

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 17, 2025**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE  
WHOLE MEETING OF JUNE 10, 2025**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the** Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 10, 2025, as presented.

The following recommendations are being presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 10, 2025:

**7.1.1 Year-End Math Achievement Action Plan**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board continue to endorse the Niagara Catholic District School Board Math Achievement Action Plan 2024-2025



# MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, June 10, 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 Bruzzese.

### 2. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Burkholder noted that all Trustees and Student Trustees were in attendance.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Natalia Benoit	✓			
Joseph Bruzzese	✓			
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Danny Di Lorenzo	✓			
Larry Huibers	✓			
Doug Joyner	✓			
Jim Marino	✓			
Paul Turner	✓			
<b>Student Trustees</b>				
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; **Julia Tiessen**, Executive Officer of Human Resources; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 10, 2025, as amended.

**Item B1 Deferred to June Board Meeting**

**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 May 13, 2025**

Moved by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 13, 2025, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. Consent Agenda Items**

Trustee Marino requested Item A6.1 be held. This item was moved to Committee and Staff Reports Section C of the agenda.

**6.1 Capital Projects Progress Report Update**

Moved to Section C3

**6.2 In Camera Items G1**

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

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

**CARRIED**

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

**1. New Student Trustee and Co-Chair – Student Senate 2025-2026/2026-2027**

Deferred to June Board meeting.

**2. Elementary ERT Resource Support Model**

Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education presented the Elementary ERT Resource Support Model for Trustee Information.

Superintendent Pizzoferrato answered questions of Trustees.

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

### **1. Math Achievement Action Plan 2024-2025 Final Report**

Kim Kinney, Superintendent of Education presented the Math Achievement Action Plan Final Report for 2024-2025.

Moved by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board continue to endorse the Niagara Catholic District School Board Math Achievement Action Plan 2024-2025.

**CARRIED**

### **2. 2025-2026 Original Estimates**

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services presented the Original Estimates for the Annual Budget for 2025-2026.

Superintendent Vetrone answered questions of Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the report on the 2025-2026 Original Estimates, as presented.

**CARRIED**

### **3. Consent Agenda Item A6.1 - Capital Projects Progress Report Update**

Superintendent Vetrone answered questions of Trustees.

### **4. Monthly Updates**

#### **4.1 Student Trustees' Update**

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

#### **4.2 Senior Staff Good News Update**

Senior Staff highlights included:

##### **Superintendent Pizzoferrato**

- Principals and ERT's were invited to share good news during EA allocation meetings for the fall, and the responses were overwhelmingly positive. One highlight was a student-created newsletter from the Secondary Special Education classroom at Saint Michael Catholic High School, supported by a grade 12 student and staff, with a third edition planned for June.
- A new Special Olympics event was held at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Elementary School, sparked by a conversation among the principal, vice-principal, and EAs. Plans are already underway to grow the event across all school families next year, supported by the accessibility and planning committees.

**Superintendent Zaroda**

- Students at Lakeshore Catholic are making a real impact in their community. Mr. Natale's construction class partnered with St. John Bosco Church, Father Peter, and the Catholic Women's League to design and build a community donation box. Now installed at the church, the box offers canned goods, books, and hygiene products for anyone in need. This hands-on project not only developed practical skills but also strengthened ties with local parishes and supported the wider community.

**Superintendent Rocca**

- On May 15th, all Grade 11 NBE English classes took part in a unique learning experience exploring Canadian filmmaking through an Indigenous lens. Students viewed seven short films, participated in a thought-provoking Q&A, and had the opportunity to hear from award-winning Cree-Métis filmmaker Asia Youngman, who shared her journey and insights on Indigenous storytelling and authentic representation in film.
- On May 30th, 20 self-identified Indigenous secondary students visited Willowbank School of Restoration for an immersive, hands-on learning experience. Organized by Niagara Catholic's Specialist High Skills Major team and Indigenous Education Team, students toured the historic site, used traditional tools in a restoration workshop, and connected over lunch with an Indigenous tradesperson who shared career insights in the skilled trades.

## **D. GOVERNANCE POLICIES**

### **1. Governance Policies for Recommendation to the Board**

#### **1.1. Occupational Health and Safety Policy (201.6)**

Julia Tiessen, Executive Officer of Human Resources Services noted that no feedback was received from the vetting process for the Occupational Health and Safety Policy (201.6).

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

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Occupational Health and Safety Policy (201.6), as presented.

**APPROVED**

#### **1.2. Employee Workplace Harassment Policy (201.7)**

Executive Officer Tiessen noted that no feedback was received from the vetting process for the Employee Workplace Harassment Policy (201.7).

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

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee Di Lorenzo

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Employee Workplace Harassment Policy (201.7), as presented.

**APPROVED**

**1.3. Employee Workplace Violence Policy (201.11)**

Executive Officer Tiessen noted that no feedback was received from the vetting process for the Employee Workplace Violence Policy (201.11).

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

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee Joyner

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Employee Workplace Violence Policy (201.11), as presented/amended.

**APPROVED**

**2. Governance Policies Prior to Vetting**

**2.1. Naming of a Board Facility, Designate Area or Chapel Policy (100.15)**

Director Cipriano, presented the Naming of a Board Facility, Designate Area or Chapel Policy (100.15).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Naming of a Board Facility, Designate Area or Chapel Policy (100.15), be vetted from June 11, 2025 to August 27, 2025 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in September, for consideration to the Board in September.

**3. Governance Policy Review Schedule**

**E. INFORMATION**

**1. Trustee Information**

Trustee Bruzzese highlighted the 86<sup>th</sup> Ontario Association of Parents and Catholic Education conference

## **F. OTHER BUSINESS**

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

- 1.1 Director Cipriano reminded Trustees of the upcoming Graduations and the Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration being held on Thursday.

## **G. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole move into the In Camera Session.

**CARRIED**

The Committee of the Whole moved into the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 8:21 p.m. and reconvened at 8:34 p.m.

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

Moved by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 10, 2025.

**CARRIED**

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

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

**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 May 13, 2025, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item G1)**

Staffing moves were provided and a DPA Committee item was discussed.

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the June 10, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **June 10, 2025.**

Approved on **September 9, 2025.**

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Rhianon Burkholder  
Vice-Chair of the Board

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Camillo Cipriano  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 17, 2025**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**TITLE: MATH ACHIEVEMENT ACTION PLAN 2024-2025  
FINAL REPORT**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board continue to endorse the Niagara Catholic District School Board Math Achievement Action Plan 2024-2025

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Prepared by: Kim Kinney – Superintendent of Education, Board Math Lead

Presented by: Kim Kinney – Superintendent of Education, Board Math Lead

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: June 17, 2025





# REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JUNE 10, 2025

## MATH ACHIEVEMENT ACTION PLAN 2024-2025 FINAL REPORT

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### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Ministry of Education launched Ontario's Math Achievement Action Plan during the 2023-2024 school year to support student achievement and results in math across the province. The ministry brought together experts in mathematics education to better understand the next steps for math improvement in Ontario. Through this work, the ministry developed *Taking Action in Mathematics* (Appendix A), an iterative framework to capture areas of focus and guide improvement actions.

#### Math Achievement Action Plan

Informed by the ministry's *Taking Action in Mathematics* framework, the Board Math Lead, along with the Math Facilitators developed a board Math Achievement Action Plan, which included three sections:

- All schools report to provide board-wide improvement efforts and results in mathematics
- Priority Schools report to provide intensive improvement efforts
- Priority Schools Provincial KPI (Key Performance Indicators) report to provide intentional monitoring of student achievement KPI's common to all priority schools across the province.

The Math Achievement Action Plan outlines the board's concrete, visible, and measurable strategies as well as key performance indicators at the board, school, and classroom level under the four areas of focus:

1. Curriculum Fidelity
2. Math Content Knowledge for Teaching
3. Knowing Your Student
4. Measurable Results: Improvements in Math Achievement

The Math Achievement Action Plan is to be endorsed by the Director and trustees of the board and will be submitted to the ministry under the following timelines:

November 15, 2024 (Initial): Initial strategies and KPI's  
March 15, 2025 (Progress): Incorporate data from Term 1/Semester 1  
July 15, 2025 (Final): Incorporate data from Term 2/Semester 2

All schools continue to engage in the work of their Math Achievement Action Plans.

- All staff Kindergarten – Grade 8 received job-embedded Literacy and Numeracy Professional Learning during Chaplaincy Visits through the year targeting the three priority actions identified by the Ministry. Kindergarten-Grade 2 Educators focused on the components of a comprehensive

math program during their professional learning sessions that helped to relate curriculum expectations to instruction and assessment practices and the use of mathematics resources to support student learning.

- K-8 educators were invited to participate in a learning network that consisted of two professional learning sessions including math, literacy, and ABA. A total of 182 educators participated during this school year.
- Secondary Program Chairs participated in two professional learning sessions to support the implementation of their Math Achievement Action Plans, in addition to coaching support as requested.
- Grades 3 and 6 educators at Priority schools received additional in-classroom support and professional development from the Board Math Facilitators (Math Consultant and Math Coaches) throughout the school year.
- Professional learning related to the Ministry's Priority Actions has been included in Elementary and Secondary PA Days.
- Principals continued to participate in Principal Learning Teams concentrating on leading math learning in their schools.
- Positive feedback from the Ministry of Education on the submitted Math Achievement Action Plan and data, specifically the progress that has been identified in relation to the Key Performance Indicators which link observable student outcomes/progress to the educator knowledge and actions.
- Some changes were made to Priority schools for the 2024-25 school year, recognizing the measurable improvements in student achievement at those schools. Through a gradual release of support, schools initially named Priority Schools made way for other schools to benefit from additional support from Math Facilitators (Consultant and Coaches). Schools that were initially recognized as Priority Schools continued to receive some in-classroom coaching support and professional learning throughout the year.
- Updated data from the educator survey administered the week of June 3<sup>rd</sup> as well as June report card data will be used to report to the Ministry for the final report of the year.

## Student Engagement

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 10 have access to Knowledgehook, one of the Board's selected digital math tools. While the tool serves a variety of purposes for the educators, including diagnostic and formative assessment, as well as supporting educator content knowledge for teaching mathematics, it also provides opportunities for students to engage in math questions that are directly related to the Ontario Curriculum.

The chart below provides a comparison of metrics regarding student use of Knowledgehook:

## Doing More Math – Before and After School

Metrics – Niagara Catholic DSB	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
# of students doing math before or after school	2,783	5,052	6,331
# of questions answered before or after school	287,654	562,776	867,46
# of students accessing the KH Game	N/A	1,677	3,379

## Asking for help and/or more math

Metrics – Niagara Catholic DSB	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
# of requests for Question Help	4,042	7,344	8,521
# of students requesting Question Help	1,312	2,047	2,158
# of requests to teachers for more Missions	30	777	1,987
# of students requesting more Missions from their teachers	16	463	1,150
# of students completing Half or Full Mathalons (125/250 activities)	3,117	7,335	9,168

## Appendix A:

## Taking action in mathematics | Look-fors by provincial action

Math achievement efforts across the province should include multiple proven evidence-informed strategies and approaches to address local learning needs in schools.

The ministry has worked with researchers, math specialists, and school boards to identify three interwoven math actions to be prioritized in the 2023-24 school year. Board Math Leads, as they determine board and school priorities in mathematics achievement, will develop, implement, and monitor a Math Achievement Action Plan that includes meaningful and measurable key performance indicators (KPIs) aligned with each of the priority actions below.

A mathematics community of excellence: In order to promote effective math instruction, it is important for educators to foster mathematics communities in classrooms and schools, and to recognize that not all students learn math in the same way or within the same time frames. Effective math instruction is supported by an inclusive, positive, and safe learning environment where all students feel valued and engaged, and in which educators clearly communicate expectations and establish norms and routines with their students at the beginning of instruction. Educators at all levels of the school system have a role to play in establishing a culture of excellence in mathematics and setting conditions for success. This includes leaders reviewing practices to determine barriers to success, creating accountability, and attending to mathematics attitudes and mindsets in school and system improvement plans.

<p><b>PRIORITY ACTION:</b> Ensuring fidelity of curriculum implementation and use of instructional and assessment practices with a proven track record of enhancing student achievement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How are all educators throughout the system focused on developing a comprehensive understanding and precise implementation of the mathematics curriculum?</li> <li>How do grade, course, and daily lesson plans reflect the current curriculum, including the mathematical processes and connections between curriculum strands?</li> </ul> <p><b>Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritize understanding of the curriculum and the continuum of learning across grades</li> <li>Align resources, including staffing, with mathematics priorities</li> <li>Provide guidelines, resources and supports for mathematics curriculum-aligned long-range plans, unit plans, and lesson plans</li> <li>Leverage digital math resources to support curriculum-linked practice at home</li> </ul>	<p><b>PRIORITY ACTION:</b> Engaging in ongoing learning to strengthen mathematics content knowledge for teaching</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What systems, supports, and resources are available to support teachers and leaders in determining a focus area for their math content knowledge development?</li> <li>How are all educators engaged in ongoing learning that strengthens their own mathematics knowledge, skills, and attitudes about math teaching and learning?</li> </ul> <p><b>Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize student achievement data and student work to establish focus areas for mathematics professional learning</li> <li>Understand the importance of the relationship between mathematics content knowledge and effective mathematics instruction, as it relates to student achievement</li> <li>Prioritize mathematics content knowledge for teaching in professional learning opportunities and in allocation of resources, including staffing</li> </ul>	<p><b>PRIORITY ACTION:</b> Knowing the mathematics learner, and ensuring mathematical tasks, interventions and supports are relevant and responsive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How is student assessment data and prior mathematics knowledge used to guide interventions and planning?</li> <li>How do educators learn about the mathematics strengths, needs and interests of all students to inform their instructional decisions?</li> <li>How are educators supporting inclusion and engagement for all students, especially those with diverse learning needs?</li> </ul> <p><b>Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Align Math Improvement Action Plan with board improvement planning, including using student assessment and demographic data to identify areas of focus</li> <li>Build capacity in data analysis resources to understand mathematics achievement from a variety of sources, including alignment between EQAO, report cards, and locally-developed assessment tools/tasks</li> <li>Provide a digital math tool to support student mathematics learning at home and/or at school, that can be used by teachers to understand current student learning levels and provide targeted supports for students</li> <li>Develop a system-wide attendance strategy for students with more than 10 days of absences as part of board's existing prolonged absence strategy</li> </ul>
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### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board continue to endorse the Niagara Catholic District School Board Math Achievement Action Plan for 2024-2025.

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Prepared by: Kim Kinney, Superintendent of Education, Board Math Lead

Presented by: Kim Kinney, Superintendent of Education, Board Math Lead

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

Date: June 10, 2025

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 17, 2025**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: THE PROVISIONS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS  
AND SERVICES – SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN REVISIONS**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the revisions, as set out in Appendix A to be included in the *Special Education Plan 2025*, as presented.

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Prepared by: Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: June 17, 2025



## REPORT TO THE BOARD JUNE 17, 2025

### THE PROVISIONS OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES – SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN REVISIONS

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#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Ministry of Education requires district school boards to publicly make available a comprehensive report regarding the current special education programs and services of the Board. *Building Bridges to Services 2024 and Beyond* is our Board's current version of the Ministry of Education mandated Special Education Plan that includes the components that are defined in *Special Education in Ontario Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy and Resource Guide 2017* as well as the protocols established in Policy and Program Memorandum 149.

In compliance with *Regulation 464/97*, Student Support staff consults with the Niagara Catholic Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) in the preparation and update of the Special Education Plan. Appendix A lists an Executive Summary of the revisions, as approved by the Special Education Advisory Committee at the SEAC meeting of May 7, 2025, that will be incorporated into the current Special Education Plan.

**Motion 1:**        **THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the revisions to the Provisions of Special Education Programs and Services to be included in the *Special Education Plan 2025*, as presented.

Moved by **Monique Somma**

Seconded by Trustee Rhianon Burkholder

**CARRIED**

**Motion 2:**        **THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee forwards the *Special Education Plan 2025* to the Committee of the Whole for their consideration and approval.

Moved by **Monique Somma**

Seconded by Trustee Jim Marino

**CARRIED**

A checklist that notes the plan's component parts, updated sections and the URL leading to the Special Education Plan on our Board's website is annually completed and submitted to the London Regional Education Office by July 31<sup>st</sup> each year. Once all revisions are finalized, the 2025 Plan will be accessible through Niagara Catholic's website, as it is a valuable resource to students, parents and caregivers, and all Board staff.

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the revisions, as set out in Appendix A to be included in the *Special Education Plan 2024*, as presented.

Prepared by: Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: June 17, 2025

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 17, 2025**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: ECOSCHOOLS RESULTS FOR 2024-2025**

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The EcoSchools results for 2024-2025 report is presented for information.

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Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services  
Cassandra Osborne, Administrative Assistant, Facilities Services

Presented by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

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

Date: June 17, 2025





## **REPORT TO THE BOARD JUNE 17, 2025**

### **ECOSCHOOLS RESULTS FOR 2024-2025**

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#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

##### **EcoSchools Canada: Fostering Environmental Leadership in School Communities**

Through collaboration with educators, students, parents, school board and district officials, and community organizations, EcoSchools Canada empowers school communities to take meaningful action on climate change. By fostering environmental leadership, the program helps build a culture of sustainability in schools across the country.

Since 2005, EcoSchools Canada's award-winning certification framework has provided independent recognition and reporting for schools and outdoor education centres. Reaching approximately one million students annually, it is the largest bilingual, voluntary environmental certification program for K–12 schools in Canada. The program engages all levels of the education sector—including students, teachers, trustees, and parents—through training workshops, webinars, annual conferences, educational resources, and national campaigns.

##### **Certification for Environmental Excellence**

EcoSchools certification is a mark of environmental excellence for elementary and secondary schools. Participation enables students, staff, and parents to assess their current environmental practices and take action to reduce their ecological footprint. Each year, schools apply for certification by completing environmental actions, campaigns, and projects, which are documented in the online EcoSchools Certification Application. Based on a decade of benchmarking, schools are awarded a certification level—Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, or Participation—at the end of the year.

##### **EcoTeams: Champions of Change**

Each participating school forms an EcoTeam—a group of dedicated environmental champions responsible for leading sustainability initiatives. EcoTeams vary in size and composition, ideally including students, staff, parents, and community partners to ensure diverse perspectives and broad engagement.

##### **Taking Action for the Environment**

At the heart of the EcoSchools program are its environmental actions—engaging and educational projects, campaigns, lessons, and challenges that help schools improve their sustainability practices. These actions are designed to be flexible and adaptable to different curricula and school contexts, making certification accessible to all schools across Canada. EcoSchools actions align with Niagara Catholic's Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability Policy, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the Global Foundation for Environmental Education.

Examples of actions include waste-free lunches, school gardens, Good-On-One-Side (GOOS) paper campaigns, and energy audits, among many others.


## Niagara Catholic's Commitment to Sustainability

Niagara Catholic has proudly participated in the EcoSchools Canada program since 2007, with the majority of schools achieving certification at the Platinum, Gold, Silver, or Bronze levels. For the 2024-2025 school year, we are very excited and proud to announce that 93% of our schools are certified with the EcoSchools Canada Program with 98% of our schools participating in the program. Congratulations to all of our schools who worked so hard to accomplish this during a very busy school year - well done!

## 2024–2025 Certification Summary

The following section provides a detailed summary of certification results for the 2024–2025 school year

	<p>Holy Cross CSS Blessed Trinity CSS Notre Dame College St. Alexander CES St. John Henry Newman CES St. Kevin CES St. Ann CES (SC) Mary Ward CES St. Mary CES (NF) St. Therese CES Alexander Kuska CES</p>	<p>St. John Bosco CES St. Nicholas CES St. Philomena CES Canadian Martyrs CES St. Alfred CES St. Michael CES Notre Dame CES St. Denis CES St. Andrew CES OLO Victory CES St. Edward CES</p>
	<p>Saint Paul CHS Saint Francis CSS Saint Michael CHS Lakeshore CHS Denis Morris CHS St. Patrick CES OLO Fatima (G) St. Martin CES Sacred Heart CES Father Hennepin CES St. Ann CES (P) St. Theresa CES St. Anthony CES St. Peter CES</p>	<p>St. Joseph CES (G) St. John CES OLO Holy Rosary CES St. Vincent de Paul CES St. Mary CES (W) OLO Mount Carmel CES St. Augustine CES Assumption CES Holy Name CES Loretto CES St. Patrick CES (NF) St. George CES St. Joseph CES (FE) St. Teresa of Calcutta CES</p>
	<p>St. Christopher CES St. Elizabeth CES</p>	

	St. James CES OLO Fatima (SC) St. Gabriel Lalemant CES
<b>No Participation</b>	St. Mark CES

The EcoSchools results for 2024-2025 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services  
Cassandra Osborne, Administrative Assistant, Facilities Services

Presented by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

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

Date: June 17, 2025

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 17, 2025**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**TITLE: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL POWER – JULY & AUGUST 2025**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board empower Executive Council to approve any actions, of an emergency nature, recommended by the Director of Education, if a quorum cannot be achieved after a Special Meeting of the Board is called as per Board By-Laws, during the months of July and August 2025.

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Prepared by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer  
Presented by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer  
Recommended by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer  
Date: June 17, 2025



## REPORT TO THE BOARD MEETING JUNE 17, 2025

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL POWER – JULY & AUGUST 2025

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#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with the Niagara Catholic District School Board By-Laws Section 10 – Special Meetings of the Board:

*“Special meetings of the Board shall be held by order of the Board, on the written request of three (3) trustees, to the Chair or the Director of Education, on the call of the Chair, or at the request of the Director of Education. The trustees shall be given a twenty-four (24) hour notice for special meetings except in emergency situations. Such meetings shall be called for specific reasons. Such subjects shall be stated in the notice calling the meeting. Notwithstanding any other provisions to the Board’s By-Laws, no other business shall be considered at a special meeting other than the subjects stated in the notice.”*

The following recommendation is presented in the event that it becomes necessary to call a Special Meeting of the Board to deal with emergency items only and a quorum cannot be achieved, after all reasonable attempts by the Director of Education to achieve quorum during the months of July and August 2025 have been exhausted.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board empower Executive Council to approve any actions, of an emergency nature only, as recommended by the Director of Education, only if a quorum cannot be achieved after a Special Meeting of the Board is called as per Board By-Laws, during the months of July and August 2025.

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Prepared by:	Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Presented by:	Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Recommended by:	Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Date:	June 17, 2025

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**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 17, 2025**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TOPIC: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF MAY 7, 2025**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 7, 2025, as presented for information.



## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**May 7, 2025**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., at Community Living Welland/Pelham, 535 Sutherland Ave, Welland, ON L3B 5A4

Chair Monique Somma called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. **Land Acknowledgement**  
Susy Walsh led the Land Acknowledgment
2. **Opening Prayer**  
Monique Somma led the opening prayer
3. **Roll Call**

Members	Affiliations	Present In-person	Present Electronically	Excused	Absent
Jessica Thomas	Autism Ontario Niagara Region		X		
Alyson Wilson	Bethesda Services	X			
Monique Somma (CHAIR)	Community Living (Pelham/Welland)	X			
Christine Bowers	Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)		X		
Andrea Pede	Down Syndrome Niagara		X		
Madeline Cipriano	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara				X
Erica Simmanivong-Elizarraras	Mainstream				X
Chris Tawil	Niagara Children's Centre				X
Linda Vespoli	Pathstone				X
<b>Community Representative</b>					
Krystine Donato		X			
<b>Indigenous Representative</b>					
Cindi Lee Ecker-Flagg		X			
<b>Secondary Student Senate Representative</b>					
Kate Bishop				X	
<b>Trustees</b>					
Trustee, Rhianon Burkholder		X			
Trustee, Jim Marino		X			

The following staff were in attendance:

**Gino Pizzoferrato**, Superintendent of Education, **Susy Walsh**, Elementary Principal, Adele Filice, Secondary Principal and **Jenna Young**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant.

Regrets received: Kate Bishop

Guests/Staff Resources in attendance: Jim DiGioia, Grace Brochu, Ashley Prohaszka, Brittany Wiken, Brooke Loughhead

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by: Trustee Marino

**THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of May 7, 2025 as presented.

**CARRIED**

5. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

6. **Approval of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2025**

Moved by: Alyson Wilson

Seconded by: Krystine Donato

**THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of April 2, 2025 as presented.

**CARRIED**

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

1. ***Erin Carr – Family Service Coordinator and Community Access Coordinator, Community Living Welland Pelham***

Erin presented:

The Strive for Success Tutoring Program, established in October 2023, was developed in conjunction with the Welland Public Library, Brock University and Community Living Welland Pelham.

It was created to help address the need for more accessible educational supports for students in Welland. We provided an inclusive program for students with, and those without, an intellectual disability, where we focused on fun learning activities to keep kids engaged and excited to come back and learn with us.



With generous support from local charities and the Community Living Welland Pelham Board of Directors, funding allowed tutors to work one on one with children in grades 1 through 8 on basic math, literacy and social skills.

As of November 2024, 13 months after the program began; we have supported 34 local children with a total of 406 hours of educational supports.

We are so proud of our students, and happy their legacy will be remembered.

## ***2. Shirleen Allan – Family Service Coordinator***

Shirleen presented:

Historically families have struggled to have their child who requires additional support be successful in a summer camp atmosphere, as well as having to provide their own additional support for their child at a high monetary cost to the family.

For over 10 years now Community Living Welland Pelham has partnered with the City of Welland to provide an inclusive camp experience for youth ages 4-12 who are supported by the association. This year the camp will run out of Diamond Trail School during July and August, with approximately 100 children attending. The campers will take walks to Memorial Park four days a week, and have a trip once a week to places like Safari Niagara.

The presence of Community Living Welland Pelham at the City of Welland Summer Camp allows children that struggle and require additional support the chance to succeed with funding through the Kansas summer shops to hire additional staff. The vision is that the staff become part of the city of Welland system.

Over the years the number of children attending camp changes, and each year the quantity of staff hired is based on those numbers. It is usually between 5-6 staff who provide one-on-one support when required. Some children require less support and, in those cases, there might be two-three campers with one additional staff. This year there are 20 children planning to attend camp and they will each be able to go to camp for two weeks, with many of them having one-on-one support.

The staff work closely with the City of Welland Recreational Supervisor and there is good communication with the parents before camp to gather all information needed to make the week of camp successful. Counselors have been renamed this year as “inclusion camp counselors” to help breakdown any barriers dividing the children needing extra support from the other children attending the camp. Training for the staff is on-going and has included in the past guest speakers from Bethesda and Pathstone, focusing on inclusion for all children.

## ***3. Jim Di Gioia – Special Education Plan Updates/Changes/Motions***

Jim Di Gioia presented:

The Ministry of Education requires district school boards to publicly make available a comprehensive report regarding the current special education programs and services of the Board. *Building Bridges to*

*Services 2024 and Beyond* is our Board's current version of the Ministry of Education mandated Special Education Plan that includes the components that are defined in *Special Education in Ontario Kindergarten to Grade 12 Policy and Resource Guide 2017* as well as the protocols established in Policy and Program Memorandum 149.

In compliance with *Regulation 464/97*, Student Support staff consults with the Niagara Catholic Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) in the preparation and update of the Special Education Plan.

**Motion 1:**        **THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee approves the revisions to the Provisions of Special Education Programs and Services to be included in the *Special Education Plan 2025*, as presented.

Moved by **Monique Somma**

Seconded by Trustee Rhianon Burkholder

**CARRIED**

**Motion 2:**        **THAT** the Special Education Advisory Committee forwards the *Special Education Plan 2025* to the Committee of the Whole for their consideration and approval.

Moved by **Monique Somma**

Seconded by Trustee Jim Marino

**CARRIED**

A checklist that notes the plan's component parts, updated sections and the URL leading to the Special Education Plan on our Board's website is annually completed and submitted to the London Regional Education Office by July 31<sup>st</sup> each year. Once all revisions are finalized, the 2025 Plan will be accessible through Niagara Catholic's website, as it is a valuable resource to students, parents and caregivers, and all Board staff.

### **Special Education Plan 2024 - Executive Summary of Revisions for SEAC**

General Revisions: Update year to reflect 2024-2025 school year

Part 1: Model for Special Education - no change

Part 2: IPRC Process - Update IPRC data numbers HOUSEKEEPING

Part 3: Special Education Placement provided by board - - no change

Part 4: Individual Education Plans - no change

Part 5: Special Education Staff - Update the FTE numbers for job classes HOUSEKEEPING

Part 6: Specialized Equipment - Updates to reflect changes to SEA Guidelines and processes

Part 7: Transportation - no change

Part 8: Transition Planning - no change

Part 9: Roles and Responsibilities in Spec Ed - no change

Part 10: Categories of Exceptionalities - no change

Part 11: Prov and Demo Schools - no change

Part 12: Board's Consultation Process - no change

Part 13: SEAC - update membership information HOUSEKEEPING

Part 14 - Early identification - no change

Part 15 - Educational and other assessments HOUSEKEEPING

Part 16: Coordination of services other ministries - no change

Part 17: Specialized Health support - Updates to reflect change of names for agencies

Part 18: Staff Development - Update to reflect activities from the current school year  
HOUSEKEEPING

Part 19: Accessibility - Update to reflect completed projects from this year HOUSEKEEPING

#### **4. Superintendent Pizzoferrato – New Form of Support in Schools**

Superintendent Pizzoferrato presented:

A new pilot project will be launched at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year where schools that meet certain criteria will be equipped with dedicated clustered classroom space to provide withdrawal assistance to students where programming will be delivered.

#### **C. CHAIR'S REPORT-*Chair Somma***

Monique Somma reported:

- a. **Evolving committee-** over the year we have welcomed several new community organization members, a new trustee and new student rep, and new staff members. Thank you everyone for your ongoing work for our SAEC.
- b. **Informed work-** MACSE survey, transition for gr. 7 students to secondary, community awareness of SEAC through school newsletters, special education plan.
- c. **Shared learning-** presentations from community, and board staff

## D. AGENCY REPORTS

### 1. Autism Ontario Niagara Region- Jessica Thomas

Jessica Thomas reported:

**APPLY NOW! One-to-One Summer Support Worker Reimbursement Fund.** The One-to-One Summer Support Worker Reimbursement Fund is available to Ontario families of children or youth with autism who retain the services of a one-to-one worker to accompany their child to a camp or program or out on community outings. Maximum reimbursements of \$600, per child or youth, (up to 18th birthday) will be made to subsidize services between July and August. We will accept all applications received between **May 1, and May 31, 2025** and have a random draw to determine eligibility. <https://www.autismontario.com/camp>

**APPLY NOW! David Conforti Reach for the Stars Award.** In order to recognize the importance that volunteering had on David's life, and to further encourage and recognize volunteerism with community impact among other people with autism, his family, together with Autism Ontario, created The David Conforti - Reach for the Stars Award as a lasting tribute and in memory of David Conforti's life. Applications will be accepted online only between May 1 – June 30, 2025. <https://www.autismontario.com/DavidConforti>

**“Paperwork Party”- Supporting Caregivers with Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD).**

[-May 13, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM](#)

**Understanding Special Education: Workshop for Caregivers of Autistic Learners.**

- [May 20, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM](#)
- [June 4, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM](#)

**Navigating a New Diagnosis- Information Session for Parents and Caregivers of Autistic Children Over 5.**

[-May 22, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM](#)

**Managing Change: Strategies for Transitions.**

- [May 26, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM](#)

**Autism Ontario Presents: Exploring Autism.**

- [May 27, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM](#)
- [June 17, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM](#)

**Pathways to Special Education Support: Meet & Greet for Families.**

- [May 28, 2025, from 12:00 to 1:30 PM](#)

**NEW Signature Series Webinar: Sensory Strategies that Support Participation in Daily Routines at Home with Moira Peña.** Join us for our next Signature Series webinar with Occupational Therapist Moira Peña and moderator Matt Ley to explore how sensory processing impacts daily routines — and what caregivers can do to help. You'll learn practical, sensory-based strategies using the BEST approach (Body, Emotional, Sensory, Thinking) that you can start using right away to support dressing, eating, transitions, and more.

- [June 5, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM](#)

**On Demand: IN FOCUS, The After Show Building Self-Advocacy Skills for Autistic Women and Girls with Stephanie Moeser.**

- <https://bit.ly/4lGnVma>

**“Paperwork Party”- Supporting Caregivers with Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD).**

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## **2. Bethesda Services-Alyson Wilson**

Alyson Wilson reported:

Bethesda offers a variety of different **Foundational Family Services and Supports** that are available to families registered with the Ontario Autism Program or Children's Behaviour Services. Our latest Service Guide can be found on our website - <https://bethesdaservices.com/en/youth/home>. All of the services are free and immediately available to families! Services include:

- Caregiver and Youth Workshops
- Social Recreational Groups
- Clinical Group Services
- Family Activities and Community Events
- Family and Sibling Support Groups
- Brief Consultation Services (SLP, OT, ABA and Mental Health Services)

Bethesda's Summer Service Guide will be out at the beginning of June. The team will be offering over 50 summer camp opportunities for children and youth. For more information about the services offered at Bethesda, please contact our Service Coordinators at (905) 684-6918, ext. 170 or [serviceinfo@bethesdaservices.com](mailto:serviceinfo@bethesdaservices.com).

### **Transition to Adulthood Services**

Bethesda will be offering a 4 part Transition to Adulthood Workshop Series in collaboration with community partners starting in June. For more information, please visit the link below.

- **Part 1: Navigating the Transition to Adulthood** – Tuesday, June 17, 2025
- **Part 2: Community Supports & Goal Setting** – Tuesday, June 24, 2025
- **Part 3: Engaging Youth in the Transition Process** – Wednesday, July 2, 2025 (Youth encouraged to attend!)
- **Part 4: Introduction to Adult Services at Bethesda** – Tuesday, July 8, 2025

[Transition to Adulthood Workshop Series](#)

## **3. Community Living (Pelham/Welland)-Chair Somma**

Monique Somma reported:

**Community Living Ontario is excited to launch the Community Action Projects Grants for youth!**

This new initiative empowers youth, ages 14–29, to turn their passion into action by promoting the authentic inclusion of young people with disabilities in their communities. Selected groups will receive up to **\$2,500** in funding to bring their local project to life and create meaningful change.

**To be eligible for this initiative, your project must:**

1. Be led by at least 5 youth (ages 14-29). At least 2 youth should identify as having an intellectual disability.
2. Raise awareness and promote the authentic inclusion of youth with intellectual disabilities within your school or local community.
3. Be connected to a secondary school, youth-serving organization, post-secondary association or club, or Community Living member organization within Ontario.
4. Identify at least 1 adult ally who will act as a support person for the project.
5. Identify one youth in the group to be the Project Lead.
6. Completed [Application Forms](#) are due on Friday, June 13th, 2025, at 11:59 pm. Visit [reaction4inclusion.com](https://reaction4inclusion.com) for the full project guidelines and budget template.

For more information, please email Leshona Lennard (Youth and Community Engagement Coordinator) at [llennard@communitylivingontario.ca](mailto:llennard@communitylivingontario.ca).

[Learn more and apply](#)

**4. Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)-Christine Bowers**

No report.

**5. Down Syndrome Niagara - Andrea Pedde**

Andrea Pedde reported:

**Catholic Education Week**

The theme "*Pilgrims of Hope*" reminds us that we are all on a journey together, and no one should be left behind. Including students with Down syndrome in our schools shows that everyone is important, loved by God, and has special gifts to share. This could be done in the form of **Peer Buddy Programs**: Showcase how students walk with each other in faith and friendship, **Student-Led Liturgies**: Invite students with Down syndrome to participate in readings, processions, or offertory. When we support and walk with one another in faith, we help build a kind, welcoming, and hopeful school community.

### **Mental Health Week**

321 is Canada's Down Syndrome Magazine, and their Winter 2022 issue focused on Mental Health. A common myth is that individuals with Down syndrome are always happy and unaffected by mental health challenges. In truth, they experience a full range of emotions and can be susceptible to conditions such as depression, anxiety, OCD, and trauma related disorders. This misconception can result in underdiagnosis or misunderstanding of symptoms, particularly since communication difficulties and overlapping traits can make it harder to recognize mental health concerns. Prevention focuses on promoting independence, social connections, self-esteem, and engaging, flexible activities.

There is also an article titled "*Reflections on Mental Health for Parents of Children with Down Syndrome*." It explores how parents navigate both the "tough terrain"—including stress, worry, hectic routines, financial pressures, social isolation, and limited support—and the "good terrain," such as moments of laughter, joy, presence, and memory making.

### **UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS**

Ö **Safari Niagara** – Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Ö **Annual Summer Picnic** – tentatively planned for Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Ö **Annual Friendship Walk** – Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025; DSN will be sending a letter to the high school to inform students, as we're seeking volunteers for the event. *Further details about specific tasks will be provided*

### **Additional Guides and Resources:**

• [Education Resources](#)

• [21 Welcomes: A Guide for New Parents](#)

#### **6. Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara-Madeline Cipriano**

No report.

#### **7. Mainstream-Erica Simmanivong-Elizarraras**

No report.

#### **8. Niagara Children's Centre-Chris Tawil**

Chris Tawil reported:

##### **Help Kids Shine - Our major fundraiser has just begun**

- We were very excited to launch this on May 1.



- We recently introduced our campaign ambassadors on our website and social media and you can learn more about them [here](#).
- There are many third party events happening in support of the Centre throughout the month of May. A full listing can be found [here](#)

#### **Transition to school**

- We are continuing to support transition documentation and ensuring that children are supported with early EVA's

#### **Staffing**

- We are currently hiring PT, SLP and OT to try to ensure that we are at full complement for the next school year

### **9. Pathstone Mental Health – Linda Vespoli**

No report.

### **2 COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE REPORT-Krystine Donato**

Krystine Donato reported:

The CAPA (Brock-Niagara Centre of Excellence in Inclusive and Adaptive Physical Activity) is located at 130 Lockhart Drive in St. Catharines. It's a facility dedicated to enhancing adaptive physical activity for individuals with disabilities and neurodiversity in the Niagara region. CAPA offers various programs, including SNAP (Supporting Neurodiversity through Adaptive Programming), SNAP Summer Camp, CHARM (Confident Healthy Active Role Models), and Side By Side.

### **3 INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATIVE REPORT-Cindi Lee Ecker-Flagg**

World Water Day at Brock University, participation of the St. Kateri and a few elementary schools in artwork sharing water awareness and protection

Indigenous Voice conference held at Heartland Forest engagement with Indigenous students building upon leadership.

1:1 support with Indigenous students, success and social skills, achievement successful academic pathway inclusiveness from JK to 12/12B.

Participation and engagement in education transitions of Indigenous students grade 8 to grade 9 and secondary to post-secondary

#### **4 SECONDARY STUDENT SENATE REPRESENTATIVE REPORT-Kate Bishop**

No report.

### **5 STAFF REPORTS**

#### **1. Elementary Principal - Susy Walsh**

Susy Walsh reported:

There is currently a focus on assisting with the transition of students going from Grade 8 into Grade 9, as well as holding parent meetings at the end of May and beginning of June to support Kinder students starting school in September.

#### **2. Secondary Principal-Adele Filice**

Adele Filice reported:

- It is Catholic Education Week and there are many activities taking place across all schools.
- Secondary schools are offering transition programs and information sessions for students and their parents who are starting high school, and also for students finishing high school
- Holy Cross is in the process of putting together a program that will be a 3 day camp for special needs children starting high school to come to the school before the school year begins to gain familiarity and comfort with the school and staff, see where their locker is, where their classrooms are, etc.

#### **3. Student Support - Jim Di Gioia**

Jim Di Gioia reported:

#### **May is Speech and Hearing Month**

Speech and Hearing Month is an annual event that provides an opportunity to raise public awareness about communication disorders and to promote the professions of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. Speech-Language Pathologists (S- LPs) and Teachers of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (TDHH) can help improve the quality of life for those who experience problems with speaking, understanding and hearing. Niagara Catholic's Speech-Language and Deaf and Hard

of Hearing teams have shared a number of resources with school staff to promote the month and raise awareness.

### **Student Support Symposium, May 28, 2025**

Student Support is hosting a Learning Symposium for all elementary and secondary ERTs and Secondary Special Education Program Chairs at White Oaks Spa and Conference Resort on Wednesday, May 28, 2025. The focus of the symposium is Supporting Transitions and will include information sessions with a number of community agencies who work in collaboration with schools, students and their families through a variety of transitions at different age levels.

The day will include breakout sessions, a lunch and networking session that will feature and Educational Marketplace where local agencies will be able to set up displays and connect with staff, and end with keynote speaker and comedian Susan Stewart's presentation, *Using the Golden Rule of Comedy to See the Lighter Side of Life*.

### **Summer ABA Symposium**

A Summer ABA Symposium is being offered to all Elementary and Secondary Teachers, Educational Assistants (EAs) and Early Childhood Educators (ECEs). The symposium is designed to enhance participants' skills and knowledge in ABA, a valuable approach for supporting students with diverse learning needs. Participants will gain practical tools and strategies to support students effectively while participating in interactive sessions covering various ABA techniques and strategies such as Functional Behaviour Assessments (FBAs), Behaviour Support Plans (BSPs) and ABA Skill Acquisition programming.

### **Poppin' Into Kindergarten Family Engagement Evening**

The Student Support and Early Years teams will be offering information sessions for parents/caregivers to support children's transition to school in September, as well as interactive activities for families to engage in. There will be five various locations for families to choose from and attend on the date and location that works best. Each session will take place from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. and will offer a light dinner for families before the information session begins.

Session locations and dates:

Our Lady of Victory Catholic - June 3  
Alexander Kuska Catholic (Welland) - June 4  
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic (Niagara Falls) - June 11  
St. Denis Catholic (St. Catharines) – June 17  
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic (Grimsby) - June 18

#### **4. Superintendent Pizzoferrato**

Superintendent Pizzoferrato reported:

- At the last Secondary Program Chair meeting a challenge was purposed to collaborate on concepts that allow an opportunity for parents of students in grade 7 and grade 8 to discuss programming that is available in secondary school to help better prepare both the students and parents for that transition
- Going forward school administrators and resource teachers will be asked to engage the families in their community regarding how to recognize the special days dedicated to supporting individuals with disabilities and how they would like to see these days recognized in their individual school
- The ABA Symposium being held in July and August is a wonderful opportunity for teachers and educational assistants to participate in learning strategies that will help support their practice in the classroom
- The importance of the survey sent to SEAC from MACSE requesting feedback of current issues, challenges and successful practices affecting the education sector
- A proposal for starting in the fall an improved system for onboarding and informing new members of SEAC requirements

#### **6 TRUSTEE REPORTS- *Trustee Marino***

Trustee Marino reported:

As Niagara Catholic celebrates Catholic Education week, Trustees are attending various events, and one of the highlights took place last night at the filled to capacity Central Niagara Community Centre when the joy of Catholic education permeated and wafted through the air with clear and numerous demonstrations of faith, gratitude, success, optimism and opportunity.

It was Celebrating Excellence award night with presentations made in various categories. Distinguished Alumni Awards are presented to graduates from a Niagara Catholic Secondary school who have achieved distinguished success in their adult life and are recognized for achieving and reflecting the characteristics that meet Ontario Catholic School graduate expectations. There were two recipients last night. One is a multi-media journalist and news anchor in Edmonton and the other is a fashion designer with her own brand with special consideration of the blind with some of the designs and patterns brail accessible, but also compatible for regular purchase. She was wearing one of the dresses last night, and pointed out the brail pattern element.

Inspiration awards are presented to exemplary Niagara Catholic colleagues who embody the Mission, Vision, and values of our system, vocation, and call to students. Colleagues and Catholic Community. They are recognized for their passion, innovative and extraordinary contributions to Niagara Catholic. There were 24 such awards presented and one of the recipients is sitting around these tables tonight, congratulations Grace.

Catch the Spirit Student Award recognizes students who exemplify outstanding leadership and commitment to catholic values. Recipients demonstrate excellence in areas such as Catholic

leadership, faith, family commitment, school and community involvement, academic achievement, and dedication to challenging tasks. There were 60 recipients last night.

## **7 NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Superintendent Pizzoferrato on behalf of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee reported:

### **PARENT ENGAGEMENT WITH DR. JEAN CLINTON-MAY 5, 2025**

Niagara Catholic and the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee hosted a parent engagement event with Dr. Jean Clinton on Monday, May 5, 2025 at Denis Morris Catholic High School from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Niagara Region Public Health, and members of the Niagara Catholic Mental Health and Well-Being Team were on site to share information on community support for parents/guardians. Resources from School Mental Health Ontario were also be available.

Participants in attendance valued Dr. Jean Clinton's expertise and presentation on the topic of parent/caregiver awareness and knowledge, about addictive behaviours among youths.

### **ONTARIO ASSOCIATION FOR PARENTS IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION (OAPCE) REPORT**

The Ontario Association for Parent in Catholic Education (OAPCE) 86<sup>th</sup> Conference "Coming Together as the Power of One", will take place on Saturday, May 24, 2025 at Saint Michael Catholic High School from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fr. Paul MacNeil will be presiding over the Mass.

Topics and Guest Speakers include:

- *The Power of One*: Joe Perri, OAPCE Co-Executive Director
- *Pilgrims of Hope Live in Families*: Teresa Hartnett, Director Family Ministry Office-The Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton
- *AI in Education*: Anthony Perrotta, Guiding the Next Generation of Learners, Educator, Storyteller, and Digital Learning Advocate

Trustee Bruzzese will also be acknowledged at the conference as a recipient of the OAPCE Legacy Leadership Award. This award is given to an individual that actively leads initiatives to support the mission and vision of OAPCE with integrity and has acted in the best interests of the association to engage, advocate and enhance parents in Catholic Education in Ontario.

This is an incredible opportunity for parents, educators, and community members to come together, gain valuable insights, and strengthen our Catholic education system. Participants can expect dynamic speakers, engaging workshops, and meaningful networking opportunities that will empower and inspire!

All Niagara Catholic parents/guardians have received communication regarding the OAPCE Conference through *schoolmessenger*. Parents/Guardians can register for the conference on the Board website or on the OAPCE website.

## **NCPIC MEMBERSHIP AND MEETING DATES 2025-2026**

Nomination forms for the 2025-2026 NCPIC Membership are being accepted until 4:00 p.m., on Friday, May 16, 2025. Nomination Forms are available on the Board website by clicking on “Parents” and selecting the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

**NCPIC Meeting Dates for the 2025-2026 school year are as follows:**

September 4, 2025

November 6, 2025

January 8, 2026

March 12, 2026 (The Niagara Foundation Gala will take place on the Thursday, March 5, 2026)

May 7, 2026

**8 NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

No report.

**9 NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at Bethesda.

**10 CLOSING PRAYER:** Chair Somma led the closing prayer.

**11 ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by: Trustee Burkholder

**THAT** the May 7, 2025 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 17, 2025**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: EXTENDED OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP, CREDIT PROGRAM  
AND EXCHANGES APPROVAL COMMITTEE 2024-2025**

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The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Credit Program and Exchanges Approval Committee  
2024-2025 report is presented for information.

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Prepared by: Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: June 17, 2025



## **REPORT TO THE BOARD JUNE 17, 2025**

### **EXTENDED OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP, CREDIT PROGRAM AND EXCHANGES APPROVAL COMMITTEE 2024-2025**

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#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Credit Program and Exchanges Approval Committee continues to review proposals for 2024-2025 extended overnight field trips, credit programs 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 Administrator of International Education	- 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 requires airfare.
- Any extended overnight educational field trip is restricted to students of grades 9-12.
- An extended overnight educational 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.
- Extended overnight educational field trip can only take place during Christmas or March break, with a maximum of two additional instructional days, unless otherwise approved by the Director of Education.
- All extended overnight educational field trips held internationally will only be permitted at each school every two years.
- The principal must meet with the Superintendent of Education no later than 60 days prior to the departure date to review and finalize all trip details.

Attached to this information report is an Executive Summary of a 2024-2025 Extended Overnight Field Trip as submitted on Tuesday, June 17, 2025. (Appendix A)



The Extended Overnight Field Trip, Credit Program and Exchanges 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: June 17, 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
Notre Dame College	Extended Overnight Field Trip	Superintendent Extended Overnight Field Trip Committee and SAC	Italy	Non-Credit	<p>To make connections between their class learning and the real world. To gain cultural fluency and personal experience that will enable them to be stronger world citizens.</p> <p>*The trip may include a gondola ride. Students who opt for this activity before departure will need to follow guidelines of the OPHEA Swim Test for Non-Designated Swim Areas – Land Based Trips as outlined in AOP 400.2.</p>	Students will attend mass.	Thursday, March 11, 2027 to Saturday, March 20, 2027	48 students; 6 staff members	9 days (1 school day)	<p>\$5109.00 includes: flights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>hotels</li><li>all breakfasts</li><li>dinner daily</li><li>tour transportation</li><li>sightseeing activities</li></ul> <p>Additional costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lunches</li><li>personal spending</li><li>airport transportation</li></ul> <p>Cancellation policy clearly communicated.</p>	Airline will be confirmed upon approval.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING  
JUNE 17, 2025**

***PUBLIC SESSION***

**TITLE: RURAL AND NORTHERN EDUCATION ALLOCATION  
(RNEA)**

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**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board allocate Rural and Northern funding to the school list provided.

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Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

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

Date: June 17, 2025



## **REPORT TO THE BOARD JUNE 17, 2025**

### **RURAL AND NORTHERN EDUCATION ALLOCATION**

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#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Rural and Northern Education Allocation (RNEA) is designed to support schools located in geographically isolated or sparsely populated areas. These programs aim to address the unique challenges faced by rural communities and ensure equitable access to high-quality education. Through targeted funding, resources, and initiatives, the RNEA helps meet the specific needs of students and schools in these regions.

In accordance with ministry requirements, the Niagara Catholic District School Board will submit, by June 30, 2025, a list of additional schools approved by a motion of the Board of Trustees to be eligible for RNEA funding.

The following schools have been identified as follows:

St. Ann Catholic Elementary School, Fenwick, ON  
St. Edward Catholic Elementary School, Jordan, ON  
St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School, Wainfleet, ON  
St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, Fort Erie, ON

These funds will be used to support smaller Junior Kindergarten/Senior Kindergarten (JK/SK) cohorts in rural schools and to provide resources that help avoid multi-grade classrooms beyond split-grade configurations. This ensures that students in rural areas receive a more focused and effective educational experience.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board allocate the Rural and Northern funding to the school list provided in Appendix A.

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Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

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

Date: June 17, 2025

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**NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
RURAL AND NORTHERN EDUCATION (RNEF) ALLOCATION**



**2025-2026**

	Improve Programming and Support Services	Continue/maintain the operations of school	Enhance Student Transportation	TOTAL
St. Ann Catholic E S (Fenwick)		\$ 34,632		\$ 34,632
St. Edward Catholic E S		\$ 35,604		\$ 35,604
St. Elizabeth Catholic E S		\$ 37,928		\$ 37,928
St. Joseph Catholic E S (Synder)		\$ 35,118		\$ 35,118
		<b>\$ 143,282</b>		<b>\$ 143,282</b>