



*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*

## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2017  
7:00 P.M.**

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



### **A. ROUTINE MATTERS**

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| 1. Opening Prayer – Trustee Nieuwesteeg  | -      |
| 2. Roll Call   | -      |
| 3. Approval of the Agenda  | -      |
| 4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest   | -      |
| 5. Approval of Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 7, 2017 | A5     |
| 6. Consent Agenda Items  | -      |
| 6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of November 21, 2017      | A6.1   |
| 6.2 Approval of Policies   | -      |
| 6.2.1 Trustee Expenses & Reimbursement Policy (100.13)                           | A6.2.1 |
| 6.3 Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities          | A6.3   |
| 6.4 Capital Projects Update  | A6.4   |
| 6.5 In Camera Items F1 and F3  | -      |

### **B. PRESENTATIONS**

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

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Culture of Life and Lead Out Loud Conferences                           | C1 |
| 2. Niagara Catholic French Immersion Program Update 2017-2020              | C2 |
| 3. Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodations Review Guidelines Submission | C3 |
| 4. Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2017-2018 Update    | C4 |
| 5. Monthly Updates   | -  |
| 5.1 Student Senate Update  | -  |
| 5.2 Senior Staff Good News Update  | -  |

**D. INFORMATION**

1. Trustee Information
- 1.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – November 21, 2017 D1.1
- 1.2 Calendar of Events – December 2017 D1.2
- 1.3 OCSTA Information – November 24, 2017 D1.3
- 1.4 OCSTA Memorandum – Progressive Conservative Election Platform 2018 D1.4
- 1.5 Community Planning and Partnerships Annual Meeting – December 13, 2017 D1.5

**E. OTHER BUSINESS**

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action -

**F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA****G. REPORT ON THE IN CAMERA SESSION****H. ADJOURNMENT**

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

*PUBLIC SESSION*

**TOPIC: MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2017**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 7, 2017, as presented.



## MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 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 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Burtnik.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Trustee Fera

2. Roll Call

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

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; **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 Charbonneau

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 7, 2017, 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 October 10, 2017**

Moved by Trustee Fera

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 10, 2017, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. Consent Agenda Items**

**6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of October 24, 2017**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole receive the Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of October 24, 2017, as presented.

**6.2 Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities**

Presented for information.

**6.3 Capital Projects Update**

Presented for information.

**6.4 In Camera Items F1 and F3**

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

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

**CARRIED**

## **B. PRESENTATIONS**

### **1. Pilgrimage 2017**

Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education introduced Lidia Di Lorenzo, Religion & Family Life Consultant, who presented information on Pilgrimage Sunday, held on October 29, 2017.

Student testimonials from each Catholic secondary school and a visual presentation capturing all of the Pilgrimages 2017 were shared with the Committee of the Whole.

Vice-Chair Burtnik thanked the “pilgrims” and their organizational committees for their commitment to the annual pilgrimage.

Trustee O’Leary and Trustee Fera expressed their pride in the student’s involvement and their expression of faith and love for one another as witnessed by their participation in Pilgrimage 2017.

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

### **1. Teacher of the Blind and Low Vision – Meeting the Unique Educational Needs of Students with Visual Impairments Through Instructional Strategies and Technology**

Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education introduced Carole Vanderlee, Teacher of the Blind and Low Vision.

Ms. Vanderlee showcased the role and support for students of the Teacher of the Blind and Low Vision by meeting the unique educational needs of students with visual impairments through instructional strategies and technology.

Ms. Vanderlee answered questions of Trustees.

Vice-Chair Burtnik thanked Ms. Vanderlee for the insight into the needs for students with visual impairments her role in meeting those needs.

### **2. Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2017-2018 Update**

Director Crocco and members of Senior Administrative Council presented the November Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2017-2018 Update for the information of the Committee of the Whole.

Director Crocco and members of Senior Staff answered questions of Trustees.

### **3. Monthly Updates**

#### **3.1 Student Trustees’ Update**

Nico Tripodi and Hannah Tummillo, Student Trustees, presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

Chair MacNeil thanked Student Trustees Nico Tripodi and Hannah Tummillo for their involvement with the Student Senate.

### **3.2 Senior Staff Good News Update**

Senior Staff highlights included:

#### **Superintendent Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**

- On Friday, October 27, 2017, Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities, in partnership with the Ontario government hosted the Jumpstart Games for 300 female students ages eight to fourteen, from five Niagara Catholic schools: Assumption Catholic, St. Michael Catholic, Canadian Martyrs Catholic, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic, and St. Alfred Catholic Elementary Schools at Ridley College. Students rotated through different stations to develop and demonstrate their skills in physical literacy. Jumpstart's Women and Girls in Sport Initiative encourages girls to be active, creating a new generation of female sport leaders promoting diversity, accessibility, and inclusion. Thirty female students from Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School participated in a Youth Leadership workshop led by the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women in Sport (CAAWS). The secondary students participated as student leaders at the Jumpstart Games, and were also given the opportunity to enrol in a local Jumpstart-funded Fundamental Movement Skills workshop on November 18, 2017. MPP Jim Bradley, Olympic Bronze medalist, Brittany MacLean, and Paralympic hopeful Claire Buchanan joined Niagara Catholic staff and students at the Games.

#### **Superintendent Baldasaro**

- On November 3, 2017 Superintendent Iannantuono and Superintendent Baldasaro joined Trustee Fera, Trustee Sicoli, Director Crocco along with Administrators and staff from St. Denis Catholic, St. Alexander Catholic, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary and other schools in support of Principal Kevin Lamb of St. Denis Catholic and Principal Crocco of St. Alexander Catholic at the Merrition Arena for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Murphy's Kids Charity Boxing Event. Principal Crocco, Principal Lamb and Holy Cross Catholic Secondary student Dylan Maisonneuve boxed in three charity bouts against members of the St. Catharines and area boxing club as part of a 10 bout boxing card. The money raised through the Murphy's Kids Program provides for free boxing lessons for students from low income families. The club presented a cheque in the amount of \$1,000 to Principal Lamb for the breakfast program at St. Denis Catholic.

## **D. INFORMATION**

### **1. Trustee Information**

#### **1.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – October 24, 2017**

Director Crocco highlighted the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – October 24, 2017 issue for Trustees information.

#### **1.2 Calendar of Events – November 2017**

Director Crocco presented the November 2017 Calendar of Events for Trustees information.

**1.3 OCSTA Memorandum – 2018 AGM & Conference Resolutions**

Director Crocco reminded Trustees that the final deadline date for receipt of resolutions into the OCSTA office is 12:00 p.m. January 31, 2018

**1.4 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board – December 5, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.**

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board on December 5, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

**1.5 December Committee of the Whole – December 5, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.**

Director Crocco reminded Trustees that the Committee of the Whole Meeting will follow the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board on December 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

**1.6 Annual Faith Formation for Priests, Trustees, Administrators & Chaplains – December 13, 2017**

Director Crocco asked Trustees to confirm their attendance to the Annual Administrators, Trustees, Parish Priests, Faith Formation of December 13, 2017 beginning 11:00 a.m. with Anna Pisano, Administrative Assistant to Corporate Services & Communications.

**1.7 OCSTA 2018 Catholic Trustees Seminar – January 19 & 20, 2018**

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the OCSTA 2018 Catholic Trustees Seminar taking place on January 19 & 20, 2018.

Director Crocco asked Trustees to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano.

**E. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- 1.1 Director Crocco announced the continued implementation of the System Priorities.
- 1.2 Superintendent Vetrone continues to work with the auditors for a report to the November Board of the Financial Statements for 2016-2017
- 1.3 As part of our Open Houses, Niagara Catholic will continue to expand our French Immersion Program across the system by adding an additional grade. Superintendent Baldasaro and her team are monitoring the enrolment and will be presenting an information report to a future Committee of the Whole Meeting on the expansion of the program.

**F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Vernal

**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 8:57 p.m. and reconvened at 9:23 p.m.



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

Moved by Trustee Vernal

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 7, 2017.

**CARRIED**

### **SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES INCLUDED**

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

**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 October 10, 2017, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F1)**

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

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

**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 October 10, 2017, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F3)**

## **H. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

**THAT** the November 7, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

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Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **November 7, 2017.**

Approved on **December 5, 2017.**

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Kathy Burtnik  
Vice-Chair of the Board

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John Crocco  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE  
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole receive the Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of November 21, 2017, as presented.



# MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

## TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2017

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Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in the Holy Cross Community Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 4:38 p.m. by Policy Committee Chair Vernal.

**1. Opening Prayer**

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Trustee Sicoli.

**2. Attendance**

Committee Members	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Pat Vernal (Committee Chair)	✓			
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			

**Trustees:**

*Fr. Paul MacNeil*

**Student Trustees:**

*Nico Tripodi*

*Hannah Tummillo*

**Staff:**

*John Crocco*, Director of Education

*Frank Iannantuono*, Superintendent of Education/Human Resources

*Giancarlo Vetrone*, Superintendent of Business & Finance

*Anna Pisano*, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications Department  
/Recording Secretary

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Chair Vernal requested Item 6.1 be moved to Item 6.3

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

**THAT** the November 21, 2017 Policy Committee Agenda be approved, as amended.

**APPROVED**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

**5. Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of October 24, 2017**

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Policy Committee approve the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of October 24, 2017, as presented.

**APPROVED**

**6. Policies**

***ACTION REQUIRED***

**POLICIES - FOR RECOMMENDATION TO DECEMBER 5, 2017 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**6.1 Trustee Expenses & Reimbursement Policy (100.13)**

Director Crocco and Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Trustee Expenses & Reimbursement Policy (100.13) following the vetting process.

Following discussion, the Policy Committee recommended the following additional amendments:

**POLICY STATEMENT**

- No amendment

**ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

- Page 3 Gifts and Donations Paragraph 2 add “only”
- Remove Paragraph 3 and 4
- Page 4 Reporting of Approved Trustee Expenses Paragraph 2 remove “approved”

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Policy Committee recommend to the December 5, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting to approve the revisions to the Trustee Expenses & Reimbursement Policy (100.13), as amended.

**APPROVED**

## **POLICIES - PRIOR TO VETTING**

### **6.2 Student Trustees Policy (100.4)**

Director Crocco, presented recommended amendments to the Student Trustees Policy (100.4).

The Policy Committee suggested the following amendments:

#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

- No amendments

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES**

- Add *“In the event that the elected student cannot serve the two year term as a Student Trustee, the Student Senate will determine a process to replace the student serving on the Board of Trustees and as Co-Chairs of the Niagara Catholic Secondary Student Senate.”*

The Policy Committee requested that the Policy, be vetted from November 22, 2017 to February 8, 2018 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Policy Committee in February 2018, for consideration to the Committee of the Whole and Board in March 2018.

### **6.3 Trustee Code of Conduct Policy (100.12)**

John Crocco, Director of Education presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Trustee Code of Conduct Policy (100.12) following the vetting process.

Following discussion, the Policy Committee recommended the Trustee Code of Conduct Policy be tabled to a Special Policy Committee Meeting at a date to be confirmed.

### **6.4 Student Transportation Policy (500.2)**

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services, presented the Student Transportation Policy (500.2).

Following discussion, the Policy Committee recommended the Student Transportation Policy be sent back to staff for further review.

**6.5 Employee Hiring and Selection Policy – Teachers (203.1)**

Deferred to the January 30, 2018 Policy Committee Meeting.

**INFORMATION**

**6.6 Policies Currently Being Vetted to January 12, 2018**

- Records and Information Management Policy (600.2)
- Nutrition Policy (302.7)
- Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction Policy (100.7)
- Assignment of Principals & Vice-Principals Policy (202.1)
- Employee Attendance During Inclement Weather & Workplace Closure Policy (201.9)

**6.7 Policy and Guideline Review 2017-2018 Schedule**

Director Crocco presented the Policy and Guideline Review 2017-2018 Schedule.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

January 30, 2018 – Start time to be determined and posted on the Board website and agenda cover.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

## A6.2.1

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

*PUBLIC SESSION*

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE EXPENSES & REIMBURSEMENT POLICY (100.13)**

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### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Expenses & Reimbursement Policy (100.13), as presented.

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Prepared by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer  
Presented by: Policy Committee  
Recommended by: Policy Committee  
Date: December 5, 2017



Niagara Catholic District School Board

## **TRUSTEE EXPENSE AND REIMBURSEMENT POLICY**

### STATEMENT OF POLICY

100 – Board

Policy No 100.13

Adopted Date: April 26, 2011

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: NIL

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board (the “Board”), the Trustee Expense and Reimbursement Policy is in compliance with the Ontario *Education Act*, Regulations, other relevant legislation and the Board’s Mission Statement. The Niagara Catholic District School Board is committed to an organizational culture and structure that operates with integrity, ~~compliance~~ **compliance** and promotes responsibility, excellence, transparency and accountability. ~~with respect to decisions and practices.~~ **It is the responsibility of individual Trustees to submit reasonably related specific expenses incurred in the role and responsibility of Catholic Trustees**

The Board is committed to ensuring that all expenses claimed by ~~the~~ Trustees are associated with the responsibilities of a Board member **in compliance with the Education Act, Regulations and Board Policy** and that ~~these~~ **all** expenses support the ~~program~~ objectives, **responsibilities, the Mission, Vision and Values and of the organization and that they maximizes** the benefits to the Board.

### **ELIGIBLE EXPENSES**

It is the policy of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to reimburse Trustees and Student Trustees for out-of-pocket expenses reasonably incurred in connection with carrying out the responsibilities of a Board member in accordance with the operating procedures outlined in this Policy, ~~including:~~

- ~~• Office equipment~~
- ~~• Office supplies~~
- ~~• Conference and workshops~~
- ~~• Travel for Board sanctioned business~~
- ~~• Other costs~~

### **APPROPRIATE APPROVALS**

Under the Trustee Expense Guideline issued by the Ministry of Education, the approval of Trustee expense will be approved as follows:

- Claims by Trustees for the reimbursement of expenses require the approval of the Chair~~person~~ of the Board and the Director of Education.
- Claims by ~~the~~ Chair~~person~~ of the Board for the reimbursement of expenses require the approval of the Director of Education and the Superintendent of Business & Financial Services.

### **WHERE AN EXPENSE CLAIM IS DENIED**

When a Trustee's expense claim has not been approved, the Trustee will be informed of the reason in writing by the Chair of the Board and/or the Director of Education.

If the Trustee disagrees with the denial, the Trustee may bring the matter to the next regular meeting of the ~~Committee of the Whole (In Camera) with a recommendation. In making its decision, the Committee~~



of the ~~Whole~~ Board. The Board will determine whether or not the denial is consistent with the terms of the Board Policy and the **Trustee Code of Conduct**.

If a satisfactory resolution is not reached then the affected party may contest the decision during a public meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board of Trustees.

## CLAIMS FOR TRAVEL TO MEETINGS AND BOARD FUNCTIONS

Travel costs by private automobiles will be reimbursed for actual kilometers travelled on Board sanctioned business. If the Trustee travels to various locations during the day, travel shall be calculated from the ~~last~~ **previous** location to the next location.

Expenses related to travel, such as parking and personal meals, will be reimbursed based on actual expense receipts presented for reimbursement.

Automobile travel and related expenses shall be paid to Trustees at a rate per kilometre approved by the Board for all Board employees, using the [\*Trustee Reimbursement of Travel Expenses Form\*](#).

## CLAIMS FOR ACCOMMODATION, MEALS

When Trustees travel on Board sanctioned business, they may be reimbursed for costs incurred for accommodation and meals, using the [\*Trustee Conference, Workshop and Overnight Meetings Form\*](#).

Accommodation costs shall be reimbursed for reasonable costs incurred and shall not include personal charges.

Meal costs shall be reimbursed for breakfast, lunch and dinner for reasonable amounts and shall not include charges for other people.

Alcohol costs shall not be reimbursed, even when served with meals.

## CLAIMS FOR CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND OVERNIGHT MEETINGS

The Board encourages all Trustees to attend Conferences, Workshops and Meetings relating to the **role and responsibilities of Catholic Trustees**, ~~educational issues and events~~. The Board shall establish an **annual** budget amount for each Trustee to attend Conferences, Workshops and Overnight Meetings.

Reimbursement of Trustee conference and travel expenses shall require the approval of the Chair~~person~~ of the Board and the Director of Education. All claims for reimbursement of Trustee conference and travel expenses claimed by the Chair~~person~~ of the Board shall require the approval of the Superintendent of Business and Financial Services and the Director of Education.

All claims for Trustee Conference expenses shall be submitted and processed using the [\*Trustee Conference, Workshop and Overnight Meetings Form\*](#).

All Trustee Conference expenses shall be claimed during the appropriate budget year and shall not exceed the amount of the Trustee allocation for that budget year.

Unused funds in the individual Trustee allocation for the budget year ~~shall~~ **will** not be re-allocated to other Trustees and ~~shall~~ **will** not be carried forward to another budget year.

Trustee Conference expenses, which exceed the amount allocated to an individual Trustee, shall be repaid to the Board by the individual Trustee before the end of the following budget year, unless otherwise directed by the Board.

## CLAIMS FOR OTHER EXPENSES

Any other extraordinary or unusual expenses that a Trustee feels should be paid by the Board shall be referred to the Chairperson of the Board and the Director of Education with a written explanation and request for payment. The Chairperson of the Board and the Director of Education may approve or disapprove of payment.

## RECEIPTS AND TIMING OF CLAIMS FOR REIMBURSEMENT

All claims for the reimbursement of Trustee expenses must be accompanied by original receipts and the original bill/invoice providing the details of the expense.

All claims for the reimbursement of Trustee expenses shall generally be submitted on a monthly basis, using the appropriate forms and approvals, within the appropriate budget year.

## GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Gifts and donations, by any Trustee, to any groups or individuals will not be reimbursed.

Gifts and donations may **only** be made on behalf of the Board of Trustees, if approved in advance by the Chairperson of the Board and the Director of Education.

~~Although moderate hospitality is an accepted courtesy in business relationships, Trustees should not allow themselves to reach a perceived position whereby they might influence a Board decision as a consequence of accepting such hospitality. If there is uncertainty regarding what is considered an appropriate honoraria or hospitality to give or receive, the Trustee should discuss this with the Chair of the Board.~~

~~Trustees should not use their position for improper gain or benefit, nor under any circumstances accept gifts.~~

## ADVERTISING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Trustees will not be reimbursed for expenses related to political advocacy.

The cost related to supporting a fundraiser or event for a specific political party is not eligible for reimbursement.

## OFFICE EQUIPMENT

It is the Policy of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to provide the Trustees with the following office equipment and services to be used from the beginning to the end of the term of office:

- Home based computer
- Home based printer

- Allowance for internet service
- Standard office computer software

All equipment will be provided in accordance with current Board standards and shall be maintained in good repair by the computer technicians of the Board.

At the end of the Trustee's term of office, the equipment is to be returned to the Board, unless the Trustee decides to purchase the equipment from the Board.

The purchase of the equipment shall be processed through the office of the Director of Education and shall be processed at the fair market value of the equipment at the end of the term of office of the Trustee.

## REPORTING OF APPROVED TRUSTEE EXPENSES

All Trustee expenses for the previous school year will be posted annually on the Board website and reported publicly to the Board before December 31 of the current school year, under the following categories:

- Office equipment
- Office supplies
- Conference and workshops
- Travel for Board business
- ~~Other~~ Miscellaneous

Any overpayment of Trustee expenses will be reimbursed to the Board by the individual Trustee.

All expense reports for each Trustee will remain on the Board website for one year after the expiry of the term of office.

Information pertaining to individual Trustee expenses will be forwarded to the Ministry of Education, as required by the Ministry.

### *References*

- [\*Education Act\*](#)
- [\*Income Tax Act\*](#)
- [\*Ministry of Finance Broader Public Sector Expenses Directive, April 1, 2011\*](#)
- [\*Report of the Auditor, December 2005\*](#)
- [\*Trustee Code of Conduct\*](#)

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: STAFF DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

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The Report on Staff Development Department:  
Professional Development Opportunities is presented for information.

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Prepared by: Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education  
Anthony Corapi, Coordinator of Staff Development

Presented by: Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: December 5, 2017



## REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING DECEMBER 5, 2017

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In alignment with the Board's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan and Annual System Priorities, the Department of Staff Development, as an integral aspect of its mandate, acts as the point of co-ordination among various departments. Thus ensuring that all professional development opportunities for staff, both teaching and non-teaching, occur in a seamless fashion so as to minimize disruptions to the myriad services provided within our Niagara Catholic community.

The following is a listing of activities occurring during the period December 5, 2017 through January 16, 2018.

#### **Tuesday, December 5 & Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

*Joint Health and Safety Committee Training – Part 2 (Monsignor Clancy)*

- The Niagara Catholic District School Board, in conjunction with the Public Services Health & Safety Association, has scheduled "Part Two: Workplace-Specific Hazard Training" required by law to satisfy the conditions set out in the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

#### **Tuesday, December 5, Wednesday, December 6, & Thursday December 7, 2017**

*Math Learning C.I.R.C.L.E. (Catholic Education Centre)*

- As a part of the Renewed Math Strategy and our own Professional Learning Model for Building Capacity, elementary educators will attend the NCDSB Math Learning C.I.R.C.L.E (*Continuous Improvement Realized through a Community of Learning for Educators*) workshops provided by the Mathematics Team.
- Session topics are:
  - o Program Scope and Planning (December 5, 2017)
  - o Constructing Knowledge (December 6, 2017)
  - o The Learning Environment and Attitudes About Math (December 7, 2017)

#### **Thursday, December 7, 2017**

*Elementary and Secondary Library Technicians Meeting (Heartland Forest)*

- The day will begin with an organizational meeting and then a presentation and story-telling/drama workshop. Jay Wilson from Pandora's Sox will entertain and inspire library staff who will come away from the session refreshed and armed with some practical tools that they can not only apply to their role, but also share when collaborating with classroom teachers regarding library program. In the afternoon, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Author Booking Service Event will take place. There will be presentations by several authors and illustrators from areas throughout Ontario. Principals and Vice-Principals are invited and encouraged to attend the *afternoon event from 1:30 - 3 pm*, which is intended to inspire schools to book author visits. After the presentations, there will be a meet-and-greet with opportunity to purchase books and have them signed by the authors.

**Thursday, December 7, 2017**

*Revised Compassionate Care Response Guide, Revised Mental Health and Addictions Strategy and the Protocol for Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention (Four Points Sheraton Hotel)*

- In the Sermon on the Mount, Christ reminds us, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:4). As Catholic Educators we are called to be witnesses of our faith and in times of death, sorrow, and crisis, our witness includes compassionate care and support.
- Select Administrators will receive a half-day training session on the following three resources:
  - o Revised Compassionate Care Response Guide;
  - o Revised Mental Health and Addictions Strategy; and
  - o Protocol for Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention

**Tuesday, December 19, 2017**

*Reading Assessment and Instruction in Secondary Locally Developed English Classes (Brock University)*

- In partnership with the **Brock Learning Lab**, we are offering a full day of reading assessment and instruction training for two English teachers at each of our Secondary sites.
- The day will begin with an overview of the National Reading Panel Report on the Five Essential Elements of Reading. The day will continue with a session around Assessment for Differentiation, Text Types and Choices and conclude with Instructional Strategies to support learners.

The Report on Staff Development:  
Professional Development Opportunities is presented for information.

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Prepared by: Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education  
Anthony Corapi, Coordinator of Staff Development

Presented by: Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: December 5, 2017

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT UPDATE**

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The Capital Projects Progress Report Update is presented for information.

Prepared by: Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services  
Presented by: Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services  
Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer  
Date: December 5, 2017



**REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2017  
CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT UPDATE**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Individual progress reports for capital projects are presented as follows:

In Progress

**NEW BUILD**

Appendix A

St. Martin Catholic Elementary School

**ADDITIONS**

Appendix B

Our Lady of Fatima (G) Catholic Elementary School

The Capital Projects Progress Report Update is presented for information.

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Prepared by: Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services

Presented by: Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: December 5, 2017





**NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
CAPITAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

**APPENDIX A**

**ST. MARTIN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Scope of Project:**

Design and construction of a replacement school and child care centre on a new site.

**Current Status:** The new St. Martin Catholic Elementary School opened on September 5, 2017. Deficiency repairs are underway.

**Project Information:**

New Area to be Constructed	44,067	sq. ft.
Existing Area to be Renovated		sq. ft.
Total New Facility Area	44,067	sq. ft.
Total Site Area	6	acres
Pupil Places Added	115	students
New Facility Capacity	454	students



**Project Funding:**

Capital Priorities	9,910,289
	<u>\$9,910,289</u>

**Project Costs:**

	Budget	Paid
Construction Contract	7,734,824	7,495,015
Fees & Disbursements	937,360	980,949
Furniture & Equipment	260,917	38,241
Other Project Costs	977,188	534,600
	<u>\$9,910,289</u>	<u>\$9,048,805</u>

**Project Timelines:**

	<u>Scheduled Completion</u>	<u>Actual Completion</u>
Funding Approval	July 7, 2011	July 7, 2011
Ministry Approval (space)	December 2011	February 14, 2012
Architect Selection	January 30, 2012	March 22, 2012
Design Development	March 2012	October 2013
Contract Documents	January 2014	Feb 2014
Tender & Approvals (re-design)	Summer/Fall 2015	October 2015
Ministry Approval (cost - revised)	Summer/Fall 2015	November 2015
Ground Breaking Date	December 2015	December 9, 2015
Construction Start	December 2015	August 28, 2017
Occupancy	September 2017	September 5, 2017
Official Opening & Blessing	TBD	

**Project Team:**

Architect	MMMC Inc. Architects
General Contractor	Brouwer Construction
Project Manager	Anthony Ferrara
Superintendent	Pat Rocca
Principal	Chris Zanuttini



**NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
CAPITAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

**APPENDIX B**

**OUR LADY OF FATIMA (G) CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**Scope of Project:** Design and construction of a 6 classroom/3 child care room addition.

**Current Status:** Electrical and plumbing work continues. Window frames have been installed. Roof is watertight. Masonry work continues.

**Project Information:**

New Area to be Constructed	14,974	sq. ft.
Pupil Places Added	138	students
New Facility Capacity	541	students



**Project Funding:**

Capital Priorities	2,997,890
Child Care	1,527,338
	<b>\$4,525,228</b>

**Project Costs:**

	Budget	Paid
Construction Contract	3,448,000	1,369,291
Fees & Disbursements	336,600	297,603
Other Project Costs	740,628	33,933
	<b>\$4,525,228</b>	<b>\$1,700,827</b>

**Project Timelines:**

	Scheduled Completion	Actual Completion
Funding Approval	November 9, 2015	November 9, 2015
Ministry Approval (space)		
Architect Selection	April 18, 2016	June 30, 2016
Design Development	August 2016	December 2016
Contract Documents	January 2017	February 2017
Tender & Approvals	February 2017	April 2017
Ministry Approval (cost)	March 2017	March 2017
Ground Breaking Date	March 2017	June 2017
Construction Start	March 2017	May 2017
Occupancy	December 2017	
Official Opening & Blessing	January 2018	

**Project Team:**

Architect	Svedas Architects Inc.
General Contractor	Brouwer Construction Ltd.
Project Manager	Tunde Labbancz
Superintendent	Pat Rocca
Principal	Brian Palujanskas

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: CULTURE OF LIFE AND LEAD OUT LOUD CONFERENCES**

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The Culture of Life and Lead Out Loud Conferences report is presented for information.

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Prepared by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education  
Krista Wood, Board Chaplaincy Leader  
Teri Cristelli, Arts and Student Leadership Consultant

Presented by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education  
Krista Wood, Board Chaplaincy Leader  
Teri Cristelli, Arts and Student Leadership Consultant

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: December 5, 2017



## **REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE DECEMBER 5, 2017**

### **CULTURE OF LIFE AND LEAD OUT LOUD CONFERENCES**

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#### **ANNUAL CULTURE OF LIFE CONFERENCE 2017**

##### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Church has used terminology to reflect the philosophy of Culture of Life since its earliest days. The Didache, a first century document included in the Magisterium of the Church, refers to the “way of life” and the “way of death.” Saint Pope John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae* (Gospel of Life) stated “In our present social context, marked by a dramatic struggle between the culture of life and the culture of death, there is the need to develop a deep critical sense capable of discerning true values and authentic needs.”

In more recent years the term has been used extensively, often in political arenas, to defend or fight specific life issues such as abortion, euthanasia and stem cell research, with these battles often placing these concerns in very narrow silos.

When we return to the root of this concept, however, we can see that this philosophy is actually much broader, that all the elements of Catholic Social Teaching build the Culture of Life and should be a way of life that weaves through our entire day, a perspective that helps us fight against abortion but also helps us choose to be kind, fight bullying, and preserve the dignity of every human person.

##### **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Culture of Life Conference 2017**

On Wednesday, November 22, 2017 Niagara Catholic hosted its *5<sup>th</sup> Annual Culture of Life Conference* at Heartland Forest Centre in Niagara Falls. Director Crocco brought greetings on behalf of the Board and Senior Staff and congratulated the students on their leadership in promoting a Culture of Life in their schools. Board Chaplaincy Leader Krista Wood framed the mandate and outcome of the conference and introduced our partners at L’Arche who would be facilitating the conference.

Approximately 100 students from all 8 of our Catholic secondary schools gathered for the day facilitated by a team from L’Arche Hamilton who served as keynote speakers challenging our students to reflect on what it means to build up and support a culture of life which promotes and protects the dignity of all, especially the most vulnerable.

L’Arche was founded in 1964 by Canadian humanitarian and social visionary, Jean Vanier. Distressed by the institutionalization and the isolation and loneliness of people with intellectual disabilities, Jean Vanier invited two men from an institution to live with him in a small house. He called the house “L’Arche.” Today, there are over 140 L’Arche communities in 40 countries including Canada.

In keeping with Niagara Catholic District School Board’s Vision 2020 Strategic Plan and the Strategic Direction to *Build Strong Catholic Identity and Community to Nurture the Distinctiveness of Catholic Education*, feedback from both staff and students indicate that the Culture of Life Conference 2017 was a

meaningful experience that equipped students with a new understanding of what it means to build up a Culture of Life and to support the dignity of all.

This information report will be highlighted through a brief visual of the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Culture of Life Conference.

## **STUDENT VOICE CONFERENCE 2017 – LEAD OUT LOUD**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017 approximately 115 Niagara Catholic students gathered at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School to participate in the Board's Annual Student Voice Conference, entitled "Lead Out Loud!". This annual conference is in alignment with the 2017-2018 System Priority to ***Build Strong Catholic Identity and Community to Nurture the Distinctiveness of Catholic Education*** and the Enabling Strategy of ***Provide Supports for Success***.

The Niagara Catholic Student Voice Conference 2017 brought together student leaders from all elementary and secondary schools in our Board. This year, the 2017 Lead Out Loud Conference was developed entirely *by students for students*. At previous meetings, the Niagara Catholic Secondary Student Senate deemed it was important to devise the framework for the day and took ownership of it by brainstorming and developing the theme and the breakout sessions in their entirety. Through the leadership of our Secondary Student Senate, the elementary student senators were introduced to thought-provoking activities, centering on leadership and service. The day was created around this year's Niagara Catholic theological theme – "Serve Him".

The conference began with a welcome address from Student Trustees, Nico Tripodi and Hannah Tummillo, who acted as emcees for the day. After a formal greeting from Program and Innovation Superintendent, Mrs. Yolanda Baldasaro, students were introduced to keynote speaker, Britta B. Britta B. is a spoken word artist who uses her voice and her poetry to convey a message of believing in yourself, following your dreams, overcoming obstacles and using your individual talents to lead and serve. Through her words and her engaging speech, students were encouraged to reflect on their own experiences and talents and how they can use them moving forward as leaders in their own communities.

Following the address, students attended one of four break-out sessions. Each elementary student was given two sessions to attend over the course of the day, with the intention that when they meet in their future Family of Schools senate meetings, students can share what they learned and experienced in the sessions they attended and brainstorm how they can use their learning as leaders in their communities. In these student-run breakout sessions, the theme of 'service' was carefully examined in interactive and engaging ways. The four breakout sessions were: Serving Oneself, Serving a Team, Serving a Community and Serving the Environment. After an initial icebreaker activity for all the group members to get to know each other, student senators began their planned activities.

In the "Serving Oneself" session, students watched a motivational video and then wrote a letter to themselves. They played a game in which they sat in a circle with a ball of yarn. As each student was thrown the ball of yarn they had to state something they loved about themselves and then throw it on – showing, as the ball of yarn proceeded to get intertwined and tangled, how we are all interconnected. In the "Serving a Team" session, one activity was Blindfold Parkour, in which a blindfolded group member had to get through an obstacle course listening only to directions from their group. All sessions had interactive elements, allowing the students to experience in fun and exciting ways the value of the message being delivered.

After lunch shared with new friends from their break-out groups, students proceeded to their second workshop of the day. Following that workshop, the assembly reconvened in the gymnasium for the culminating prayer service and message. At this time, Director of Education, John Crocco addressed the participants and thanked the leadership of the Secondary Student Senate. He encouraged the elementary

students to reflect on what they had learned and to bring back their learning to their Catholic school community to do something positive with what they had gained from their sessions.

The prayer service was led by the Elementary Senate Co-Chairs. As they brought up symbols of service, all students thanked God for His gifts and asked, through the Prayers of the Faithful, “Loving God, help us to serve”. Student Trustee Nico Tripodi sang a reflection song, “Go Make A Difference”, with the message that we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth – that all of us can go out to make a difference in the world. The conclusion of the day was the performance of the song “Where is the Love?”, led by the Secondary Student Senate as they sang and danced around the room, with the elementary senators participating and clapping as well.

Overall, the students were inspired by their experience and were encouraged to take this message back to their Catholic school community to be instruments of change.

As we reflect on the Lead Out Loud! Student Voice 2017 conference, we recognize the importance of service in leadership. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples to demonstrate servanthood, so must we follow this example as we lead out loud and go out to make a difference in the world.

As part of this report to the Committee of the Whole, Niagara Catholic Student Trustees, Nico Tripodi and Hannah Tummillo will present a visual presentation.

The Culture of Life and Lead Out Loud Conferences report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education  
Krista Wood, Board Chaplaincy Leader  
Teri Cristelli, Arts and Student Leadership Consultant

Presented by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education  
Krista Wood, Board Chaplaincy Leader  
Teri Cristelli, Arts and Student Leadership Consultant

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: December 5, 2017

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: NIAGARA CATHOLIC FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM  
UPDATE 2017-2020**

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The Niagara Catholic French Immersion Program Update 2017-2020 report is presented for information.

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Prepared by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education  
Mary Vetere, Consultant – French as a Second Language

Presented by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education  
Mary Vetere, Consultant – French as a Second Language

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: December 5, 2017



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE DECEMBER 5, 2017

### NIAGARA CATHOLIC FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM UPDATE 2017-2020

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#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Niagara Catholic French Immersion Program is an optional program designed specifically for students whose first language is not French. The entry point currently for the program is either Kindergarten Year 1 or Grade 1, depending on the school site offering the program. The Niagara Catholic French Immersion Program offers children positive learning experiences with lifelong benefits. By studying a second language, students:

- Acquire a working knowledge of both of Canada's official languages
- Learn to appreciate French culture
- Strengthen all other areas of learning
- Develop skills for educational and career advancement
- Develop the ability to discover new thoughts and to look at things from different perspectives.

All students enrolled in the French Immersion Program are provided with transportation to their local Family of Schools designated French Immersion School site in accordance with the Board's Transportation of Student Policy #500.2.

#### French Immersion 2017-2018 Program Delivery and School Location

The chart below provides a summary of the 2017-2018 French Immersion sites, grades taught and the enrolment in each class. As of December 2017, Niagara Catholic's French Immersion Program is provided to 490 students, Kindergarten to Grade 5 at four sites and Kindergarten to Grade 4 at one site.

#### 2017-2018 French Immersion Program (Elementary)

Schools	City	K	Grade One	Grade Two	Grade Three	Grade Four	Grade Five	Total Number of Students Enrolment in French Immersion
St. John Catholic	Grimsby		24	16	27	16	15	98
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic	St. Catharines	26 (12/14)	21	18	21	19	21	126
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic	Niagara Falls	26 (10/16)	18	19	14	7	15	99
Notre Dame Catholic	Niagara Falls	23 (12/11)	19	13	16	15		86
Holy Name Catholic	Welland		18	19	12	15	17	81



## **2018-2019 French Immersion Program**

For the 2018-2019 school year, Niagara Catholic will continue to offer the French Immersion program at the current school locations. The French Immersion program will continue to expand by adding a class at the next grade level at each school site. St. John Catholic, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic (SC), Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic and Holy Name Catholic will add a Grade 6 French Immersion class, and Notre Dame Catholic will add a Grade 5 French Immersion class. The Board provides the opportunity for new registrations in the French Immersion Program through an on-line registration process.

As new registrations are being accepted in our French Immersion sites, overall school enrolment projections are being cross referenced with new French Immersion applications, site accommodations, class size and staffing as we plan for the 2018-2019 school year.

Online Advance Registration for current families within Niagara Catholic begins December 7, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. until January 8, 2018 at 11:30 p.m. All registrations are date and time stamped for enrollment entry.

Registration for new students of families intending on registering their child or children in the French Immersion Program entry point of Kindergarten or Grade 1 (depending on the specific French Immersion site entry point) for September 2018 will be available online at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca) commencing January 9, 2018 at 7:30 a.m. The deadline to register is Friday February 9, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.

Based on registrations, confirmation of new registrations will be provided through a letter to families by March 2018, and a follow-up confirmation site visit, in person, will be required.

Following the confirmation of interested students in our French Immersion Program for September 2018, staffing, classroom resources and budget allocation will be included in Senior Administrative Councils' 2018-2019 budget recommendations to the Board for the Annual Budget 2018-2019.

## **French Immersion Program Expansion to 2020 and Beyond**

The school year beginning in September 2020 will see the Niagara Catholic French Immersion Program reach the Grade 8 year. September 2021 will see the continued expansion of French Immersion Program into our Catholic secondary schools at the following proposed secondary school sites: Blessed Trinity Catholic in Grimsby, Saint Paul Catholic in Niagara Falls, Notre Dame College in Welland and a secondary school in St. Catharines which will be confirmed pending the decisions of a Pupil Accommodation Review as part of the Board's Long Term Accommodation Plan 2016-2021.

As the Niagara Catholic French Immersion Program continues to expand, discussions, considerations and planning will be required to make decisions regarding future options for French Language programming in the Board. Niagara Catholic currently offers the following French Language programs: Core French (Elementary and Secondary), Intensive French (Elementary only), Extended French (Elementary and Secondary) and French Immersion (currently Elementary only). Program viability, entry points to programs, accommodation reviews, human resource availability and funding are some of the considerations that will require data gathering, thoughtful planning and stakeholder consultation. Niagara Catholic staff will begin a review of French Language programs starting in the new year and will provide updates to the Committee of the Whole throughout the process.

As part of this report to the Committee of the Whole, French as a Second Language Consultant, Mary Vetere will present a visual presentation.

The Niagara Catholic French Immersion Program Update 2017-2020 report is presented for information.

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Prepared by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education  
Mary Vetere, Consultant – French as a Second Language

Presented by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education  
Mary Vetere, Consultant – French as a Second Language

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: December 5, 2017

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PUPIL ACCOMMODATIONS  
REVIEW GUIDELINES SUBMISSION**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole endorse the report from Senior Staff to the Ministry of Education's proposed revisions to the Pupil Accommodations Review Guidelines and Community Planning and Partnership Guidelines as presented.

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Prepared by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education  
Kathy Levinski, Administrator of Facilities Services

Presented by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education  
Kathy Levinski, Administrator of Facilities Services

Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: December 5, 2017



## REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE DECEMBER 5, 2017

### MINISTRY OF EDUCATION PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW GUIDELINES SUBMISSION

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#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As part of the province's *Plan to Strengthen Rural and Northern Education* the Ministry of Education has requested school boards provide input into potential changes to the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines, March 2015. As part of the process, the Ministry is also seeking input into how to support improved co-ordination of community infrastructure planning, which includes revising the Community Planning and Partnerships Guidelines.

The government engaged rural communities in spring 2017 in response to feedback it received on rural school closures and the impact on the quality of education these students receive. In June 2017, the Ministry requested a moratorium on new accommodation reviews.

The Ministry of Education has proposed revisions to the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines that are intended to provide a more collaborative process that better promotes student achievement and well-being and better recognizes the impact of school closures on rural communities.

An October 10, 2017, letter from Andrew Davis, Assistant Deputy Minister, Education Labour and Finance division indicates that the Ministry proposes to achieve this by considering the elements below.

Revising pupil accommodation review timeframes:

- Extending the current minimum pupil accommodation review timeframe beyond five months;
- Eliminating the minimum modified pupil accommodation review timeframe of three months; and/or
- Further extending time-frames under specific circumstances, such as if a new closure recommendations are added mid-way through the accommodation review process.

Introducing minimum requirements for the Initial Staff Report by requiring school boards to include:

- At least three accommodation options (a recommended option, an alternative option and a status quo option).
- Information on how accommodation options will impact:
  - School board budget;
  - Student programming/achievement;
  - Student well-being; and
  - Community and/or economic impact.

Promoting community input in the pupil accommodation review processes by requiring:

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- School boards to invite elected municipal representatives and municipal staff to a meeting to discuss the initial staff report;
- School boards to disclose the municipal participation/non-participation in Pupil Accommodation Review and Community Planning and Partnership processes;
- A broader role for Trustees throughout the Pupil Accommodation Review process, beyond ad hoc membership of Accommodation Review Committees, hearing public delegations and making the final decision; and
- A participatory role for secondary student representatives in Pupil Accommodation Reviews involving secondary schools.

Reforming the pupil accommodation review administrative review process by:

- Extending the timeframe to submit an administrative review petition from 30 to 60 calendar days; and
- Reviewing the signature thresholds and requirements for launching an administrative review request.

Developing Ministry supports, such as:

- A pupil accommodation review toolkit to standardize type and format of initial staff report information;
- A template for use by community partners to engage boards with proposed alternatives to school closures or other proposals for community use of schools; and
- New support for the review and validation of initial staff report information and community proposals by independent third parties.

The Ministry of Education is also supporting improved co-ordination of community infrastructure planning by working with partner ministries and key stakeholders on the following three initiatives:

1. Building upon the Ministry of Municipal Affairs' ongoing integrated local planning work to better facilitate local relationships and partnerships, including between school board and municipal governments, particularly in rural and northern communities.
2. Revising the Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline to:
  - Better align with integrated local planning processes;
  - Encourage joint responsibility for integrated community planning, with a focus on communication between school boards, municipal governments and community partners about boards' capital plans;
  - Require that boards disclose municipal participation and non-participation in community planning and partnerships meetings.
3. Continuing its ongoing work with the Ministry of Infrastructure to support delivery of recommendations in *Community Hubs in Ontario: A Strategic Framework and Action Plan*, for example, by providing information to support:
  - The Community Hubs Mapper (<http://gis.communityhubsontario.ca>)
  - The Community Hubs Surplus Property Transition Initiative (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/community-hubs-0#section-0>)

Feedback from school boards on the following questions is requested by the Ministry of Education by December 6, 2017.

1. Do you think the Ministry's proposed revisions to the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines will create a stronger, more collaborative process?
  - a) If not, why? Are there other elements the Ministry should consider?

- b) If yes, do you have suggested improvements or comments on the elements being proposed?
2. Do you think the above measures to support improved coordination of community infrastructure planning will work to promote sustainable use of school space in communities?
  - a) If not, why? Are there other elements the ministry should consider?
  - b) b) If yes, do you have suggested improvements or comments on the elements being proposed?
3. When making decisions about school infrastructure within communities, what measures could be helpful to fostering collaboration and cooperation between municipalities and school boards?

As discussed at the November Committee of the Whole Meeting, Senior Staff with responsibilities for planning and capital would draft responses to the questions to review with Trustees at the December 5, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting for consideration and input prior to submission to the Ministry of Education on December 6, 2017. The draft submission is provided as Appendix A to this report.

Attached: Appendix A – Response to the Ministry of Education on the Pupil Accommodations Review Guidelines and Community Planning and Partnership Guidelines

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole endorse the report from Senior Staff to the Ministry of Education’s proposed revisions to the Pupil Accommodations Review Guidelines and Community Planning and Partnership Guidelines as presented.

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Prepared by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education  
Kathy Levinski, Administrator of Facilities Services

Presented by: Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education  
Kathy Levinski, Administrator of Facilities Services

Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: December 5, 2017

**Niagara Catholic District School Board**  
**Response to the Ministry of Education on the Pupil Accommodations Review**  
**Guidelines and Community Planning and Partnership Guidelines**

The responses below in italics are to the Ministry of Education questions on revising the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines and Community planning and Partnerships Guidelines.

Any suggested revisions will be made at the December 5, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting. The responses will be provided, on behalf of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, to [information.met@ontario.ca](mailto:information.met@ontario.ca), with the subject line “Revising the Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline and Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline,” on Wednesday, December 6, 2017.

1. Do you think the Ministry’s proposed revisions to the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines will create a stronger, more collaborative process?

*Current process works well. Staff take lead in accessing data, collecting public input, presenting to public and Trustees, and providing a recommended option at the start of the process.*

- a) If not, why? Are there other elements the Ministry should consider?

- *School closures should continue to be school board decisions based on consultation, not municipal decisions.*
- *Caution to extending process beyond one school year. The current process takes approximately 150 days. A longer process will cause additional angst to students and communities awaiting the decision.*
- *The longer process may conflict with Capital Priorities Business Case Submission timelines.*
- *Extending timeframes under specific circumstances, if new closure recommendations are added mid-way through process, could prolong the process indefinitely.*
- *The Ministry should provide a template with specific measurement criteria for boards to determine community and/or economic impact assessment of a potential closure. Sources of this information should be suggested to inoculate Board’s from the accusation that they are over/understating the impact.*
- *The Ministry should provide guidelines for how municipal input is submitted, so the local accommodation review process does not get bogged down waiting for council motions and/or municipal committee work. There is the potential that school closures under the proposed changes could become more political at the municipal level.*
- *While school boards are responsible for ensuring the consultation requirements of the Ministry of Education have been satisfied, municipalities must be held accountable for coming to the table in timely manner.*
- *Require that municipalities are not able to support administrative reviews if they do not participate in the Pupil Accommodation Review process nor provide input/feedback. Municipalities should not be able to stall the process. They should be expected to respect the accommodation review process timelines.*

- *Define what is meant by increased Trustee involvement on Accommodation Review Committee.*
- b) If yes, do you have suggested improvements or comments on the elements being proposed?
- *Provide financial support to school boards that, under the proposed changes, may need to keep underutilized schools open for a longer period of time and are already required to hold on to the property for a longer period of time due to Ontario Regulation 444/98 - Disposition of Surplus Real Property.*
  - *Providing a Pupil Accommodation Review Toolkit is a great idea. Exemplars and suggested sources of data would be helpful which would help provide consistency from the public's perspective across school boards.*
  - *Provide a template that was publicly available for use by community partners to engage school boards. Again, exemplars would be useful.*
  - *New support for review and validation of the information contained in the Initial Staff Report and community proposals by independent 3<sup>rd</sup> parties is a good idea and should help instil confidence in the information shared by school boards.*
2. Do you think the above measures to support improved coordination of community infrastructure planning will work to promote sustainable use of school space in communities?

*The expertise of school boards is in education. The Ministry is asking school boards to operate outside of their core mandate, and expertise, without adequately providing the financial resources to support the implementation and sustainability phases of community hubs.*

*It is becoming increasingly difficult to manage construction, renovation and cleaning around community groups who are paying fees that in most cases are not covering operating costs.*

*Improved information sharing will help with the coordination of community infrastructure.*

- a) If not, why? Are there other elements the ministry should consider?

- *The Ministry of Education should require data from municipalities, and across other Ministries, to create more localized information for community partners and school boards that can be used on the Community Hubs Mapper tool.*
- *The Ministry should publicly provide feedback on the Community Outreach Reports that Board's have historically provided and identify suggested practices.*
- *Review subsidy model for community use of schools.*
- *The Ministry of Education must subsidize school boards to provide appropriate human resources needed to administer hubs.*
- *Provide financial support to school boards to support community use of schools program and communicate cost recovery message. School boards currently absorb the costs associated with community use and child care groups.*

- b) If yes, do you have suggested improvements or comments on the elements being proposed?

- *Provide training for school board staff related to the use of the Community Hubs Mapper. The tool is a good starting point to providing information to agencies on schools with space for community use/hubs.*



- *Add registered not-for-profit and childcare centres as a layer to the Community Hubs Mapper tool.*
  - *Establish a mentoring model, based on the Knowledge Exchange, to link existing hub leaders and organizations with school board staff.*
  - *Continue with Community Planning and Partnership Annual Meetings as a forum for community partners to meet school board staff and investigate available space.*
  - *Continue to provide subsidies to school boards for hub conversion/creation and to meet accessibility requirements and usability standards by community partners.*
3. When making decisions about school infrastructure within communities, what measures could be helpful to fostering collaboration and cooperation between municipalities and school boards?
- *Collaboration with municipalities is welcome. An open flow of information will potentially result in potentially better planning and coordination.*
  - *School boards, governed by Trustees are responsible for decisions on school closures. The Ministry must define the intended role of municipalities and provide dispute resolution suggestions if municipal input does not align with what the school board believes is in the best interests of students/board.*
  - *Provide financial supports to prospective community partners as an incentive to enter into arrangements with school boards.*
  - *Provide financial support to boards for staff to manage the leasing aspect of community partnerships.*
  - *Link educators/leaders with community organizations to identify needs, supports, and services available.*

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SYSTEM PRIORITIES AND  
BUDGET 2017-2018 UPDATE**

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The Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2017-2018 update report is presented for information.

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Prepared by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer  
Senior Administrative Council

Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer  
Senior Administrative Council

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: December 5, 2017



**REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SYSTEM PRIORITIES AND BUDGET  
2017-2018 UPDATE**

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**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

At each month's Committee of the Whole meeting, the Director of Education and members of Senior Administrative Council will provide a verbal update on the implementation of the annual Board approved System Priorities and Budget 2017-2018.

This monthly report information, will be provided through a visual presentation.

This monthly report will provide an opportunity for dialogue with the Committee of the Whole on the status of the implementation of the annual System Priorities and Budget.

The Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2017-2018 update report is presented for information.

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Prepared by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer  
Senior Administrative Council

Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer  
Senior Administrative Council

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: December 5, 2017

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

*PUBLIC SESSION*

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION  
SPOTLIGHT ON NIAGARA CATHOLIC – NOVEMBER 21, 2017**

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**November 21, 2017**

### **Sharing the Excitement About St. Joseph Grimsby**

The School Excellence Program is a highlight of each monthly Board Meeting – where a school principal, often joined by members of staff, students and parents – present to the Board, sharing what makes their school so special.

On November 21, St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School in Grimsby was in the spotlight, with Principal Lisa Incaviglia sharing the good news about the school named for St. Joseph, the adoptive father of Jesus and the Patron Saint of Canada.

During her presentation, Mrs. Incaviglia recognized the staff members in attendance - Jennifer Ciccone, Samantha Risi, Tara Principi and Patricia Penner – and also Leanne Prince, a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School Catholic School Council and the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Mrs. Incaviglia spoke about the notion that, like St. Joseph (a carpenter who is also the Patron Saint of Workers), teachers are builders, who build bridges to connect learning between subject areas and the world around us; between students in support of the development of positive and healthy relationships, and to the community. Teachers also lead by example, showing students how to become builders themselves. With the support of St. Joseph Church, there is a strong connection between school and parish, creating a strong Catholic identity.

This year, students and staff have embraced the third of our three-year Theological Them, focusing on Serving Him. Staff encourage students to take good risks to enhance their education and believe in creating a supportive environment where students feel safe to try new things and explore new gifts and talents. Staff focus on the “third teacher,” classroom environments where students are nurtured and valued, with learning centres and areas that allow for student movement, collaboration, dialogue and independent work.

The St. Joseph Student Council and Student Senators work hard to engage students in global and local initiatives, so they understand the world beyond themselves.

Mrs. Incaviglia’s presentation concluded with a short video which included comments from current and former students, staff and parents from St. Joseph, as well as parish priests Fr. Rico Passero and Fr. Ronald Angervil, about what makes St. Joseph so special.

**Don't forget!**

Don't forget Niagara Catholic's 2017 Fall Kindergarten Open House and Registration Day takes place November 22 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. If you or someone you know has a child starting school this year, plan to attend the Open House and join the Niagara Catholic family in September 2018.

Our Catholic secondary school open houses take place between November 21 and 30. Find out why Niagara Catholic has Niagara's best graduation rate, and one of the top four graduation rates in Ontario by stopping by the open house for the Niagara Catholic secondary school in our community.

**Good News!**

We've had an incredible first three months of the school year! If you haven't done it yet, be sure to check our [Good News](#) section of this website to see great stories on the programs and events taking place in our schools. Then check out the In the News section for media coverage of many of these stories, which is accessed through the main page.

**Follow us!**

To ensure you stay connected with Niagara Catholic news and events, please be sure to like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), and check our website often for updates and breaking news. It's the best way to stay in the know.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

*PUBLIC SESSION*

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION  
CALENDAR OF EVENTS DECEMBER 2017**

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# DECEMBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	1
3 First Sunday in Advent	4	5 Annual Organizational Meeting/ CW Meeting	6 SEAC Meeting	7	8	9
10 Second Sunday in Advent	11	12	13 Director , Trustees, Chaplaincy Leaders and Parish Priests' Faith Formation	14	15	16
17 Third Sunday in Advent	18	19 Board Meeting	20	21	22	23
24 Fourth Sunday in Advent/ Christmas Eve	25	26 Christmas Break December 25, 2017—January 8, 2018			29	30



**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION  
OCSTA INFORMATION – NOVEMBER 24, 2017**

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# ENTERPRISE

## ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

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 [enterprisecanada.com/ontario-legislative-highlights-november-24/](http://enterprisecanada.com/ontario-legislative-highlights-november-24/)

**November 24, 2017**

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### WEEKLY ROUNDUP

**WHAT WOULD YOU DO?** – Deliberations over the next couple of days could have significant impact on next year's provincial election, as hundreds of PC delegates gather for a policy conference to build their campaign platform. Or not – some say this weekend's gathering isn't much more than a pep rally, and that party strategists around Leader **Patrick Brown** will separately plot their platform course behind closed doors. Either way it's a major event for Brown, as he addresses the delegates after lunch Saturday in arguably the most important speech of his political career. His supporters are looking for him to fire them up, while critics stand ready to pounce. In the latter category, the *Toronto Star* – never a big friend of the Tories – got the ball rolling with an editorial demanding that Brown do more than bash the unpopular Liberal government. "As an election strategy, this may well make sense. The Liberals will have been in power for 15 years by next June, and by now are being held responsible for every sparrow that falls from the sky," the *Star* opined. "After so long in office they've made lots of mistakes and accumulated plenty of enemies, and voters may conclude that it's simply time for a change. But six months out from the election, the PCs are doing voters a disservice by dodging almost all the big issues."

**RAISE THE STAKES** – One issue Brown has a firm position on is the time-frame for raising Ontario's minimum wage, having pledged to spread a dollar-an-hour increase over four years rather than one. As of this week, fulfilling that promise will require repealing legislation, as the Liberals' controversial labour reform bill passed into law. Among other measures – some of which also displease the business community and could be in Brown's bombsights – the legislation hikes the minimum wage to \$14/hr this coming New Year's Day. A bump to \$15/hr is scheduled for the following January 1, but the Tories have vowed to delay implementation, increasing by 25 cents a year until 2022.

**CHINA SHOP** – Premier **Kathleen Wynne**'s name will not, oddly, be listed among MPPs who voted in favour of the labour reforms. She was out of the country for the Third Reading vote, leading a trade mission to China and Vietnam. (There were plenty of other Liberals in the House and the NDP – who lay claim to originating the \$15/hr minimum wage push – grudgingly supported the bill, which passed 67-26.) The two-week trade mission, with about 100 business delegates in tow, is Wynne's third to China, and her first to Vietnam – in fact, it's the first to the Southeast Asian country by any Ontario Premier.

**CLASS WAR** – "This terrible chapter is over," intoned Advanced Education Minister **Deb Matthews**, after a weekend of emergency debate finally passed back-to-work legislation ending a five-week-old strike by college faculty. Politically, however the story is far from done, as rancour from the bitter dispute continues at Queen's Park. At issue is the NDP's refusal to allow swift passage of the bill, a calculated move by NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath**, who was able to reinforce her fidelity to organized labour while knowing the Liberal majority – with PC support –

would get students back in class anyway. “Whether that process started Thursday or Friday makes no difference in terms of the outcome,” Horwath explained, seizing the opportunity to buttress her labour chops. “I do not believe in back-to-work legislation. New Democrats don’t believe in back-to-work legislation. It’s something we fundamentally think is a breach of people’s charter rights.” It’s no secret that the NDP has to woo back the labour movement – a founding core of the party, whose support has crumbled in recent years – to improve its electoral fortunes. But Horwath is gambling that voters won’t hold it against her. The Liberals would certainly encourage such public resentment, as evidenced by Matthews’ reaction to Horwath’s defence of the delay tactics: “That’s an astonishing statement ... the strike could have gone on forever.” OPSEU President **Warren “Smokey” Thomas** cagily played both sides of the issue, offering, “If I was the Premier and it was down to this particular juncture, I’d do what she’s doing,” but adding that the union is launching a legal challenge of the legislation’s constitutionality.

**JUST ASK HER** – Before heading across the Pacific, Wynne took the unusual step of holding a Town Hall – unusual in that it was not the standard party-orchestrated, canned-questions-from-a-friendly-audience session. In fact, this one was rigidly neutral, paid for by the government (not the party) and devoid of any Liberal signage or control. Many of the questions at the Toronto event were outright hostile, including some from Ontario Proud, a pro-Conservative organization formed as a counterpoint to the anti-Conservative Working Families Coalition. But Wynne stoically parried the volleys, sometimes directly and often by defaulting to trusted message tracks. Similar meetings are reportedly in the works for other cities, and despite the obvious risks, the thinking is that by putting Wynne in the line of fire voluntarily the Liberals are deliberately trying to contrast her with Brown, suggesting he’s running a peek-a-boo campaign.

**SARAH WRAP** – Add New Democrat **Sarah Campbell** to the list of current MPPs who will not be seeking re-election next year. Campbell, who has held Kenora-Rainy River for seven years, revealed she is expecting a second child and wants to concentrate on her family. “I’m very passionate and committed to my job but I’m also passionate and committed to my family,” she said. “At the end of the day my family needs me just a little bit more and they need me at this particular time in our lives.” Campbell’s announcement brings the number of retiring MPPs to nine (6 Liberals, 2 NDP, 1 PC).

**An updated wall chart listing MPP responsibilities is now available. Click here to download: [MPP Chart](#)**

**HOT ROD** – One name that *will* be in the ballot in June is **Rod Phillips** – the former Civic Action and PostMedia Chair was nominated as the PC candidate for Ajax Wednesday night. (“Former” in that he resigned both of the above positions before the nomination meeting to avoid obvious conflicts. His past career also includes running Ontario Lottery and Gaming and overseeing the office of Toronto Mayor **Mel Lastman**.) Phillips is seen by many as a star candidate, rivalling **Caroline Mulroney** atop the Tories’ A-List. Notably, his nomination was only the second attended by Brown in person. Mulroney’s was the other. One negative sure to be raised by his opponents is that Phillips doesn’t live in Ajax, but his team isn’t worried about that. As one supporter quipped, “Everybody in Ajax is from somewhere else.” Phillips was formally nominated by the 2014 candidate **Todd McCarthy** (who lost to incumbent Liberal **Joe Dickson**) and one-time Ontario Finance Minister **Janet Ecker**. Behind the scenes, he is also getting help from notable Tory operatives, including the party’s former communications director **Paul Rhodes**. If the Tories and Phillips both win in next June’s election, most insiders figure he’s a lock for a senior cabinet post.

## IN THE HOUSE

- Labour Minister **Kevin Flynn** introduced Bill 178, the *Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology Labour Dispute Resolution Act*, to legislate an end to the strike by college faculty by imposing binding mediation-arbitration. After debating on Saturday and Sunday, the bill passed Third Reading by a vote of 39-18, with the NDP and independent MPP **Jack MacLaren** voting against it.
- Bill 148, the *Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act* reforming labour laws, passed Third Reading.

**For the current status of government legislation, click [Government Bills](#).**

## FOR THE RECORD

“We have some work to do to look at why the system failed students.”

- Advanced Education Minister **Deb Matthews**, after the government legislated an end to the college faculty strike that showed no signs of being resolved any other way.
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“A lot of us pay \$500 just for rent. [Post-strike hardship funding] hardly puts a dent in our costs ... We’ve been laughing about that, because it’s pretty much a joke.”

- Fanshawe College student **Caitlin Foulon**, who is advocating for a class-action lawsuit in the wake of the strike, unimpressed by the province’s offer of up to \$500 per student to cover unexpected costs related to the walkout.
- 

“Although Patrick Brown is a pale miniature of Mike Harris ... I’m with Andrea when it comes to strategic voting.”

- Former NDP Leader **Stephen Lewis**, exhorting delegates at the Ontario Federation of Labour convention to stick with **Andrea Horwath**’s NDP rather than supporting Liberal candidates to block the Tories.
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“It defies common sense and logic to suggest that this ‘nuclear’ approach was aimed at deleting personal photographs, medical records, résumés and similar documents.”

- Crown prosecutor **Tom Lemon**, summing up his case against former Liberal senior aides **David Livingston** and **Laura Miller**, arguing they illegally cleared government computers to get rid of politically sensitive emails. Livingston’s defence lawyer **Scott Hutchison** countered that there was no evidence to suggest duplicity, submitting, “They asked for permission and they got permission.” Judge **Timothy Lipson** has reserved his verdict until January 19.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION  
OCSTA MEMORANDUM – PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE  
ELECTION PLATFORM 2018**

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Trustees' Association

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Patrick Daly, *President*  
Beverley Eckensweiler, *Vice President*  
Nick Milanetti, *Executive Director*

November 28, 2017

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Chairpersons and Directors of Education  
- All Catholic District School Boards

**FROM:** Patrick J. Daly, President

**SUBJECT: Progressive Conservative Election Platform 2018**

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On Saturday November 25, 2017 Patrick Brown, leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party (“PC”) released his party’s policy platform “*People’s Guarantee*”. You can read the full People’s Guarantee here: [www.ontariopc.ca/peoplesguarantee](http://www.ontariopc.ca/peoplesguarantee)

Below is a summary of the key policy initiatives impacting school boards and the education sector.

**Overall Policy Priorities**

Patrick Brown indicated the 5 key policy promises will be met during his first term as Premier of Ontario. If they fail to achieve these promises, he would not seek a second term as Premier. These key policy priorities are:

1. 22.5% tax reduction for the middle class, or those earning under \$100,000 annually
2. 75% refund for child care expenses, or up to \$6,750 per child adjusted for income
3. 12% further reduction in consumer electricity bills
4. \$1.9 billion investment in mental health services
5. Introduce the Trust, Integrity and Accountability Act to set performance targets for cabinet ministers, increase restrictions on lobbying and fundraising activity and return the Auditor General’s authority to oversee government advertising.

**Education Policy Initiatives “Change that works for Education”**

- Impose a moratorium on all school closures in both urban and rural areas
- Expand financial literacy pilot program into all secondary schools
- Take concrete steps to get math scores back on track—include math components in teachers' college courses, increase professional development by one day/year

- Appoint a task force of former teaching professionals to learn from the province's best teachers to best inform future curriculum updates
- Enhance student safety by making school bus camera systems mandatory to prevent drivers from illegally driving by stopped or signaling school buses
- Study options, including the Blind Persons' Right Act to expand the rights of people with disabilities and autism to bring service dogs to schools and public places
- Envelope special education funding to school boards and ensure that it is actually spent on special education services
- Create 100,000 new child care spaces and include a child care spaces in every newly built elementary school in Ontario
- Provide funding for all children with autism
- Extend the current pilot program of 60 minutes of daily exercise to all schools
- Allow high school students to count work in the skilled trades for up to half of their volunteer commitment credit; modernize the promotion of trades to high school students and fix the job information portal to better match students with careers of the future
- Make broadband and cellular infrastructure projects eligible under the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund and put up to \$100 million towards funding these projects directly.

### **Next Steps**

OCSTA will continue to liaise with all political parties with regard to their election platforms and work to positively impact their policies in the best interest of Catholic education. We will update boards once we receive final election platforms from the Liberal and NDP parties.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Stephen Andrews at [sandrews@ocsta.on.ca](mailto:sandrews@ocsta.on.ca).

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS ANNUAL  
MEETING – DECEMBER 13, 2017**

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## **COMMUNITY PLANNING AND PARTNERSHIPS ANNUAL MEETING**

The Niagara Catholic District School Board is inviting public and community partners to discuss potential planning and partnership opportunities of programming and/or facility.

At this meeting and in support of the Ministry of Education's Community Planning and Partnerships initiative, Niagara Catholic will share planning information, schools eligible for facility partnerships and the Board's Long Term Accommodation Plan.

We are requesting that organizations bring relevant planning information regarding their needs/plans. These partnerships strengthen the relationship between school boards and the wider community and improve services and supports available to students.

**Location:** Niagara Catholic District School Board  
Catholic Education Centre – Father Kenneth Burns C.S.C. Board Room  
427 Rice Road  
Welland, ON  
L3C 7C1

**Date:** Wednesday, December 13, 2017

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

**Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 6, 2017 to:**

Debbie Ogilvie  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Niagara Catholic District School Board  
[deborah.ogilvie@ncdsb.com](mailto:deborah.ogilvie@ncdsb.com)  
(905) 735-0247 ext. 277

**Ted Farrell**  
Superintendent of Education

**Scott Whitwell**  
Controller of Facilities Services

**Marco Magazzeni**  
Administrator of Alternative  
Programs and Community  
Partnerships