



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