

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 8, 2025**

PUBLIC SESSION

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

The Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities report is
presented for information.

Prepared by: Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education
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Approved by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: April 8, 2025



REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FEBRUARY 11, 2025

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In alignment with Niagara Catholic's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, the Department of Staff Development, as an integral aspect of its mandate, acts as the point of co-ordination among various departments. Thus ensuring that all professional development opportunities for staff, both teaching and non-teaching, occur in a seamless fashion to minimize disruptions to the myriad services provided within our Niagara Catholic community. The following is a listing of activities occurring during the period April 8, 2025 through May 13, 2025.

Professional Activity Day – April 4, 2025

ELEMENTARY AGENDA

8:30-8:45	Land Acknowledgement & Opening Prayer
8:45-10:15	Professional Development Sessions
10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-12:00	Keynote Address: <u>Navigating the AI Future: A Guide for Educators and Leaders</u> Speaker: Giancarlo Brotto
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00-2:00	Keynote Address: <u>Getting Starting with AI in Education</u> Speakers: Jeff Maxwell & John Forte
2:00-2:30	BrightSpace Online Training Module Session

Description: This mandatory 15-minute online training module provides essential guidance on submitting reports through the new Safe Schools, Workplace Violence, and Incident Reporting System at NCDSB. The training introduces staff to the updated electronic reporting process within the eBase platform, ensuring compliance with organizational protocols and regulatory requirements. The new system streamlines the incident reporting procedure, offering a user-friendly and efficient method for documenting workplace incidents, safety concerns, and instances of violence. One of the key features of this updated platform is its dynamic and responsive form design. The form adapts in real time based on how users respond to specific questions, ensuring that only relevant fields are presented. This intuitive functionality simplifies the reporting process while capturing the necessary information with precision. By completing this module,

employees will gain a clear understanding of how to accurately and effectively submit incident reports, reinforcing a safer and more accountable work and learning environment.

2:30-3:00 Principal/Vice-Principal Consolidation

SECONDARY AGENDA

8:00-8:30 Land Acknowledgement & Opening Prayer

8:30-10:15 Multidisciplinary Sessions

10:15-10:30 Break

10:30-12:00 Keynote Address: Navigating the AI Future: A Guide for Educators and Leaders
Speaker: Giancarlo Brotto

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:00 Keynote Address: Getting Starting with AI in Education
Speakers: Jeff Maxwell & John Forte

2:00-2:30 BrightSpace Online Training Module Session

Description: This mandatory 15-minute online training module provides essential guidance on submitting reports through the new Safe Schools, Workplace Violence, and Incident Reporting System at NCDSB. The training introduces staff to the updated electronic reporting process within the eBase platform, ensuring compliance with organizational protocols and regulatory requirements. The new system streamlines the incident reporting procedure, offering a user-friendly and efficient method for documenting workplace incidents, safety concerns, and instances of violence. One of the key features of this updated platform is its dynamic and responsive form design. The form adapts in real time based on how users respond to specific questions, ensuring that only relevant fields are presented. This intuitive functionality simplifies the reporting process while capturing the necessary information with precision. By completing this module, employees will gain a clear understanding of how to accurately and effectively submit incident reports, reinforcing a safer and more accountable work and learning environment.

Elementary Professional Development Sessions - April 4, 2025

Session Title	Session Description	Audience - Employee Group
Data based decision making in Literacy and Math	In this professional learning session, educators will explore how student data acts as a roadmap for responsive, effective instruction in literacy and math. Participants will engage in hands-on data analysis to identify learning needs, and next steps for targeted teaching. Kindergarten to Grade 2/3 educators will be engaged in data analysis, grounded in literacy, while Grades 3–8 educators will focus on math.	Grades K-8

Le CECR et l'approche actionnelle	This session will focus on the CEFR levels A1 and A2. We will investigate what those learners in CORE French are expected to do in our French elementary classrooms. We will explore how Echos Pros and Mon Réseau resources meet the needs of our students.	Core French Elementary Grades 4-8
Inclusive Interactions including Sport and Activity	Disability knows no boundaries between race, culture, religion, gender or economic status. Expanding perspectives on disability can establish a more holistic approach to creating inclusive classrooms, schools and communities. Join an interactive workshop to learn more about supporting students who have disabilities and creating allies with students who don't have disabilities. Topics will include language and interactions, the benefits of activity for all, barriers to inclusive sport and activity, as well as solutions, resources, and student perspectives.	Elementary EAs Intervenors Elementary ERTs PTM Teachers
Exploring Words Before All Else the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address and Indigenous Spirituality	Educators will deepen their understanding of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address and Indigenous spirituality, fostering respect and appreciation for Indigenous cultures and practices. The session will explore the historical context and key elements of the Thanksgiving Address, reflecting on themes of gratitude and interconnectedness. The session will also provide an overview of Indigenous spirituality, emphasizing its diversity and core principles, such as the connection to the land and the importance of community.	<u>Indigenous Champions</u> Elementary & Secondary
Exploring Resources to Support Arts Teaching K-8	Itinerant Arts teachers will engage in self-directed professional learning to explore the new resources shared since the beginning of this school year, including: Indigenous Education arts resources (folder in Shared Drive), Noteflight Learn, <i>First, We Sing!</i> Kodaly-Inspired Teaching book, TVOLearn Arts resources available through the NCVLE. Teachers should develop ways to integrate these resources into their long-range plans.	Itinerant Arts Teachers

Library Summer Team Meeting	Summer team schedule and planning meeting - staff will be contacted directly if required. All other full-time staff are to be at home site as normal.	Select library support team members
Inclusive Interactions including Sport and Activity	Disability knows no boundaries between race, culture, religion, gender or economic status. Expanding perspectives on disability can establish a more holistic approach to creating inclusive classrooms, schools and communities. Join an interactive workshop to learn more about supporting students who have disabilities and creating allies with students who don't have disabilities. Topics will include language and interactions, the benefits of activity for all, barriers to inclusive sport and activity, as well as solutions, resources, and student perspectives.	Elementary PTM's
Chaplaincy Team Meeting	Regular chaplaincy team meeting and planning for 2025-2026; planning for 2025 CSCO Conference.	All Chaplaincy Leaders

Secondary Professional Development Sessions - April 4, 2025

Title of Session	Session Description	Audience - Employee Group
Advanced Placement Math	Gain a better understanding of how students analyze and interpret quantitative data.	Math
Advanced Placement Science	Gain a better understanding of how students develop quantitative mathematical and scientific arguments.	Science

Advanced Placement ELA/Social Sciences	Gain a better understanding of how students develop evidence-based written arguments.	ELA/Social Sciences
Advanced Placement Secondary Principal Session	Identifying and growing more equitable and inclusive learning pathways to postsecondary.	Secondary Principals PRE-REGISTERED ONLY
Secondary English (Grades 9-12)	Secondary English teachers will engage in a school-based collaborative professional development session within their department aimed at creating or updating literacy lessons and core literature units, reviewing modes of teaching instruction; in addition to ensuring assessment and evaluation practices align with current English curriculum to support overall student achievement. Teachers are encouraged to explore various digital resources to connect Grades 9-12 English course development through: Lexia, Edwin, Curio, TVOLearn (NBE3U), FNMIEAO, Blooms, Britannica and EQAO (OSSLT Preparation).	English Teachers
Exploring resources for Secondary French and planning for FSF 1D	This session will introduce secondary teachers to the new digital resources for FSL found in IDELLO. After the virtual session, teachers will have time to explore the resource and continue to work on developing materials for the FSF 1D course.	Secondary FSL Teachers
Uncover the Plot: Using Mystery and Imagination to Develop Data Literacy with HHMI BioInteractive Data Points	Come explore how we can spark students' curiosity about graphs and engage them in rich discussions about authentic data. To do this, we'll make use of HHMI BioInteractive Data Points activities, free graphs and lesson materials drawn from real peer-reviewed studies. Using Data Points, we'll practice building students' confidence in working with data by making potentially intimidating graphs accessible and relevant to their own experiences We'll also discuss how to use these activities to generate lots of active, engaged class discussion, including — and often especially — among students who are at other times reluctant to participate.	Secondary Grade 9 Science, Grade 10 Science & Biology Teachers

	<p>We'll then explore the many other free resources and supports available through the BioInteractive website, including classroom-ready activities and lessons, peer support from an online community of experienced biology teachers, and online professional development workshops.</p>	
<p>PART 1: 2025 - Year of Quantum Science and Technology</p>	<p>PART 1: Immerse yourself in 2025: The Year of Quantum Science and Technology. Independently explore the Quantum Science and Technology resources provided by the Perimeter Institute.</p>	<p>Secondary Physics Teachers</p>
<p>PART 2: Classroom Activities for Dark Matter</p>	<p>PART 2: Join Damian Pope at 8:45 as he finds ways to connect your students with current physics research. Join us in observing an experiment and collecting observations from uniform circular motion to introduce students to dark matter (a mysterious substance that researchers think makes up most of the matter in the universe). The Mystery of Dark Matter resource is the product of collaboration between classroom teachers and Perimeter Institute researchers.</p>	<p>Secondary Physics Teachers</p>
<p>Effective Strategies and Resources for Teaching Science and Chemistry</p>	<p>In this self-directed session, chemistry teachers can delve into a range of resources offered by the Perimeter Institute, all viewed through the lens of chemistry. Dive into <i>Tools for Teaching Science</i>, <i>The Nature of Science</i>, and <i>Career Moves: Skills for the Journey, Second Edition</i>. These free resources are ideal for science teachers aiming to enhance student learning. Additionally, teachers will have the chance to incorporate the strategies, activities, and information into their existing lessons and course content.</p>	<p>Secondary Chemistry Teachers</p>

Inclusive Interactions including Sport and Activity	Disability knows no boundaries between race, culture, religion, gender or economic status. Expanding perspectives on disability can establish a more holistic approach to creating inclusive classrooms, schools and communities. Join an interactive workshop to learn more about supporting students who have disabilities and creating allies with students who don't have disabilities. Topics will include language and interactions, the benefits of activity for all, barriers to inclusive sport and activity, as well as solutions, resources, and student perspectives.	Secondary EAs Intervenors Student Support Program Chairs Secondary ERTs Special Education Classroom Teachers
Edwin: Maximizing Learning with Minimal Tech	Explore creative ways to leverage limited technology in your classroom to maximize student engagement and learning outcomes. Through practical strategies, we'll discover multiple ways to utilize digital tools while still fostering a dynamic learning environment.	Secondary Social Sciences/Canadian and World Studies Teachers
Exploring Words Before All Else the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address and Indigenous Spirituality	Educators will deepen their understanding of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address and Indigenous spirituality, fostering respect and appreciation for Indigenous cultures and practices. The session will explore the historical context and key elements of the Thanksgiving Address, reflecting on themes of gratitude and interconnectedness. The session will also provide an overview of Indigenous spirituality, emphasizing its diversity and core principles, such as the connection to the land and the importance of community.	Indigenous Champions (Elementary and Secondary) Secondary Religion Teachers Secondary Social Science Teachers (optional)
Secondary Visual Arts Collaborative Planning - Young Artists Gallery	Secondary Visual Arts teachers will participate in a collaborative virtual session to share ideas and best practices. Following this, visual arts teachers will have the opportunity to work on enhancing and refining their course content, individually or within their own department, considering the incorporation of resources that were presented in the November PA slideshow.	Secondary Visual Arts

Secondary Music Collaborative Planning	<p>Secondary music teachers will participate in a day of collaborative planning and learning at Saint Paul Catholic High School.</p> <p>Organizing and finalizing the secondary music festival, sharing best practices, and discussing new opportunities and resources will be the major components of this morning session.</p>	Secondary Music
Exploring Desmos in the Classroom	Integrating curriculum expectations using digital technology such as desmos to enhance, represent and visualize abstract concepts for both pedagogical and assessment purposes.	Secondary Math
Library Summer Team Meeting	<p>Summer team schedule and planning meeting - staff will be contacted directly if required.</p> <p>All other full-time staff are to be at home site as normal.</p>	Library Support Staff
Exploring Words Before All Else the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address and Indigenous Spirituality	Educators will deepen their understanding of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address and Indigenous spirituality, fostering respect and appreciation for Indigenous cultures and practices. The session will explore the historical context and key elements of the Thanksgiving Address, reflecting on themes of gratitude and interconnectedness. The session will also provide an overview of Indigenous spirituality, emphasizing its diversity and core principles, such as the connection to the land and the importance of community.	Secondary Religion Teachers
Chaplaincy Team Meeting	Regular chaplaincy team meeting and planning for 2025-2026; planning for 2025 CSCO Conference.	All Chaplaincy Leaders
Partnership Outreach	Coop Teachers will engage with community outreach in order to foster a greater database of centralized placement	COOP Teachers

Health and Physical Education Collaborative Planning	<p>Secondary health and physical education teachers will participate in a day of collaborative planning and learning at Notre Dame College School.</p> <p>Planning and organizing the health and fitness summative portfolios, sharing best practices in assessment and evaluation, and discussing new opportunities and resources will be the major components of this session.</p>	Health and Physical Education Teachers
Safety Requirements in the Technology Classroom	Robert McAlpine, the Niagara Catholic Safety and Prevention Supervisor, will engage staff in required training guidelines for health and safety within the classroom	Business and Tech Teachers
Secondary Student Services	Student Services - Guidance and Student Success teachers will take part in presentation from Niagara Falls University	Guidance Student Success

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