

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2025**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING OF JANUARY 14, 2025**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 14, 2025, as presented.

The following recommendations are being presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 14, 2025:

7.1.1 Trustee Code of Conduct Policy (100.12)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Code of Conduct Policy (100.12), as presented.

7.1.2 Trustee Electronic Meetings (Board and Committees) (100.8)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Electronic Meetings (Board and Committees) (100.8), as presented.



MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 in the Father Kenneth Burns c.s.c. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice-Chair Burkholder.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Trustee Marino.

2. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Burkholder noted that Student Trustee Geremia asked to be excused.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Natalia Benoit	✓			
Joseph Bruzzese	✓			
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Danny Di Lorenzo	✓			
Larry Huibers	✓			
Doug Joyner	✓			
Jim Marino	✓			
Paul Turner	✓			
Student Trustees				
Emilio Geremia				✓
Taylor Sexton	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education; **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Kim Kinney, Gino Pizzoferrato, Pat Rocca, Joseph Zaroda**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Julia Tiessen**, Executive Officer of Human Resources; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Marino

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 14, 2025, as amended.

Remove Item E1.4

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 December 3, 2024**

Moved by Trustee Turner

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 3, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

6. **Consent Agenda Items**

6.1 **Holy Childhood Association**

Presented for information.

6.2 **Growth & Retention Enrollment Comparison Report**

Presented for information.

6.3 **Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities**

Presented for information.

6.4 **Capital Projects Progress Report Update**

Presented for information.

Moved by Trustee Huibers

THAT the Committee of the Whole adopt consent agenda items.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Revised Estimates

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services presented the Revised Estimates for the Year 2024-2025.

Superintendent Vetrone answered questions of Trustees.

2. Monthly Updates

2.1 Student Trustees' Update

Taylor Sexton, Student Trustee, presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

2.2 Senior Staff Good News Update

Senior Staff highlights included:

Superintendent Rocca

- For a second consecutive year, prior to the Christmas holidays, many newcomers to Niagara in the continuing education program received warm winter clothing, thanks to the generosity of the CEC staff, as well as staff from Saint Paul, Saint Michael and Lakeshore Catholic secondary schools who organized a successful winter clothing drive.
- Margaret Moody of Niagara Falls, also for a second year, supported Niagara Catholic families through her generosity, donating 23 festive Christmas stockings with self-care treats and gift cards, 28 \$50 grocery gift cards, 25 boxes of cookies (each with a \$50 gift card), and seven \$75 grocery gift cards. Special thanks to Margaret, her family, and Trustee Marino for their kindness in brightening the holidays.
- Additionally, through the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, over 210 food cards, valued at \$75 each, were distributed to families in need across the system.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells

- Caileigh Tiller, a grade 11 student at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, was selected for the Canadian U18 Women's World Championship team due to her exceptional performance in the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA) U22 Elite league as a member of the Burlington team. Her consistent scoring and playmaking abilities, along with her ability to perform under pressure, made her a key candidate. At the 2025 IIHF U18 Women's World Championship in Finland, Caileigh played a crucial role in Canada's 3-0 gold medal victory over the United States by scoring a power-play goal, contributing to Canada's eighth gold medal in the tournament.

D. GOVERNANCE POLICIES

1. Governance Policies for Recommendation to the Board

1.1. Trustee Code of Conduct Policy (100.12)

Director Cipriano 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 Committee of the Whole recommended the following additional amendments:

- Page 2 – add “*religion*”
- Change “*member*” to “*Trustee*”
- Page 7 – remove strikeouts under Informal Resolution

Moved by Trustee

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Code of Conduct Policy (100.12), as amended.

APPROVED

1.2. Trustee Electronic Meetings (Board and Committees) (100.8)

Director Cipriano presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Trustee Electronic Meetings (Board and Committees) (100.8), following the vetting process.

Following discussion, the Committee of the Whole recommended the following additional amendments:

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Electronic Meetings (Board and Committees) (100.8), as presented.

APPROVED

2. Governance Policies Prior to Vetting

3. Governance Policy Review Schedule

Vice-Chair Burkholder highlighted the Governance Policy Review Schedule.

E. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

1.1 Board Draft Committee Membership

Vice-Chair Burkholder highlighted the Board Draft Committee Membership.

1.2 OCSTA 2025 Business Seminar – May 1, 2025

1.3 OCSTA 2025 AGM & Conference – May 1 - May 3, 2025

Director Cipriano reminded Trustees of the upcoming OCSTA 2025 Business Seminar and the OCSTA 2025 AGM & Conference being held on May 1st and May 1st to May 3rd.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano.

1.4 OAPCE Conference

Deferred

F. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

1.1 Director Cipriano informed Trustees of the 2025 CCSTA AGM being held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from June 5 – 7, 2025 and asked them to mark their calendar.

Trustees were advised to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano once the Board receives notification that registration has opened.

G. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

H. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Marino

THAT the January 14, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **January 14, 2025.**

Approved on **February 11, 2025.**

Rhianon Burkholder
Vice-Chair of the Board

Camillo Cipriano
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2025**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY (100.12)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Code of Conduct Policy (100.12), as presented

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

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

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: January 28, 2025



Niagara Catholic District School Board
TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY
STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE POLICY

100 – Board

Policy No 100.12

Adopted Date: November 23, 2010

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: April 25, 2023

MISSION STATEMENT

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board (the “Board”), the Trustee Code of Conduct Governance Policy is in compliance with the Ontario *Education Act*, Regulations, other relevant legislation. We are a Christ-centred Catholic faith community that celebrates diversity and fosters spiritual growth, inspiring all to reach their full potential in mind, body and spirit.

INTEGRITY AND DIGNITY OF OFFICE

The Niagara Catholic District School Board Trustee Code of Conduct Policy (“Code of Conduct”) governs individuals elected as a Trustee (“Trustees”) under the *Education Act*.

Elected Catholic Trustees occupy positions of public trust and confidence. They are expected to discharge their duties and responsibilities in a professional and ethical manner, consistent with Gospel Values and the teachings of the Catholic Church. To minimize risk and legal exposure to the Board and to protect a Trustee’s personal liability, Trustees must comply with the *Education Act* and Regulations, the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and Regulations, the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, the *Niagara Catholic District School Board's By-Laws (100.1)* and Policies and Administrative Procedures and any other Act or Regulation that may be applicable to the Trustee's duties.

Individual Trustees are committed to open and transparent communication with the Board’s students, parents/guardians, employees, Catholic ratepayers and all educational partners through effective system and school-based communication procedures.

It is imperative that the Trustees act, and be seen to act, in the best interests of the public they serve. Catholic Trustees are elected to represent all stakeholders in the Board by articulating and supporting a shared commitment to excellence in Catholic education that promotes student achievement and well-being through the delivery of effective and appropriate education programs, services and effective stewardship of the Board's resources.

Trustees are governors, advocates and community leaders. As governors, Trustees provide strategic direction and oversight through Board policies to maintain the focus on student achievement and well-being. As advocates, Trustees inform and influence public perceptions of Catholic education and provincial education law and policy. As community leaders, Catholic Trustees engage with the public they serve to build understanding, awareness, guidance and active support for publicly funded Catholic education.

In compliance with subsection 218.1 (f) of the *Education Act*, Trustees are statutorily required to entrust the day to day management of the Board to its staff through the Board’s Director of Education.

In keeping with this statutory obligation, Trustees who are contacted by an employee of the Board with respect to an issue of employment, may listen to the concern, offer no judgement on the specifics of any concern presented. Trustees will bring information regarding the concern to the attention of the Director of Education. If required, Trustees may facilitate in guiding the employee to the relevant Collective Agreement, Terms and Conditions or Board Policy.

Trustees who are contacted by a student, parent, guardian, constituent or supporter of Catholic education will listen to the concern, provide no judgement on the specifics of the concern presented. Trustees will bring information regarding the concern to the attention of the Director of Education. If required, Trustees may direct the individual to the Board's Complaint Resolution Policy or relevant Board Policy.

CATHOLIC FAITH, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE

Each Niagara Catholic District School Board Trustee shall, within the duties prescribed in the *Education Act*, its Regulations and other applicable legislation and reflecting a ministry within the Church:

- Acknowledge that Catholic schools are an expression of the teaching mission of the Church;
- Provide an example to the Catholic community that reflects the teaching of the Church;
- Provide the best possible Catholic education according to the programs approved by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Minister of Education;
- Recognize and rigorously defend the constitutional right of Catholic education and the democratic and corporate authority of the Board;
- Respect the confidentiality of the Board;
- Ensure the affairs of the Board are conducted with openness, justice and compassion;
- Work to improve personal knowledge of current Catholic educational research and practices;
- Affirm a strong sense of Christian Catholic community; and
- Provide support, encouragement and prayer for the efforts of all persons engaged in the ministry of Catholic education in Canada.

CIVIL BEHAVIOUR AND COMMUNICATION

Catholic Trustees share in the responsibility for creating a positive environment that is safe, harmonious, comfortable, inclusive and respectful. Trustees shall at all times act with decorum and shall be respectful of other Trustees, the Director of Education, staff, students, all members of the Niagara Catholic community, as well as the public. As stewards of the system, Catholic Trustees are held to a high standard of conduct and should serve as role models of exemplary behaviour reflective of the values articulated in the *Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations*.

Trustees must:

- Respect and comply with all applicable federal, provincial and municipal laws;
- Demonstrate honesty and integrity;
- Respect differences in people, their ideas, and their opinions;
- Treat one another with dignity and respect at all times, and especially when there is disagreement;
- Respect and treat others equally without discrimination, regardless of, for example, race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, religion, creed, gender, gender expression, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, family status or disability; and
- Respect the rights of others.

Trustees shall be prepared for meetings, avoid disrupting the process and refrain from engaging in conduct or contributing to a tone of sarcasm or denigration during meetings of the Board and at all other times that would discredit or compromise the integrity of the Board.

In performing their duties as Trustees, and in all matters of communication including email, telephone and face-to-face or virtual meetings, respectful language and professionalism are expected.

The Trustees are bound to uphold and comply with all Board Governance Policies, Administrative Operational Procedures and protocols. Subject to the duty of a Trustee under subsection 218.1(e) of the *Education Act* to uphold the implementation of any Board resolution after it is passed by the Board, a Trustee may not make disparaging remarks about another Trustee or a group of Trustees in expressing comments, or disagreement or speculate on the motives of a Trustee, a group of Trustees, or Board staff.

With the exception of the Chair of the Board and/or the Director of Education, or designate, no individual Trustee or group of Trustees has the authority to speak on behalf of the Board.

Any Trustee who fails or refuses to comply with the rules of the Board, uses offensive language, disobeys the decisions of the Chair or the Board on points of order, or makes any disorderly noise or disturbance may be ordered by the Chair to leave for the remainder of the meeting and, in the case of a refusal to do so, may, on the order of the Chair, be removed from the room where such meeting is taking place and/or the Board office. Such a removal will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Subsection 207(3) of the *Education Act* addresses the exclusion of persons from Board Meetings. It provides:

“The presiding officer may expel or exclude from any meeting any person who has been guilty of improper conduct at the meeting.”

COMPLYING WITH LEGISLATION

All Trustees will comply with the letter and spirit of all laws of Canada and the Province of Ontario and any contractual obligations of the Board in conducting the business of the Board.

Trustees acknowledge they may only act on behalf of the Board through resolution and may not act individually or purport to represent the interests of the Board without the knowledge and consent of the Board of Trustees shown through resolution.

Trustees shall ensure that all information they communicate in the course of their duties is accurate and complete.

It is every Trustee's responsibility to familiarize themselves with their duties and any requirements of them as prescribed by the *Education Act and Regulations*, the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Regulations*, the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and any other Act or Regulation that may be applicable to the Trustee's duties and/or Ministry of Education requirements and the *Niagara Catholic District School Board's By-Laws (100.1)*, Governance Policies and Administrative Operational Procedures.

All Trustees are expected to comply with the following duties of Board Trustees as set out in section 218.1 of the *Education Act*:

A Trustee of a board shall,

- a. carry out their responsibilities in a manner that assists the board in fulfilling its duties under this Act, the regulations and the guidelines issued under this Act, including but not limited to the board's duties under section 169.1;
- b. attend and participate in meetings of the board, including meetings of board committees of which they are a member;
- c. consult with parents, students and supporters of the board on the board's multi-year plan under clause 169.1 (1) (f);
- d. bring concerns of parents, students and supporters of the board to the attention of the board;
- e. uphold the implementation of any board resolution after it is passed by the board;
- f. entrust the day-to-day operations and management of the board to its staff through the board's director of education;
- g. maintain focus on student achievement and well-being; and
- h. comply with the board's code of conduct.

UPHOLDING DECISION

Trustees must understand their role as a corporate body and the expectation that they may deliberate with many voices but must act as one.

Trustees must:

- Accept that authority rests with the Board and that they have no individual authority other than that delegated by the Board;
- Uphold the implementation of any Board resolution after it is passed by the Board;
- Comply with *Niagara Catholic District School Board By-Laws (100.1)*, Policies and Administrative Procedures; and
- Refrain from speaking on behalf of the Board unless authorized to do so by the Board. The only official spokespersons for the Board are the Chair of the Board and the Director of Education.

AVOIDANCE OF PERSONAL ADVANTAGE AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Pecuniary Interests

All Trustees are expected to comply with the provisions of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, which requires that Trustees disclose the general nature of their direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter that is the subject of consideration at a Board meeting, and abstain from participating in the discussion of the matter.

Trustees are not permitted to vote on or attempt in any way, whether before, during or after the meeting, to influence the voting on matters in which they have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest. Pursuant to section 3 of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, the direct or indirect pecuniary interest of a parent, spouse or child of the Trustee is deemed to be the interest of the Trustee.

Trustees who disclose a pecuniary interest in accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* will be required to file a written statement with the Director of Education declaring their interest and including a description of its general nature. Pursuant to section 6.1 of that Act, the Board will be required to maintain a registry that may be accessed by members of the public, containing copies of (i) Trustees' written statements declaring their interest; and (ii) corresponding meeting minutes. The Board will develop and maintain procedures for public access to the registry, including any reasonable limits on such access.

General Conflicts of Interest

Generally, where a Trustee, either on their own behalf or while acting for, by, with or through another, identifies a direct, indirect, or deemed conflict of interest in any matter and is present at a meeting of the Board at which the matter is the subject of consideration, the Trustee shall:

- Prior to any consideration of the matter of the meeting, disclose the interest and the general nature thereof;
- Not take part in the discussion of, or vote on any question in respect of the matter;
- Not discuss the issue with any other person;
- Not attempt in any way whether before, during or after the meeting to influence the voting on such question; and
- Where the meeting is not open to the public, the Trustee shall, in addition to complying with the requirements outlined above, leave the meeting or the part of the meeting during which the matter is under consideration.

Where the interest of the Trustee has not been disclosed by reason of the Trustee's absence from the meeting, the Trustee shall disclose the interest and otherwise comply with the above requirements at the first meeting of the Board attended by the Trustee, after the meeting referred to above.

When the meeting is open to the public, every declaration of interest and the general nature of that interest shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board meeting. When the meeting is not open to the public, every

declaration of interest, but not the general nature of that interest, shall be recorded in the minutes of the next meeting of the Board that is open to the public.

It is an expectation of the Board that Trustees will comply with the provisions of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and avoid conflicts of interest as set out in this Code of Conduct.

Every Trustee is responsible and accountable for exercising good judgment and avoiding situations that might present a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest and, where a conflict of interest might exist, each Trustee has an affirmative duty to disclose such conflict when it becomes apparent.

No Trustee shall use their position, authority or influence for personal, financial or material gain or personal business purposes or for the personal, financial or material gain or business purposes of a relative, friend and/or business associate. Every Trustee shall uphold and enhance all Board business operations by:

- Maintaining an unimpeachable standard of integrity in all their relationships, both inside and outside the Board;
- Fostering the highest standard of professional competence among those for whom they are responsible;
- Complying with and being seen to comply with the letter and spirit of:
 - the laws of Canada and the Province of Ontario
 - contractual obligations applicable to the Board; and
- Rejecting and denouncing any business practice that is improper or inappropriate or may appear to be improper or inappropriate.

A Trustee shall not use their position, authority or influence to give any person or organization special treatment that might, or might be perceived to, advance the interests of the Trustee, or the interests of a relative, friend and/or business associate of the Trustee.

A Trustee must not participate in any decision or recommendation in which they or a relative, friend or business associate may have a financial, commercial or business interest.

LOBBYING

On occasion, lobbyists may attempt to communicate with Trustees for the purpose of influencing Trustees with respect to the procurement of goods and services and the awarding of contracts. Trustees must report such inquiries to the Director of Education forthwith. Trustees must not use their influence to gain or advance the interest of any particular party during a procurement process.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All Trustees acknowledge that, as part of their duties to the Board they may be privy to private, confidential and/or legally privileged financial, business and/or commercial information belonging to the Board that may provide a financial, business, commercial or competitive advantage, and that they may be privy to private and confidential student and personnel information, and/or legal matters and opinions. Such information may include, but is not limited to, information relating to the Board's organizational structure, operations, financial information, business plans, technical projects, business costs, research data results, inventions, trade secrets or other work produced, developed by or for the Board.

Except as required by law, all Trustees and former Trustees agree not to use, directly or indirectly, for the Trustee's benefit or the benefit of any person, organization, firm, or other entity, or disclose to any third party the Board's proprietary or confidential information disclosed or entrusted to that Trustee, and Trustees recognize that such inappropriate use of confidential information for their benefit may constitute a breach of trust contrary to section 122 of the *Criminal Code* and this Code of Conduct.

The confidentiality of personal/educational student and family information received in the course of duties must be respected, protected and kept confidential. Trustees are required to keep all information received, including but not limited to, in-camera discussions and actions in complete confidence. Information

received should not be discussed or reviewed in public or where another student, parent, employee or member of the school community or public could accidentally overhear or read such information.

Except as required by law, and in accordance with the *Education Act* and *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, all Trustees agree not to use or disclose the personal and/or educational information of students and their families that may come to the attention of a Trustee.

Except as required by law, and in accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, all Trustees agree not to use or disclose the personal and/or employment information of Board employees and their families that may come to the attention of a Trustee.

A Trustee's duty of confidentiality with respect to private and confidential financial, business and/or commercial information, personnel information, student information, and legal matters and opinions survives their term as Trustee.

BOARD RESOURCES

No Trustee shall use Board resources for personal gain. No Trustee shall permit relatives, friends and/or business associates to use Board resources for personal gain. Trustees recognize that such inappropriate use of Board resources, directly or indirectly, for their benefit may constitute a breach of trust contrary to section 122 of the *Criminal Code* and this Code of Conduct.

All Trustees shall fully comply with all Board Policies, Protocols, Procedures and Administrative Procedures regarding the use of Board resources, including information technology resources.

PROCEDURES FOR GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY

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.

No Trustee shall accept a gift from any person, group or entity that has dealings with the board if a reasonable person might conclude that the gift could influence the Trustee when performing their duties unless,

- i. the gift is of nominal value,
- ii. the gift is given as an expression of courtesy or hospitality, and
- iii. accepting the gift is reasonable in the circumstances.

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

Gifts and donations may be made on behalf of the Board of Trustees as a whole, if approved in advance by the Chair of the Board and the Director of Education.

ENFORCEMENT OF CODE OF CONDUCT AND MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

The powers described below shall be exercised in a manner that is consistent with the denominational aspects of the Board.

An alleged breach of this Code of Conduct by a Trustee may be dealt with by the following procedures pursuant to section 218.3 of the *Education Act*, a Trustee of the board has breached the board's code of conduct shall notify in writing the Chair or the Vice Chair, if the conduct relates to the Chair, or another Trustee of the board who is neither a complainant nor the subject of the complaint, if the notice relates to the Chair and Vice Chair. A copy of the notice shall also be provided to the Director of Education.

No Trustee shall give notice of an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct if the allegation is frivolous or vexatious or the notice is given in bad faith.

No Trustee shall engage in reprisal or the threat of reprisal against another trustee who gave notice of an alleged breach of the Code of Conduct or who provides information about an alleged breach to the Integrity Commissioner.

Notice of an Alleged Breach

A notice of complaint should be brought within 60 days of the breach occurring or being discovered, whichever is later. Where a breach relates to a series of incidents the 60-day limitation period begins on the day the last breach in the series occurred or was discovered. A breach is discovered on the earlier of, the day on which the Trustee notifying the board first knew that the breach had occurred; and the day on which a reasonable person with the abilities and in the circumstances of the Trustee notifying the board first ought to have known of the matters.

The notice shall include the name and contact information of the Trustee alleging the breach; the name and contact information of the Trustee whose conduct is the subject of the notification; the date of the alleged breach; and a description of the alleged breach.

Written notice of the alleged breach shall be immediately provided to the Trustee whose conduct is the subject of the alleged breach and to the entire board.

Informal Resolution

A meeting shall be scheduled by the Chair of the Board, or by the Vice-Chair if the alleged breach involves the Chair, either at their discretion or at the request of a Trustee alleging a breach of the Code. This meeting, held within 20 business days of receiving the notice, may include the Chair, all Trustees, and the Director of Education. The purpose of the meeting is to address the alleged breach, inform the Trustee in question, and discuss potential remedial measures. The meeting will be conducted in camera.

Referral to Integrity Commissioner

If the matter is not resolved informally within 20 business days after notice is received, the alleged breach shall be referred to an integrity commissioner appointed by the board. Where the Minister of Education has created a roster of integrity commissioners, the integrity commissioner shall be selected from the roster. The board shall pay all fees charged by an integrity commissioner.

Late, Frivolous or Vexatious

The Integrity Commissioner may refuse to commence an investigation if the complaint is made more than 60 days after the day the alleged breach occurred or the last incident in a series of incidents was discovered, whichever is later, unless the integrity commissioner is satisfied the delay was incurred in good faith and no substantial prejudice will result to any person affected by the delay.

The Integrity Commissioner may refuse to commence an investigation if in the opinion of the Integrity Commissioner the complaint is made in bad faith or is frivolous or vexatious.

The integrity commissioner shall provide written notice of a refusal to commence an investigation to the Trustee who is the subject of the complaint and to the board. A decision of an integrity commissioner to refuse to commence an investigation is final.

Investigation

Where the complaint is not late, frivolous or vexatious in the opinion of the Integrity Commissioner, the Integrity Commissioner shall commence an investigation into the alleged breach of the board's code of

conduct no later than 14 days after being appointed. The Integrity Commissioner shall have authority to determine the scope of the investigation and the way the investigation is conducted.

The Integrity Commissioner, pursuant to section 33 of the Public Inquiries Act, 2009 may in the course of conducting the investigation require the production of any records that may in any way relate to the investigation and examine and copy those records, and may require any officer of the board or any other person to appear before him or her and give evidence, on oath or affirmation, relating to the investigation.

The integrity commissioner shall provide the Trustee alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct with the opportunity to respond to the allegations, as well as a right of reply, where appropriate.

Sanctions

If the integrity commissioner determines, following an investigation that the Trustee has breached the board's code of conduct, the integrity commissioner may impose one or more of the following sanctions:

1. Censure of the Trustee.
2. Requiring the board to reduce the Trustee's honorarium by an amount not exceeding the prescribed amount, requiring the Trustee to return any excess already paid to the Trustee and authorizing the board to recover the excess from the Trustee.
3. Barring the Trustee from attending all or part of one or more meetings of the board or one or more meetings of a committee of the board, for the period specified by the integrity commissioner up to a maximum of 90 days or the balance of the Trustee's term of office, whichever is less.
4. Barring the Trustee from sitting on one or more committees of the board, for the period of time specified by the integrity commissioner, up to a maximum of 90 days or the balance of the Trustee's term of office, whichever is less.
5. Barring the Trustee from becoming the chair or vice-chair of the board or of any committee of the board, or removing the Trustee from any of those positions.
6. Barring the Trustee from exercising the privileges of a board Trustee or acting as a board representative, or removing the Trustee from a position the Trustee holds as a board representative.
7. Subject to any other limits set out in paragraphs 1 to 6, any other sanction that, in the opinion of the integrity commission, is reasonable and appropriate in the circumstances.
8. Subject to any other limits set out in paragraphs 1 to 6, any other sanction that, in the opinion of the integrity commission, would promote compliance with the board's code of conduct.

Where a Trustee is barred from attending all or part of one meeting of the board, the Trustee shall be deemed, for the purpose of clause 228 (1) (b), to be absent from the meeting with authorization.

A Trustee of a board who is barred from attending all or part of a meeting of the board or a meeting of a committee of the board under subsection is not entitled to receive any materials that relate to that meeting or that part of the meeting and that are not available to members of the public.

Reasons

The integrity commissioner shall provide the Trustee whose conduct was the subject of the complaint and the board written notice of a determination that the Trustee has or has not breached the board's code of conduct and of any sanctions imposed. The notice shall include the reasons for the determination; the reasons for any sanctions; and information about the right to appeal the decision.

Appeal

Either the board or the Trustee whose conduct was the subject of the integrity commissioner's decision may appeal the determination, the sanctions imposed, or both, and the board and the Trustee are the parties to such an appeal. The Trustee whose conduct was the subject of the integrity commissioner's decision shall not vote on a board resolution to determine whether the board will appeal the decision.

Notice of Appeal

The written notice of the appeal shall be provided to the other party and the Deputy Minister no later than 15 business days after receiving written notice of the integrity commissioner's decision is provided.

Appeal Panel

The appeal shall be heard by a panel of three integrity commissioners appointed by the Deputy Minister or his or her delegate not later than 15 business days after the Deputy Minister or designate receives the notice of appeal. The panel members shall not include the integrity commissioner whose determination is the subject of the appeal. If there is a roster of integrity commissioners, the panel shall be appointed from the roster.

One member of the panel shall act as Chair of the panel and coordinate the hearing of the appeal.

Appeal Hearing

The panel shall hear the appeal in writing, and the Chair of the panel shall outline the requirements.

The appellant shall provide written submissions to the panel and the respondent no later than 20 business days after receiving notice that the panel has been appointed.

The respondent shall provide written submissions to the panel and the appellant no later than 20 business days after receiving the appellant's submissions.

The appellant shall provide their written reply to the respondent's submissions no later than 10 business days after receiving the respondent's submissions.

The chair of the panel may extend any timeline at the written request of a party to provide for the fair, just and expeditious resolution of the appeal. A decision to extend a timeline shall be provided to the parties in writing and a copy of the decision shall be provided to the Deputy Minister.

Decision

The panel shall convene to consider the appeal at such times and in such places as they may determine and may do so electronically.

The panel has the power to define or narrow the scope of the appeal; limit the length of submissions from the parties; make interim decisions and orders; and on its own motion, and without holding a hearing, dismiss an appeal as frivolous or vexatious or commenced in bad faith.

The decision to dismiss an appeal as frivolous or vexatious or commenced in bad faith is final.

The parties shall be notified of any decisions of the panel by the Chair.

The panel shall provide its decision and its reasons, including any dissent, to the parties and Deputy Minister in writing no later than 30 business days after receiving the respondent's submission.

If the panel overturns the determination made by the integrity commissioner, any sanction imposed by the integrity commissioner is revoked.

If the panel upholds the determination made by the integrity commissioner, the panel shall uphold, vary or overturn the sanction. If a sanction is varied or overturned, the variation or overturning shall be deemed to be effective as of the date the original determination was made by the Integrity Commissioner.

The decision of a panel respecting the determination of the integrity commissioner is final.

The board shall keep records and publish information on its website about any matter referred to an integrity commissioner; a decision of the integrity commissioner; a determination of an integrity commissioner and a determination by a panel that heard an appeal, subject to the privacy protections in s.297(2)(a) to (e) of the Education Act.

The *Statutory Powers Procedure Act* does not apply to the Code of Conduct or appeal process and decisions.

Review and Amendments

The policy shall be reviewed before May 15, 2027 and subsequently every four years. In addition to any changes made during the review period, a change to the policy shall be identified on the Niagara Catholic District School Board website before August 31 of the same fiscal year.

References

- [*Criminal Code, Section 122*](#)
- [*Education Act, Subsection 207\(1\); Subsection 207\(3\); Section 218.1; Section 218.3*](#)
- [*Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, Section 3, Section 6.1*](#)
- [*Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*](#)
- [*Ombudsman Act*](#)
- [*Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations*](#)
- [*Niagara Catholic District School Board Policies/Procedures*](#)
 - [*Board's By-Laws Policy \(100.1\)*](#)
 - [*Complaint Resolution Policy \(800.3\)*](#)
 - [*Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement Policy \(100.13\)*](#)
 - [*Trustee Honorarium Policy \(100.11\)*](#)
- [*Terms and Conditions and Collective Agreements*](#)

Adopted Date:	November 23, 2010
Revision History:	March 20, 2018 June 15, 2021 April 25, 2023

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2025**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: TRUSTEE ELECTRONIC MEETINGS (BOARD AND
COMMITTEES) (100.8)**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Electronic Meetings (Board and Committees) (100.8), as presented

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

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

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: January 28, 2025



Niagara Catholic District School Board
TRUSTEE ELECTRONIC MEETINGS POLICY
(Board and Committees)

STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE POLICY

100 – Board

Policy No 100.8

Adopted Date: October 25, 2005

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: October 24, 2023

In keeping with the Mission, Vision, and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Board is committed to conducting its business in an atmosphere of accountability, openness and transparency and to ensure that all Trustees have every opportunity to participate in the meetings of the Board of Trustees and its Committees of the Board.

In accordance with Board By-Laws, the Board recognizes that there may be occasions when Trustees, including Student Trustees, are unable to be physically present for a meeting of the Board and/or its Committees. To ensure that Trustees have every opportunity to participate in the meetings of the Board and its Committees, the Board is committed to ensuring participation of Trustees in meetings, upon request, through electronic means, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 463/97 – Electronic Meetings.

At the request of any Trustee or Student Trustee, the Board shall provide access to a Board technology platform which will provide two-way communication to the meeting. A written request to join a meeting electronically shall be made to the Chair with a copy to the Director of Education Secretary/Treasurer a minimum of 48 hours (excluding weekends or holidays and Special Board meetings) prior to the date of the meeting.

Subject to any condition or limitations provided for under the *Education Act* or its Regulations, a member of the Board of Trustees, who participates in a meeting through electronic means shall be deemed to be present at the meeting for the purposes of every Act and shall be recorded as being in attendance, electronically, in the minutes of the meeting.

The Director of Education will issue [Administrative Operational Procedures](#) for the implementation of this Policy.

References

- [Education Act \(s.208.1; s. 229 \(a\)\)](#)
- [Ontario Regulation 463/97 amended to 268/06](#)
- [Niagara Catholic District School Board Policies/Procedures](#)
 - [Board By-Laws Policy \(100.1\)](#)
 - [Trustee Code of Conduct Policy \(100.12\)](#)

Adopted Date:	October 25, 2005
Revision History:	May 27, 2014 February 25, 2020 October 24, 2023

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2025**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2025

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the 2025 Board Committee Membership, as presented.

Prepared by: Chair Di Lorenzo
Vice-Chair Burkholder

Presented by: Chair Di Lorenzo

Recommended by: Chair Di Lorenzo

Date: January 28, 2025



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

2025 BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Members to the Committees are appointed by the Chair of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chair of the Board.

STATUTORY COMMITTEES	TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED	2025 MEMBERSHIP
<i>Audit Committee</i> <i>O. Reg. 361/10, s. 7 (1). The term of office of a member of the audit committee who is a board member shall be determined by the board but shall not exceed four years.</i>	3 Trustees required	Joseph Bruzzese Natalia Benoit Larry Huibers
<i>Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (N.C.P.I.C.)</i>	2 Trustees required	Joseph Bruzzese Larry Huibers
<i>Special Education Advisory Committee (S.E.A.C.)</i>	2 Trustees required & 1 Alternate	Rhianon Burkholder Jim Marino Danny Di Lorenzo (Alternate)
<i>Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (S.A.L. Committee)</i>	2 Trustees required	Danny Di Lorenzo Paul Turner

STANDING COMMITTEES	TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED	2025 MEMBERSHIP
<i>Disciplinary Hearing Committee</i> <i>NOTE: All Trustees serve as alternates for this Committee only</i>	3 Trustees required	Danny Di Lorenzo Doug Joyner Paul Turner

AD HOC COMMITTEES	TRUSTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED	2025 MEMBERSHIP
<i>Blessed Trinity Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i>	3 Trustees required	Danny Di Lorenzo Larry Huibers Doug Joyner
<i>Denis Morris, Holy Cross, and Saint Francis Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i>	3 Trustees required	Natalia Benoit Rhianon Burkholder Larry Huibers
<i>Director's Performance Appraisal Committee</i> <i>NOTE: Term of membership is from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 for this Committee only</i>	3 Trustees required	Rhianon Burkholder Danny Di Lorenzo Larry Huibers Jim Marino
<i>Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee</i>	4 Trustees required	Natalia Benoit Joseph Bruzzese Danny Di Lorenzo Paul Turner
<i>Lakeshore Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i>	3 Trustees required	Joseph Bruzzese Danny Di Lorenzo Paul Turner
<i>Notre Dame College Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i>	3 Trustees required	Danny Di Lorenzo Jim Marino Paul Turner
<i>Saint Michael and Saint Paul Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee</i>	3 Trustees required	Joseph Bruzzese Larry Huibers Jim Marino

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2025**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 6, 2024 AND DECEMBER 4, 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 6, 2024 and December 4, 2024, as presented for information.



**MINUTES OF THE
 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, NOV 6, 2024
 6:30 PM**

Virtual Meeting in Compliance with Education Act Section 207 and
 Ontario Regulation 463/97 Section 5.1 (2)

APPROVED

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement – Chair Somma

Introduction:

The Niagara Catholic District School Board wishes to honour the Indigenous people who have been the protectors of this land, known as Turtle Island, for more than ten thousand years.

We begin this meeting by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

2. Opening Prayer – Chair Somma

3. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Somma, Monique	Community Living (Welland/Pelham) - CHAIR	X	
Cipriano, Madeline	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region		X
Maxwell, Michelle	Niagara Children’s Centre		X
Bowers, Christine	Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)	X	
T.B.D.	Pathstone Mental Health		X
Andrea Pede	Down Syndrome Niagara	X	
Attree, Alexandria	Autism Ontario Niagara Region		X
T.B.D.	Indigenous Representative		X
Erica Simmanivong-Elizarraras	Mainstream		X
Wilson, Alyson	Bethesda Services	X	
Donato, Krystine	Community Representative		X
Joyner, Doug	Trustee of the Board		X

Marino, Jim	Trustee of the Board	X	
Cipriano, Camillo	Director of Education		X
Filice, Adele	Principal, Secondary		X
Walsh, Susy	Principal, Elementary	X	
Pizzoferrato, Gino	Superintendent of Education	X	
Kate Bishop	Student Senate Representative	X	
Di Gioia, Jim	Coordinator of Student Support		X
Giancola, Danny	Coordinator of Student Support	X	
Criddle, Ann Marie	Coordinator of Student Support		X
Prohaszka, Ashley	EA	X	

Observers	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Keigan, Kelly	Speech-Language Pathologist	X	
Brochu, Grace	Student Support Facilitator	X	
Nemcko, Julia	Behaviour Analyst	X	
Mancuso, Vince	Behaviour Resource Teacher		X
Bailey, Babette	Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing	X	
Hornick, Tina	Special Initiative Teacher		X
Loughhead, Brooke	ABA Lead		X
Taylor, Paige	Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary	X	

4. Approval of the Agenda

- Alyson Wilson
- Jim Marino

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No disclosure of interest was declared with any items on the agenda.

6. Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of Oct 2, 2024.

- Jim Marino
- Alyson Wilson

- **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. **Chair's Report**
2. **Accessibility Committee Update**
3. **Goals Update**

- **AGENCY REPORTS**

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region

Pathstone Mental Health – VacantN/A

Down Syndrome Niagara – Andrea Pede

**** Friendship Walk 2025 Sunday, September 21st, 2025, at the Grantham Lion's Club in St. Catharine's ****

UPCOMING MEMBER EVENTS

- √ **VIP Events include Monthly Meet-Ups, Social Club, Live Shows, and Sporting Events**
 - a. November VIP Meetup will take place on November 14th, 2024, at Parkway Social from 6:30 – 9 pm
- √ **Caregiver Events – recently included Golf & Dinner, Parent Coffee Night, Axe Throwing, Seasonal Workshops**
 - a. On Thursday, November 21st at Country Basket Garden Centre to decorate planters during a private party.
- √ **DSN Christmas Party** – Sunday, December 1st, 2024, from 10:30 – 2 pm at Americana Conference Resort

FYI's

World Down Syndrome Day 2025 – next year's theme has been released and is the basis of such an important global campaign for individuals and families within the Down syndrome community. "Improve our Support Systems", which focuses on the importance of providing the right support to people with Down syndrome and their families at the right time. The goal is to help people with Down syndrome live the lives they want with dignity, choice, and control.

Niagara Childrens Center - We are happy to report that our 10th Annual Superhero Run that took place at the end of September was a huge success with nearly 500 attendees, raising over \$151,000. We are so thankful for the community support of this accessible and barrier-free event that is as much about fun as it is about fundraising.

<https://www.niagarachildrenscentre.com/newsroom?newsid=1107>

Our partnership with Bethesda continues with a Fall ETS program, supporting a new cohort of students that will be transitioning to school in February.

While one season of transition ends, another begins. Niagara Children's Centre continues to partner with the Catholic Board and all Niagara school boards to prepare for our next transition season to support the children in our preschool services that will be starting kindergarten in September 2025.

Julie McNamara and I, who are Clinical Managers of the School-Based Rehabilitation Services OT/PT and SLP programs, had the great opportunity to share some updates with the Niagara Catholic ERTS in October. Julie was able to share updates regarding the further roll out of the Tiered Model of service for OT specifically within the Catholic Board who has been a great partner in the initial piloting of this OT model over the last year. I was able to plant the seed to let everyone know about the work we plan to start in order to bring the Tiered Model to the SLP program - which is in its very early planning stages, but we look forward to collaborating with our school board partners as part of that planning.

Our Fall event guide has been published and shared with the community and we continue to encourage our community partners to share these opportunities with families.

<https://www.niagarachildrenscentre.com/calendar>

Autism Ontario Niagara Region - Alexandria Attree

Mainstream – Erica Simmanivong - Elizarraras

Extensive Needs Service – Niagara Collaborative Community

Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet) – Christine

Community Living (Welland/Pelham) – Monique Somma

E.STUDENT REPORT

Student Senate Representative - Kate

2. STAFF REPORTS

Secondary Principal – A. Felice

Elementary Principal – S. Walsh

3. Student Support Department - Superintendent Pizzoferrato/Danny/Jim/Ann Marie

1. Elementary and Secondary PD Day Upcoming on Nov. 29

Our ABA and SLP team will support EAs to address areas of student behaviour, self-regulation and communication. The Student Support team will deliver professional development and work with EAs to develop and refine strategies that will support students in this area. The Behaviour Analysts will review best practices for proactive and responsive strategies in reference to BMS and associated physical responses and documentation (Physical Response Forms). Highlighting the importance of maintaining dignity for students and educators will be reviewed, as will preventing injury and how to access Personal Protective Equipment. The SLP team will provide new learning on Gestalt language processing (the practice of chunking language into bigger parts rather than one word at a time) to support EAs in gaining a deeper knowledge for supporting language development in our students who are neurodiverse.

2. Phase two planning for the work of our Reading Intervention Specialist Teacher is in progress. Student Support has been working with school staff and these specialist teachers to identify schools to host an additional Empower Reading Group. Everyone is working together so that this second group of students can begin Empower by mid November with those schools identified.

3. Professional Development for Lexia is being coordinated for elementary and secondary staff at the end of November. Sessions will be offered for both new staff who are new to

Lexia and returning staff who require a refresher. Lexia Reading has several new added features that will be highlighted in the PD.

- 4. **The next Gifted Module is being planned for students.** This interactive visual arts module will be held at Pope Francis Centre. Students will engage in an art exploration activity, applying the creative process to produce a work of art in a two-dimensional form. Students will communicate their feelings, ideas, and understanding using elements, principles, and visual arts techniques.
- 5. **The Let’s Read program in partnership with the LDANR** is underway at Our Lady of Holy Rosary Catholic Elementary School. The program is taking place on Monday and Wednesday evenings, one hour for students in grades two to four. The focus on the program is to refine skills in literacy such as phonics principles, sight word knowledge and reading fluency. We have students from several elementary schools who are participating.
- 6. **Transition Meetings Continue for new students to Niagara Catholic.** Although it is now November, Student Support teams have been supporting school staff and families with transition plans to support a successful school start for new students.

F. TRUSTEE REPORTS –Trustee Marino, Trustee Joyner

G. NCPIC REPORT

H. NOTICES OF MOTION

I. INFORMATION ITEMS

N/A

J. MOMENT OF SILENCE / REFLECTION OF LIFE

L. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, Dec 4, 2024 at 6:30 pm

M. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn:

Monique Somma



**MINUTES OF THE
 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, DEC 4, 2024
 6:30 PM**

Virtual Meeting in Compliance with Education Act Section 207 and
 Ontario Regulation 463/97 Section 5.1 (2)

APPROVED

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement – Chair Somma

Introduction:

The Niagara Catholic District School Board wishes to honour the Indigenous people who have been the protectors of this land, known as Turtle Island, for more than ten thousand years.

We begin this meeting by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

2. Opening Prayer – Chair Somma

3. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Somma, Monique	Community Living (Welland/Pelham) - CHAIR	x	
Cipriano, Madeline	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region	x	
Maxwell, Michelle	Niagara Children’s Centre	x	
Bowers, Christine	Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)		x
T.B.D.	Pathstone Mental Health		x
Andrea Pede	Down Syndrome Niagara	x	
Attree, Alexandria	Autism Ontario Niagara Region		x
Cindi Lee Ecker-Flagg	Indigenous Representative		x
Erica Simmanivong-Elizarraras	Mainstream		x
Wilson, Alyson	Bethesda Services	x	
Donato, Krystine	Community Representative	x	
Joyner, Doug	Trustee of the Board	x	

Marino, Jim	Trustee of the Board	x	
Cipriano, Camillo	Director of Education	x	
Filice, Adele	Principal, Secondary	x	
Walsh, Susy	Principal, Elementary	x	
Pizzoferrato, Gino	Superintendent of Education	x	
Kate Bishop	Student Senate Representative	x	
Di Gioia, Jim	Coordinator of Student Support	x	
Giancola, Danny	Coordinator of Student Support	x	
Criddle, Ann Marie	Coordinator of Student Support	x	
Prohaszka, Ashley	EA	x	

Observers	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Keigan, Kelly	Speech-Language Pathologist	x	
Brochu, Grace	Student Support Facilitator	x	
Nemcko, Julia	Behaviour Analyst	x	
Mancuso, Vince	Behaviour Resource Teacher	x	
Bailey, Babette	Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing	X	
Hornick, Tina	Special Initiative Teacher	x	
Loughhead, Brooke	ABA Lead		x
Taylor, Paige	Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary	x	

4. Approval of the Agenda

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No disclosure of interest was declared with any items on the agenda.

6. Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting

- **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. **Chair's Report**
2. **Accessibility Committee Update**
3. **Goals Update**

- **AGENCY REPORTS**

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region

Pathstone Mental Health – VacantN/A

Down Syndrome Niagara –Andrea Pede

Autism Ontario Niagara Region - Alexandria Attree

Mainstream – Erica Simmanivong - Elizarraras

Extensive Needs Service – Niagara Collaborative Community

Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet) – Christine

Community Living (Welland/Pelham) – Monique Somma

Resources for learning about Social Role Valorization

Canada

Southern Ontario Training Group

Offers 4-5 workshops about Social Role Valorization each year

<https://www.srv-sotg.ca/>

Contact Eric Tinsley-Baker

International Social Role Valorization Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia

<https://www.srv-sotg.ca/events-1/8th-international-social-role-valorization-conference>

US

SRVIP training project run by Marc Timenski & Jo Massarelli

<https://srvip.org/>

Month Table Talks are a short 45 presentation and discussion each months on SRV related topics. Email Jo at jo@srvip.org to have your email address added.

Wolf Wolfensberger Nebraska University Archives

<https://archives.nebraska.edu/repositories/5/resources/3478>

SRV Online Journal

https://www.srvip.org/journal_past_issues.php

E.STUDENT REPORT

Student Senate Representative – Kate

Student senate ran our yearly Lead Out Loud event for all the student leaders at our elementary schools. After our keynote, Jon Hansen, all the family of schools senators got together with their high school senators and created plans for responsible use of social media within their school. We discussed what it means to use the Catholic social teachings online and created plans specific for each school.

Christmas

All eight high schools are preparing for their Christmas assembly, masses and spirit weeks that will be held the last week of school before the Christmas holidays! Each high school is also holding food drives for the holidays that are all helping a specific cause that their school chose.

2. STAFF REPORTS

Secondary Principal – A. Felice

Elementary Principal – S. Walsh

3. Student Support Department - Superintendent Pizzoferrato/Danny/Jim/Ann Marie

1. **Annual Behaviour Management Systems Certification** for elementary and secondary ERTs, Secondary Special Education Classroom Teachers and Program Chairs took place on Wednesday, November 20th at the Pope Francis Centre in lieu of the Student Support Learning Session previously scheduled for that day.
2. **Transition to School Parent Information Sessions** which are hosted at the Niagara Children’s Centre in collaboration with our regional partners have begun. This session allows parents the opportunity to learn more about Niagara Catholic kindergarten classrooms along with the transition to school process. The first session was held today, with two more planned for December 10th and January 16th.
3. **Upcoming Gifted Module**
The next module is planned for late January. This module will focus on the art, science and design of carpentry and take place at the Notre Dame Launch Centre.
4. **Student Support Family of School Resource Teacher meetings** are also in the planning stages to take place in January at each of the Secondary Schools. These meetings focus on successful student transitions from grade 8 to grade 9 and those students entering Kindergarten.
5. **Registration is now open for the 2024-2025 Niagara Sledge Hockey League season!**

The NSHL is a recreational league that is open to all ages and abilities. A one-of-a-kind league where the whole family can play together on the same team! Registration is \$150 for the season with sleds, sticks and a jersey provided. Players can come try it for the first time free of charge.

Register here: <https://parasportontario.ca/niagara-sledge-hockey-league>

For more information contact events@parasportontario.ca



6. Special Education Event: Winterfest

Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School will be hosting a celebration bringing together students from special education classes across the board on Wednesday, December 11th.

The theme of this event is Winterfest and the students will be engaged in winter-themed activities including singing festive songs, a luncheon followed by a dance.

F. TRUSTEE REPORTS –Trustee Marino, Trustee Joyner

G. NCPIC REPORT

H. NOTICES OF MOTION

I. INFORMATION ITEMS

N/A

J. MOMENT OF SILENCE / REFLECTION OF LIFE

L. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 6:30 pm

M. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Adjourn: Monique Somma

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2025**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT
INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC) MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 7, 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Meeting of November 7, 2024 as presented for information.



**MINUTES OF THE
NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 7, 2024**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 6:30 p.m., in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells stated that in accordance with the NCPIC By-Laws, that she would be presiding over the meeting in the absence of Chair Thomas. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reminded all those in attendance that the meetings of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee are open to the public, livestreamed and recorded.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells shared that the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee extended an invitation to all Niagara Catholic School Council Chairs and Co-Chairs to attend the November 7, meeting. A meet and greet was held at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells welcomed all Catholic School Council Chairs/Co-Chairs and guests in attendance and thanked them for taking time out of their busy schedules to build connections with the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Catholic School Council Chairs and Co-Chairs were invited to introduce themselves before proceeding with the meeting.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells led the Land Acknowledgement and the Opening Prayer.

2. Roll Call:

Parent Members	Present In-person	Present Electronically	Excused	Absent
Brenda Annen	√			
Julie Bateman			√	
Rose Heron	√			
Kate Hingston	√			
Sara Ivicic	√			
Jacqueline Kelly	√			
Caroline Polgrabia	√			
Laura Thomas			√	
Carrie Vernelli	√			
Bishop/Diocesan Representative				
Fr. Paul MacNeil				√
Community Representatives				
Josie Rocca-St. Vincent de Paul			√	
Alexandra Gonzalez	√			

Secondary Student Senate Representative				
Ella Colaneri		√		
Trustees				
Trustee, Natalia Benoit		√		
Trustee, Joe Bruzzese	√			

The following staff were in attendance:

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, **Maria Solomon**, Elementary Principal, **Kevin Timmins**, Secondary Principal, and **Yvonne Anderson**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant.

Regrets received: Laura Thomas and Josie Rocca.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Caroline Polgrabia

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of November 7, 2024 as presented.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No declarations of conflict of interest were declared with any item on the agenda.

5. Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2024

Moved by: Carrie Vernelli

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of September 5, 2024 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Niagara Catholic Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy 2024-2027

Andrea Bozza, Manager of Mental Health and Well-Being and Dave Peirce, Supervisor of Clinical Services presented the Niagara Catholic Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy and the Mental Health Action Plan highlighting the key priority areas and how the Board is supporting staff and student mental health and well-being:

Priority 1:

Embed wellness promotion and social-emotional learning into everyday school culture

Priority 2:

Increase educator understanding of mental health and well-being from a culturally responsive, identity-affirming and trauma-informed lens

Priority 3:

Expand mental health awareness and promotion to better engage student and family voice

Priority 4:

Sustain and strengthen equitable pathways to care both internally and externally

Priority 5:

Develop, implement, and improve communication of a comprehensive holistic employee well-being plan and programming

Andrea Bozza reported that to increase mental health literacy, professional development sessions are provided to select staff throughout the 2024-2025 school year. The Niagara Catholic Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy and the Mental Health Action Plan as well as parent resources are available on the Board website, www.niagaracatholic.ca on the front page under Mental Health/Well-Being.

Dave Peirce reported that he recently joined Niagara Catholic as the Supervisor of Clinical Services to support the Social Workers/Psychotherapists, and Child and Youth Workers, who support the mental health and well-being of all Niagara Catholic students. His role includes regular clinical supervision of the Social Worker team, with peer-to-peer supervision and supporting the Child and Youth Workers in the implementation of evidence-based programming in the classroom. In addition, he stated that his role includes making connections with community health partners, reporting data/statistics to the Ministry of Education and the Board, and supporting crisis or grief and bereavement responses as necessary.

Andrea Bozza reported that with funding from the Ministry of Education, Niagara Catholic was pleased to support students attending Camp Acorn over the summer months. In partnership with the Kristen French Child Advocacy Centre, Niagara Catholic was able to sponsor 88 students who participated in two-week blocks focusing on building trust, resiliency, and relationships, making connections, and teaching coping skills. Social Workers/Psychotherapists who were on site supported all students and were also available for counselling sessions upon request. A brief Q&A followed.

2. Niagara Region Public Health

Catharine Lowes, Registered Nurse, Niagara Region Public Health-Manager, School Health stated that Public Health is a science and art of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention.

The team of health professionals work closely with the community to improve the physical and social environments where we live, work, learn and play so that Niagara residents can reach their full health potential. Niagara Region Public Health supports the four school boards in the Niagara region, and provides presentations and resources to the community, schools and parents focusing on supporting health equity, promoting health in the areas of physical activity, nutritious eating, mental health, healthy relationships, substance use prevention, vaccine preventable disease, dental screening/treatment and professional development for educators.

Presentations include: Raising Resilient Kids, The Importance of Connectedness, Benefits of Ophea's Healthy School Designation, Vaping and Substance Use Prevention, Supporting Students Through School-Based Transitions, and Transitioning to Adolescence Information Nights.

Catholic School Councils were encouraged to contact Niagara Region Public Health to book an information session for their school communities. A brief Q&A followed.

The PowerPoint presentations will be shared with all Catholic School Councils Chairs/Co-Chairs for information, and to share with their Catholic School Council.

C. POLICY

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the following policies were currently being vetted:

- [Board By-Laws Policy \(100.1\)](#)
- [Complaint Resolution Policy \(800.3\)](#)
- [Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement Policy \(100.13\)](#)

Feedback to be submitted on behalf of the NCPIC, is to be sent to Yvonne Anderson no later than 12:00p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2024.

Feedback submitted as an individual, is to be sent directly to Anna Pisano no later than 12:00p.m. on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

D. CHAIR'S REPORT

- Nil Report-regrets sent

DI. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

1. Catholic School Councils-PowerPoint Presentation

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the role of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and the responsibilities of the Catholic School Councils and the Chairs and/or Co-Chairs. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided a brief overview of the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE). Information was provided about a funding opportunity to support Catholic School Council parent engagement events. Parent/guardian resources are available on the Board website under parents, [Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee](#) tab. A brief Q&A followed the presentation.

2. [The Vineyard](#)-October Issue

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the October Issue of *The Vineyard*, highlights events and celebrations in the Diocese and throughout Niagara Catholic. All Niagara Catholic parents/guardians were encouraged to read *The Vineyard*.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells also reported that the November issue of the Niagara Catholic Chronicle was sent to all Niagara Catholic parents and guardians on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Niagara Catholic parents/guardians are encouraged to read the Chronicle to stay informed of all

the wonderful learning, events and celebrations happening in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

3. NCPIC Financial Report

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported on the finances of the NCPIC.

F. SECONDARY STUDENT SENATE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT-*Ella Colaneri*

Ella reported that:

- Niagara Catholic secondary schools have completed their annual pilgrimage fundraisers, raising tens of thousands of dollars for children in their chosen sister school in a third-world country.
- The Niagara Catholic Student Lead Out Loud Conference will take place on November 27. Elementary senate representatives will participate in an educational event focusing on themes of social media awareness, cyberbullying, and digital discipleship. This year's guest speaker is Jon Hansen. Jon will interactively teach the elementary students about the responsibilities that come with social media usage and the impact of our actions online. Students will participate in breakout sessions to further discuss issues and rising occurrences of cyberbullying, and how to combat it using Christian values and kindness to share with students at their schools. The event will also explore how digital platforms can be used positively and responsibly, using Carlos Acutis as an example. Acutis, who is soon to be the Patron Saint of the Internet, was a young website developer whose main goal was to spread the Lord's miracles to people around the globe. The Student Senate's goal is to bring attention to both the positive and negative aspects of social media, and to teach students how to navigate and respond to all situations, both off-line and online, using their faith and trust in God.
- Catholic secondary schools are preparing to host Grade 8 Open Houses to encourage students to continue their Catholic education at their Catholic secondary schools.

G. BISHOP/DIOCESAN REPORT-*Fr. Paul MacNeil*

- Nil Report

H. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

1. Community Representative-Alexandra Gonzalez

Diocesan Event Update: Parish Leadership Day

All Parish Pastoral Councils were invited to attend the Parish Leadership Day on October 26, 2024, organized by the Diocese of St. Catharines. This is part of the commitment that Bishop Bergie and the Diocese of St. Catharines have in supporting their Pastors to lead dynamic parishes. Parishes are encouraged to cultivate five essential systems: Evangelization, Discipleship, Fellowship, Service and Worship.

- *Evangelization-Reaching the Unreached*-The process of bringing people to Christ for the first time. It involves sharing the good news in such a way that people encounter the person of Jesus, surrender their lives and choose to follow him. These can be our neighbours, coworkers, friends and even family.
- *Discipleship-Growing in Maturity*-Engaging current parishioners to pursue spiritual maturity and a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith, forming committed followers of Christ. Catholic School Councils have the opportunity to engage parents as followers of Christ carrying on the mission to make disciples of all nations.
- *Fellowship-Building Authentic Community*-Involves creating authentic Christian friendships rooted in Jesus, fostering a community where people do life together. Our

Catholic schools are certainly the greatest example of having authentic Catholic communities.

- *Service-Every Member a Minister*-Encourage every member to engage in ministry, using their gifts and talents to build up the church. This system ensures that the entire community is mobilized for mission. This is the important role that the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee has in inviting parents to participate and give their feedback on matters that pertain to Catholic education.
- *Worship-Transformative Encounters with God*-Worship should be engaging and transformative, leading parishioners to a deeper surrender of Jesus. It is through worship that the community gathers to encounter God, express gratitude and seek renewal. This is the biggest challenge of our time; bringing people who love Christ back to the church. Let's work together to share with them the beauty of the liturgy.

As Pope Francis reminds us in his Encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium* #24,

“The church evangelizes and is herself evangelized
through the beauty of the liturgy,
which is both a celebration of the task of evangelization
and the source of her renewed self-giving.”
Worship should inspire ongoing conversion
and deepen the community commitment to Christ.

Alexandra hopes that all are inspired by the wonderful opportunities we have in the world today to bring more people closer to Christ and together we can instill in the school community this common language so they can continue to be instruments of God and embrace the Mission of the Diocese of Saint Catharines, that as Bishop Bergie said, is “Setting hearts on fire with God’s love”.

- If you want to learn more, you can contact the Catholic Centre and our Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation, Nick Ali at 905-684-0154.

2. Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SSVDP)

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells, on behalf of Josie Rocca reported, that in Spring 2024, President (Josie Rocca) and treasurer (Deanne MacDonald) provided information to Niagara Catholic Principals about the North of 60 project. This has been a special project of the St. Catharines Central Council of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul since 2016. Niagara Catholic principals were invited to participate in the collection of non-perishable food items to fill a 20 foot sea container that would be sent to Naujaat in early September 2024.

22 Niagara Catholic schools, 4 secondary schools and 18 elementary schools, participated and a sincere thank you is extended to staff and students. God will often provide for people through us and providing for those in need is part of serving one another. As we serve others, we are serving Christ. St. Vincent de Paul said, “go to the poor...you will find God”.

The sea container arrived in Naujaat a couple of weeks ago, and Fr. Zbyszek Halemba sent the following email:

Hi, Josie

*We've just unloaded the sea can. On behalf of all people who are in need and come to get food - THANK YOU. These coming days we will decide when to distribute the food for the first time. I'm also sending you some pictures. GOD BLESS,
Fr. Zbyszek Halemba*

Each year various SSVDP parish conferences within the Diocese of St. Catharines support those in need with their Christmas projects. For additional information, or if you wish to donate, please contact your local SSVDP parish conferences or email Josie Rocca at rocca_josie@hotmail.com.

I. ONTARIO ASSOCIATION FOR PARENTS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION (OAPCE)

1. Niagara Catholic OAPCE Regional Director

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that on Tuesday, October 22, 2024, Carrie Vernelli submitted her letter of resignation as the Niagara Catholic OAPCE Regional Director and requested that if anyone was interested in applying for the position, to please contact her for further details.

2. [OAPCE October Newsletter](#)

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the contact information of all elementary and secondary Catholic School Council OAPCE representatives was shared with OAPCE. OAPCE will communicate directly with all Catholic School Council OAPCE representatives to provide OAPCE updates, upcoming events and newsletters via email.

J. SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) REPORT

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells on behalf the of the Special Education Advisory Committee reported that at the SEAC Meeting of November 6, 2024, the committee had the pleasure of hearing a presentation by Martin Smit, Educational Consultant for the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario.

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario (LDAO) is a registered charity dedicated to improving the lives of children, youth, and adults with learning disabilities. LDAO offers many resources, services, information, venues, and products designed to help people with LDs and ADHD, as well as parents, teachers, and other professionals.

Martin Smit's presentation highlighted important information about Learning Disabilities and the impact they have on individuals and families. Click on the link to view the [PowerPoint Presentation by Martin Smit](#).

Resources:

- **LD@school:** This resource provides Ontario educators with information, resources, and research related to teaching students with learning disabilities. The website also features resources and professional development material in a variety of formats and highlights evidence-based, evidence-informed, and practice-informed approaches, practices, and strategies that can be put directly to use in the classroom.

- LD@home: This website was created to help bring resources to Ontario households impacted by learning disabilities and provides resources to families and a safe place to connect with LDA networks across Ontario.

K. STAFF REPORTS-*Maria Solomon and Kevin Timmins*

Elementary Principal, Solomon and Secondary Principal, Timmins provided elementary and secondary school updates for information. Highlights included:

- International Inuit Day and Treaties, Recognition Week, ECO Initiatives, Pilgrimage, Holy Childhood Walk, Remembrance Day Services, Secondary Open Houses, Grade 8 Days, Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week-November 18-22, the Lead Out Loud Conference-November 27, and Project Plaid-November 28, in support of Pathstone Mental Health and extracurricular activities and sports.
- Elementary Progress Reports and Secondary Mid-Term Reports will be available in the Parent Portal the week of November 14.
- Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place the week of November 18.
- Elementary and Secondary PA Day-November 29.
- Christmas Break-December 23, 2024 to January 3, 2025.

L. TRUSTEE REPORT-*Natalia Benoit and Joe Bruzzese*

- Trustee Bruzzese shared that the Committee of the Whole Meeting will take place on November 12, 2024.
- All trustees across Ontario were invited to participate in a Zoom call with Bishop Bergie regarding the Jubilee Year coming up in 2025. For the Jubilee Year, the Holy Door will be opened at St. Peter's Basilica in the Rome. As 2025 is a Holy Year, further discussion will take place on how we as a Board can participate. It is also an opportunity for parents/guardians to engage in pilgrimages to certain churches and shrines throughout Niagara and all Cathedrals across the world including the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Catharines will have open Holy Doors. Trustee Bruzzese encouraged all parents/guardians to get involved.

M. NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- No new business or agenda items were forthcoming.

Alexandra Gonzales shared that she had the opportunity to run an activity called Operation Christmas, where shoe boxes were filled with various items and sent abroad. As the boxes were being prepared, one of the teen volunteers shared that when she was 7 years old, and was living in Iran, Operation Christmas came to her town and she received one of the boxes. She stated that at the time, it was the first and only present that she had ever received in her whole life, and she still has everything that was in the box to this day. Alexandra also shared that she had a friend that went to India, and Operation Christmas came to the town. The friend reported that she witnessed all the children who received the boxes gathered together and shared the contents with one another.

Alexandra asked all Catholic School Councils to focus on one good thing this Christmas season that will teach our children to understand how they can change the world, through a thoughtful and generous Christmas project for your local communities.

N. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.

O. CLOSING PRAYER: Superintendent Forsyth-Sells led the closing prayer.

P. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Brenda Annen

THAT the November 7, 2024 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.
