meeting is Friday, September 25, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Paul Turner

**THAT** the June 19, 2020 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Audit Committee be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

The Niagara Catholic Audit Committee Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 9, 2020, as presented for information.



## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee held on **Wednesday, September 9, 2020**, at 6:30 pm Electronic Meeting in Compliance with Education Act Section 207 and Ontario Regulation 463/97 Section 5.1 (2) Public Access 1-647-749-124 (Tolls), Conference ID # 745 739 256#

Chair Racine called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

#### 1. Opening Prayers

Chair Racine provided special Intentions to Karen Murphy and her family as they mourn the passing of her father. She also extended a special prayer to the St Catharines Cathedral as they recently were victim to a robbery. She sent prayers to all Catholic families and then led an opening prayer.

#### 2. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Dick Huxley, Kelsey	Indigenous Community Member	✓	
Harvey, Dorothy	Niagara Children's Centre		✓
Helmeczi, Bill	Pathstone Mental Health		✓
Jacques, Michael	Community Living Welland Pelham	✓	
Murphy, Karen	Autism Ontario Niagara Region Chapter		✓
Palombo, Pina	Down Syndrome Niagara	✓	
Racine, Anna	Community Member	✓	
Smith, Lorraine	Mainstream		✓
Smith, Rita	Community Living Port Colborne/Wainfleet	✓	
Zoelman, Madeline	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region	✓	
Burtnik, Kathy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board Trustee of St. Catharines</b></li> </ul>	✓	
Burkholder, Rhianon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board Trustee of Thorold/Merritton</b></li> </ul>	✓	
Butera, Serena	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Student Senate Representative</b></li> </ul>	✓	
Filice, Adele	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Vice-Principal, Secondary</b></li> </ul>	✓	
Kerho, Chris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Principal, Elementary</b></li> </ul>	✓	

The following staff members were in attendance:

**Gino Pizzoferrato**, Superintendent of Education, **Danny Giancola**, Coordinator of Special Education, **Vincent Mancuso** – Behaviour Resource Teacher and **Jennifer Lanese**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant to Superintendent Pizzoferrato. Superintendent Rocca and Director of Education Cipriano were special guests that evening.

Since there were some new members, Chair Racine had all Committee Members introduce themselves and provide a brief description of the Agency that they represented.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

- Moved by Michael Jacques
- Seconded by Rita Smith

**THAT** THE Special Education Advisory Committee approves the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of **September 9, 2020**.

**CARRIED**

**4. Disclosure of Interest**

- No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the Agenda.

**5. Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee of June 3, 2020**

- Moved by Rita Smith
- Seconded by Pina Palombo

**THAT** THE Special Education Advisory Committee approves the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of **June 3, 2020**, as presented.

**CARRIED**

## **B. PRESENTATIONS**

- There were no presentations at this time.

## **C. AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. SEAC Meeting Procedures – Board By-Laws, Policy No. 100.1**

- Superintendent Pizzoferrato wanted to remind the Committee Members the procedures and guidelines of a SEAC meeting. He wanted to also share this with our new Committee Members.
- Since this was a Microsoft Teams Meeting, the meeting will be recorded as an official record of the meeting.
- Jennifer Lanese will be circulating the Board By-Laws, Policy No 100.1 to the Committee Members later this month.
- Superintendent Pizzoferrato asked the Committee Members to review the guidelines as we will have a question and answer period next month.

## **2. Other Related Items**

### **2.1 A review of the Goals and Visions for School Year 2020-2021**

- The Committee Members are required to look at the previous goals and visions from School Year 2019-2020.
- If goals were not achieved last School Year, then the Committee Members need to decide whether to re-visit these goals again for this School Year.
- We were organizing a joint presentation with keynote speakers Dr. Sheila Bennett from Brock University and Terri Pauco from the Diocese. Dr. Bennett's presentation would discuss her work with Special Education. Terri Pauco would be discussing families that have children with special needs and not feeling welcome at church. Initially, this presentation was scheduled to take place last May at Denis Morris Catholic High School. The Committee Members were hoping to schedule this Parent Out-Reach during this School Year. We will have to possibly consider hosting it virtually due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Once finalized, an invite to the public would be circulated.
- Re-visiting breaking off into 1 of the following Sub-Committees after the scheduled SEAC Meetings.
  - 1) Policy Committee – reviewed through a SEAC lens
  - 2) Survey Committee – preparing surveys for parents
  - 3) Communication Committee – updating the SEAC Brochure
  - 4) Ministry Reports Committee – looking at the Ministry's guidelines
- One of the on-going goals, is to update the SEAC Brochure for School Councils' Newsletters and also provide a report to each school principal to share at School Council Meetings.
- The goals and visions were opened up for discussion by the Committee Members.

### **2.2 Welcome Superintendent Pizzoferrato and Director Cipriano**

- Superintendent Rocca thanked the group for their time and dedication to SEAC. Superintendent Rocca will no longer serve on SEAC as he has taken over a new portfolio for School Year 2020-2021 due to the recent retirement of Superintendent Iannantuono. Superintendent Rocca welcomed Superintendent Pizzoferrato and Director Cipriano to Niagara Catholic and to the SEAC Meeting. Both Superintendent Pizzoferrato and Director Cipriano recently joined Niagara Catholic as of **September 1, 2020**.
- Director Cipriano thanked the group for inviting him to attend the SEAC Meeting. He thanked the Committee Members for their warm welcome to Niagara Catholic. He gave a summary of his background and promised to be supportive of SEAC's goals and initiatives. He hopes to attend as many meetings as possible.
- Superintendent Pizzoferrato thanked the group for their warm welcome. He gave a summary of his background to the group and is looking forward to working with SEAC.

### **2.3 Annual Review of the Special Education Plan**

- The 2020 Special Education Plan can be accessed from the Board's website. Select <Programs>, Select <Special Education>, Select <Special Education Plan> or by clicking on the direct link:  
<https://cdn.niagaracatholic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Special-Education-Plan-2020-WHITEBG.pdf>



### 3. Policy Review

- The following Policies and Administrative Guidelines are currently being reviewed as part of the cyclical Policy and Administrative Guidelines Review process.
- To be considered, all submissions must identify the specific policy and include your name, phone number, address, and affiliation with Niagara Catholic.

*Anonymous or pseudonymous submissions will not be considered*

- [Equity and Inclusive Education Policy \(100.10\)](#)
- [Retirement & Service Recognition Celebration Policy \(201.2\)](#)
- [Leadership Pathways Policy \(203.4\)](#)
- [Volunteer Recognition Policy \(800.4\)](#)

- Please submit your feedback to [jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com](mailto:jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com) by 4:00 pm on **September 11, 2020**.

- The following Policies and Administrative Guidelines are currently being reviewed as part of the cyclical Policy and Administrative Guidelines Review process.
- To be considered, all submissions must identify the specific policy and include your name, phone number, address, and affiliation with Niagara Catholic.

*Anonymous or pseudonymous submissions will not be considered*

- [Dress Code – Secondary Uniform Policy \(302.6.6\)](#)
- [Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy \(302.6.10\)](#)
- [Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy \(800.7\)](#)
- [Accessibility Customer Service Policy \(800.8.1\)](#)
- [Complaint Resolution Policy \(800.3\)](#)

- Please submit your feedback to [jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com](mailto:jennifer.pellegrini@ncdsb.com) by 4:00 pm on **October 10, 2020**.

## D. AGENCY REPORTS

### 1. Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region – Madeline Zoelman

LDANR has updated many of the programs.

- Math programming is currently fully enrolled (20 students).
- The Reading program has 60 participants with a total of 80 available spots.
- 2 spots in their BEST (social skills) program have been filled.
- New transition programming launching end of October for students transitioning to secondary and post-secondary school. 10 spots in each program: 6 filled in secondary and 1 filled in post-secondary. This is a new demographic for LDANR.

- All programming being offered online for this program session and likely next semester as well (no permits available for NCDSB or DSBN and likely none at Brock University either).
- Currently advertising back to school workshop for parents. Executive Director Sam is dispersing information on social media and via email.
- Planning to hold an information night in October for parents with testimonials and demonstration of their online learning.

**2. Niagara Children's Centre – Dorothy Harvey**

- NIL Report

**3. Autism Ontario Niagara Region – Karen Murphy**

- NIL Report

**4. Down Syndrome Niagara – Pina Palombo**

- NIL Report

**5. Community Living Welland Pelham – Michael Jacques**

- NIL Report

**6. Mainstream – Lorraine Smith**

- NIL Report

**7. Community Living Port Colborne / Wainfleet – Rita Smith**

- NIL Report

**8. Pathstone Mental Health – Bill Helmeczi**

- NIL Report

**9. Indigenous Community Member – Kelsey Dick Huxley**

- Celebration of Nations will take place from **September 11 to September 13**. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, this will be a virtual format.
- Everyone is encouraged to participate in the 4th annual gathering of Indigenous arts, culture and traditions. The theme this year is ***Mighty Niagara and the Great Lakes Watershed***. Many events are free and streamed virtually. For more information and to view the full schedule, please visit online: <https://www.celebrationofnations.ca/>.

## **E. STAFF REPORTS**

**1. Secondary Principals – Adele Filice**

- Adele Filice is now the Secondary Vice-Principal of Niagara Catholic Virtual School. The Administration has been busy getting ready for the start of the Virtual School. They have been working through the glitches getting things up and running in Maplewood. She is excited about the days ahead and looks forward to welcoming students to the Virtual School.

## 2. **Elementary Principals – Chris Kerho**

- Chris Kerho is very excited to have students and staff back in the school and everyone is excited to be back in school too.

## 3. **Special Education – Danny Giancola**

### **i) New Hire**

- Angela De Lisio was recently hired as the Student Support Facilitator. This is a new position for Niagara Catholic. We welcome Angela to Student Support and Niagara Catholic.

### **ii) Behaviour Resource Teacher (BRT) Group**

- BRTs will be partnering with providing presentations with LDANR. On **Tuesday, September 22nd** from 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm, our BRTs will represent Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB) in a virtual workshop for parents/caregivers of students with Learning Disabilities. The Learning Disabilities Chapters (LDA) across Ontario are hosting a back-to-school workshop for parents/caregivers. The workshop includes two sessions, the second of which the parents/caregivers will break out into sessions based on their geographic region. The NCDSB representatives will be available to answer parent questions regarding how the start of school is progressing.
- On **Thursday, October 29, 2020**, participation in the Some Assembly Required (S.O.A.R.) Self-advocacy and Coping Skills Program for children in grades 7 - 8 with a diagnosed, identified, or suspected Learning Disability.
- On **Thursday, October 29, 2020**, our BRTs will be discussing with parents/caregivers what the Individual Education Plan (IEP) and Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) process is, and what changes they will see when their child transitions into High School.
- For further information, please contact any of our BRTs: Anthony Di Toro ([anthony.ditoro@ncdsb.com](mailto:anthony.ditoro@ncdsb.com)), Alfonso Monachino ([alfonso.monachino@ncdsb.com](mailto:alfonso.monachino@ncdsb.com)) or Maria Kish ([maria.kish@ncdsb.com](mailto:maria.kish@ncdsb.com)).

### **iii) Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) Group**

- ABA Supervisors ran multiple workshops in June for both families and educators in conjunction with Bethesda titled “**Supporting Learning at Home**” to assist families and school staff with strategies and supports.
- ABA team facilitated a one week virtual camp for students with ASD (20 students registered). Each student was provided with a box that was dropped off by an ABA Facilitator to their home that contained all the materials and resources including a task analysis and videos for each activity.
- ABA supervisors co-facilitated a transition to high school program for students with ASD with a focus on providing resources and priming both parents and students on what to expect (alongside Bethesda and our Mental Health team).
- ABA facilitators will be stationed in schools in the upcoming week for a minimum of 1 week at a time to support all students who would benefit from ABA.
- ABA team created tip sheets for families and educators throughout the shutdown to support behavioural and educational needs.

**iv) Special Education Summer Program**

- This Summer Program was offered for students with Learning Disabilities, Developmental Disabilities, ASD, Intellectual Disabilities and others. This was a four-week program led by a classroom teacher and an ERT in a synchronous and asynchronous format. These Summer Program fell under the Continuing Education umbrella under the direction of School Principal, Chris Boyer and School Vice-Principal, Danny Giancola. This program ran for 4 weeks and classes were offered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The Summer Program received very positive feedback from parents, students and staff.

**v) Special Education Re-Opening Plan**

- The Student Support Department is actively working to support students who are transitioning into Kindergarten, Grade 9 and post-secondary. We also have students who have joined Niagara Catholic from other school boards or who come to us from the Niagara Children's Centre.
- The Program Resource Teachers have begun work with long-range planning for our Gifted Modules. We are currently working through the details as to how these modules will run now given the fact that no in-person instruction will take place.
- The Student Support Department is currently working to identify those students with special education needs who will be part of the Niagara Catholic Virtual School. Our staff will work with the home school staff and the staff of the virtual school to provide support where necessary. We aim to provide a seamless form of support that mirrors traditional in-school contact as best as possible.
- Danny Giancola gave a summary of Niagara Catholic's Re-Opening Plan. A copy of the Re-Opening presentation was later emailed to all Committee Members. The full Re-Opening Plan can also be accessed from the Board's website.  
<https://cdn.niagaracatholic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Niagara-Catholic-School-Reopening-Plan-August-13-Updated-September-14.pdf>

**4. Gino Pizzoferrato – Superintendent of Education**

- Superintendent Pizzoferrato was actively fielding questions during the meeting pertaining to the following topics:
  - Sub-committee creation for a policy review.
  - Request for Committee Representative on NCPIC suggesting volunteering on a rotation basis.
  - A discussion briefly regarding cohorting in our Secondary Schools.
  - Request to review meeting protocols and procedures as a point of reference to begin our shared work.

**F. TRUSTEE REPORTS**

- Trustee Burtnik and Trustee Burkholder both thanked the dedication and efforts of the formal

Senior Administrative Council that prepared staff and students for the safe re-opening of School Year 2020-2021. They also welcomed the newly appointed Senior Administrative Council and they are extremely confident that they too will continue to work for the safety and well-being of all students and staff of Niagara Catholic.

## **G. STUDENT REPORT**

- Serena Butera is in Cohort A and gave an overview of how things are like being back in school. She mentioned that there were some bussing issues on Opening Day, but she expects that things will continue to improve each day. She is excited to be back in school.

## **H. NCPIC REPORT**

- The next NCPIC meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, September 10, 2020**. During June's Meeting, Kelsey Dick Huxley had put her name forth to seat on NCPIC as the SEAC Representation. Unfortunately, her work schedule has changed, and she is no longer able to seat on NCPIC.
- Chair Racine asked the group for a volunteer for the next NCPIC meeting. Since there were no volunteers, Chair Racine graciously offered to attend. Unfortunately, at this time she is unable to commit to attending any future meetings.
- Jennifer Lanese will email the group later this week, hoping that a Committee Member will be available for November's NCPIC meeting.
- The group will get updated by Jennifer Lanese if there is a SEAC representative for November's NCPIC meeting.

## **I. NOTICES OF MOTION**

- There were no Notices of Motion.

## **J. FUTURE MEETINGS / INFORMATION ITEMS**

- Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, there is nothing to report at this time.

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

- Chair Racine asked all attendees to observe a moment of silence during these uncertain times.

## **L. NEXT MEETING**

- **Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 6:30 pm** – format to be determined based on current COVID-19 restrictions.

## **M. ADJOURNMENT**

- Moved by Pina Palombo
- Seconded by Rita Smith

**THAT the September 9, 2020 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.**  
**CARRIED**

- This meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: NIAGARA CATHOLIC VIRTUAL SCHOOLS' UPDATE**

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The Niagara Catholic Virtual Schools Update report is presented for information.

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Prepared by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education  
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education  
Chris Boyer, Principal – Niagara Catholic Virtual Elementary School Principal  
Adele Filice, Principal – Niagara Catholic Virtual Secondary School

Presented by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education  
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education  
Chris Boyer, Principal – Niagara Catholic Virtual Elementary School Principal  
Adele Filice, Principal – Niagara Catholic Virtual Secondary School

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: October 27, 2020



## REPORT TO THE BOARD OCTOBER 27, 2020

### NIAGARA CATHOLIC VIRTUAL SCHOOLS UPDATE

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#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Ministry of Education released a Guide to Reopening Ontario's schools on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The Guide designated the Niagara Catholic District School Board as one of 24 school boards in the province to open with adapted in-person teaching and instruction. The Guide also made in-person school attendance optional for the 2020/21 school year by providing parents/guardians with the option to select a voluntary learn at home option for students.

On August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Ministry of Education issued, *Requirements for Remote Learning Policy Program Memorandum* Number 164 and informed school boards that they were able to apply for temporary virtual schools. The Niagara Catholic District School Board applied for two temporary BSID (Board School Identification Database) numbers to provide instruction to students who elected to participate in the voluntary learn at home program required by the Ministry of Education. On August 27, 2020, the Niagara Catholic District School Board received approval for two virtual schools; the Niagara Catholic Elementary Virtual School and the Niagara Catholic Secondary Virtual School.

Remote learning options are required to be available for all students on a full-time enhanced distant/remote learning basis with access to learning material posted online to support both synchronous and asynchronous learning opportunities during the day.

Students, who are participating in programming at the Niagara Catholic Virtual Schools, are registered at their home schools and may be in a class with students from schools throughout the system, not just their home school.

The Ontario Student Record remains at the home school with attendance and marks reported on by the virtual school.

#### KEY DATES

- September 14<sup>th</sup> – Elementary Virtual School opens at 12 noon with 2,754 elementary students and 100 classes and the Secondary Virtual School opens at 8:05 a.m. with 980 secondary pupils registered and 33 classes.
- September 15<sup>th</sup> - Elementary Transition Request Deadline
- September 30<sup>th</sup> – Human Resources Services Memo - Expression of Interest in Virtual Teaching – to establish a pool of teachers interested in teaching at the secondary virtual school
- October 1<sup>st</sup> - Elementary Virtual School enrolment decreases to 2523 due to students opting to return to home school
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> - Elementary parents/guardians notified that the next transition date is October 15<sup>th</sup> for November 2<sup>nd</sup> and that it is the last date until January 15<sup>th</sup> to apply for a February 1<sup>st</sup> start
- October 13<sup>th</sup> - Second course begins for secondary – enrolment increases to 1056 - 41 classes



- October 16<sup>th</sup> - Secondary parents/guardians notified that the next transition date is November 16<sup>th</sup> and that it is the last date until January 15<sup>th</sup> to begin on February 8<sup>th</sup>

### **Catholicity at Niagara Catholic Virtual Schools**

The Niagara Catholic Elementary and Secondary Virtual Schools provide Catholic social teachings throughout the curriculum and faith activities to ensure the building of strong Catholic identity and community to nurture the distinctiveness of Catholic Education, as well as the following:

- Opening Prayer services
- Daily Prayers
- Grade 9 Retreats- mid November
- Grade 12 Retreats- Spring
- Pilgrimage
- Virtual Chapel
- Sacramental preparation
- Elementary Mini Retreats

### **Daily Minimum Synchronous Learning Requirements**

- Kindergarten students are required to be online for 180 minutes per day.
- Students in grades 1 to 12 are required to be online for 225 minutes.
- The time may be divided into smaller blocks of time and include independent, small and full group instruction.
- A Research Assessment and Evaluation Department Memo outlines the process for a request for an exemption from synchronous learning. To date, there have been no requests for an exemption.
- The expectations for teachers are outlined in the [Requirements for Remote Learning PPM 164](#) and the Ontario College of Teachers has issued [Video Conferencing Guidelines](#).

### **Access to Devices**

- Home schools have supplied devices for students in need attending the virtual schools.

### **Learning Platform**

- The majority of teachers are using D2L Brightspace and some continue to use Google Classroom.
- Most teachers use Google Meet as the synchronous platform.

### **Students with Special Needs**

- Individual Education Plans have been prepared by the virtual teacher, in consultation with Educational Resource Teachers at the home school, and the parent/guardian.
- Virtual teachers have received support materials on Special Education IEP Development, including virtual accommodations to instruction, environment and assessment.
- Educational Assistants have been assigned to the virtual schools.

### **Attendance**

- Student attendance is recorded twice per day for elementary and four times per day for secondary.
- Teachers input attendance into Maplewood and Safe Arrival calls are made for unreported absences.

### **Staff Work Locations**

- Schools remain open as workplaces for teachers to support the delivery of high-quality synchronous learning.
- With the exception of teachers who have medical accommodations requiring that they work from home, teachers are to work out of a dedicated space in their home school.

## Report Cards

- Report Cards will be available on reporting dates: November 23, 2020 for Kindergarten Communication of Learning: Initial Observation Reports. Grades 1-8 Progress Reports and Alternative Reports in elementary.
- The secondary school, where the credit is earned will issue the report card. Credits earned at the Virtual School will be issued by the Niagara Catholic Virtual Secondary School.
- The Maplewood Portal is available for parents to monitor student progress throughout the term.

## Transition Dates

The transition dates for the Elementary and Secondary Virtual Schools are on the Board website available [here](#).

### *Elementary*

- Initially elementary transition dates were to occur on the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month for an entry date on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the following month.
- Due to the impact on schools/staffing the number of transition dates has been reduced.
- The most recent transition date on October 15 for a November 2 start generated 612 responses.
  - 413 have selected to transition from in-person to virtual
  - 199 have selected to transition from virtual to in-person
  - Staffing at the virtual school will be adjusted to accommodate the changes.

### *Secondary*

- Initially secondary transition dates were to occur on the 2 weeks prior to the conclusion of a course.
- Due to the impact on schools/staffing the number of transition dates has been reduced following the current octomester. Transitions may now only occur at the conclusion of Term 2/4/6.
- Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> was the latest transition date.

## Supports Available

### *Mental Health*

- The virtual schools are following an identical referral process that schools use to refer students for services by Social Workers and Mental Health and Addictions Nurses.
- Students in the Child and Youth Care Program at Niagara College, as part of their virtual placements, will be making presentations to secondary virtual classes to review the supports that are available to ensure student awareness of supports available.
- A Child and Youth Worker supports the elementary virtual school with the assistance of nine students from Niagara College.

### *Student Services (Secondary)*

- Virtual classes have been created for graduating students with information about post-secondary application process-scholarships.
- College/university presentations are available via virtual graduate classroom.

### *Technology Training*

- The Digital Learning Team continues to be available to provide email and live support for all virtual teachers. Ministry curriculum resources are available to all staff.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation:**

- School boards are required to report at the end of the school year on their activities to fulfill the direction outlined in PPM 164.
- Board staff are in the process of developing a data collection tool to regularly collect data on:
  - Strategies to provide training related to the identified areas of need, including learning and well-being;

- Details of implementation progress and monitoring activities, including the number of exemptions from synchronous learning;
- Parent/guardian and student feedback on the impact of remote learning, including:
  - level of student engagement in learning;
  - ease of online learning participation; and,
  - access to teachers.

Adjustments will be made based on parent/guardian, student, and staff feedback collected throughout the school year.

A brief presentation will be made at the Board Meeting led by the Principals of the Elementary and Secondary Virtual Schools.

The Niagara Catholic Virtual Schools Update report is presented for information.

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Prepared by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education  
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education  
Chris Boyer, Principal – Niagara Catholic Virtual Elementary School Principal  
Adele Filice, Principal – Niagara Catholic Virtual Secondary School

Presented by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education  
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education  
Chris Boyer, Principal – Niagara Catholic Virtual Elementary School Principal  
Adele Filice, Principal – Niagara Catholic Virtual Secondary School

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: October 27, 2020

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: UNAUDITED YEAR-END FINANCIAL RESULTS 2019-2020**

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The Unaudited Year-End Financial Results 2019-2020 report is presented for information.

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Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services  
Rosa Rocca, Financial Controller of Business and Financial Services

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

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: October 27, 2020



## REPORT TO THE BOARD OCTOBER 27, 2020

### UNAUDITED YEAR-END FINANCIAL RESULTS 2019-2020

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#### BACKGROUND

The preliminary 2019-2020 unaudited operating results reflect an available for compliance operating surplus of approximately \$2.67M or 1.2% of our operating budget. This estimated surplus will increase our available for compliance-accumulated surplus to approximately \$16M. Moreover, Niagara Catholic estimated results illustrate an overall 2019-2020 year-end accumulated surplus of \$27.2M (Appendix A). These preliminary results continue to demonstrate strong financial health and stability over the years, as we continue to achieve and surpass our recovery plan. However, as we continue to adapt to challenges associated with the CoVid-19 pandemic, the ability to sustain an operating surplus for 2020-2021 will not be possible. As you are aware, the Ministry of Education has allowed school boards to access 2% of their 2020-2021 operating funds to respond to challenges presented by the ongoing pandemic. Specifically, Niagara Catholic will have access to approximately \$4.6M of our anticipated \$16M available for compliance-accumulated surplus.

The following information is attached for the review of the Trustees:

**APPENDIX A** Unaudited Consolidated Statement of Operations and accumulated Surplus

The Unaudited Year-End Financial Results 2019-2020 report is presented for information.

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Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services  
Rosa Rocca, Controller of Business and Financial Services

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

Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: October 27, 2020

**NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS**

August 31, 2020

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Provincial legislative grants	240,143,135	236,244,457	245,179,139
Provincial grants - other	3,365,000	2,969,660	3,868,086
Federal grants and fees	479,615	474,825	479,615
Other fees and revenue	3,367,000	3,374,780	3,416,965
Investment income	625,000	601,469	625,267
School fundraising	7,583,300	4,631,007	7,587,961
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	15,736,513	12,145,443	13,449,767
	<b>271,299,563</b>	<b>260,441,641</b>	<b>274,606,800</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Instruction	203,353,145	197,670,844	201,402,144
Administration	7,433,095	8,209,764	7,574,674
Transportation	10,811,254	10,016,299	10,691,040
Pupil accomodation	42,118,769	37,284,213	39,705,473
Other operating expenses	-	126,528	118,706
School funded activities	7,410,200	4,459,878	7,412,176
	<b>271,126,463</b>	<b>257,767,527</b>	<b>266,904,214</b>
<b>Annual Surplus</b>	<b>173,100</b>	<b>2,674,114</b>	<b>7,702,587</b>
<b>Accumulated Surplus, Beginning of Year</b>	<b>24,562,708</b>	<b>24,562,708</b>	<b>16,860,121</b>
<b>Accumulated Surplus, End of Year</b>	<b>24,735,808</b>	<b>27,236,821</b>	<b>24,562,708</b>

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS – NOVEMBER 2020**

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# NOVEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 SEAC Meeting	5 NCPIC Meeting	6	7
8	9	10 SAL Meeting CW Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Elementary & Secondary PA Day	19	20	21
22	23	24 PC Meeting BD Meeting	25	26	27 AC Meeting	28
29 First Sunday in Advent—Faith	30					



**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2020**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION  
DRAFT LETTER TO PREMIER FORD AND STEPHEN LECCE**

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Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Premier Doug Ford  
Premier's Office

Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education

Sent via email: [doug.ford@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.ford@pc.ola.org); [minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Lecce:

I hope this finds you well, and I thank you for the work you have been doing for schools across Ontario.

I am writing on behalf of the Niagara Catholic District School Board Board of Trustees. While we appreciate the efforts of the Ministry of Education to launch a safe and successful 2020-2021 school year, we would be remiss if we did not join our colleagues across the province in expressing our concerns about the loss in funding we have experienced due to a large number of parents choosing to homeschool their children this year.

There are many reasons why parents have taken this step. For some, it was access to technology or reliable internet access. Others were concerned about children spending so much time in front of a computer screen, and others said they lacked confidence in sending students to school while cases rose and could not follow the school day schedule.

As a result, hundreds of students who would normally be a part of our school system are not this year. Their absence is felt in our classrooms by teachers and friends who miss them. In addition, like boards across the province, we counted on their enrollment in the spring as part of our budget and planning process. Having them withdrawn from our system to be homeschooled will have a significant impact on our Grants for Student Needs, and our overall budget to support students and staff.

This presents a challenge for Niagara Catholic, as our costs continue to increase due to decreased class sizes, transportation and enhanced cleaning protocols.

To that end, we respectfully request that the provincial government recognize this very significant challenge by ensuring school boards receive GSN funding based on spring projections, rather than the reduced enrollment we are currently experiencing. Alleviating this one, very significant concern, will assist us in supporting our student and staff needs throughout the year.

Yours sincerely

Frank Fera, Chair of the Board

cc: Niagara Catholic Trustees  
Ontario Catholic Trustees Association (OCSTA)

427 Rice Road, Welland, Ontario L3C 7C1  
Telephone: 905-735-0240 Facsimile: 905-734-8828 Email: [info@ncdsb.com](mailto:info@ncdsb.com)  
[www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca)

Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary Treasurer