



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017

Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns C.S.C. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Chief Executive Officer and Director of Education John Crocco, in accordance with section 208-4 of the Education Act.

Director Crocco thanked the Lakeshore Catholic High School Choir, school and system administrators, special guests, family and friends for attending the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

2. Opening Prayer – Krista Wood, Board Chaplaincy Leader

Ms. Wood opened the 2017 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board with a dedicated Advent reflection and prayer.

3. Roll Call

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

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Maurice Charbonneau		✓		
Frank Fera		✓		
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓			
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓			
Ted O’Leary	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Pat Vernal	✓			

Student Trustees				
Hannah Tummillo	✓			
Nico Tripodi	✓			

Special Guest:
 Bill Amadio, Board Solicitor

The following staff were in attendance:
John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro, Ted Farrell, Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Frank Iannantuono, Pat Rocca**, Superintendents of Education; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Sherry Morena**, Recording Secretary/
 Coordinator of Information Management/Privacy and Freedom of Information

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
 Seconded by Trustee Burtnik
THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of December 5, 2017, as presented.
CARRIED

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

6. Lakeshore Catholic High School Choir

Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education, welcomed the Lakeshore Catholic High School Choir, Andrew Boon, Vice-Principal, Louisa Ibbotson and Kathleen McAllister, Music Teachers, and Christina Le Rose, Itinerant Arts teacher.

The Choir from Lakeshore Catholic High School, which includes Student Trustee Hannah Tummillo, performed two songs for the Board.

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

Trustee Sicoli and Student Trustee Hannah Tummillo joined Director Crocco in presenting the students with Niagara Catholic “Excellence in the Arts” pins to wear proudly with their uniform.

7. Election Procedures

Director Crocco reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson in accordance with Section 8 Subsection 4 of the Board By-Laws, asked if there were any questions of the procedures before proceeding and appointed Bill Amadio, Board Solicitor and Superintendent Baldasaro, as scrutineers if required.

8. Election of Chairperson

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

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

THAT Trustee MacNeil be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 5, 2017 until the December 2018 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

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

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

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

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

CARRIED

Trustee MacNeil was acclaimed as the Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 5, 2017 until the December 2018 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

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

9. Election of Vice-Chairperson

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

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

THAT Trustee Vernal be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 5, 2017 until the December 2018 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

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

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT Trustee Burtnik be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 5, 2017 until the December 2018 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

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

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

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

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

CARRIED

Following the counting of the ballots, a tie was declared. A second vote was taken and was also declared a tie. In compliance with Board By-Laws, the two nominees drew straws for the position of Vice- Chair alphabetically by last name with the person drawing the long straw elected. Trustee Vernal was elected by straw ballot to the position of Vice-Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 5, 2017 until the December 2018 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

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

CARRIED

10. Chairperson's Remarks

Chair MacNeil thanked Trustee Burtnik for her service as Vice-Chairperson during the past year.

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

11. Vice-Chairperson's Remarks

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

B. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Board Committees

Director Crocco presented the Report on Board Committees, in accordance with Board By-Law 19 which calls for Trustee membership on Board Ad Hoc, Statutory, Standing and Liaison Committees until November 30, 2018.

Director Crocco stated that members to the committees are appointed by the Chairperson of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chairperson of the Board. He asked that Trustees submit their completed form to the Office of the Director of Education by the December 19, 2017 Board Meeting.

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the continuation of the following Ad Hoc Committees for the year 2018:

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

CARRIED

C. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

D. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Vernal
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the December 5, 2017 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 5, 2017.**

Approved on **December 19, 2017.**

Fr. Paul MacNeil
Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

CHAIRPERSON FR. PAUL MACNEIL'S REMARKS

**Annual Organizational Meeting
of the Niagara Catholic District School Board
December 5, 2017**

Vice-chair Vernal, fellow trustees, Director Crocco, superintendents, administration and honoured guests. I would like once again to thank the board of trustees for their confidence in me in my continued role as board chair. I also ask for your continued prayers for us as a board of trustees as we continue to lead this board into our final year of our tenure as trustees for the 2014-2018 term.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle once said that the structure of change is the same in every instance: something old passes away, something new comes into existence, but in order for there to be a genuine change, something must remain throughout. So here we stand, together, at the beginning of a new year, as we let go of the past and move confidently toward the future celebrating with renewed faith this moment of promise that is today, it is what remains unchanged that is most important.

So, what is it that is passing away? We are saying goodbye to the previous year, with all its blessings and opportunities, its victories and its successes, with its retirements and its job changes, with the ending of old policies and the creation of new ones. We are also saying goodbye to last year with all its challenges as well, to all the pain that comes from an organization that continues to grow, to learn, and to be alive.

What new comes into existence? We look forward in hope to a new year, a new start. We take the lessons that we have learned from last year and we apply them in new situations this year, hopefully recreating the victories we shared. It's like seeing a blank page in which we, through the freedom of our own thoughts and the courage of expression, create our collective dreams, our hopes, or write a beautiful story, moving symphony or an inspiring prayer.

But the most important aspect of any change is not what dies, and not even what we create, but what remains the same throughout the change. These things that remain the same throughout a change are the things that define us as human beings, and as an organization. Allow me to point out some things that haven't changed: Our core mission to be the best board we can be by focusing on student achievement for all. Our dedication to the value of catholic education here in Niagara. Our Commitment to faith in Jesus Christ and his love and his mercy; and our own ability as a board of trustees, the 8 of us, to work together to learn from the past, to hope for the future, and to celebrate with renewed faith and energy, this moment of promise.

Not only do these values persist from year to year, but they persist across every aspect of our organization. All this is grounded in one thing: The unchanging love of Jesus for each one of us. Let us share that love by becoming, as our mission statement says, living witnesses of Christ. May God bless you tonight and always.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON PAT VERNAL'S REMARKS

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December 5, 2017**

Chair MacNeil, fellow trustees, members of senior administration, guests.

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your Vice-Chair. We have travelled a troubled and difficult road over the last year, but we now have the opportunity to begin to heal and build a better system for our students. With God's help and guidance and all of your support we can build a better future and system for our students.

I feel confident that next year will prove to be successful and rewarding for us all.

Thank you and as my friend Trustee Sicoli says, "God's blessings on you all."