



AGENDA AND MATERIAL

BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE, WELLAND, ONTARIO

| A. ROUTINE MATTERS | Reference |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Opening Prayer - Trustee Belcastro | - |
| 2. Roll Call | - |
| 3. Approval of the Agenda | - |
| 4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest | - |
| 5. Minutes of the Board Meeting of December 16, 2008 | A5 |
| B. DELEGATIONS | |
| 1. St. James Catholic Elementary School Choir | - |
| 2. Norah Morgan Award | - |
| C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS | |
| 1. School Excellence Program St. James Catholic Elementary School | C1 |
| 2. Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 13, 2009 and Consideration of Recommendations | C2 |
| 2.1 Financial Reports | |
| 2.1.1 Monthly Banking Transactions for the Month of December 2008 | C2.1.1 |
| 2.1.2 Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at December 31, 2008 | C2.1.2 |
| 3. Minutes of the S.E.A.C. Meeting of December 3, 2008 | C3 |
| 3.1 Resignation of S.E.A.C. Member | C3.1 |
| 4. Director's Annual Report 2008 | C4 |
| 5. Pupil Accommodation Review Special Board Meetings Schedule and Guidelines | C5 |
| 6. Staff Development Professional Development Opportunities | C6 |

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. Correspondence | - |
| 2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended | - |
| 2.1 OCSTA Labour Relations Seminar | D2.1 |
| 3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action | - |
| 4. Trustee Information | - |
| 4.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic - January 13, 2009 | D4.1 |
| 4.2 Director's Letter to Parents/Guardians regarding Cancelling Buses and Closing Schools | D4.2 |
| 4.3 Bishop's Gala - January 30, 2009 | - |
| 4.4 SpeakOut 2009 - Catholic Education Centre - February 9, 2009 | - |
| 5. Open Question Period | - |
| <i>(The purpose of the Open Question Period is to allow members of the Catholic school supporting public to ask about items on that night's public agenda or any previous agendas, and the Board to answer and react.)</i> | |

E. NOTICES OF MOTION**F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA****G. REPORT ON THE IN CAMERA SESSION****H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS****I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE****J. ADJOURNMENT**

TO: Niagara Catholic District School Board
Board Meeting
Public Session
January 27, 2009

TOPIC: MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING
OF DECEMBER 16, 2008

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of December 16, 2008, as presented.



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2008

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Burtnik.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Trustee Nieuwesteeg.

2. Roll Call

| Trustee | Present | Excused |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|
| John Belcastro | ✓ | |
| Kathy Burtnik | ✓ | |
| Maurice Charbonneau | ✓ | |
| Gary Crole | ✓ | |
| John Dekker | ✓ | |
| Frank Fera | ✓ | |
| Ed Nieuwesteeg | ✓ | |
| Tony Scalzi | ✓ | |
| Student Trustees | | |
| Ashley McGuire | ✓ | |
| Christina Volpini | ✓ | |

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; Yolanda Baldasaro, Rob Ciarlo, Frank Iannantuono, Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendents of Education; Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; Khayyam Syne, Administrator of Staff Development; Christine Graham, Program Officer - Curriculum; Marcel Jacques, Program Officer - Student Support Services; James Woods, Controller of Plant; Sherry Morena, Recording Secretary

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee Dekker

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Board Meeting of December 16, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Interest

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

5. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meetings

5.1 December 2, 2008

Moved by Trustee Crole

Seconded by Trustee Belcastro

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of December 2, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED

5.2 November 27, 2008

Moved by Trustee Scalzi

Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of November 27, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED

5.3 November 25, 2008

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee Crole

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of November 25, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School Choir

Rob Ciarlo, Superintendent of Education, welcomed Ted Farrell, Principal of Blessed Trinity Catholic High School, and Music Director Angela Maccaroni. Mr. Farrell gave a brief background on the accomplishments of the Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School Choir. Mrs. Maccaroni introduced the Choir who performed for the Board.

Chairperson Burtnik thanked the students for their very entertaining performance and asked Trustees Crole and Belcastro to presented the students with Niagara Catholic "Excellence in the Arts" pins.

2. Christmas Card Presentation to Students

Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education, presented information of the contribution of Niagara Catholic students in the design of the Board's Christmas cards for 2008. He explained that students within the Board were invited to submit artwork for use on the cards, and that specific cards are chosen to be used by the Board.

Director Crocco, Chairperson Burtnik, and Vice-Chairperson Fera, presented each of the students with a box of Christmas Cards containing their designs.

3. *Lakeshore Catholic High School - OFSAA Football Team*

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education, presented a brief background on the Lakeshore Catholic High School OFSAA Championship Football Team. Superintendent Baldasaro called upon Danny DiLorenzo, Principal of Lakeshore Catholic High School who spoke briefly of the dedication and determination of the team and of how they diligently incorporated their Catholic values into every game. Principal Di Lorenzo introduced football coaches Rocky DiPietro, Terry Lehne, Peter Burnett and Bernie Tessier.

Chairperson Burtnik congratulated the students on their success and asked Trustee Dekker to present the students with Niagara Catholic "Excellence in Athletics" pins.

4. *Denis Morris Catholic High School - YMCA Peace Medallion*

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, welcomed Tony Bozza, Principal of Denis Morris Catholic High School. Principal Bozza introduced Shondra Mings, a Grade 12 student at Denis Morris who was awarded the YMCA Peace Medallion.

The YMCA Peace Medallion is awarded to individuals who meet the criteria of enhancing the lives of people in their community, or around the world, by creating a more peaceful environment.

Shondra spoke briefly of her involvement in programs such as R.E.A.C.T. (Resist, Expose and Challenge Tobacco), which educates youth about the dangers of tobacco products, and her dedication to Third World Projects, such as the Pilgrimage and Starvathon. Shondra also leads the Denis Morris Catholic High School Social Justice Club, and is presently a Student Senate Representative.

Chairperson Burtnik commended Shondra on her charitable efforts and commitment to Denis Morris Catholic Secondary School, the Student Senate, the school community and Third World Countries, and asked Trustee Charbonneau to present her with a Niagara Catholic "Excellence in Academics" pin.

5. *Niagara Catholic District School Board and Youth Resources Niagara Inc. Agreement Signing*

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells welcomed Darlene Busch, President of Youth Resources Niagara Inc., who was in attendance to sign the Niagara Catholic District School Board and Youth Resources Niagara Inc. Agreement.

Mrs. Busch thanked the Board for their role in the partnership with Youth Resources Niagara Inc.

Director Crocco, Chairperson Burtnik and Mrs. Busch officially signed an agreement between the Niagara Catholic District School Board and the Youth Resources Niagara Inc.

6. *Presentation of Gavel*

Chairperson Burtnik presented Trustee Nieuwesteeg with a gavel in recognition of his dedication and service as Chairperson of the Board for 2007-2008.

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 2, 2008 and Consideration of Recommendations

Moved by Trustee Dekker
Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 2, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED

The following recommendations were presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 2, 2008.

1.1 Pupil Accommodation Review for Niagara Falls Elementary St. Catharines Elementary and St. Catharines Secondary

Moved by Trustee Dekker
Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve that in accordance with the Board approved Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Schedule for 2008-2009 the Staff Report on Pupil Accommodation Review for Niagara Falls Elementary, St. Catharines Elementary and St. Catharines Secondary, be received.

CARRIED

2. Financial Reports

2.1 Monthly Banking Transactions

Moved by Trustee Belcastro
Seconded by Trustee Dekker

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Monthly Banking Transactions for the month of November 2008, as presented for information.

CARRIED

2.2 Statement of Revenue & Expenditures

Moved by Trustee Belcastro
Seconded by Trustee Dekker

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at November 30, 2008, as presented for information.

CARRIED

3. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 5, 2008 and Consideration of Recommendations

Moved by Trustee Scalzi
Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 5, 2008, as presented for information.

CARRIED

Director Crocco spoke to the recommendations being presented by the Special Education Committee for the Board's consideration on the development of a Board Policy regarding Inclusion and the Re-examination of Special Education Classes. He informed Trustees that the Ministry of

Education is currently in the consultation phase of an equity and inclusive education strategy for the province, and that it is anticipated that the consultation and discussions will lead to an announcement from the Ministry for implementation by either September 2009 or 2010.

Director Crocco, suggested that the recommendations be deferred to staff for a future report to the Committee of the Whole, thus allowing the opportunity to discuss the recommendations with Student Support Services Staff and Administrative Council as the recommendations are currently part of our philosophy and articulated in our Special Education Plan - Building Bridges to Services.

Chairperson Burtnik asked that a written response to the Special Education Advisory Committee explaining the action being taken by the Board at this time.

Moved by Trustee Dekker

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board defer the recommendations from the Special Education Advisory Committee re the *Development of a Board Policy re Inclusion* and the *Re-examination of Special Education Classes* to staff for a future report to the Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED

4. *Trustee Honorarium for the Year 2008-2009*

Director Crocco presented the report on Trustee Honorarium for the Year 2008-2009 noting that in accordance with Ontario Regulation 357/06 Trustee honorariums are adjusted annually based on student enrolment from the previous school year. He stated that new honorarium for all Trustees for the 2008-2009 school year will be slightly less due to enrolment decrease of 248 students.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Dekker

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive and approve the report on the Trustee Honorarium for the period from December 1, 2008 to November 30, 2009.

CARRIED

5. *Staff Development Professional Development Opportunities*

Khayyam Syne, Administrator of Staff Development, presented the report on Staff Development Professional Development Opportunities.

6. *Revised Budget Estimates for the Year 2008-2009*

Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services, presented the report on the Revised Budget Estimates for the Year 2008-2009. Superintendent Reich informed Trustees that the purpose of the Revised Budget Estimates is to give School Boards the opportunity to revise their budgets with up-to-date information prior to submission to the Ministry of Education.

Superintendent Reich highlighted the major changes in the Budget Estimates and stated that Senior Staff is pleased to present a balanced budget with a transfer of \$1,908,638 from the Reserve for Working Funds.

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Dekker

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Report on the Revised Budget Estimates for the year 2008-2009, as presented.

CARRIED

7. Director's Annual Report 2008

Director Crocco presented a verbal update on the progress of the Director's Annual Report 2008, and informed Trustees that the format and layout will be redesigned this year.

He stated that the Minister of Education has provided additional requirements to be included in the report such as enrolment and demographics; percentage of primary classes with 20 students or fewer; the latest EQAO results broken down into Board, Provincial, boys', girls', students with special needs; percentage of students who have achieved 16 by 16 credits; how the Board has improved outcomes for students; and accomplishments in student, parent and community engagement.

The Director's Annual Report will be presented to the Board in January 2009.

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

1. Correspondence

Nil Report

2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended

Nil Report

3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

4. Trustee Information

4.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic - December 2, 2008

Director Crocco presented the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic - December 2, 2008 issue for trustees' information.

4.2 Bishop's Gala - January 30, 2009

The Annual Award of Distinction, which is presented at the Bishop's Gala, recognizes individuals or groups who have made, or continue to make outstanding contributions to the growth of Catholic Education in the Niagara Region. This year's recipients are the Sisters of the Sacred Heart.

Director Crocco has contacted Sister Margherita Ianni, Superior of the Sacred Heart Sisters, and relayed that they were all honoured to be selected.

4.3 System Letter

Director Crocco informed the Board that a letter from Bishop Wingle and the Director will be sent home with all students to all families in the Niagara Catholic District School Board, as well as all 3,200 staff members, stressing the importance of checking their school designation on their property tax bill to ensure that they are an "English Separate" school supporters.

A tab will be activated on the Board website on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 to assist parents and new members to the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

5. Open Question Period

None Submitted

E. NOTICES OF MOTION

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

Seconded by Trustee Scalzi

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board move into the In Camera Session.

CARRIED

The Niagara Catholic District School Board moved into the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting at 8:25 p.m. and reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

Seconded by Trustee Dekker

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of December 16, 2008.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Dekker

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION A: Student Trustees Present of November 25, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

Seconded by Trustee Crole

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION A: Student Trustees Present of December 2, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F2)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Crole

Seconded by Trustee Dekker

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Special Board Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of November 27, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F4.1)

Moved by Trustee Crole

Seconded by Trustee Dekker

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of November 25, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F4.2)

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of December 2, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F5)

The following motions were reported from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of December 2, 2008:

Moved by Trustee Crole

Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item F5.1 of the In Camera Agenda.

CARRIED (Item F5.1)

Moved by Trustee Dekker

Seconded by Trustee Belcastro

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item F5.2 of the In Camera Agenda.

CARRIED (Item F5.2)

H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Crole

Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the December 16, 2008 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

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

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on December 16, 2008.

Approved on the 27th day of January 2009.

Kathy Burtnik
Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

TO: Niagara Catholic District School Board
Board Meeting
Public Session
January 27, 2009

TOPIC: SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM
ST. JAMES CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Catholic School Profile

Principal
Mr. Dan Trainor
615 Geneva St.
St. Catharines, ON
905.934.3112

St. James

Niagara Catholic District School Board

October 2008

Director of Education

John Crocco

Superintendent of Education

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells

Catholic Education Centre

427 Rice Road
Welland, Ontario
L3C 7C1
905.735.0240
Fax 905.734.8828

Parish

St. Denis Parish
Monsignor M.J. Schaefer

Board Mission

"The Mission of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, as a Catholic Community of learners, is to ensure that all students develop the knowledge, skills and values to reach their full potential, with Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Light."

School Mission Statement

"We are a welcoming community where educators and students live and learn in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Our school, in harmony with parish and home, embraces learning and believing which develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to reach our fullest potential. As learners we are encouraged to share our gifts with others in an environment that is Christ centered in trust, co-operation and interdependence. As believers we are inspired in the faith of Jesus Christ."

School Motto or Theme

"Learners learning, Teachers teaching with Jesus."

Who We Are

St. James School is located in North St. Catharines. The school was built in 1962 and opened in January 1963. Our school is dedicated and named for St. James "The Greater", who was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus.

- Grades in school: JK to Grade 8. Total enrolment as of September 2008 is 267 students
- St. James School welcomes the Grade 7 students from our associate school Michael J. Brennan Catholic School, each year. We are pleased to continue this twenty-four year tradition of having these students join the St. James School Community for the intermediate grades. We have history, geography, science and the arts on rotary for grades 7 & 8.
- There is a YMCA Daycare in our school.
- We have a vocal music program for our grades 1 to 6 students and an instrumental program for grade 7-8 students.
- Our school is accessible for all learners.
- Our staff includes: 12 Classroom Teachers, a 1 Educational Resource Teacher, 1.75 French as a Second Language teachers, .25 Child and Youth Care Worker, 6 Educational Assistants, a Secretary, Library Technician, 1 caretaker, 0.7 cleaner and a Principal.
- Our Catholic faith is permeated throughout the curriculum and in many charitable activities throughout the year. Our students celebrate Masses, Liturgies, attend SCOEP and have direct instruction of prayer and our religious traditions.
- The school has a collaborative relationship with St. Denis Church and our Catholic values are reinforced by regular visits by Father Paul Curley and Monsignor Schaefer.

What We Stand For

Community Projects

We, at St. James School, are dedicated to developing our students' social conscience through involvement in annual projects such as:

- Adopt a Village project
- Fundraising for Holy Childhood
- Kids Helping Kids (Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre)
- Year round Community Care program & Clothing Donations
- Annual Terry Fox Walk
- Heart Healthy Program – ongoing throughout year
- Back Packs for Hope –Guatemalan Project - Christmas
- Community Service Projects (Intermediate division)

Special Activities/Programs

These programs and events provide educational enrichment and help students develop their skills spiritually, academically, socially, and physically.

- Catholic School Council Activities - Fun Fair/Family Barbecue, Movie Night, Parent Teas and Coffee Socials. The council has set clear fundraising goals and plans. In conjunction with school staff our Catholic School Council supports events like: The Great Grade Seven Detention which is a community builder for students and parents, JK and Grade 8 Tree Dedications, JK-SK open house in August, Our meet the staff BBQ and Liturgy, Literacy night, Christmas Family Night and Musicals.
- Literacy Initiatives – Presentations/Arts Day/Think Literacy activities.
- Numeracy Initiatives – large instructional blocks for time allocated to math, use of manipulatives and problem solving instruction

Ideals, Values/Commitments

- St. James is a school community where participation is as important as the outcome.
- Charity is more important than property. Prayer is not merely a recitation of words but a heartfelt conversation with God.
- We are all "learners and children of God."

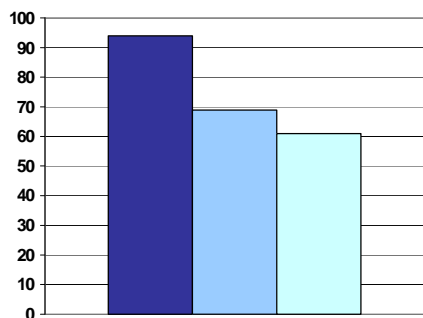
How we are doing

EQAO Primary Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics

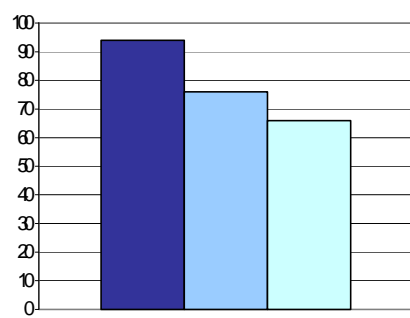
The Niagara Catholic District School Board is celebrating student achievement after province-wide test results showed its Grade 3 students have exceeded the provincial averages in Reading, Writing and Mathematics, once again. In May of 2008 the EQAO Primary Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics was administered across elementary schools in our board. Achievement is described in four levels, where Level 3 is the provincial standard. The EQAO reported the results of school, board and provincial achievement by two methods: Method 1 includes all Grade 3 students and Method 2 includes Grade 3 students excluding students who were exempted or did not complete any work during the assessment. The Niagara Catholic District School Board's commitment to quality Catholic education and to the success and achievement of each individual child entrusted to its care was demonstrated by the fact that 98% of Grade 3 students participated in the Provincial Assessment

Primary Assessment Results

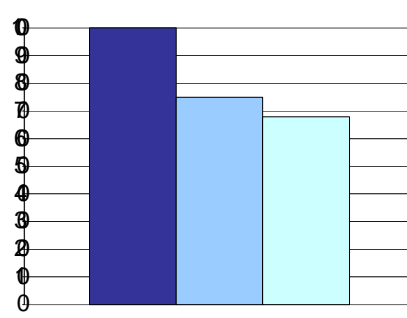
Reading Level 3, 4 Method 1



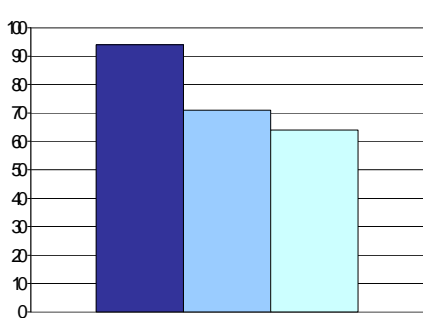
Writing Level 3, 4 Method 1



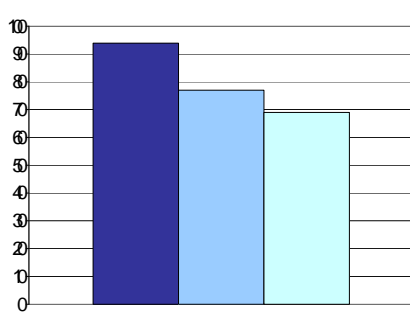
Mathematics Level 3, 4 Method 1



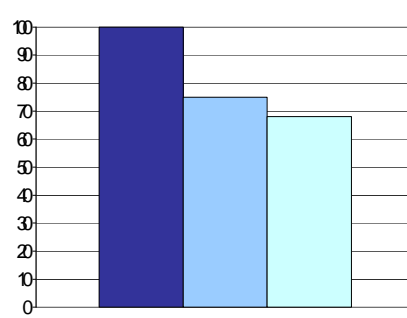
Reading Level 3, 4 Method 2



Writing Level 3, 4 Method 2



Mathematics Level 3, 4 Method 2



■ School ■ Board ■ Province

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Levels 3, 4

- 94% of all students at St. James School achieved levels 3, 4 in reading.
- 69% of the students across the Niagara Catholic District School Board and 61% across the province attained this level.

Levels 2, 3, 4

- 100% of all students at St. James School achieved levels 2, 3, 4 in reading.
- 94% of the students across the Niagara Catholic District School Board and 87% across the province attained this level.

Levels 3, 4

- 94% of all students at St. James School achieved levels 3, 4 in writing.
- 76% of the students across the Niagara Catholic District School Board and 66% across the province attained this level.

Levels 2, 3, 4

- 100% of all students at St. James School achieved levels 2, 3, 4 in writing.
- 98% of the students across the Niagara Catholic District School Board and 95% across the province attained this level.

Levels 3, 4

- 100% of all students at St. James School achieved levels 3, 4 in mathematics.
- 75% of the students across the Niagara Catholic District School Board and 68% across the province attained this level.

Levels 2, 3, 4

- 100% of all students at St. James School achieved levels 2, 3, 4 in mathematics.
- 97% of the students across the Niagara Catholic District School Board and 93% across the province attained this level.

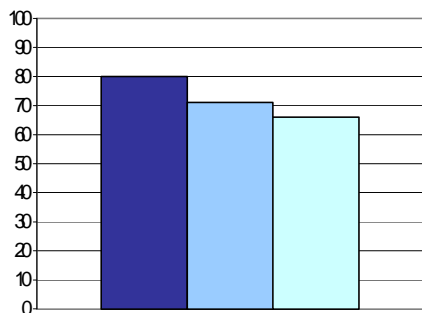
How we are doing

EQAO Junior Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics

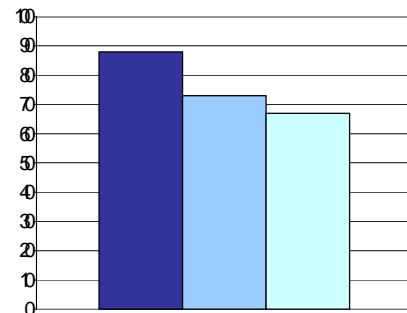
The Niagara Catholic District School Board is celebrating student achievement after province-wide test results showed its Grade 6 students have exceeded the provincial averages in Reading, Writing and Mathematics, once again. In May of 2008 the EQAO Junior Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics was administered across elementary schools in our board. Achievement is described in four levels where Level 3 is the provincial standard. The EQAO reported the results of school, board and provincial achievement by two methods: Method 1 includes all Grade 6 students and Method 2 includes Grade 6 students excluding students who were exempted or did not complete any work during the assessment. The Niagara Catholic District School Board's commitment to quality Catholic education and to the success and achievement of each individual child entrusted to its care was demonstrated by the fact that 98% of Grade 6 students participated in the Provincial Assessment

Junior Assessment Results

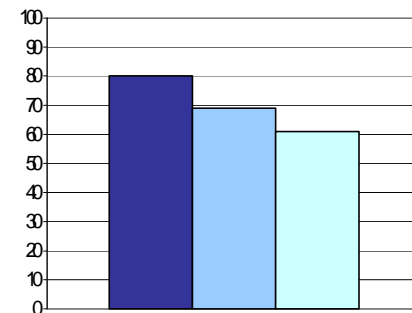
Reading Level 3, 4 Method 1



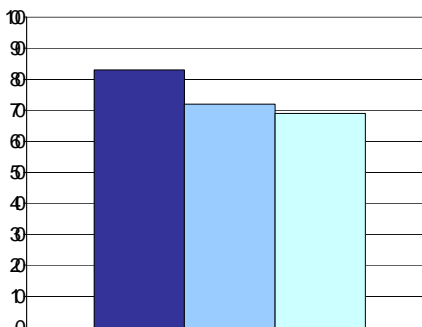
Writing Level 3, 4 Method 1



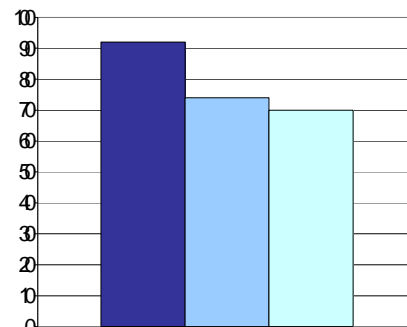
Mathematics Level 3, 4 Method 1



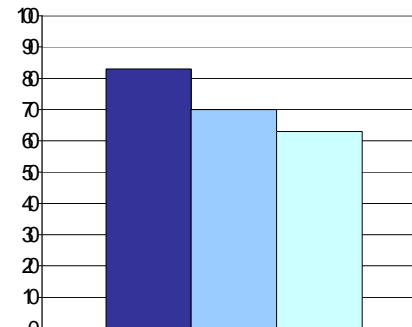
Reading Level 3, 4 Method 2



Writing Level 3, 4 Method 2



Mathematics Level 3, 4 Method 2



■ School ■ Board ■ Province

■ School ■ Board ■ Province

■ School ■ Board ■ Province

Levels 3, 4

- 80% of all students at St. James School achieved levels 3, 4 in reading.
- 71% of the students across the Niagara Catholic District School Board and 66% across the province attained this level.

Levels 2, 3, 4

- 96% of all students at St. James School achieved levels 2, 3, 4 in reading.
- 95% of the students across the Niagara Catholic District School Board and 90% across the province attained this level.

Levels 3, 4

- 88% of all students at St. James School achieved levels 3, 4 in writing.
- 73% of the students across the Niagara Catholic District School Board and 67% across the province attained this level.

Levels 2, 3, 4

- 96% of all students at St. James School achieved levels 2, 3, 4 in writing.
- 98% of the students across the Niagara Catholic District School Board and 95% across the province attained this level.

Levels 3, 4

- 80% of all students at St. James School achieved levels 3, 4 in mathematics.
- 69% of the students across the Niagara Catholic District School Board and 61% across the province attained this level.

Levels 2, 3, 4

- 96% of all students at St. James School achieved levels 2, 3, 4 in mathematics.
- 95% of the students across the Niagara Catholic District School Board and 90% across the province attained this level.

School Improvement 2008 - 2009

The Niagara Catholic District School Board Improvement Plan and individual School Improvement Plans will set SMART Goals as a means to continuous improvement. Each school's plan will include SMART goals on Faith Formation, EQAO targets, Safe Schools, and an additional two goals that are school specific.

Our Improvement Plans are dynamic in that they will be closely monitored by both Board and School Improvement Planning Teams, along with Senior Administration, throughout the school year. If required, adjustments will be made to the individual plans to reflect the needs of our students and school communities.

SMART stands for goals that are S – Specific, M – Measurable, A – Attainable, R – Relevant, T – Time Based.

School Goals

St. James Catholic Identity Goal (SMART goals are time bound and will be revised every 6-8 weeks)
School Based Faith Formation SMART Goal: The St. James Community will participate in the Program, "Adopt A Village" through Free The Children Organization. The plan will be introduced to entire school community by Oct. 31st/08. This will be our school focus for the Year 2008-2009. (Directing a majority of our fund-raising efforts to this school-wide mission plan).

St. James School Climate Goal (SMART goals are time bound and will be revised every 6-8 weeks)

School Based Safe School Action Plan SMART Goal:

All teachers will understand and implement the Bully Prevention School Plan so that 75% of the students will be able to identify and demonstrate understanding through personal connections (e.g. poetry, collages, personal responses etc.,) of September and October's monthly strategy

St. James Curriculum Goals

School Based EQAO SMART Goal: Literacy (SMART goals are time bound and will be revised every 6-8 weeks)

All teachers will explicitly teach the strategies from "Better Answers" of writing so that 75% of our students in Grades 1-8 can create written and/or scribed three-pronged open-ended responses, to a level 3 standard for each grade, by October 31st, 2008.

School Based SMART Goal: Numeracy (SMART goals are time bound and will be revised every 6-8 weeks)

To have 100% of all St. James teachers share and model most recent board expected instructional strategies for math so that 100% of teachers will be able to plan for flexible learning groups by October 31st, 2008.

TO: Niagara Catholic District School Board
Board Meeting
Public Session
January 27, 2009

TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
OF JANUARY 13, 2009

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 13, 2009, as presented.

The following recommendations are being presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 13, 2009.

2.1 *Financial Reports*

2.1.1 *Monthly Banking Transactions*

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Monthly Banking Transactions for the month of December 2008, as presented for information.

2.1.2 *Statement of Revenue & Expenditures*

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at December 31, 2008, as presented for information.



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2009

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Burtnik.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Trustee Scalzi.

2. Roll Call

| Trustee | Present | Present Electronically | Excused |
|-------------------------|---------|------------------------|---------|
| John Belcastro | ✓ | | |
| Kathy Burtnik | ✓ | | |
| Maurice Charbonneau | ✓ | | |
| Gary Crole | ✓ | | |
| John Dekker | ✓ | | |
| Frank Fera | | ✓ | |
| Ed Nieuwesteeg | ✓ | | |
| Tony Scalzi | ✓ | | |
| Student Trustees | | | |
| Ashley McGuire | ✓ | | |
| Christina Volpini | ✓ | | |

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; Rob Ciarlo, Yolanda Baldasaro, Frank Iannantuono, Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendents of Education; Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; Khayyam Syne, Administrator of Staff Development; Christine Graham, Program Officer - Curriculum; Marcel Jacques, Program Officer - Student Support Services; James Woods, Controller of Plant; Sherry Morena, Recording Secretary

3. *Approval of the Agenda*

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 13, 2009, as presented.

CARRIED

4. *Disclosure of Interest*

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

5. *Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 2, 2008*

Moved by Trustee Scalzi

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 2, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. *St. Joseph and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary Replacement Schools, Milestone One*

John Crocco, Director of Education, introduced the report on the St. Joseph and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary Replacement Schools, Milestone One, which was approved by the Ministry of Education. The additional funding provides most of the projected funding required for the two new replacement schools as opposed to the originally considered new school and a renovated school.

Director Crocco extended his appreciation to Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services, and James Woods, Controller of Plant Services, for all of their focused efforts in discussions & additional reports to Ministry of Education staff.

Mr. Woods presented to the Trustees the St. Joseph and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary Replacement Schools, Milestone One report and conceptual designs.

2. *"Renewed" Grades One, Two and Three Fully Alive Program*

Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education, introduced the "Renewed" Grades One, Two and Three Fully Alive Program, which is a Family Life Education Program approved by the Ontario Council of Catholic Bishops (OCCB). Terri Pauco, Religious Education Consultant, and Carol Minne, Primary Consultant, presented highlights of the "renewed" editions currently being implemented in Grades One, Two and Three.

3. *Planning Continuous Improvement and School Excellence*

Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education introduced the report on Planning Continuous Improvement and School Excellence, which targets new strategies within the Board to increase the profile of schools and to celebrate the success of students and staff.

Christine Graham, Program Officer: Curriculum, highlighted the various system-wide initiatives, which form part of a cohesive, integrated plan focused on student achievement for all Niagara Catholic schools.

4. *Catholic Education Award of Distinction 2009*

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education, presented the report on the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction 2009 and informed the Board that the Sisters of the Sacred Heart will be the recipient of the 2009 Award.

5. *Financial Reports*

5.1 *Monthly Banking Transactions*

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Monthly Banking Transactions for the month of December 2008, as presented for information.

CARRIED

5.2 *Statement of Revenue and Expenditures*

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at December 31, 2008, as presented for information.

CARRIED

6. *Monthly Updates*

6.1 *Policy Development Update*

The Policy Development Update was presented for information.

6.2 *Student Trustees' Update*

Christina Volpini, Student Trustee, gave a brief verbal update on the activities of the Student Senate.

6.3 *Family of Schools Superintendents' Monthly Update*

The Family of Schools Superintendents gave brief verbal reports highlighting the activities in their schools.

D. INFORMATION

1. *Trustee Information*

1.1 *Spotlight on Niagara Catholic - December 16, 2008*

Director Crocco presented the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic - December 16, 2008 issue, and informed Trustees that each of the issues has resulted in very positive feedback.

1.2 *BEC Annual Breakfast - February 6, 2009*

Director Crocco announced that the Business Education Council (BEC) Breakfast is being held on Friday February 6, 2009 at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel from 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Events include Keynote Speaker, Deb Matthew, Minister of Child and Youth Services, and the Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School Band.

Trustees were asked to contact Sherry Morena or Linda Marconi if they are interested in attending the event.

1.3 *Ontario School Board Governance for the 21st Century Consultation Paper*

Director Crocco presented the Ontario School Board Governance for the 21st Century Consultation Paper. He stated that Minister of Education Wynne has announced the creation of a Governance Review Committee which will make recommendations to the Minister on:

- Ways to modernize and clarify in the Education Act, the duties, powers and accountabilities of School Boards, Chairs, individual Trustees, and Directors of Education, while reinforcing the relationship between elected officials as a group and the Director of Education as sole employee accountable to the board;
- Effective practices in governance applicable to the education sector, including codes of conduct for Trustees, enforceable at the Provincial or Board level, and audit committees with external members;
- Appropriate long-term capacity building program for Trustees; and
- Appropriate content and format for Provincial interest regulations designed to ensure that a Board achieves student outcomes specified in the regulation.

The Committee has written a Consultation Paper to provide background information on these four areas and on the scope of the its mandate. The deadline for written submissions to the Consultation Paper is February 28, 2009.

Director Crocco, Chairperson Burtnik and two members of the Niagara Regional Catholic School Council/PIC will be meeting with the Governance Review Committee on February 20, 2009.

1.4 *Inclement Weather*

Director Crocco informed Trustees of the revised timelines in the Niagara Catholic District School Board Inclement Weather process, which begins with early morning discussions with the Director of Education from the District School Board of Niagara; the Niagara Student Transportation Services, who provides information from Regional contacts; and James Woods, Controller of Plant Services, regarding snow removal and building conditions(power outages, water main bursts, loss of heat).

The revised timeline allows confirmation of the cancellation of buses or the closing of schools by 5:30-6:00 a.m. to the Superintendents, Radio and Television Stations, as well as allowing sufficient time to post the information on the Board Website; e-Community; and change the voice message at the Catholic Education Centre.

A system is in place for contacting the Superintendents, Managers, and Principals to activate phone chains to notify staff of a closure.

Trustees will be contacted by the Director to keep them apprised of inclement weather results.

Director Crocco has drafted a letter to all parents/guardians outlining the Niagara Catholic District School Board decision making and communication process for inclement weather, and suggesting that they have a contingency plan for the supervision of their children when buses are cancelled, schools are closed and for mid-day school closures. A copy will be provided to all Trustees.

Trustees were informed that Senior Staff is tracking attendance on days where bussing is cancelled.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

The OCSTA memo "Impact on Trustee Candidates - Initial Proposed Accessible Information And Communications Standard" was distributed to Trustees.

Trustees were asked to review the Proposed Standard Outlines, which if implemented, would require municipal candidates to provide their election and candidate material in an accessible manner, upon request from a person with a disability.

OCSTA will be preparing a submission to the Government outlining their concerns. Trustees are invited to comment directly to the Accessibility Directorate of the Ministry of Community and Social Services with any concerns they may have prior to the February 6, 2009 deadline.

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Crole

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 Meeting at 8:35 p.m. and reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Dekker

THAT the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 13, 2009.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - Section A: Student Trustees Present held on December 2, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Scalzi

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - Section B: Student Trustees Excluded held on December 2, 2008, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F3)

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Crole

THAT the January 13, 2009, Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on January 13, 2009.

Approved on the 10th day of February 2009.

Kathy Burtnik
Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

TO: Niagara Catholic District School Board
Board Meeting
Public Session
January 27, 2009

TOPIC: FINANCIAL REPORTS
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
DECEMBER 31, 2008

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at December 31, 2008, as presented for information.

Prepared by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services
Presented by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services
Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 27, 2009



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
JANUARY 13, 2009**

**STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2008**

In accordance with the Monthly Financial Reports Policy Statement, we are pleased to enclose the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at December 31, 2008 for the Niagara Catholic District School Board. (See Appendix A)

As required by the Policy, a copy of the Financial Statements is available in the Trustee Lounge for the trustees to review at their convenience.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Report on the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at December 31, 2008 as presented.

Prepared by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services
Presented by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services
Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: **January 13, 2009**

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SUMMARY OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES
AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2008

| ACCOUNT DISCRIPTION | THIS YEAR | | | | | LAST YEAR | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | EXPENDED | BUDGET | % AVAIL | \$ AVAIL | COMMITTED | EXPENDED | BUDGET | % AVAIL |
| REVENUE | | | | | | | | |
| REVENUE | -82,671,478 | -216,602,655 | 61.8% | -133,931,177 | 0 | -80,281,033 | -212,646,964 | 62.2% |
| TOTAL REVENUE | -82,671,478 | -216,602,655 | 61.8% | -133,931,177 | 0 | -80,281,033 | -212,646,964 | 62.2% |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | | |
| BOARD ADMINISTRATION | 2,501,502 | 6,915,372 | 63.8% | 4,413,870 | 473,885 | 2,078,133 | 6,606,215 | 68.5% |
| ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS | 35,089,222 | 100,724,679 | 65.2% | 65,635,457 | 552,131 | 32,042,711 | 97,928,567 | 67.3% |
| SECONDARY SCHOOLS | 20,802,104 | 60,317,344 | 65.5% | 39,515,240 | 502,763 | 19,511,392 | 58,818,923 | 66.8% |
| CONTINUING EDUCATION | 1,799,582 | 5,856,977 | 69.3% | 4,057,395 | 50,412 | 1,566,429 | 5,362,378 | 70.8% |
| PLANT OPERATIONS | 5,128,176 | 16,455,266 | 68.8% | 11,327,090 | 226,932 | 4,550,311 | 16,408,479 | 72.3% |
| PLANT MAINTENANCE | 914,510 | 3,453,219 | 73.5% | 2,538,709 | 148,459 | 871,062 | 3,034,096 | 71.3% |
| TRANSPORTATION | 2,911,826 | 10,941,102 | 73.4% | 8,029,276 | 5 | 2,771,930 | 9,177,427 | 69.8% |
| CAPITAL AND OTHER EXPENDITURES | 3,168,671 | 11,938,696 | 73.5% | 8,770,025 | 548,514 | 6,365,521 | 15,310,879 | 58.4% |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 72,315,593 | 216,602,655 | 66.6% | 144,287,062 | 2,503,101 | 69,757,489 | 212,646,964 | 67.2% |

PREPARED BY : William Tumath
Finance Department

TO: Niagara Catholic District School Board
Board Meeting
Public Session
January 27, 2009

TOPIC: FINANCIAL REPORTS
MONTHLY BANKING TRANSACTIONS
DECEMBER 2008

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Monthly Banking Transactions for the month of December 2008, as presented for information.

Prepared by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services
Presented by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services
Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 27, 2009



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
JANUARY 13, 2009**

**MONTHLY BANKING TRANSACTIONS
FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2008**

In accordance with the Monthly Financial Reports Policy Statement, we are pleased to enclose the Monthly Banking Transactions for the month of December, 2008 for the Niagara Catholic District School Board. (See Appendix A)

As required by the Policy, a monthly list of payments is available in the Trustee Lounge for the trustees to review at their convenience.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Report on the Monthly Banking Transactions for the month of December, 2008 as presented.

Prepared by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services
Presented by: Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services
Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 13, 2009

| NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD REPORT ON BANKING TRANSACTIONS | |
|--|----------------------------|
| SUMMARY OF BANK TRANSACTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF: | DECEMBER, 2008 |
| DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS | BANK ACCOUNT |
| CASH BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF MONTH | (A) 34,344,590 |
| OPERATING CASH RECEIPTS FOR THE MONTH | |
| 1. GENERAL LEGISLATIVE GRANTS | 14,326,121 |
| 2. OTHER GRANTS (EPO, O.E.Y.C.) | 41,782 |
| 3. INTEREST REVENUE | 72,689 |
| 4. MUNICIPAL TAXES | 11,120,833 |
| 5. TUITION FEES REVENUE - A.C.E. & OTHER | 31,100 |
| 6. CHARITABLE DONATIONS | 11,675 |
| 7. GOVERNMENT REBATES (GST 68% REBATE ON TAXABLE PURCHASES) | 33,534 |
| 8. RECOVERY OF COSTS (LTD, WCB, BENEFITS, OTHER REIMBURSEMENTS)) | 511,261 |
| 9. OTHER CASH RECEIPTS | |
| - Reimbursements of Employee Benefits | 15,791 |
| - Green Shield Refund | 0 |
| 10. PROCEEDS FROM DEBENTURE ISSUE (NET) | 0 |
| 11. CAPITAL LOAN PRINCIPAL ADVANCES | 0 |
| TOTAL OPERATING CASH RECEIPTS AND LOAN ADVANCE | (B) 26,164,787 |
| OPERATING CASH DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH | |
| 1. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE (NET OF CANCELLED CHEQUES AND DEBT REPAYMENTS) | (16,872,333) |
| 2. TEACHER PENSION DEDUCTIONS | (1,077,452) |
| 3. O.M.E.R.S. PENSION DEDUCTIONS | (325,344) |
| 4. CANADA SAVINGS BONDS DEDUCTIONS | (146,928) |
| 5. TRANSFER TO 4 OVER 5 TRUST ACCOUNTS | (33,794) |
| 6. OTHER DEBITS | (54,036) |
| 7. INTEREST PAYMENTS ON CAPITAL DEBT | (164,281) |
| 8. PRINCIPAL PAYMENTS ON CAPITAL DEBT | 0 |
| TOTAL OPERATING CASH DISBURSEMENTS | (C) (18,674,167.98) |
| CASH BALANCE AT END OF MONTH | (D) 41,835,209 |
| | A + B - C = D |

| NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD REPORT ON LOAN BALANCES | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| SUMMARY OF LOAN BALANCES AS AT : | DECEMBER, 2008 | | | |
| The Debentures & Capital Loans are made up as follows: | | | | |
| Loan Description | Opening Balance | Loan Advances | Loan Repayments | Ending Balance |
| 1. GPL1 Loan 25 YR. | (13,366,968.34) | | | (13,366,968.34) |
| 2. GPL2 Loan 25 YR. | (10,241,490.45) | | | (10,241,490.45) |
| 3. Capital Loan 20 YR. | 0.00 | | | 0.00 |
| 4. Capital Loan 25 YR. | 0.00 | | | 0.00 |
| 5. Debenture (Niagara Region) | (2,373,000.00) | | | (2,373,000.00) |
| 6. Debenture (Niagara Region) | (3,910,000.00) | | | (3,910,000.00) |
| 7. Capital Projects - Completed 2001 | (21,421,419.59) | | | (21,421,419.59) |
| 8. Capital Projects - Completed 2002/03 | (22,927,919.85) | | | (22,927,919.85) |
| 9. Capital Projects - Completed 2004/05 | (9,151,289.65) | | | (9,151,289.65) |
| 10. Capital Projects - Completed 2005/06 | (8,393,736.98) | | | (8,393,736.98) |
| Total Debentures & Capital Loans | (91,785,824.86) | 0.00 | 0.00 | (91,785,824.86) |

PREPARED BY : William Tumath

TO: Niagara Catholic District School Board
Board Meeting
Public Session
January 27, 2009

TOPIC: MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2008

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of December 3, 2008, as presented for information.

Prepared by: Special Education Advisory Committee
Date: January 27, 2009



NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2008

CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Jane Houlden (Chair) | Autism Ontario |
| Carole Fuhrer | Learning Disabilities Association |
| Heather Schneider | Community Living – Welland/Pelham |
| Kim Rosati | VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children |
| Cyndi Gryp | Community Living-Grimsby, Lincoln & West Lincoln |
| Anna Racine | The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario |
| Connie Parry | Association for Bright Children |
| Tony Scalzi | Trustee |
| Gary Crole | Trustee |

ADMINISTRATION/RESOURCE PRESENT:

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells | Superintendent of Education |
| Marcel Jacques | Program Officer – Student Support Services |
| Amanda Cybula | Vice-Principal - Student Support Services – North Team |
| Carla Bianco | Vice-Principal - Student Support Services – South Team |
| Ken Griepsma | Vice Principal - Secondary |

REGRETS:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Julie Davison | Contact Niagara |
| Sandy Polly | Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara) |
| Theresa Murphy | Principal – Elementary |

RECORDING SECRETARY:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Tina DiFrancesco | Recording Secretary |
|------------------|---------------------|

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jane Houlden, Chair, called the meeting to order and Kim Rosati led the members in prayer.

2. ROLL CALL

Members, who had sent regrets or were absent, were noted. Marcel Jacques advised the SEAC that Julie Davison of Contact Niagara is no longer a member.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2008.

Moved by Connie Parry
Seconded by Anna Racine

That the Agenda at the Meeting of December 3rd, 2008 be approved.

Carried

4. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Nil.

5. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 5, 2008.

Moved by Kim Rosati
Seconded by Connie Parry

That the Minutes of the Meeting of November 5th, 2008 be approved.

Carried

6. VISIONING

6.1 Goals and Vision for 2008

Items were discussed throughout the agenda.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 5, 2008

7.1 Learner Advocacy – Identify issues important to inclusion

Jane Houlden handed out a list of ten Niagara Catholic District School Board inclusion issues. She asked the SEAC to review and bring forth any key issues at the next meeting. See attached report.

7.2 **Parent Outreach – SEAC awareness**

Jane Houlden reviewed Anna Racine's proposal of a new insertion explaining the SEAC in a more user friendly language. Some minor changes were identified and discussed with the members of the SEAC. A suggestion was put forth to input this information on the Board's website and *Spotlight on Niagara*. Marcel Jacques will find out if this can be done. See attached revised report. Carol Fuhrer noted that showing the SEAC PowerPoint presentation at the Spring Convention would be good for relationship building. There was discussion around Anna Racine and Amanda Cybula preparing a presentation for the Regional School Council Meeting on March 5th, 2009.

Mentor Connector

Marcel Jacques will contact Pat Mete, Secondary Consultant to do a presentation on the Mentor Connector Program for the next SEAC meeting on January 7th, 2009. Mentor Connector offers on-line academic support to Grade 9 and Grade 10 students in various secondary school subjects. There was discussion about the program in comparison to the P3 program.

7.3 **Program and Service Recommendations – PPM 140 survey**

Jane Houlden stated that 15% of schools in the Niagara Catholic District School Board were surveyed. She asked how schools were chosen. Marcel Jacques stated that the schools were chosen randomly throughout the region.

7.4 **Special Education Budget**

7.5 **Annual Review – Special Education Plan**

7.6 **Other related items – Ministers Advisory Council Special Education**

Jane Houlden briefly discussed the instructions for completion of the communication form: *Collaborating with the Community*. See attached report.

8. **PRESENTATIONS**

8.1 **Role of SEAC – Jane Houlden**

Jane Houlden gave an overview and described the purpose of the SEAC. She spoke about what other SEAC's are doing and made reference to the Recommendations to the Huron Superior Catholic District School Board which can be obtained on their Board's website at www.hscdsb.on.ca. See attached reports.

9. AGENCY REPORTS

9.1 VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children – Kim Rosati

- Kim Rosati attended the VOICE SEAC Workshop on November 8, 2008. There was a presentation from the Ontario Infant Hearing Program and the importance of early identification.

How Deaf and Heard of Hearing Children can be successful in Mainstream:

- Early identification (Infant Screening)
- Access to Auditory Verbal Therapy
- Parental & Community Involvement
- Trained Teachers of the Deaf

Statistics show that 40% of the deaf and hard of hearing have another physical or learning challenge.

- Anita Bernstein, Director of Therapy Services for VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children spoke on the VOICE Training and Mentoring Program in the Auditory Verbal Approach. Voice is aware of the shortage of AV trained professionals and has provided an AV Training/Mentorship program. The program has successfully impacted a number of communities through the model “Train the Trainer”. In 2007, the Ontario Ministry of Education launched a Pilot AV training/mentorship program in four Ontario School Boards. Currently six professionals from the various school boards are training under the mentorship of a VOICE certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist. The primary goal is to achieve a longer term change in services provided to students who are deaf and hard of hearing. The ultimate goal is to train Listening and Spoken Language Specialists who are capable of providing intervention in the Auditory Verbal approach. This will also help the transition of the students from the Infant Hearing Program to the educational environment. For more information about the AV Training/Mentorship Program please contact Anita Bernstein, Director of Therapy Services at the VOICE office 1-416-487-7719 or abernstein@voicefordeafkids.com. See Attachment: Sound Field Research Compilation.
- Kim Rosati informed members of a SEAC booklet from the Halton Catholic District School Board and inquired about the possibility of a similar booklet from the Niagara Catholic District School Board to provide information and awareness to parents. Marcel Jacques stated that our board does have a package and flyers are distributed to parents of all JK students, however he will look into the booklet.

9.2 Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara) – Sandy Polly

- No Report

9.3 Community Living – Welland/Pelham – Heather Schneider

- On November 24th, 2008 the Annual General Meeting was held at 535 Sutherland in Welland. The meeting was very well attended and informative. There was a presentation in regards to Community Integration through Co-operative Education (CICE).

9.4 Association for Bright Children – Connie Parry

- Membership rules have changed for the Association for Bright Children. There is no longer a set membership fee and those that make a tax deductible donation to ABC will now be considered a member.

9.5 Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara – Carole Fuhrer

- LDA-N has received good news from Brandscombe Family Foundation. We have received funding approval for decentralizing our Soar to Independence Program. This literacy and social skills based program will be available starting in the fall of 2009 in Niagara Falls, South Niagara (Welland or Fort Erie), and Grimsby. We want to contribute to student success and build on the student learning's received the school system.
- LDA-N is actively seeking partnership opportunities and would welcome a meeting with NCDSB regarding how we could work collaboratively on this project.

9.6 Community Living – Grimsby, Lincoln and West Lincoln(G/L/WL) – Cyndi Gryp

- Two Community Living staff members attended the Canadian Association for Community Living 50th Anniversary Conference in Ottawa November 19-21, 2008. The Independently produced documentary “The “R” Word” was previewed

9.7 Autism Ontario – Jane Houlden

- Learner Advocacy – Implementation of the PPM 140 in Ontario Schools
Autism Ontario worked with the Ministry of Education to use the original survey completed by Ontario educators to gain the perspective of parents of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Over 600 surveys completed by the closing date of November 30th, 2008.
- Parent Outreach – Workshops
DT Trainer – Social Scripts and Narratives – December 3rd, 2008
What is ASD? Information for Extended family and friends – December 7th, 2008.
- Recommendations – Autism Ontario released its public policy paper “Forgotten”.
Recommendations for supports and services for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder. See attached report.

9.8 The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario – Anna Racine

- The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario had their annual children's Christmas party for families in November at the Boys and Girls Club in Niagara Falls. The children played games in the gym and swam. Pizza, snacks, refreshments, and goodie bags were all free of charge.

10. STAFF REPORTS

10.1 Amanda Cybula – Vice-Principal Student Support Services –Team North

- Amanda Cybula informed members of the SEAC that on the last Professional Development Day there was a presentation on ASD for the Child and Youth Workers. Amanda Cybula reviewed a list of programs and resources which are used by our Child and Youth Workers. See attached report.

10.2 Carla Bianco – Vice-Principal Student Support Services-Team South

- Carla Bianco stated that on November 24th and December 1st, 2008 the Niagara Catholic District School Board showed a JK transition PowerPoint presentation to new parents at the Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre. The District School Board of Niagara, Autism Ontario, Transportation Services and Bethesda were all in attendance. A brief overview of the services they provide and personnel were presented to parents.

10.3 Ken Griepsma – Vice-Principal, Secondary

- There are many success stories going on in Special Education at the secondary level right now. A Grade 12 student from one of our high schools participating in a co-op placement at Shopper's Drug Mart was offered a part time job at the conclusion of his co-op and there are numerous stories of this type across the board. Many students appear to be participating in co-operative education opportunities and are doing very well.
- It was reported by a number of schools that Special Education students who will be writing the OSSLT will be having a practice assessment using the accommodations that they will be using during the actual test in February. This test will be marked and feedback will be provided to these students.
- Special Education students/classes in a number of schools have taken up fundraising activities (i.e. Saint Michael – selling meatball subs once a month to raise money to further subsidize their field trips). Other classes are doing community service (i.e. Lakeshore Catholic –students assisting with the cleaning, peeling, and cutting of vegetables used in the Port Colborne soup kitchen).
- The Supported Learning and General Skills teachers at Denis Morris are working with their local Special Needs' Facilitator and two local service providers on a pilot project involving creating a portfolio for each student in the General Skills class and selected students in the Supported Learning class. The idea being that each student who leaves will have a portfolio outlining accomplishments and skills they have attained.
- **Upcoming Events:**
St. Paul High School Cosom Hockey Invitational – December 5th, 2008
St. Francis Christmas event – December 11th, 2008

10.4 Theresa Murphy – Principal, Elementary

- Marcel Jacques reported on behalf of Theresa Murphy. The week of November 24th, 2008 the first term report cards went out and there were parent/teacher interviews.

10.5 Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells – Superintendent of Education

- A copy of the document *OPA Student Assessment Project Sharing Promising Practices: A Resource Guide: Kindergarten to Grade 4* was provided to the SEAC members. The document includes the lessons learned from the practices developed by the Ontario seventy-two school boards and three school authorities that participated in the OPA project. The Niagara Catholic District School Board's project, "Improving Student Achievement by Assessment" is profiled on page 108.
- At the CODE Leadership Summit for Special Education, Ministry of Education officials, representatives from school boards, and guest speakers shared practices about how to improve student achievement for students with special needs. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells shared the document, "Building Partnerships for the Future: Engaging Parents of Students with Special Needs" about parental engagement and involvement of parents/guardians to close the gap of student achievement for students with special needs.
- On behalf of Student Support Services, Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells wished a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to the SEAC members.

10.6 Marcel Jacques – Program Officer

- Marcel Jacques reported that all Educational Assistants have received the two day Geneva Centre Training and the one day refresher training. The Niagara Catholic District School Board is now offering a one day BMS (Behaviour Management Systems) refresher training for Educational Assistants.

11. TRUSTEE REPORTS

11.1 Gary Crole

- Gary Crole reported that on December 2nd at the Committee of the Whole meeting Kathy Burtnik was elected as new Chairperson and Frank Fera was elected as new Vice Chairperson. Trustees have been asked to express their interest for Board committees. The final decision will be made by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.
- O.E.C.T.A and C.U.P.E. agreements were accepted by the membership and approved by the Board until 2012.
- The Report on Policy Development Update for the month of December 2008 is submitted for the information of trustees. Policies being developed are Self-Identification of Aboriginal Students Policy, Conflict of Interest for Employees' Policy and Code of Conduct – Trustees Policy.

11.2 Tony Scalzi

- Tony Scalzi reported that the Committee of the Whole recommended to the Niagara Catholic District School Board that the Pupil Accommodation Review for Niagara Falls Elementary, St. Catharines Elementary and St. Catharines Secondary be received. All information can be found on the Board's website and public input through the scheduled Special Board Meetings in February 2009.

12. NEW BUSINESS

12.1 Learner Advocacy

12.2 Parent Outreach

12.3 Program and Service Recommendations

12.4 Special Education Budget – Timelines for Budget Requests

- Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells reported that John Crocco will present information to the Board for review in February or March 2009.

12.5 Annual Review, Special Education Plan

12.6 Other Related Items – Terms of Office

- Jane Houlden announced her resignation to the SEAC effective immediately. She has decided to become more involved at the provincial level. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells thanked Jane Houlden for all of her hard work and dedication to the SEAC. Gary Crole added that Jane Houlden's commitment, dedication, knowledge, and leadership will be difficult to replace. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells advised the SEAC that an election for a new Chairperson and new Vice-Chairperson will take place at the next SEAC meeting on January 7th, 2009. Jane Houlden reviewed the agenda for the January meeting with the members.

13. AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION for FUTURE MEETINGS

- a. Sheila Bennett will present information on the *Special Education Transformation* document on February 4, 2009.

14. INFORMATION ITEMS

15. ITEMS DISTRIBUTED

- a) Inclusion Issues NCDSB
- b) OPA Student Assessment Project Sharing Promising Practices: A Resource Guide:
Kindergarten to Grade 4
- c) Building Partnerships for the Future: Engaging Parents of Students with Special Needs

16. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SEAC will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Heather Schneider
Seconded by Cyndi Gryp

That the meeting adjourn at 8:55p.m.

Carried

TO: Niagara Catholic District School Board
Board Meeting
Public Session
January 27, 2009

TOPIC: RESIGNATION OF SEAC MEMBER

The report on the
Resignation of SEAC Member
is presented for information.

Wednesday, December-03-08

Board of Directors
Niagara Catholic District School Board
427 Rice Road
Welland, Ontario
L3C 7C1

Board of Directors:

I hereby submit my resignation as a representative of Autism Ontario on SEAC. I will miss the challenge my role offered, as well as the association with staff and other volunteers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jane Houlden", written in a cursive style.

Jane Houlden

TO: Niagara Catholic District School Board
Board Meeting
Public Session
January 27, 2009

TOPIC: DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2008

The report on the
Director's Annual Report 2008
is presented for information.

(Director's Annual Report 2008
under separate cover)

Prepared by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 27, 2009



REPORT TO THE BOARD MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009

DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2008

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In compliance with the Education Act, Section 283(3), the Chief Executive Officer of a Board is required to submit to the Board an annual report highlighting the action taken during the preceding twelve months. A copy of the annual report must be submitted yearly to the Minister of Education before January 31st.

For the 2008 Annual Director's Report, the Minister of Education provided Directors of Education with an outline of specific information to be included, at a minimum, in the annual report to the Board. The Niagara Catholic Director's Annual Report 2008 is presented in a new layout and contains all of the information as required by the Minister of Education.

In addition, it is expected that the Annual Report is posted on a Board's website with a link to the Ministry's website for access to the Director's Annual Report. Once the Board receives the Director's Annual Report 2008, it will be placed on the Niagara Catholic website at www.niagaracatholic.ca and linked to the Ministry's website.

In addition to these requirements, copies of the Niagara Catholic Director's Annual Report 2008 are provided to the Trustees of the Niagara Catholic District School Board along with the following individuals and / or organizations;

- Bishop Wingle
- Parish Priests
- Principals and Vice-Principals
- Catholic School Council Chairs
- Niagara Regional Catholic School Council / PIC
- OECTA Elementary and Secondary
- CUPE
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- Other Catholic School Boards in Ontario

A copy of the Director's Annual Report 2008 is provided to all Trustees with this Board agenda.

Additional copies of the report can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Director of Education at the Catholic Education Centre.

| |
|---|
| The report on the Director's Annual Report 2008 is presented for information. |
|---|

Prepared by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 27, 2009

TO: Niagara Catholic District School Board
Board Meeting
Public Session
January 27, 2009

TOPIC: PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS SCHEDULE
AND GUIDELINES

The report on the
Pupil Accommodation Review Special Board Meetings Schedule
and Guidelines is presented for information.

Prepared by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 27, 2009



**REPORT TO THE BOARD
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009**

**PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW
SPECIAL BOARD MEETINGS SCHEDULE AND GUIDELINES**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

As recommended to the Committee of the Whole on October 14th, 2008 and approved by the Niagara Catholic District School Board on October 28th, 2008, Senior Staff and the Board will follow the approved Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Schedule 2008-2009 (Appendix A) and the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines for Public Input (Appendix B).

Appendix A provides a copy of the approved Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Schedule which outlines the agenda of events and dates.

Appendix B provides a copy of the approved Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines for Public Input which outlines the Special Board Meetings, the Delegation Application Process and the Delegation Presentation for public input through Special Board Meetings, staff reports and the Board Meeting to decide on accommodations.

The Pupil Accommodation Review Special Board Meetings Schedule
and Guidelines are presented for information.

Prepared by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education
Date: January 27, 2009



APPENDIX A

PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW SCHEDULE – 2008-2009

| Meeting | Expectation | Date Restrictions | Date |
|--|--|---|---|
| Submission of ARC School Valuation Report to the Director of Education | Not earlier than 90 days after the beginning and not later than 95 days after the beginning of the ARC's first public meeting | Niagara Falls Between Sept. 5 th and 10 th , 2008 St. Catharines – Between Sept. 11 th and Sept.16 th , 2008 | Submitted Sept. 8 th , 2008 Submitted Sept. 12 th , 2008 |
| Staff's Report and Recommendations | Not less than 30 days after the ARC report was submitted to the Director of Education | Not before; Niagara Falls – Oct. 8 th , 2008 St. Catharines – Oct. 10 th , 2008 | Committee of the Whole December 2 nd , 2008 Board Meeting December 16 th , 2008 |
| Director sets dates for Special Board meeting for public input and for Board meeting to decide accommodation | As scheduled by the Director of Education | | Special Board Meetings Niagara Falls - Feb.17 th / 09 St. Catharines - Feb. 18 th and February 23 rd , 2009 |
| Notice of Board Meeting for Public Input | As scheduled by the Board but not sooner than 30 days after Staff's Report and recommendations are presented to the Board through CW in public session | Not before January 27 th , 2009 | January 28 th , 2009 |
| Staff's follow-up report on accommodation | Next regularly scheduled Board meeting through the Committee of the Whole | | Committee of the Whole March 10 th , 2009 Board Meeting March 31 st , 2009 |
| Notice of Board Meeting to decide accommodation | At least 60 days prior to the Board meeting | No later than March 22 nd , 2009 | |
| Board Meeting to decide accommodation | At a regularly scheduled meeting which will not occur sooner than 60 days after the presentation of Staff's Report, 30 days after the Board Meeting for public input and 15 days after Staff's follow-up report as released publicly | Not before March 22 nd , 2009 Not before April 2 nd , 2009 Not before April 19 th , 2009 | Board Meeting May 26 th , 2009 |
| Notice of Decision on Accommodation | Within one week of decision | Not before June 2 nd , 2009 | June 3 rd , 2009 |



PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC INPUT

As required by the Closure of Schools/ Accommodation Review Policy of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Board will hold a special Board meeting for public input regarding the School Valuation Report filed by the Accommodation Review Committee and the Director's Report. These special Board meetings are scheduled as follows:

Niagara Falls Elementary, 7:00 p.m. February 17, 2009, at Saint Michael Catholic HS

St. Catharines Elementary, 7:00 p.m. February 18, 2009, at Denis Morris Catholic HS

St. Catharines Secondary, 7:00 p.m. February 23, 2009, at Denis Morris Catholic HS

The public may provide a written report to the Director of Education at any time.

The following Guidelines describe the public meeting process.

Delegation Application Process

The public meeting will follow the By-law of the Board for public delegations in modified form, as set out below. The modifications are intended to facilitate public participation.

(a) Written application requesting the opportunity to appear as a delegation must be submitted to the Director of Education no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 10, 2009.

(b) The following information should be included with this application:

(i) The name of the organization/individuals(s) or party(ies) who will be making the presentation;

(ii) Their authority/title/position with the organization (if applicable);

(iii) A complete mailing address;

(iv) A day time telephone number;

(v) A number where they can be reached after business hours;

(vi) A fax number (if available);

(vii) An e-mail address (if available);

(viii) The complete presentation in written format

(c) Delegations are encouraged to send the Presentation in as soon as possible so that it can be provided to and reviewed by Trustees prior to the meeting. Presentations that are received on a timely basis will be considered and addressed in the Director's follow-up report to the Board required by the Pupil Accommodation Review Policy in which the Director will report on and respond to the presentations made by the public. A presentation that is submitted late may not be addressed in the Director's follow-up report although it will be made available to the Trustees.

Delegation Presentation

Minutes of the Special Board Meetings including references to the presentations will be posted on the Board's website.

- (a) The identified spokespersons will address the Trustees from the podium.
- (b) The spokespersons are expected to provide comments that are relevant to the subject matter of the meeting. If a previous delegation has already addressed the matter and the delegate is being repetitive, the Chairperson of the Board may request the delegate to express support for an earlier presentation and may reduce the following speaking times available to the delegate accordingly.
- (c) The time for each public delegation to speak, excluding the question and answer period, is not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes, with normally a five (5) minute question period following.
- (d) Delegates who have a similar perspective are encouraged to co-operate in appointing spokespersons in addressing the Board.
- (e) Delegations from the same school community on the same point of view shall be limited to a combined total of fifteen (15) minutes.
- (f) Delegations who are unrelated to a particular school community but who are speaking on a common issue shall be limited to a combined total of fifteen (15) minutes.
- (g) Trustees may ask questions of the delegation for clarification only, for a period of time which shall be at the discretion of the Chairperson.
- (h) The Chairperson will apply the normal Board practices in respect of decorum and order at the meeting.
- (i) The Board will not permit delegations respecting the Pupil Accommodation Review Policy at other Board meetings.
- (j) In accordance with Board By-law 7.5 the Board shall not remain in session later than 11:00 p.m. unless so determined by a 2/3 majority of the members present.

TO: Niagara Catholic District School Board
Board Meeting
Public Session
January 27, 2009

TOPIC: STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The report on the
Staff Development Professional Development Opportunities
is presented for information.

Prepared by: Rob Ciarlo, Superintendent of Education
Khayyam Syne, Administrator of Staff Development

Presented by: Rob Ciarlo, Superintendent of Education
Khayyam Syne, Administrator of Staff Development

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education

Date: January 27, 2009



REPORT TO THE BOARD TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009

STAFF DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Department of Staff Development, among its many roles acts as the point of co-ordination among various departments in ensuring that all professional development opportunities for staff, both teaching and non-teaching, occur in a seamless fashion so as to minimize disruptions to the myriad services provided within our Niagara Catholic community.

The following is a listing of activities that will be occurring during the period January 27, 2009 through, February 24, 2009.

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Teacher Learning Critical Pathway In-Service for Elementary Principals

- Workshop given by Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat to Elementary Principals and two teacher representatives from each Elementary school on the model used to organize actions for teaching and student learning.

Wednesday, January 28, 2009

Electronic Annual Education Plan (AEP) In-Service(Notre Dame College School Family of Schools)

- Workshop given by Board staff for Grade 7 and 8 Teachers dealing with the completion, storage and transmission of the AEP for Intermediate students as they transition to Grade 9.

Guided Reading In-Service

- Workshop for teachers of the Early Years and Primary Grades given by Board Staff and dealing with "Introducing a Book."

Labs Without labs In-Service

- Workshop for Teachers of the Intermediate Grades on the ability to perform laboratory experiments via e-learning.

Thursday, January 29, 2009

Electronic Annual Education Plan (AEP) In-Service (Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School Family of Schools)

- Workshop given by Board staff for Grade 7 and 8 Teachers dealing with the completion, storage and transmission of the AEP for Intermediate students as they transition to Grade 9.

Friday, January 30, 2009

Behaviour Management Systems In-Service

- Workshop given by Student Support Services staff for Educational Assistants attached to the Secondary panel on Behaviour Management Systems (BMS)

Monday, February 2, 2009

Junior and Senior Kindergarten Report Card In-Service

- Workshop given by Board staff to those teachers of Junior and or Senior Kindergarten who are either new to the division or who require a refresher course.

Wednesday, February 4, 2009

Elementary Drama and Dance In-Service

- Workshop given by Program Department staff to Elementary Teachers of Junior and Intermediate grades on the skill of teaching Drama and Dance.

Maplewood Report Card Training

- Workshop given by Program Department staff for Elementary teachers requiring a refresher course and for teachers new to the system.

Thursday, February 5, 2009

Student Success Teacher In -Service

- Workshop given by Student Success Leader on the new Ministry of Education initiatives.

Preparing Students for Lent

- Workshop given by Program Department staff for Elementary Teachers who require ideas and resources on the preparation of students for Lent.

Monday, February 9, 2009

Differentiated Instruction for Assessment and Evaluation In-Service (St. Paul Catholic, St. Michael Catholic and Holy Cross Catholic High Schools Family of Schools)

- Workshop given by Karen Hume, Author of "Differentiated Success for the Adolescent Student," on Differentiated Instruction strategies for teachers of Grades 7 to 10.

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Differentiated Instruction for Assessment and Evaluation In-Service (Denis Morris Catholic and Lakeshore Catholic High Schools Family of Schools)

- Workshop given by Karen Hume, Author of "Differentiated Success for the Adolescent Student," on Differentiated Instruction strategies for teachers of Grades 7 to 10.

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Differentiated Instruction for Assessment and Evaluation In-Service (Notre Dame College and St. Francis Catholic High Schools Family of Schools)

- Workshop given by Karen Hume, Author of "Differentiated Success for the Adolescent Student," on Differentiated Instruction strategies for teachers of Grades 7 to 10.

Secondary On-Line Course Registration In-Service

- Workshop given by Board Staff to Program Chairs of Student Services on the electronic version of the Course Guide, Intention Sheet and remuneration of Registration Fees.

Friday, February 13 , 2009

Elementary Professional Activity Day – School Self Assessment Framework

- Elementary school staffs will be involved in a two part program which will see the morning session consist of Individual School Self-Assessment Activities, mandated by the Ministry of Education and led by the Principal. The afternoon session will be a natural progression from the latter and deal with the Teacher Learning Critical Pathway model which began on January 27.

Behaviour Management Systems Refresher Course

- Workshop given by Student Support Staff for Educational Assistants in the Elementary panel who have qualified to take this program by virtue of having received full certification earlier.

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

EQAO Testing In-Service

- Workshop given by Board Staff to teachers of Grades 3 and 6 on the Ministry of Education requirements for the Spring administration of the EQAO tests.

Running Records and Observation Survey In-Service

- Workshop given by Board Staff to teachers in the Primary Division who require a refresher course in the administration of these assessment tools.

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Teaching Mathematics in the Early Years and Primary Division

- Workshop for teachers in the Primary division on introducing “mini-lessons” into the Mathematics curriculum

Thursday, February 19, 2009

New Ministry of Education Student Success Strategy In-Service

- Workshop given by Board staff to the Principal and Student Success Teams in the Secondary panel on the most recent Ministry of Education initiatives

Friday, February 20, 2009

Smart Board Training

- Workshop given by Board personnel to the Program Department consultants and coordinators on the most effective use of Smart Boards.

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

Prepared By: Robert Ciarlo, Superintendent of Education
Khayyam Syne, Administrator of Staff Development

Presented By: Robert Ciarlo, Superintendent of Education
Khayyam Syne, Administrator of Staff Development

Approved By: John Crocco, Director of Education

Date: January 27, 2009

TO: Niagara Catholic District School Board
Board Meeting
Public Session
January 27, 2009

TOPIC: REPORT ON TRUSTEE CONFERENCES ATTENDED
OCSTA LABOUR RELATIONS SEMINAR



Ontario Catholic School
Trustees' Association

January 15, 2009

MEMO TO: Chairs and Directors of Education
All Member Boards & School Authorities

FROM: Mike Riley, Coordinator Labour Relations

RE: OCSTA Labour Relations Seminar

The OCSTA Labour Relations Seminar will be held on **February 27, 2009** at the Doubletree by Hilton – Toronto Airport from 7:30 a.m. (Registration and Buffet Breakfast) to 3:15 p.m. The first plenary session begins at 8:30 a.m.

Preliminary Program:

Included with this memo is a copy of the Preliminary Program. Topics to be discussed during the Seminar include: *Trustees' Perspective on Labour Relations, Strategies to Resolve Labour Issues, Collective Bargaining: Theory vs Practice* and *Implementing and Managing the Collective Agreements: Challenges and Opportunities*. Please share this information with all board trustees, Human Resources personnel and other board personnel who may benefit from this seminar.

Registration Fee:

\$120.00 + GST \$6.00 = \$126.00

Seminar Cancellation Policy:

The deadline date for cancellation and full refund of all registration fees is February 13, 2009. An administrative fee of \$50.00 will be charged for cancellations received after February 13, 2009 and before close of business on February 20, 2009. No refunds will be made for cancellations received after February 20, 2009. All cancellation notices must be submitted in writing to Pam DeNobrega by Fax (416-932-9459) or E-mail: pdenobrega@ocsta.on.ca.

Registration Form:

Please complete the attached registration form and return it along with a cheque for the registration fee to:

Pam DeNobrega
OCSTA
20 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario, M4R 1K8
E-mail: pdenobrega@ocsta.on.ca
Fax: 416-932-9459

Please make cheques payable to OCSTA.

Hotel Accommodation:

The Doubletree by Hilton - Toronto Airport has set aside a block of rooms that will be held until February 13, 2009. The special room rate for OCSTA delegates starts at \$134.00 per night plus applicable taxes. Please make your reservations directly with the hotel by calling 1-800-668-3656 or 416-244-1711.

Special Meal Requirements:

If you have any dietary restrictions, please contact Margaret Binns, Office Administrator, at 416-932-9460 ext. 228 by February 18, 2009.

Thank you for your support and participation. We look forward to seeing you at the Seminar!



LABOUR RELATIONS SEMINAR

BUILDING LABOUR RELATIONSHIPS

**February 27, 2009
Preliminary Program**

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| 7:30 a.m. | Registration & Breakfast |
| 8:30 a.m. | Opening Prayer, Introductions |
| 8:45 a.m. | Marshall Jarvis, Executive Director OECTA |
| 9:30 a.m. | Panel: Pat Daly, Paul Whitehead <i>"Trustees' Perspective on Labour Relations"</i> |
| 10:30 a.m. | Nutrition Break |
| 11:00 a.m. | Panel: Reg Pearson, Bruce Janisse, Ministry of Labour <i>"Strategies to Resolve Labour Issues"</i> |
| 12:00 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | Speaker: Claire Vachon <i>"Collective Bargaining: Theory vs Practice"</i> |
| 1:45 p.m. | Nutrition Break |
| 2:00 p.m. | Panel: Peter Derochie, Bob Dubniak, Wally Easton, Jim LoPresti <i>"Implementing and Managing the Collective Agreements: Challenges and Opportunities"</i> |
| 3:00 p.m. | Wrap up |

TO: Niagara Catholic District School Board
Board Meeting
Public Session
January 27, 2009

TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
SPOTLIGHT ON NIAGARA CATHOLIC - JANUARY 13, 2009



Spotlight ON NIAGARA CATHOLIC

www.niagaracatholic.ca

January 16, 2009



Funding for New Elementary schools

Niagara Catholic has received additional funding from the Ontario Ministry of Education for the construction of two new Catholic elementary schools in Grimsby.

In March, 2007, the Ministry announced funding approval for St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School under the Prohibitive to Repair program. Niagara Catholic received nearly \$8.7 million in funding for the new schools, but the amount did not cover the cost to rebuild two new schools.

St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School opened in September 1954. Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School opened in September 1968 as an open concept school. Both schools are in need of many upgrades and repairs.

After a series of discussions with the Ministry of Education, Niagara Catholic is pleased to report that an additional \$3.4 million in funding has been approved for the schools. The funds include \$700,000 for demolition and site repair, \$1 million to build three new classrooms for full-day learning for four and five-year-olds, \$1 million for three new classrooms due to primary class size reductions and an increase in construction cost benchmarks

The approval means the Board can move on to request tenders to build the new schools. The tendering documents are expected to be completed by May and tenders received in June.

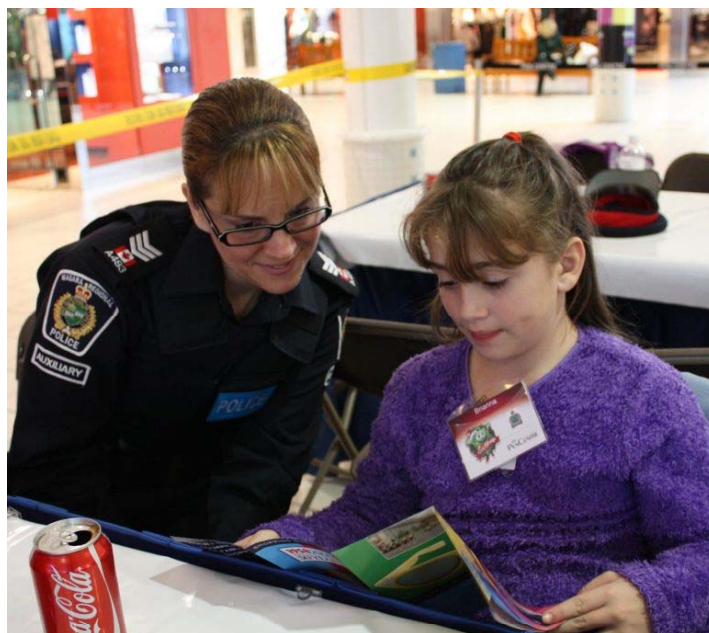
If all goes according to plan, construction of the two schools will begin July and the doors will open for students in September 2010.

The Our Lady of Fatima and St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School communities, as well as Niagara Catholic's Trustees, will be consulted and kept informed of updated information throughout the tendering and construction process.

Niagara Catholic students take part in CopShop program at Pen Centre

On December 19, ten students from St. Anthony and St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary Schools took part in the CopShop program, a joint effort between the Pen Centre and the Niagara Regional Police. Students were given a \$200 gift card to spend on gifts for their families. They were partnered with off-duty Niagara Regional Police and Auxiliary Officers, who spent the day shopping with the students and talking to them about their future. The students were also treated to lunch courtesy of Boston Pizza at the Pen.

(Below, Grade 4 St. Nicholas student Brianna Avery-Cannon maps out a shopping strategy with NRPS Aux. Sgt. Tracy Kennedy.)



Upcoming

- January 27th
Board Meeting
- January 23rd - 29th
Secondary Exams
- January 30th
Bishop's Gala

**KINDERGARTEN
REGISTRATION**

During the month of
February

Call your local Catholic elementary school

Winter has arrived in Niagara!

With winter in full swing, it is a good time to remind parents and students about Niagara Catholic's snow procedures:

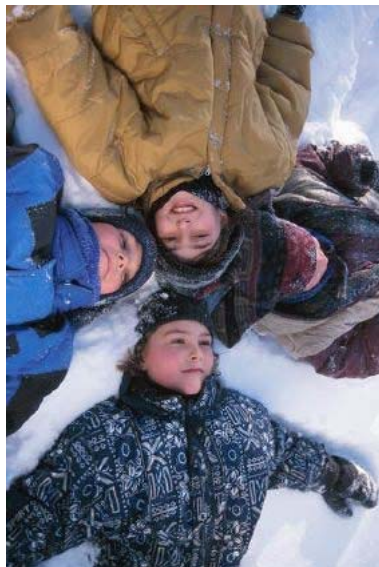
- We want students to enjoy winter fun outdoors, but students are reminded of the need to play safely.

Waist-high snow sculptures are permitted. Students must follow the school rules for safe snow play.

- Students will be sent outside on seasonally cold days. However, when a cold weather alert is issued by the Region, students will be kept inside. Principals may also keep students inside at their discretion, providing the minimum conditions for indoor lunch and recesses are met.

- Parents are reminded to ensure that their children come to school appropriately dressed for the weather and have a change of clothes in their locker.

- And finally, there are days when Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS), in co-operation with Director of Education, John Crocco and his counterpart at the District School Board of Niagara, deem it necessary to cancel bus transportation. Bus cancellations and school closures are decisions that are not made lightly, but are made with the safety of our Niagara Catholic students and staff as a priority. Parents/Guardians are reminded to listen to local radio station for cancellation and school closure announcements. School closure and bus cancellation information can also be found on local television stations, on the Niagara Catholic website, www.niagaracatholic.ca, and through the Niagara Catholic e-community.



Sisters of the Sacred Heart to receive 2008 Award of Distinction at Bishop's Gala

The Sisters of the Sacred Heart have been selected as the recipients of the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education's 2008 Award of Distinction.

The religious order was founded in Ragusa, Italy, in 1889. The Sisters began ministering to the sick and elderly in 1958, then began caring for children when they opened a daycare with just one child in 1959. Today, the Sisters have 45 children in their care at their centre on Sullivan Avenue in Thorold.

Board Chair Kathy Burtnik said the Sisters offer preschoolers a loving start to Catholic education. *"They have nurtured, taught, loved and guided the hearts, minds, and souls of hundreds of children and provide a strong spiritual foundation on which we at Niagara Catholic can continue to build,"* she said.

Niagara Catholic Director of Education John Crocco praised the Sisters for their dedication to the children in Niagara for the past half-century. *"They have impacted the lives of thousands of children over the years, all of whom hold very fond and loving memories of the great Sisters of the Sacred Heart,"* he said.

Sister M. Margherita Ianni SSC said the honour inspires the sisters to continue their work serving the people of Niagara. *"We have always striven to care for and teach our children out of love for them as images of God with precious immortal souls,"* she said. *"This honour inspires us to continue to strive to serve our children with even greater love and give the Lord ever greater glory."*

The Sacred Heart Sisters will be presented with the Niagara Catholic Award of Distinction during the annual Bishop's Gala at Club Italia in Niagara Falls on January 30.

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+ Congratulations to students at Canadian Martyrs Catholic Elementary School in St. Catharines. In September, students pledged to help build a school in Kenya through the Free the Children Foundation, and set a goal of raising \$8,500 by the end of the school year.

Only two months into their efforts, the students are just \$2,000 short of their goal. Teachers, Dan Sullivan and Lynn Sciamonte have volunteered to travel to Kenya in July to assist in the building.

+ Congratulations to John O'Connor, a teacher at St. Charles Catholic Elementary School, who was one of 29 people who became new Canadians during a citizenship ceremony at Assumption Catholic Elementary School in St. Catharines on December 3. John is a native of Scotland who has spent much of his life in Canada.

+ Congratulations to Jake Vecia, who was elected Chair of the newly formed Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee in St. Catharines. He is a Grade 12 student at Denis Morris Catholic High School in St. Catharines.

+ Congratulations to Amanda Schenck, a Grade 12 student at St. Francis Catholic Secondary School. Amanda is a member of a national synchronized skating team, NEXXICE, based out of Burlington. The team won gold at the Junior World Qualifier at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga January 9-12, and will take part in the Junior Worlds in Switzerland in March.

+ Congratulations to Lauryn Longo, a Grade 4 student at Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School, whose artwork was chosen for a national anti-littering calendar.

Nurturing Souls and Building Minds

TO: Niagara Catholic District School Board
Board Meeting
Public Session
January 27, 2009

TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
DIRECTOR'S LETTER TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS REGARDING
CANCELLING BUSES AND CLOSING SCHOOLS



Office of the Director of Education

Friday, January 16th, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians;

A very Happy New Year to you and your family as we begin 2009. With the winter months now upon us and the recent weather which has resulted in two decisions to cancel school transportation and keep schools open, I thought it important to provide parents and guardians with information on our decision-making and communication process when we are faced with making such decisions.

It is always a challenge in making weather related decisions given the unpredictability of the weather and the diverse topography of the Niagara Peninsula which affects the impact of weather systems across the region. The Niagara Catholic District School Board covers 1,868 sq km, bordered by Lake Erie, Lake Ontario and the Niagara River. With 72 facilities, 24,000 students and 3,100 staff in the 12 municipalities across the Region of Niagara, our Board covers a large geographic area.

Cancelling Student Transportation

When adverse weather conditions are forecasted, Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS), our student transportation provider, gathers information on road and weather conditions. Throughout the night and beginning very early in the morning (4:00 a.m.), NSTS gathers data from a wide variety of sources, including the bus companies, various municipal and regional agencies and from NSTS staff performing checks on selected routes to experience the road conditions first hand. NSTS considers the actual weather conditions, the forecasted weather and the road conditions very carefully.

Once all available information has been collected and reviewed, the decision to cancel buses is made by NSTS, in consultation with the bus companies, if it is determined that students cannot be safely transported to schools, as well as transported home at the end of the day.

Closing Schools

The process and decision to close schools is made independently from the decision to cancel student transportation and is made by the Director of Education. Given that all of our schools provide an essential service to students and parents, if the weather deteriorates, I am in contact with the Director of Education of the District School Board of Niagara and, after careful consideration, we decide whether it is necessary to close schools. In our discussions, we consider such issues as:

- ✓ Can some students safely walk to school ?
- ✓ Can some staff safely get to schools to welcome students who arrive ?
- ✓ Are the main roads clear ?
- ✓ Are there any other circumstances that would necessitate a school closure, such as a power outage, water main burst or loss of heat inside the school ?
- ✓ What are the conditions across the Region of Niagara ? Does the inclement weather affect the entire Region, or is it localized to one community ?
- ✓ What is the impact of closing schools ?

There are times when weather conditions will deteriorate throughout the morning, making it necessary to close schools mid-day. This is not a decision that is made lightly as we recognize the impact on students, parents and staff. In these circumstances, we consider the impact on all stakeholders and, most importantly, how to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Communication

The decision to cancel transportation and/or close schools is made by 6:00 a.m. which is then immediately communicated to all local radio and television (CHCH) for broadcast. It is also posted on our Board's website at www.niagaracatholic.ca, e-mailed to all participants of our *e-Community* and placed as a message on the main phone line of the Catholic Education Centre.

Simultaneously, Niagara Catholic Family of Schools Superintendents are in contact with all Principals to advise them of bus cancellations or school closures. In discussions with Principals, our Family of School Superintendents review student participation at SCOEP, planned ski and field trips, along with school-based activities and events scheduled during the day and evening. While programs will continue to be provided for students during days when bus transportation is cancelled, the type of program may be modified to include review or time to work on assigned work depending on the number of students who attend school as determined by parents and guardians based on the weather conditions in a particular area of our Board.

I strongly encourage parents to join Niagara Catholic's *e-Community* to receive immediate communication from our Board throughout the year, especially during inclement weather. To join our *e-Community*, follow the link on the main page of our Board's website at www.niagaracatholic.ca.

Contingency Plans

With bus cancellations and/or school closures possible at any time throughout the school year, we will always do our very best to communicate the decision without delay. With many working parents, it is highly recommended that parents and guardians continually provide schools with current home and work phone numbers along with having three annual contingency plans in place for your child(ren) as required for:

1. Bus Cancellations – to arrange transportation for your child(ren) to and from school or to provide supervised care during the day;
2. Closed Schools – to provide supervised care during the day; and,
3. Mid-Day School Closure – to provide the safe pick-up of your child(ren) at school and to provide supervised care during the day.

At Niagara Catholic, our primary focus and concern in making the challenging decision to cancel transportation and/or close schools is the safety of our students and staff. Funding from the Ministry of Education to operate our system is not affected by either decision. While all information is taken into account at the time of the decision and is monitored throughout the day for any changes, when schools are open, it is always the final decision of the parent or guardian whether or not to send your child(ren) to school during inclement weather.

I trust that the information on our decision-making and communication process along with the suggestion for a family contingency plan is helpful and informative to you and your family, as we continue to work together as partners in Catholic education in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

As always, please contact your school Principal, Family of Schools Superintendent or me with any questions, comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,



John Crocco
Director of Education