



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 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 Vice-Chairperson Fera.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Trustee Belcastro.

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; **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; **Jennifer Brailey**, Manager of Board Services and Communications; **Sherry Morena**, Recording Secretary

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 10, 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 February 10, 2009

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 10, 2009, as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Pupil Accommodation Review - Senior Staff Follow-Up Report & Recommendations

Director Crocco presented the Pupil Accommodation Review - Senior Staff Follow-Up Report & Recommendations. He informed the Board and members in the audience that the report and recommendations are in compliance with the Ministry of Education Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines, the Niagara Catholic District School Board Policy 701.2 - Closure of Schools / Accommodation Review Policy, the October 28th, 2008 Board approved Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Schedule for 2008-2009 and the Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines for Public Input.

Director Crocco provided highlights of the three Special Board Meetings held for public input.

Chairperson Burtnik asked that included with copies of correspondence received from the public prior to the May 26, 2009 Board Meeting, a Senior Staff response be included where necessary. Director Crocco indicated that a response would be included with any future correspondence as required.

Moved by Trustee Dekker

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Niagara Catholic District School Board that in accordance with the Board approved Niagara Catholic Pupil Accommodation Review Schedule for 2008-2009 the Senior Staff Follow-Up Report and Recommendations on Pupil Accommodation Review for Niagara Falls Elementary, St. Catharines Elementary and St. Catharines Secondary, be received.

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend to the Niagara Catholic District School Board that the following recommendations by Senior Staff as provided in the Senior Staff Follow-Up Report and Recommendations on Pupil Accommodation Review for Niagara Falls Elementary, St. Catharines Elementary and St. Catharines Secondary be received and considered for approval at the May 26th, 2009 Board Meeting;

1. THAT, St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School be closed by September 2010 with St. Joseph students relocated through the Attendance Area process to St. Mary, St. Patrick and Father Hennepin Catholic Elementary Schools.

2. THAT, no sooner than September 2012 and subject to Ministry of Education funding and approval for a new school in the Warren Woods Estate and for an addition and renovations to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School, the closure of St. Thomas More Catholic Elementary School with the students relocated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Elementary School.
3. THAT, over the next five years Senior Staff will monitor student population growth, projections, location and accommodation data in the southern portion of the City of Niagara Falls and if required, apply to the Ministry of Education for capital funding for a new elementary school in the Warren Woods Estate of Niagara Falls.
4. THAT, a Niagara Falls Elementary and Secondary Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee of the Board be established in September 2009 to review the attendance boundaries for all elementary and secondary schools in Niagara Falls. According to the Board's Attendance Area Policy 301.3, the mandate of the committee will be to recommend to the Board stability within all attendance areas while maximizing facility utilization of all elementary and secondary schools in Niagara Falls.
5. THAT, Senior Staff will continue to monitor the possibility of closing Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary School and that Senior Staff will bring a report to the Board no later than September 2012.
6. THAT, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School not be consolidated at this time subject to the Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review process and recommendations and that Senior Staff continues to monitor enrolment and report back to the Board no later than September 2012.
7. THAT, no later than September 2012, the closure of St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School with students relocated through the Attendance Area process to Mother Teresa, St. Alfred, St. Anthony, St. Christopher and St. Denis Catholic Elementary Schools unless an approved joint venture is confirmed between the Niagara Catholic District School Board and a coterminous District School Board, with the City of St. Catharines to provide confirmed property in the downtown core, and the Ministry of Education to provide confirmed funding and approval for a new downtown elementary school.
8. THAT, a St. Catharines Elementary and Secondary Ad Hoc Attendance Area Review Committee of the Board be established in September 2009 to review the attendance boundaries for all elementary and secondary schools in St. Catharines. According to the Board's Attendance Area Policy 301.3, the mandate of the committee will be to recommend to the Board stability within all attendance areas while maximizing facility utilization of all elementary and secondary schools in St. Catharines.
9. THAT, the Board maintains all three Catholic secondary schools in St. Catharines and monitors the accommodation and utilization of all three Catholic secondary school facilities over the next five years.
10. THAT, Senior Staff will continue to apply to the Ministry of Education for additional funding and to identify other sources of funding in order to provide facility plant upgrades to St. Francis Catholic Secondary School.
11. THAT, Catholic Secondary Schools in St. Catharines will continue to have the opportunity to implement specialized programs providing sufficient student enrolment and Ministry of Education funding and approval.

CARRIED

2. *Holy Childhood Association 2008-2009*

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education, introduced John Bosco, Principal, St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, Grimsby, who presented the report on the Holy Childhood Association 2008-2009. This year, 37 elementary schools participated in the 24th Annual Holy Childhood Walkathons raising over \$27,000 for various countries in Africa, South America and Asia. The schools of the Niagara Catholic District School Board have raised over \$540,000 since we began our involvement in 1984.

3. *Niagara Catholic District School Board
Special Education Program and Financial Review*

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, presented the report on the Niagara Catholic District School Board Special Education Program and Financial Review. She stated that the objective of the Ministry of Education Special Education Program and Financial Reviews, is to collect information regarding program and financial decision-making processes of school boards, related to the design and delivery of Special Education programs and services impacting student achievement.

In addition, the reviews collect data about issues, best practices, and concerns, related to Special Education program and financial design and delivery, in order to inform future policy and program development in Special Education.

4. *Niagara Catholic French Speech Arts Festival*

Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education, welcomed Jayne Evans, FSL/ESL/Arts Consultant, who presented information on the Ninth Annual Niagara Catholic French as a Second Language Speech Arts Festival which will take place on March 24 and 25, 2009 at the Catholic Education Centre.

Ms. Evans introduced students Emma Jansen and Alex Rotundo of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Elementary School, and Emma Kennedy of Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School, who presented their French Language Speeches to the Board.

Vice-Chairperson Fera thanked the students for their speeches and asked Trustee Nieuwesteeg to present them with Board highlighters.

5. *Niagara Catholic Intensive French Update*

Superintendent Iannantuono introduced the Niagara Catholic Intensive French Program, and Consultant Evans elaborated on the Program. It is a literacy-based approach to teaching French as a second language that is incorporated into the Grade 5 or 6 Core French program for five (5) months of the school year. In this program, French is offered intensively for approximately 70% of the school day from September through January.

6. *Extended Overnight Field Trip/Excursion/Exchange Trip Information*

Superintendent Iannantuono presented the information report from the Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee.

7. *St. Joseph Catholic Elementary (Grimsby) and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic
Elementary (Grimsby) Replacement Schools - Completed Design*

James Woods, Controller of Plant Services, presented the St. Joseph Catholic Elementary (Grimsby) and Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary (Grimsby) Replacement Schools - Completed Design.

8. *Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities*

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

9. *Financial Reports*

9.1 *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 February 2009, as presented for information.

CARRIED

9.2 *Statement of Revenue and Expenditures*

Moved by Trustee Crole

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as at February 28, 2009, as presented for information.

CARRIED

10. *Monthly Updates*

10.1 *Policy Development Update*

Director Crocco presented the Policy Development Update for information.

10.2 *Student Trustees' Update*

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

- The Student Senate held its first electronic meeting informal gathering which was successful.
- Events for Student Trustee Development have included an Ontario Student Trustees' Association Conference and Environmental Symposium hosted by the Ministry of Education.

10.3 *Family of Schools Superintendents' Monthly Update*

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

Superintendent Baldasaro

- Students at St. Mary Catholic Elementary School in Welland participated in the Learning Through the Arts Program which is a National Program from the Royal Conservatory of Music.
- Lakeshore Catholic High School student, Chad Brunarski, received a Silver Medal in the Jr. Boys 50m Butterfly Swimming Meet, and a Gold Medal in the Jr. Boys 100m Individual Medley.

Superintendent Ciarlo

- Presented the various accomplishments of students at St. Mark Catholic Elementary School
 - Staff and students displayed overwhelming support toward a family in need who lost their home in a fire by collecting over \$5,000 in donations.
 - St. Mark is experiencing its first Niagara Student Exchange Program which is hosting 3 students.
 - The Grade 7 students will be hosting a Special Needs Volleyball afternoon, with team shirts, decorations, fruit snacks and tropical drinks.
 - The Grade 6 students have been participating in a peer tutoring program highlighting electricity experiments.
 - St. Mark raised \$2,000 for West Community Cares.

Superintendent Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells

- Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School in St. Catharines raised \$1,037 for the Kids Helping Kids Campaign. Three male staff members volunteered to have their heads shaved if the \$1,000 target was met. A parent volunteered to have his head shaved if each adult at the basketball game donated an additional \$10. The Dragonfly Night Club in Niagara Falls donated an additional \$750, making the total donation to the Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre \$2,302.
- Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary School hosted a Family Math Night with speaker Dr. Chatal Buteau, Brock University Math Professor. Students and parents had the opportunity to participate in Interactive math stations run by school staff and Dr. Bill Ralph from Brock. Each family was given a Math game purchased through the PRO grant.
- Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School raised close to \$8,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation through Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart. The students also raised \$150 for Kids Helping Kids, and \$200 for the school's foster child in Africa.
- At St. Ann Catholic Elementary School in St. Catharines, a Grade 8 student and a Grade 5 student placed first at the Royal Canadian Legion competition and are going to move onto the Regional level. A Grade 7 student placed first at the Grantham Optimist Club Speaking competition. A Grade 6 student has been invited into Canada's National Ballet School summer program for 2009.

Superintendent Iannantuono

- Presented the various accomplishments of students at Saint Michael Catholic High School
 - Grade 12 Student Matt Flynn a Grade is the New 2009 Canadian Youth Heavyweight Champion.
 - Grade 12 Student Mariah Kelly won the 800 Meter Race at the Copps Coliseum Track & Field Indoor Championships. Mariah accomplished the fastest time recorded at Copps in 10 years, and ranked 2nd in Ontario
 - Student Connor Boyd won a Bronze Medal at the Niagara Regional Rowing Indoor Championships last week.
 - The Saint Michael Catholic High School Boys' Hockey Team begins their SOSSA Championships this Wednesday at Stamford Arena. The School Junior and Senior Boys' Hockey Teams are currently first place.
 - The first ever Trivia Night held at Saint Michael Catholic High School raised over \$8,000 for student activities.

D. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

1.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic - February 24, 2009

Director Crocco presented the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic - February 24, 2009 issue for Trustees' information.

1.2 March Break - March 13 - 20, 2009

Director Crocco reminded Trustees that students and staff will be on March Break beginning this Friday, March 13 to next Friday, March 20 including members of Senior Staff who will be in contact with the office throughout the break.

1.3 Niagara Regional Catholic School Council - Bus Tour - March 24, 2009

Superintendent Baldasaro showcased the First Annual Regional School Council Bus Tour taking place Tuesday, March 24, 2009, with Director Crocco acting as the tour guide. She stated that the participants will visit St. Mary Catholic Elementary School in Welland for Cyberquest, the Shaw street location in Welland for the Specialist High Skills Major Transportation Site, Lakeshore Catholic High School for the Culinary Arts and Construction Technology Specialist High Skills Majors, and end with a of the Catholic Education Centre.

1.4 March Board Meeting - Tuesday, March 31, 2009

Director Crocco reminded Trustees that with March Break the regular pattern of Board Meetings on the 4th Tuesday of the month is modified, and the Board Meeting will be held on the 5th Tuesday - Tuesday, March 31st, 2009.

1.5 Niagara Catholic Employee Appreciation - June 10, 2009

Director Crocco informed Trustees that the Annual Niagara Catholic Employee Appreciation Celebration is scheduled for June 10, 2009 at John Michaels Banquet Hall.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Dekker

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 9:20 p.m. and reconvened at 9:45 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 March 10, 2009.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

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 February 10, 2009, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Belcastro

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 February 10, 2009, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F3)

Moved by Trustee Scalzi

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the appointments to the Vice-Principal Pool - Elementary, as outlined in Item F4.1 of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - Section B: Student Trustees Excluded.

CARRIED (Item F4.1)

Moved by Trustee Crole

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the appointments to the Vice-Principal Pool - Secondary, as outlined in Item F4.2 of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - Section B: Student Trustees Excluded.

CARRIED (Item F4.2)

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Crole

THAT the March 10, 2009 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on March 10, 2009.

Approved on the 14th day of April 2009.

Frank Fera
Vice-Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer