

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
MARCH 25, 2025**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING OF MARCH 4, 2025**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 4, 2025, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, March 4, 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 Burkholder.

2. Roll Call

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

Vice-Chair Burkholder noted that Trustee Turner joined electronically.

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, Domenic Massi, Joseph Zaroda**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Joyner

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 4, 2025, 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 February 11, 2025

Moved by Trustee Joyner

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 11, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED

6. Consent Agenda Items

6.1 In Camera Items G1

Moved by Trustee Di Lorenzo

THAT the Committee of the Whole adopt consent agenda items.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Pilgrims of Hope – Video Contest

Director Cipriano provided background on the Pilgrims of Hope Video Contest.

Chair Di Lorenzo, Vice-Chair Burkholder, and Trustees Bruzzese and Marino, along with Director Cipriano, presented St. Mary Catholic Elementary School with their first-place certificate and prize for their submission in the Catholic Elementary School Division, and awarded Notre Dame College School their second-place certificate and prize for their submission in the Catholic Secondary School Division.

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Indigenous Education Action Plan

Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education provided background information on the Indigenous Education Action Plan and introduced Gary Parker, Indigenous Education Lead, John Belcastro, Principal, Angela Ventresca, Indigenous Consultant, and Cindi Lee Echer, Indigenous Student Engagement and Success Coach.

Mr. Parker, along with Mr. Belcastro, Ms. Ventresca, and Ms. Echer presented the Indigenous Education Action Plan for Trustee information.

Mr. Parker answered questions of Trustees.

2. Monthly Updates

2.1 Student Trustees' Update

Emilio Geremia and Taylor Sexton, Student Trustees, presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

2.2 Senior Staff Good News Update

Addressed in Pilgrims of Hope Video Contest presentation.

D. GOVERNANCE POLICIES

1. Governance Policies for Recommendation to the Board

2. Governance Policies Prior to Vetting

3. Governance Policy Review Schedule

Director Cipriano presented the Governance Policy Review Schedule.

E. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

F. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

- 1.1 Director Cipriano reminded the Board of the 2025 Technology Skills Awards Celebration on Thursday at Seaway Mall.

G. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Addressed within consent agenda section.

H. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Di Lorenzo

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 February 11, 2025, as presented.

CARRIED (Item G1)

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Di Lorenzo

THAT the March 4, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **March 4, 2025.**

Approved on **April 8, 2025.**

Rhianon Burkholder
Vice-Chair of the Board

Camillo Cipriano
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
*MARCH 25, 2025***

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC) MEETING
OF JANUARY 9, 2025**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of January 9, 2025, as presented for information.



MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 9, 2025

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Chair Thomas wished all NCPIC members and guests in attendance a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Chair Thomas welcomed Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education, Chris McLean, Vice-Principal of Holy Cross and presenters, Nick Ali, Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation and Frank Capiscioltto, Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministry in the Diocese of St. Catharines.

Chair Thomas stated that Superintendent Zaroda would be overseeing the NCPIC meeting in the absence of Superintendent Forsyth-Sells and vice-principal Chris McLean would be providing a report on behalf of secondary principal, Kevin Timmins.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Fr. Paul MacNeil 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/Larry Huibers				√
Trustee, Joe Bruzzese		√		

The following staff were in attendance:

Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education, **Maria Solomon**, Elementary Principal, **Chris McLean**, Secondary Vice-Principal, and **Yvonne Anderson**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant.

Regrets received: Julie Bateman, Jacqueline Kelly, Carrie Vernelli, Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells and Kevin Timmins.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Kate Hingston

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of January 9, 2025 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 November 7, 2024

Moved by: Rose Heron

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

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. The Vision of Evangelization”- Nick Ali, Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation at the Diocese of St. Catharines”
2. “Strengthening the Home-School-Parish Triad through youth and young adult formation” with Frank Capisciolto, Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministry

Nick Ali and Frank Capisciolto provided brief bios and the role that they play at the Diocese to strengthen the home-school-parish triad and evangelization. Nick stated that parents are the first evangelists providing the greatest gift, the gift of faith to their children.

Frank and Nick are working closely with the parishes and Niagara Catholic schools and Board staff to “set hearts on fire” for love with Jesus.

“Called to Witness and Proclaim” A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization and Catechesis in the Family was also provided to all in attendance.

C. CHAIR'S REPORT

- Nil Report

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

1. Director of Education's Annual Performance Appraisal Survey

Superintendent Zaroda reported that the Ministry of Education requires that all school boards undertake a performance review process for Directors of Education. As part of Niagara Catholic process, stakeholders will be invited to complete the Director of Education's Annual Performance Appraisal Survey through a confidential online survey.

A link to the survey will be sent to all NCPIC parent members next week. Participation is voluntary, but all members are encouraged to complete the survey to ensure a fully transparent process that includes all stakeholders.

2. NCPIC Financial Report

Superintendent Zaroda reported on the finances of the NCPIC.

E. SECONDARY STUDENT SENATE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT-Ella Colaneri

Ella reported that:

- On November 27, 2024 the Niagara Catholic Student Senate held an educational event focusing on themes of social media awareness, cyberbullying, and digital discipleship for the elementary school senate representatives. Lead Out Loud was extremely successful and we were able to spread our message of positive and negative aspects of social media and teach the students how to navigate not only online, but also offline situations using God as our guide.

This year's guest speaker, Jon Hansen, was chosen by the student senate representatives. He interactively taught the elementary students about the responsibilities that come with social media usage and the impact of our actions online. The event used positive and responsible role models to exemplify how to use social media for the greater good, 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.

- Niagara Catholic secondary schools completed their Christmas season with an advent mass to celebrate the birth of Christ. Many schools participated in Christmas food drives, and reverse advent calendars, where they gave something every day in advent instead of receiving something. These items such as, hats, mittens, socks, etc., any essentials for the winter months and the holiday season, were donated to multiple organizations that support people in need. As a Saint Paul student, I can personally say we were able to bring in hundreds of canned goods and winter essentials, making it a record-breaking year for our giving season.

Many of the feeder schools spread joy and fun in their school community this year by participating in a Christmas roadshow, where the music students displayed their talents by performing Christmas carols to their school and feeder schools. Most schools also participated in

a Christmas assembly, allowing the students to play Christmas themed competitions that include both staff and students to kick off the winter break.

- Lastly, the Niagara Catholic Student Senate is in the early stages of planning the SEAC prom. There are many things that have to be done before we are able to disclose anything, but I'm able to say that we will be holding the highly anticipated event at Notre Dame College at the end of the school year.

F. BISHOP/DIOCESAN REPORT-Fr. Paul MacNeil

Fr. Paul reported that:

- His focus for this report is on the Jubilee Year 2025, "Pilgrims of Hope". "The hope of a new year is here as the Catholic Church enters the 2025 Jubilee, a year long period of forgiveness and mercy whose theme is taken from Romans 5: "Hope does not disappoint." The Jubilee also coincides with the 10th anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' landmark encyclical on the environment.
- There are many special events throughout the whole world and in our own diocese. There is one adult faith formation resource produced by the CCCB's Ad Hoc Committee for the Preparation of the Jubilee that the Diocesan Jubilee Planning Team would like to consider using it with your adult faithful – [‘Exploring the Themes of the Papal Bull, Spes non Confundit’](#). It consists of six, hour long, small group sessions, each focusing on a different theme from the Papal Bull. Each session incorporates prayer and scripture, a brief reading or viewing related to this Jubilee, followed by discussion and synodal listening generated from questions found in the resource guide. The six sessions could be scheduled over the entire year or just one session can be offered as a stand-alone. (e.g., to promote the idea of a parish pilgrimage to one of the local sites, Session 3 (*A Journey of Hope: we are a pilgrim people*) that presents the big idea of pilgrimages can be planned. The session facilitator simply needs to be familiar with the session's content and have some experience leading small groups... no special training or a degree in theology necessary.
- A special event for this Jubilee is the year-long **MESSAGES OF HOPE Speaker Series**. The **MESSAGES OF HOPE series** kicked off on Sunday, January 12th at 2 p.m., at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Alexandria. Bishop G. Bergie shared a presentation on Jubilee 2025 – what it is, why it is important, and how we as *pilgrims of hope* can get involved. Virtual registration for this first talk opened after Christmas. As this Speaker Series continues, each month will feature a new speaker some local experts and some from outside the diocese to break open a key idea from the Papal Bull and how it is being lived in our local church in venues, often local pilgrimage sites, around the diocese.
- Pilgrimage is an important aspect of any Jubilee year and there are plans for several pilgrimages which the faithful can participate. Details about these, especially how to register will be posted on the diocesan website.
- As well, the local pilgrimage sites designated by Bishop Bergie have been announced. These were intentionally chosen to represent each deanery and making this concept of journeying together in prayerful reflection easily accessible to those who are unable to travel internationally to the Holy Doors of Rome, major Basilicas, Marian Shrines, or national pilgrimage site like the Martyrs' Shrine in Midland. Please consider organizing groups from your parish to visit, attend mass, and pray the prayers for the Jubilee Plenary Intention at a local pilgrimage site. A free will

donation is suggested and groups with 15+ pilgrims are asked to make arrangements with the site contact.

- Save the Date: The Diocesan Family Picnic is being planned for the afternoon of Sunday, July 27, 2025 at Queenston Heights marking the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly.
- Save the Date: Diocesan Jubilee Pilgrimages:
 - The Holy Doors of Rome Pilgrimage with Bishop Bergie, October 16-24, 2025. For information contact Ineke Brinkman at Direct Travel and Pilgrimage Tours at 905.988.1313 or email, ibrinkman@dt.com.
 - Youth Adult Pilgrimage to the Our Lady of the Rosary Shrine (Welland) Summer 2025
 - Pilgrimage to Martyrs' Shrine, Midland (A National Pilgrimage Site) Fall 2025

G. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT- *Alexandra Gonzalez and Josie Rocca*

1. Alexandra Gonzalez shared that:

Christmas Eve 2024 marked the beginning of a Holy Year with Pope Francis opening the Holy Doors at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. This happens once every twenty-five years and is a time of renewal, forgiveness and mercy. Pope Francis asked each diocese throughout the world to officially begin the Jubilee Year on December 29, 2024 and the day was marked with a Mass at our Cathedral at two o'clock in the afternoon.

The theme that Pope Francis has chosen for this Jubilee is, "Pilgrims of Hope". In the document initiating this year (Spes Non Confundit -Hope Does Not Disappoint), the Holy Father states, "Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. Even so, uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings, ranging from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt. ... For all of us, may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope. God's word helps us find reasons for that hope." (SC 1)

We just celebrated the feast of Christmas, that is more than just presents and gifts. It is a great mystery of hope that is found in the birth of a child which is always a joyous event. What makes this birth so unique is that the child is Jesus, the Son of God.

New life is always a sign of hope; however, this becomes even more significant when it is connected to our salvation. God became a little child in order to save us so that we could be with Him forever. This means that on our pilgrimage of life, we have a future. It is rooted in a belief that good things will come to us because Jesus was born in a simple stable in Bethlehem. May any disappointments that come from anxiety and doubt be overshadowed by the bright hope found in the birth of the Christ child.

In addition to finding hope in God's grace, we are also called to discover the signs of the times that the Lord gives us. The signs of the times which include the yearning of human hearts in need of God's saving presence, ought to become signs of hope.

Christ is our source of hope. We draw closer to Christ and draw other to him. Christ is
KNOCKING – WE NEED TO OPEN THE DOOR OF OUR HEARTS.

There are three areas of hope in this Signs of the times:

1. **Eucharist:** What we do at every mass, it is the ONE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST. The Eucharist is a source of hope, so invite more people to mass.
2. **The Cross:** The Holy Father asked that in every Cathedral and every Diocese there be a Jubilee Cross where people can Pilgrimage, can come pray before the cross and receive special grace through an indulgence. Our pilgrimage cross is the large Crucifix on the right at the Cathedral.
3. **Family:** Mary treasured all these things in her heart: to do more to show family is a treasure, not to be afraid to promote marriage, rather than just living together, promote openness to having children, and be not afraid.

As Most Reverend Bishop Bergie said: “May the coming Holy Year also bring us closer to Jesus as we take to heart the words of Pope Francis: “may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the ‘door’ of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as ‘our hope’”. (SC 1)

For more information, please contact the Catholic Centre or Nick Ali, Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation at 905.684.0154.

If you are looking for an opportunity to grow in the faith, “Become a Pilgrim of Hope”, visit the Holy Doors in our Diocese:

- Cathedral of St. Catharines of Alexandria, 31 Lyman St., St. Catharines
- St. Vincent de Paul Church, 73 Picton St., NOTL
- Our Lady of the Rosary Shrine, 4706 Miller Rd., Welland
- Gethsemane Ministries, 84008 Wellandport Rd., Wellandport
- Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave., Niagara Falls

Alexandra also shared a video created by staff and students at St. Alexander Catholic Elementary School promoting the Year of the Jubilee 2025.

2. Josie Rocca, Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

Josie Rocca shared that as Vincentian members of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul we see Christ in anyone who suffers. We come together as a family, have personal contact with the poor, and help in all possible ways. Each year various SSVDP parish conferences within the Diocese of St. Catharines support those in need with their Christmas projects.

Volunteers spend numerous hours putting together Christmas baskets and hampers, distributing gift cards, organizing Christmas Angel trees at various parishes when parishoners buy a gift for a child, collecting toys for toy drives, all done with compassion and love. The challenge of going the extra mile is not to expect a reward, but to feel that you are helping. Josie stated at she has

seen these volunteers go the distance for the sake of helping others not only at Christmas but all year long.

Josie also extended a sincere thank you to the students and staff across Niagara Catholic who through their kindness and generosity via food drives, clothing drives and monetary donations Vincentians were able to help the less fortunate to serve our Lord in the poor with love, respect, hope and joy. Each year Niagara Catholic schools go above and beyond living the Gospel by supporting those in need.

Saint Vincent de Paul is currently in the planning stages of special projects such as North of the 60 project for Nauyasat Nunavut, and summer camp.

Parish conferences and St. Vincent de Paul stores are always looking for volunteers. In the December Issue of the Vineyard there is a list of conference presidents and store information. If you would like to volunteer, donate, or obtain more information, please feel free to contact Josie at rocca_josie@hotmail.com.

H. SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) REPORT

Superintendent Zaroda on behalf of the Special Education Advisory Committee reported that Niagara Catholic alumnus Michael Jacques gave an inspiring speech at the January 8, SEAC Meeting about overcoming his life challenges.

Michael is the author of two books, *Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book*, and *I Belong – Can I Play?*

With learning challenges and autism, Michael wasn't expected to graduate high school, but he did. He has become a passionate advocate for people living with autism and other intellectual challenges, including serving on the Board of Autism Ontario.

Michael is also a former Special Olympics athlete and is a highly sought-after speaker. In addition to many presentations to Niagara Catholic schools, the Board of Trustees, and committees, Michael has done numerous TV interviews and speaks to global corporations such as Apple about the importance and value of including people with autism or other learning challenges as part of their workforce.

Michael credits the support of his family, his teachers at St. Alexander and Notre Dame College and his employer (Sobey's) for their support in helping him meet his goals.

I. STAFF REPORTS

Elementary Principal, Maria Solomon

Wishing everyone a joyful New Year filled with health and happiness in 2025!

- In December 2024, Pope Francis announced "Pilgrims of Hope" as the theme for the 2025 Jubilee Year, which is also the theme for OCSTA's 2024-25 Catholic Education Week. This theme will be celebrated throughout the year, culminating in Catholic Education Week in May. We are excited to announce that four of our Niagara Catholic schools are finalists in the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association's annual Short Video Contest, with the theme "Pilgrims

of Hope." Three of our schools, St. Alexander, St. George, and St. Mary (NF) Catholic elementary schools, as well as Notre Dame College School, have participated. We are eagerly awaiting the results from the OCSTA.

- We're excited about the continued success of extracurricular activities in our schools, including upcoming events in sports and robotics. Students will have the opportunity to grow in teamwork, leadership, and technical skills through Junior Boys/Girls Basketball and VEX Robotics competitions.
- On January 17, teachers will be engaged in Report Card Writing Day while all Elementary Educational Assistants, Child and Youth Workers, Early Childhood Educators, HR staff, and Elementary Principals will participate in a session with Dr. Carrington, a renowned psychologist. Dr. Carrington's work focuses on understanding how we can reconnect and rebuild, and will guide us on how we collectively navigate challenges to return to a place of understanding and unity. The remaining half of the day will be dedicated to Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) recertification.
- January 29 Niagara Catholic is offering a virtual "Drawing with God" Workshop from Kindergarten to Grade 8.
- Additionally, "Kids Helping Kids" will run during two weeks in February, alongside various school-wide events and we are also looking forward to the Kindergarten Registration Open House, which will take place across the Board from February 4 to 7.
- Niagara Catholic is also hosting a Board wide Kindergarten Art Exhibition on February 10.
- St. Mary Niagara Falls will be once again hosting Niagara Catholic's Chess Tourney that supports all schools throughout the Board. This is a four-day tournament that has been tentatively booked for March 24-27.
- Family Day Holiday is February 17.
- Chaplaincy visits continue in all the schools to support our faith, and Literacy and Numeracy initiatives
- Ash Wednesday is on March 5, and students across the system will receive ashes.

Chris McLean shared:

- Grade 10 students wrote the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) on December 3, 2024. Results will be released the end of January. Successful completion of the OSSLT is a graduation requirement.
- Secondary Open Houses have begun and have been well attended.
- Secondary Open Houses for Advanced Placement (AP) courses have also been well attended.
- Secondary co-curricular activities continue. Winter activities include but are not limited to: ski club, figure skating, badminton, swimming, wrestling, rowing, curling, hockey, boys' basketball and girls' volleyball.
- Students are preparing for semester one exams. Exams take place January 22-28, 2025.
- Semester Two begins January 30, 2025.

J. TRUSTEE REPORT-Joe Bruzzese

Trustee Bruzzese shared that in dialogue with OAPCE, the OAPCE Conference will take place in Niagara Falls on Saturday, April 5, 2025. The conference is a wonderful opportunity to connect with parents across Ontario, participate in workshops, meet vendors, engage with guest speakers and celebrate Mass as a community. Further details to follow.

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

Superintendent Zaroda reported that:

The Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education with Honourary Guest, Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines, and the presentation of the Niagara Catholic Award of Distinction will take place on Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Club Roma in St. Catharines. Tickets for this event will go on sale soon.

Nominations for the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction

Recipients of the Niagara Catholic Award of Distinction include members of the clergy and religious orders, and long-time supporters of Catholic education.

ELIGIBILITY

Any individual or group who has participated in, or contributed to the growth of Catholic Education in the Niagara Region.

CRITERIA

Nominees must have:

- Made a notable, long-time, significant, and positive contribution to Catholic education in the Niagara region.
- Demonstrated leadership that has had an identifiable impact on the Catholic character of the Board.
- Supported the ideal of the Christian community among Niagara Catholic schools and the diocese.
- Accompanied students on their Catholic faith journey.
- Demonstrated a commitment to Catholic education.
- Been an advocate for Catholic education in the Niagara region.

NCPIC members were sent the nomination form, and are welcome to nominate a worthy recipient. Yvonne also has paper copies available at the end of the meeting for anyone who is interested.

Nominations for the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction are open until midnight on Friday, January 31 and are to be submitted directly to Melissa Ciarlo.

L. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.

M. CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Paul MacNeil closed the meeting with the Jubilee Prayer.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Kate Hingston

THAT the January 9, 2025 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
MARCH 25, 2025**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: EXTENDED OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP, EXCURSION AND
EXCHANGE APPROVAL COMMITTEE 2024-2025**

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee
2024-2025 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: March 25, 2025



REPORT TO THE BOARD MARCH 25, 2025

EXTENDED OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP, EXCURSION AND EXCHANGE APPROVAL COMMITTEE 2024-2025

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee continues to review proposals for 2024-2025 extended overnight field trips, excursions and exchanges as submitted to date. The composition of the approval Committee is as follows:

1 Supervisory Officer	-	Joseph Zaroda
1 Secondary School Vice-Principal	-	Monique Mastroianni
1 Secondary School Principal	-	Krista Moscato
1 Elementary School Principal	-	Rosie Araujo
1 Program Department Consultant	-	Fred Wilson

As defined in the Niagara Catholic Educational Field Trips Administrative Operational Procedures 400.2, an Extended Overnight Field Trip is:

- A field trip that requires four or more nights' lodgings, or requiring an individual flight ticket of \$600.00 or more.
- An extended overnight field trip which involves more than one school will follow the same procedures and will require the approval of the principal/administrator and the Family of Schools' Superintendent of Education of all participating schools at the time of submission for approval.

An Excursion is defined as follows:

- An excursion is a trip that is planned and arranged for secondary school students that would be held during the year when students are not normally expected to be attending classes and that may not adhere to all guidelines and procedures relating to educational field trips. Approval will not normally be granted for excursions that require students and/or staff to be away from school on a regularly scheduled instructional school day.

Attached to this information report is an Executive Summary of a 2024-2025 Extended Overnight Field Trip as submitted on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. (Appendix A)

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee 2024-2025
report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: March 25, 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Appendix A

Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Committee Approval – 2024-2025

SCHOOL	TYPE	APPROVAL REQUIRED	DESTINATION	CURRICULUM UNIT/THEME	EDUCATION VALUE	FAITH COMPONENT	DATE	NUMBER OF STUDENTS, STAFF & CHAPERONES ON TRIP	DURATION	COST (APPROX)	TRANSPORTATION
Saint Francis Secondary School	Extended Overnight Field Trip	Superintendent Extended Overnight Field Trip Committee and SAC	Orlando, Florida	Non-Credit	International Career Development Conference (ICDC). The pinnacle event/competition with Ontario DECA. Students from across Ontario who qualified at DECA Provincials in Toronto gather to compete at the highest level in business case competitions before judges as well as complete a knowledge-based business component.	N/A	April 25-30, 2025	1 student 1 staff – Nancy McDermott 1 Chaperone – Joanna Crosson – Sir Winston Churchill SS - Business Teacher	6 days	\$4207.50 includes for 2 people: airfare, hotel accommodations, ICDC registration, insurance, airport transfers, 3 breakfasts, training lunch and dinner. Additional cost for lunches, dinners, and swag. Cancellation policy has been reviewed parent.	Plane