



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2011**

---

---

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, April 26, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc 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 MacNeil.

2. Roll Call

Chairperson Burtnik noted that all Trustees were in attendance, and that Student Trustee Fowler has asked to be excused.

Trustee	Present	Absent	Excused
Rhianon Burkholder	✓		
Kathy Burtnik	✓		
Maurice Charbonneau	✓		
Frank Fera	✓		
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓		
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓		
Ted O'Leary	✓		
Dino Sicoli	✓		
<b>Student Trustees</b>			
Shelby Levesque	✓		
Patrick Fowler			✓

The following staff were in attendance:

**John Crocco**, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, Superintendents of Education; **Larry Reich**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **James Woods**, Controller of Plant; **Jennifer Brailey**, Manager of Corporate Services & Communications; **Sherry Morena**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau  
Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Board Meeting of April 26, 2011, 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 March 29, 2011**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of March 29, 2011, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5.2 April 12, 2011**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of April 12, 2011, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**B. DELEGATIONS**

**C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

**1. School Excellence Program - St. John Catholic Elementary School, Beamsville**

Director Crocco provided background information on the monthly School Excellence Program. Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education introduced Emma Fera Massi, Principal of St. John Catholic Elementary School, Beamsville.

Principal Fera Massi, with the assistance of students and staff showcased St. John Catholic Elementary School, Beamsville as part of the School Excellence Program.

Chairperson Burtnik thanked Principal Fera Massi, the staff and students for their presentation.

**2. Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 12, 2011 and Consideration of Recommendations**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Fera

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 12, 2011, as presented.

**CARRIED**

The following recommendation was presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 12, 2011:

**2.1 Education-Based Research Policy (301.2)**

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Education-Based Research Policy (301.2), as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3. Policies**

**3.1 Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Policy (600.1)**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Policy (600.1), as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3.2 Trustee Expenses & Reimbursement Policy (100.13)**

Moved by Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Expenses & Reimbursement Policy (100.13), as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4. Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of March 2, 2011**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee MacNeil

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of March 2, 2011, as presented for information.

**CARRIED**

**4.1 Letter from the Special Education Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Education**

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education, and Trustee MacNeil presented background information on the basis for drafting the letter to the Ministry of Education regarding the Board's suggestion that new teachers complete Special Education Part I as a mandatory course towards their teaching certificate.

Trustees suggested a friendly amendment to the letter to include a request that the Ministry of Education act on the Board's suggestion and not just acknowledge the request.

Moved by Trustee MacNeil  
Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the letter from the Special Education Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Education regarding Special Education Part I.

**CARRIED**

**5. Niagara Catholic Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy**

Superintendent Baldasaro introduced Jackie Watson, Equity, Diversity and Community Relations Consultant, who presented the report on Niagara Catholic Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy. Ms. Watson outlined the 2010-2011 school year activities that support Niagara Catholic's implementation of the Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy, along with the Board's ongoing initiatives.

**6. Student Mental Health Initiatives Update**

Superintendent Baldasaro introduced Marcel Jacques, Administrator Special Education, who presented the Student Mental Health Initiatives Update. He informed Trustees that this Initiative was developed in alignment with the Board's Strategic Directions and Priority Indicators for 2010-2011, which includes a goal to design and support a Niagara Catholic District School Board Mental Health plan.

Special Education staff from the Student Achievement, K-12 department has focused its effort on programs, community partnerships and professional development to assist Niagara Catholic staff with issues of children's mental health.

Moved by Trustee Burkholder  
Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board support, in principle, the Coalition's Statement of Intent and to formally join the Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health.

**CARRIED**

**7. Catholic Education Week 2011**

Superintendent Baldasaro presented information on Catholic Education Week 2011.

Trustees were provided with a compilation of Catholic Education Week Planners outlining the activities planned for school communities to share and celebrate the theme of Celebrating the Spirit.

**8. School Year Calendar 2011-2012**

Director Crocco informed Trustees that the Board's Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars for 2011-2012 has been approved by the Ministry of Education.

Superintendent Iannantuono has informed the school communities of the school year calendar 2011-2012 dates, and posted in on the Board's Website.

**9. Financial Reports**

**9.1 Monthly Banking Transactions**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau  
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Monthly Banking Transactions for the month of March 2011, as presented for information.

**CARRIED**

**9.2 Statement of Revenue & Expenditures**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau  
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at March 31, 2011, as presented for information.

**CARRIED**

**D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Correspondence**

**1.1 OFSAA – Thank You for Support**

Director Crocco presented a letter from OFSAA thanking the Board for its continued support.

**2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended**

Nil Report

**3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action**

Nil Report

**4. Trustee Information**

**4.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – April 12, 2011**

Director Crocco presented the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – April 12, 2011 issue for Trustees' information.

**4.2 Calendar of Events – May 2011**

Director Crocco presented the Calendar of Events – May 2011 for Trustees' information

**4.3 Specialist High Skills Major Celebration – April 28, 2011**

Director Crocco presented information on the Specialist High Skills Major Celebration being held April 28, 2011 and featuring keynote speaker Alex Bilodeau (Olympian). Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Sherry Morena.

**4.4 OCSTA/OCSBOA Finance Seminar & OCSTA AGM – April 28 – April 30, 2011**

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the OCSTA/OCSBOA Finance Seminar & OCSTA AGM taking place April 28 – April 30, 2011 in Toronto.

**4.5 Catholic Education Week – May 1 – 7, 2011**

- **May 2, 2011 – Catch the Spirit**
- **May 3, 2011 – Celebrating Staff Excellence**

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the Catch the Spirit Celebration and Celebrating Staff Excellence events taking during Catholic Education Week.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance at these events with Sherry Morena.

**4.6 Ground Breaking Ceremony  
- Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School - May 3, 2011**

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the Ground Breaking Ceremony for Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School on May 3, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

**4.7 Ground Breaking Ceremony  
- St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School - May 5, 2011**

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the Ground Breaking Ceremony for St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School on May 5, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

**4.8 Graduation Celebration 2011 – Scotiabank Convention Centre – May 19, 2011**

Director Crocco informed Trustees that the 10<sup>th</sup> Graduation Celebration 2011 will be held at the Scotiabank Convention Centre on May 19, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. This year's theme is "Stewards of the Earth and the Vital Role our Catholic Graduates must Continue to make in Protecting our Mother Earth".

Director Crocco informed Trustees that Bishop Bergie would be attending the Celebration which will feature keynote speaker Geoff Green.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Sherry Morena.

**4.9 Partners in Catholic Education – Quality Convention Centre – May 19, 2011**

Director Crocco informed Trustees that Partners in Catholic Education will be held at the Quality Inn Convention Centre on May 19, 2011 at 5:30 featuring keynote speaker Geoff Green.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Sherry Morena.

**4.10 Niagara Catholic Family Picnic Day 2011 – Queenston Heights – June 5, 2011**

Director Crocco informed Trustees that the first Annual Niagara Catholic Family Picnic Day 2011 is taking place at Queenston Heights on June 5, 2011 with Fr. John Vickers representing the Bishop and celebrating Mass.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Sherry Morena.

**4.11 Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence – Donna Saunders**

Director Crocco presented information on the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence which was awarded to Donna Saunders, Educational Assistant at Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School.

Director Crocco informed Trustees that he spoke with Ms. Saunders, who has been with Niagara Catholic for 18 years, and related that she believes that every student can learn and succeed. She is also the driving force behind Blessed Trinity's breakfast program.

Ms. Saunders will attend the Awards Dinner on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to receive her award from Minister of Education Leona Dombrowsky.

A Niagara Catholic press release will be issued congratulating Ms. Saunders.

**5. Open Question Period**

None Submitted

**E. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**1. Inclusivity Policy on the Hiring process of Senior Staff**

Trustee Fera presented the following Notice of Motion for presentation at the May 24, 2011 Board Meeting:

*“THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board develop an Inclusive Policy on the Hiring Process of Members of Senior Staff (Supervisory Officers, Controller of Plant);*

*and*

*THAT all Trustees be involved in the final interview phase of the short listed group of applicants for position of the Supervisory Officer or Controller of Plant.”*

**F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee MacNeil

**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 8:40 p.m. and reconvened at 11:40 p.m.

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

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg  
Seconded by Trustee MacNeil

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of April 26, 2011.

**CARRIED**

### **SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder  
Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

**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 March 29, 2011, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F1)**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau  
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

**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 April 12, 2011, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F2)**

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

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau  
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

**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 March 29, 2011, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F4)**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau  
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

**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 April 12, 2011, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F5)**

The following motion was passed at 10:57 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Burkholder  
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

**THAT** the Board approve that the April 26, 2011 Board Meeting be extended 15 minutes.

**CARRIED**

The following motion was passed at 11:12 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg  
Seconded by Trustee Fera

**THAT** the Board approve that the April 26, 2011 Board Meeting be extended 15 minutes.

**CARRIED**



The following motion was passed at 11:27 p.m.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau  
Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

**THAT** the Board approve that the April 26, 2011 Board Meeting be extended 15 minutes.  
**CARRIED**

## **H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

## **I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE**

## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder  
Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

**THAT** the April 26, 2011 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.  
**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

---

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

Approved on the **24<sup>th</sup>** day **May 2011.**

---

Kathy Burtnik  
Chairperson of the Board

---

John Crocco  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer