



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2010

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 7, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in the Atrium at Saint Michael Catholic High School, 8699 McLeod Road, Niagara Falls.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. *Meeting Call to Order – John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer*

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. by Chief Executive Officer and Director of Education John Crocco, in accordance with section 208-4 of the Education Act.

Director Crocco, on behalf of all in attendance, thanked Bishop Gerard Bergie for celebrating the Commissioning Mass of Trustees and for participating in the Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

Appreciation and gratitude was expressed to the staff, students, choir, drum line and liturgical dancers of Saint Michael Catholic High School for hosting and participating in the Inaugural Meeting.

Director Crocco welcomed the Honourable Mr. Justice Joseph Henderson; Board Solicitor, Bill Amadio; Priests; Sisters; Principals, Vice-Principals, Managers, staff, family friends and guests to the Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

2. *Roll Call*

Director Crocco indicated that all Trustees-Elect and Student Trustees were in attendance.

Trustee	Present	Absent	Excused
Rhianon Burkholder	✓		
Kathy Burtnik	✓		
Maurice Charbonneau	✓		
Frank Fera	✓		
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓		
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓		
Ted O'Leary	✓		
Dino Sicoli	✓		

Student Trustees			
Shelby Levesque	✓		
Patrick Fowler	✓		

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Rob Ciarlo**, **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

Special Guest: **Bishop Gerard Bergie**, Bishop of St. Catharines Diocese; **Honourable Mr. Justice Joseph Henderson**; **Bill Amadio**, Board Solicitor

3. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

4. **Opening Prayer**

The Director welcomed Bishop Gerard Bergie, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines. Bishop Bergie opened the 2010 Inaugural Meeting of the Board with a prayer.

Bishop Bergie offered brief words on the importance and impact of Catholic education.

5. **Returns of Election**

In accordance with Board By-Laws section 7 (iii) and the Education Act, Director Crocco presented the Returns of Election as certified by municipal clerks.

6. **Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance**

Honourable Mr. Justice Joseph Henderson offered words of congratulations to all Trustees. Justice Henderson with Bishop Gerard Bergie, and assisted by Director of Education Crocco, administered the Declaration of Office and Oath of Allegiance.

7. **Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

Director Crocco reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, and appointed Bill Amadio, Board Solicitor and Larry Reich, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services, as scrutineers.

Election of Chairperson

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT Trustee Burtnik be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 7, 2010 until the 2011 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco asked Trustee Burtnik if she wished to stand for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Burtnik accepted the nomination.

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

THAT Trustee MacNeil be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 7, 2010 until the 2011 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco asked Trustee MacNeil if he wished to stand for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee MacNeil accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be closed.

CARRIED

Following the counting of the ballots, Trustee Burtnik was elected to the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Moved by Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by O'Leary

THAT the ballots for the election of the Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, be destroyed.

CARRIED

Director Crocco turned over the Chairship of the Inaugural Meeting of the Board to Chairperson Burtnik.

Election of Vice-Chairperson

Moved by Trustee Fera

THAT Trustee MacNeil be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board from December 7, 2010 until the 2011 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Chairperson Burtnik asked Trustee MacNeil if he wished to stand for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee MacNeil accepted the nomination.

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT Trustee Charbonneau be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board from December 7, 2010 until the 2011 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Chairperson Burtnik asked Trustee Charbonneau if he wished to stand for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Charbonneau accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

THAT the nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be closed.

CARRIED

Following the counting of the ballots, Trustee Charbonneau was elected to the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

THAT the ballots for the election of the Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, be destroyed.

CARRIED

8. Chairperson's Remarks

A copy of Chairperson Burtnik's remarks is attached to the minutes for information and placed on the Board website.

(Appendix A)

9. Vice-Chairperson's Remarks

A copy of Vice-Chairperson Charbonneau's remarks is attached to the minutes for information and placed on the Board website.

(Appendix B)

10. Appointment of Honorary Chairperson

Director Crocco presented the report on the Appointment of Honorary Chairperson.

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

Seconded by Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of (The Most) Reverend Gerard P Bergie, D.D., Bishop of St. Catharines, as the Honorary Chairperson of the Board commencing December 7, 2010.

CARRIED

11. Appointment of Board Solicitor

Director Crocco presented the report on the Appointment of Board Solicitor.

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee Burkholder

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of Broderick & Partners LLP (William A. Amadio, LL. B.) as Board Solicitor for the term December 1, 2010 to November 30, 2014.

CARRIED

12. Appointment of Board Auditor

Director Crocco presented the report on the Appointment of Board Auditor.

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee MacNeil

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of Crawford, Smith & Swallow as Board Auditors for the term December 1, 2010 to November 30, 2014.

CARRIED

13. Board Committees

Director Crocco presented the report on Board Committees, and stated that the report is in compliance with Board Bylaw 17 v (a) which calls for Trustee membership on Board Ad Hoc, Statutory, Standing and Liaison Committees until the 2011 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco stated that membership to the committees are appointed by the Chairperson of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chairperson of the Board, and asked that Trustees submit their completed form to the Office of the Director by the December 21, 2010 Board Meeting.

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the continuation of the following Ad Hoc Committee for the year 2011:

- Notre Dame College and Associated Elementary Schools Areas, and Port Robinson Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- Niagara Falls Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools/St. George and St. Joseph (Snyder) Catholic Elementary Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- St. Catharines Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee

CARRIED

C. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

D. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the December 7, 2010 Inaugural Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 7, 2010.**

Approved on the **21st** day of **December 2010.**

Kathy Burtnik
Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

CHAIRPERSON KATHY BURTNIK'S REMARKS

**Annual Organizational Meeting
of the Niagara Catholic District School Board
December 7, 2010**

As I begin, I wish to share a story. Two weeks ago, I received a call from a parent – “are you the trustee for St. Catharines area schools” I pause, knowing that these conversations, as rare as they are, have a tendency to take a great deal of time to hear the story that is about to unfold. As I answered yes – the mom, without giving her name had two words for me...“thank you”. She repeated these 2 words numerous times throughout the conversation as she described the impact we have had on her two children – one in secondary and one in elementary. Her closing words were that she will promote Niagara Catholic Schools to everyone she ever meets. I was reminded once again just how relevant the staff of Niagara Catholic is in the lives of our community.

I am convinced there are moms, dads and guardians throughout Niagara Catholic who feel the same way she does about HOW we do what we do. Every school in Ontario knows “what” to do to help their students reach academic success. We at Niagara Catholic collectively and instinctively know the “how”.

It is inherent in our mission statement, and therefore inherent in every word, thought and action of each of us, no matter our role. It is with that commitment to the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership that we collectively can dispel the whispers calling for the elimination of public funding for Catholic education. We will continue to focus on the “how” we deliver catholic education in order to be what our Church and our community asks us to be. Our partnership with the diocese through Bishop Bergie is already at a place of remarkable, I thank him for his friendship to date and look forward to working with and for him over the next many years.

To my fellow trustees, I thank you for your trust, faith and support in the manner with which I have carried out the responsibilities of being the Chair of Niagara Catholic over the past 2 years. I look forward to working with each of you as we come to know each other's stories. We are a new team and I know I will learn as much from you as you can from me. I am certain there will be times of disagreement, but I guarantee that those times will be respectful and helpful in us making the very best policy decisions for our community. Our role as trustee is clearly defined in legislation; our approach to that role is more clearly defined in our faith - Thankfully, each of us is far more familiar with the readings of the gospel than we are with the education act.

To each of you here tonight, and all who constitute the Niagara Catholic Community, I pledge my time, my energy, my enthusiasm, my strengths and my willingness to do whatever I can do to inspire Niagara Catholic to be all that we can be to all who come to our door. I will serve you with grace, dignity, joy and humility knowing that none of us can do alone what each of us can do together. We are the hands, the feet and the voice of Christ, may our smiles reflect the joy we find in being loved by him.

We are blessed. We are called. We are Niagara Catholic and we are willing to do what is necessary to promote and protect the gift of Catholic Education for the next generation.

May God continue to bless each of us and those in our hearts with healthy bodies and giving hands.

VICE-CHAIRPERSON MAURICE CHARBONNEAU'S REMARKS

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Your Excellency Bishop Bergie, Reverend Fathers, Reverend Sisters, Mr. Crocco, Superintendents, fellow Trustees, staff and friends of Niagara Catholic, it is an honour to be chosen as the Vice Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Catholic education is truly a gift that requires each and every one of us here this evening to continue to be vigilant and dedicated to this vocation. I am reminded of the message given to me by my parents when I was very young. They encouraged and spoke often of the value of a Catholic education. My Dad, who had to work on the family farm at a young age, told me often that an education was something that could never be taken away from you. My Mom showed me what hard work and dedication were all about by completing her high school at the age of 49 while raising a family and working full time.

My grade 8 teacher, Sister St. Andre, showed me the power a teacher has in influencing a child's future. She shared her love of God with all of her students on a daily basis and ignited in me a passion for learning that continues to this day.

I think often of the many dedication educators that I have had the privilege to work with over the past 35 years. Father Ken Burns had the most influence on my development as a young educator. He truly believed and demonstrated that everything we do in education we do for the children. His passion and dedication as a teacher, Principal and Trustee have left a lasting legacy to Catholic education in Niagara. He always encouraged the teachers of our Board to make a lasting commitment to the vocation of teaching in a Catholic system.

To my fellow trustees and all of you here this evening let us dedicate all of our efforts in support of Catholic education and to the children entrusted to our care. We have committed ourselves to our new Vision 2020 that sets the path for us to strengthen our commitment to Catholic education and the vocation of teaching. The future is filled with many challenges but together we can face each one of them with confidence.

Thank you.