



*The Niagara Catholic District School Board through
the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership,
nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all
to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.*

AGENDA AND MATERIAL

BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015
7:00 P.M.**



*FATHER KENNETH BURNS, C.S.C. BOARD ROOM
CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE, WELLAND, ONTARIO*

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayers – Trustee Vernal -
2. Roll Call -
3. Approval of the Agenda -
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest -
5. Minutes of the Board Meeting of October 27, 2015 A5

B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. School Excellence Program C1
Our Lady of Victory Catholic Elementary School
2. Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 10, 2015 C2
3. Approved Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) C3
Meeting of September 17, 2015
4. Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) C4
Meeting of October 7, 2015
5. Rescind the Approval of Niagara Catholic Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) C5
Members 2014-2018
6. Annual Culture of Life Conference C6
7. Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Primary and Junior Assessments of C7
Reading, Writing and Mathematics – 2014-2015
8. Multi-Year Snowplowing and Salting Tender Approval C8
9. Financial Reports
9.1 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2014-2015 C9.1

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

- | | | |
|-----|--|------|
| 1. | Correspondence | - |
| 1.1 | November 3, 2015 Letter from Superior-Greenstone District School Board | D1.1 |
| 1.2 | November 11, 2015 Letter from Catholic School Chaplains of Ontario | D1.2 |
| 2. | Report on Trustee Conferences Attended | - |
| 3. | General Discussion to Plan for Future Action | - |
| 4. | Trustee Information | |
| 4.1 | Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – November 10, 2015 | D4.1 |
| 4.2 | Calendar of Events – December 2015 | D4.2 |
| 4.3 | Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board – December 1, 2015 – 6:00 p.m. | - |
| 4.4 | December Committee of the Whole – December 1, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. | - |
| 4.5 | Annual Administrators, Trustees, Parish Priests, Faith Formation – December 10, 2015 | - |
| 4.6 | CCSTA 2017 AGM Niagara Update | - |
| 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 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
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING OF
OCTOBER 27, 2015**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of October 27, 2015, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2015

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, October 27, 2015, in the Father Kenneth Burns C.S.C. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

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

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Trustee O'Leary.

2. Roll Call

Chair MacNeil note that Trustee Nieuwesteeg was excused from the meeting.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Maurice Charbonneau	✓			
Frank Fera	✓			
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓			
Ed Nieuwesteeg				✓
Ted O'Leary	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Pat Vernal	✓			
Student Trustees				
Michaela Bodis	✓			
Aidan Harold	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Mark Lefebvre**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Board Meeting of October 27, 2015, as presented.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

A Disclosure of Interest was declared by Trustee O'Leary with Item F10 of the In Camera Agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting of September 29, 2015

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of September 29, 2015, as presented.

CARRIED

B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. School Excellence Program – St. Edward Catholic Elementary School

Director Crocco provided background information on the monthly School Excellence Program. Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education introduced Adrian Bishop, Principal of St. Edward Catholic Elementary School.

Principal Bishop, through a creative video showcased St. Edward Catholic Elementary School as part of the School Excellence Program.

Chairperson MacNeil thanked Principal Bishop and staff for their presentation.

2. Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 13, 2015

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 13, 2015, as presented.

CARRIED

3. **Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of September 9, 2015**

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 9, 2015, as presented for information.

CARRIED

4. **Award of Construction Contract for the New St. Martin Catholic Elementary School**

Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services announced the Ministry of Education approval to proceed with the construction of the new St. Martin Catholic Elementary School. Controller Whitwell presented the Award of Construction contract for the new St. Martin Catholic Elementary School for the consideration of the Board.

Moved by Trustee Burtnik
Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Award of Construction Contract for the new St. Martin Catholic Elementary School to Brouwer Construction (1981) Ltd., as presented.

CARRIED

5. **Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee 2015-2016**

Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education presented the Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Approval Committee 2015-2016 report for Trustee information.

6. **Financial Reports**

6.1 **Unaudited Interim Statement of Operations as at August 30, 2015**

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services presented the Unaudited Interim Statement of Operations as at August 30, 2015.

Moved by Trustee Vernal
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Unaudited Interim Statement of Operations as at August 30, 2015, as presented for information.

CARRIED

D. TRUSTEE ITEMS, OPEN QUESTION PERIOD & OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Correspondence**

1.1 **October 20, 2015 Niagara Poverty Reduction Network Letter**

Chair MacNeil highlighted information contained in the October 20, 2015 letter from Niagara Poverty Reduction Network. Director Crocco confirmed that a copy of the letter would be placed in staff personnel files.

2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended

Trustee Vernal and Trustee Burtnik commented on the OCSTA 2015 Fall Regional Meeting. Vice-Chair Sicoli congratulated Student Trustees Michaela Bodis and Aidan Harold on their participation.

3. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

Director Crocco reported that progress is being made on a number of reports as required by the Board approved System Priorities for 2015-2016. As these reports are finalized they will be the main focus of upcoming Committee of the Whole meetings for the consideration of Trustees.

4. Trustee Information

4.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – October 13, 2015

Director Crocco presented the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – October 13, 2015

4.2 Calendar of Events – November 2015

Director Crocco reviewed the Calendar of Events for Trustees information.

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the Blessing of Lakeshore Catholic High School on October 29, 2015 and asked Trustees to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano, Administrative Assistant to Corporate Services & Communications.

4.3 OCSTA Travel Insurance Policy – December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the option to apply for OCSTA Travel Accident Insurance Policy from December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016 with a deadline date of November 20, 2015.

Trustee Burtnik answered questions of Trustees.

4.4 CCSTA 2017 Steering Committee Meeting – November 11, 2015.

Director Crocco announced the CCSTA 2017 Steering Committee Meeting will be held on November 11, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. at Johnny Rocca's, St. Catharines and requested that all Trustees interested in joining one of many planning committees for the CCSTA 2017 Conference, co-hosted by Niagara Catholic District School Board and Conseil Scolaire de District Catholique Centre-Sud, confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano.

5. Open Question Period

None Submitted

E. NOTICES OF MOTION

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau
Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

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

CARRIED

Prior to moving into the In-Camera section of the Board Meeting, Trustee Charbonneau thanked CUPE members present in the Board Room for their respectful and peaceful rally.

The Niagara Catholic District School Board moved into the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting at 7:41 p.m. and reconvened at 8:53 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau
Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of October 27, 2015.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau
Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

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 September 29, 2015, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

Moved by Trustee Vernal
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 October 13, 2015, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F2)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Vernal

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 September 29, 2015, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F4)

Moved by Trustee Sicoli
Seconded by Trustee Vernal

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 October 13, 2015, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F5)

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Fera

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the motion from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting – SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of F6.1

CARRIED (Item F6.1)

H. FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS

I. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the October 27, 2015 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **October 27, 2015**.

Approved on **November 24, 2015**.

Fr. Paul MacNeil
Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM
OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

The School Excellence Program report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: November 24, 2015



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SCHOOL EXCELLENCE PROGRAM OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Contact Information

300 Central Ave.
Fort Erie, ON L2A 3T3

Phone: 905.871.3092
Fax: 905.871.3719
Email: ol.victory@ncdsb.com

Grades

ELKP to Grade 8

Enrolment

485 as of September 2015

Principal

Theresa Murhpy

Vice-Principal

Angela VILLELLA

Superintendent of Education

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells

Catholic School Council

Chair-Kevin Haberly
Co-Chair-Tammy Haberly

Parish

St. Michael



Our Lady of Victory School was officially opened on September 4, 1956 to accommodate students in Kindergarten through Grade 8. In 1966, Our Lady of Victory School became Our Lady of Victory Junior School for Kindergarten through Grade 5, while a second school, Our Lady of Victory Senior School was opened for Grades 6, 7, and 8.

In September 2011, after a multi-million dollar renovation, the two schools were amalgamated into one building and now serves ELKP - Grade 8 students.

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Elementary School is part of the [Lakeshore Catholic High School](#) Family of Schools.

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: November 24, 2015

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 10, 2015**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Minutes of November 10, 2015, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2015

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015 in the Father Kenneth Burns C.S.C. 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 Sicoli.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Trustee Sicoli

2. Roll Call

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Maurice Charbonneau	✓			
Frank Fera	✓			
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓			
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓			
Ted O'Leary	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Pat Vernal	✓			
Student Trustees				
Michaela Bodis	✓			
Aidan Harold	✓			

The following staff were in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Mark Lefebvre**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Chair MacNeil

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 10, 2015, as presented.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Declaration of Conflict of Interest was declared by Trustees O'Leary with Items F5.1.1, F5.2.1 and F5.2.2 of the In Camera Agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 13, 2015

Moved by Trustee Vernal

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 13, 2015, as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Pilgrimage 2015

On behalf of Terri Paucio, Religion & Family Life Consultant, Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education introduced the Pilgrimage 2015 presentation and Ken Griepsma, Principal of Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School.

Student testimonials from each Catholic secondary school and a visual presentation capturing all of the Pilgrimages 2015 was shared with the Committee of the Whole.

Chair MacNeil and Vice Chair Sicoli thanked students and staff for their presentation.

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Policy Committee

1.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of October 27, 2015

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive the unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of October 27, 2015, as presented.

CARRIED

As Chair of the Policy Committee, Trustee Burtnik confirmed the requirement for all vetting feedback to follow the proper process as outlined in the Board Policy when submitting vetting comments. All comments are to be sent to Jennifer Pellegrini, Communications Officer who would then forward the feedback to the lead Supervisory Officer who would then share the vetting feedback with the Policy Committee.

1.2 Policy and Guideline Review 2015-2016 Schedule

John Crocco, Director of Education presented the Policy and Guideline Review 2015-2016 Schedule for the information of Trustees.

Director Crocco answered questions of Trustees.

2. Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics 2014-2015 Results

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education presented the report on the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics 2014-2015 Results.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells answered questions of Trustees.

3. Leadership Identification Program 2014-2016

Ted Farrell, Superintendent of Education presented the report on Leadership Identification Program 2014-2016 for information. A visual presentation was presented highlighting the program.

Superintendent Farrell introduced planning committee members Andrew Boon, Vice-Principal of Lakeshore Catholic High School and Lori Spadafora, Principal of St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School. Vice-Principal Boon and Principal Spadafora highlighted the framework of the Leadership Identification Program 2014-2016.

Superintendent Farrell introduced the candidates accepted into the 2014-2016 Leadership Identification Program cohort.

Chair MacNeil thanked the candidates for stepping forward to participate in our leadership program.

4. Catholic Education Congress 2016-2017

Director Crocco presented the report on Catholic Education Congress 2016-2017 for Trustee information and noted that future reports will be presented to the Committee of the Whole as plans continue to be developed and finalized.

Director Crocco answered questions of Trustees.

5. Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities - 2015

Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education/Human Resources, presented the report on the Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities for information.

6. Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2015-2016 Update – November

Director Crocco and members of Senior Administrative Council presented the November Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2015-2016 Update for the information of the Committee of the Whole.

Director Crocco and members of Senior Staff answered questions of Trustees.

7. Monthly Updates

7.1 Capital Projects Update

Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services, presented the Capital Projects Update.

Controller Whitwell answered questions of Trustees.

7.2 Student Senate Update

Aidan Harold and Michaela Bodis, Student Trustees, presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

7.3 Senior Staff Good News Update

Senior Staff highlights included:

Superintendent Farrell

- The Educational Technology Services Department was notified that the application for a Shared Services Grant from the Ministry of Education to help support our data center move to the Niagara Region was approved for \$100,000.
- The Educational Technology Services Department was also an applicant on a joint initiative to provide Cloud services throughout the region of Niagara for another Shared Services Grant. Partnering with the department were the District School Board of Niagara, Brock University, Niagara College, Niagara Police Services, and the Niagara Region. The application was successful and consequently the consortium will receive \$100,000 as seed money for the project.

Director Crocco

- Congratulations to Student Trustees Michaela Bodis and Aidan Harold for a successful and productive Student Senate meeting and their leadership in representing all students across Niagara Catholic.
- Trevor Plug, a graduate of Holy Rosary, St. Charles, Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary Schools and Denis Morris Catholic Secondary School was ordained to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate.

D. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

1.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – October 27, 2015

Director Crocco highlighted the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – October 27, 2015 issue for Trustees information.

1.2 Calendar of Events – November 2015

Director Crocco presented the November Calendar of Events for Trustees information.

1.3 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board – December 1, 2015 – 6:00 p.m.

Director Crocco reminded Trustees of the Annual Organizational Meeting on December 1, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.

1.4 December Committee of the Whole – December 1, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

Director Crocco announced the Committee of the Whole meeting for December 1, 2015.

Director Crocco included two additional information items.

CCSTA 2017 Planning Committee Meeting – November 18, 2015

Director Crocco confirmed that the CCSTA 2017 Planning Committee meeting has been re-scheduled to November 18, 2015.

Debra McCaffery Funeral Mass

Director Crocco informed Trustees that Danny DiLorenzo, Principal of Denis Morris Catholic High School has arranged for reserved parking and seating until 11:30 for Debra McCaffery's Funeral Mass taking place on Wednesday November 11, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. at St. Julia's Roman Catholic Church.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano, Administrative Assistant to Corporate Services & Communications.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

Director Crocco confirmed that the multi-year reports presented under item C6 would be presented commencing at the January 2016 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

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 Committee of the Whole Meeting at 9:28 p.m. and reconvened at 11:21 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Fera

THAT the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 10, 2015.

CARRIED

SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES INCLUDED

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - In Camera Session (Section A: Student Trustees Included) held on October 13, 2015, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Vernal

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - In Camera Session (Section B: Student Trustees Excluded) held on October 13, 2015, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F4)

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Chair MacNeil

THAT the November 10, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 11:21 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **November 10, 2015.**

Approved on **December 1, 2015.**

Dino Sicoli
Vice-Chairperson of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC
PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (NCPIC) MEETING
OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2015**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of September 17, 2015, as presented for information.



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, September 17, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chair Daly.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening prayer was led by Superintendent Forsyth-Sells.

2. Roll Call:

Parent Members	Geographical Area	Present	Excused	Absent
Gregg Kirchofer	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Mary Mannella-Byers	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Josephine Muraca-Lettieri	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Marion Battersby	St. Catharines		√	
Lisa Finley	St. Catharines	√		
Kate Hingston	St. Catharines	√		
Julie Wiley-Pol	St. Catharines	√		
Sharon Goossen	Welland		√	
Carrie Vernelli	Welland	√		
Alexandria Attree	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	√		
Rebecca Kamin	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet			√
Kim Hedden	Merritton/Thorold	√		
Heather McCluckie	Merritton/Thorold	√		
Shonna Daly-Chair	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	√		
Sean Bertleff	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham		√	
Community Representatives				
Shelley Gilbert	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	√		
Linda Marie O'Hagan	St. Catharines-Development and Peace		√	
Heather Pyke	Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education	√		
Anna Racine	SEAC Representative		√	
Fr. Peter Rowe	Bishop/Diocesan Representative	√		
Carter Cake	Student Senate Representative-Blessed Trinity	√		

Trustees				
Kathy Burtnik	Trustee	√		
Dino Sicoli	Trustee and Vice-Chair of the Board		√	

The following staff was in attendance: Superintendent Forsyth-Sells and Yvonne Anderson, Recording Secretary.

Regrets sent: Marion Battersby, Theo Dagenais, Dino Sicoli, Jeff Smith, Anna Racine and Josie Rocca.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Mary Mannella-Byers

Seconded by: Alexandria Attree

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of September 17, 2015 as presented.

CARRIED

5. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

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

6. Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2015

Moved by: Josie Muraca-Lettieri

Seconded by: Alexandria Attree

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of May 7, 2015 as amended.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

C. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

1. FAITH FORMATION

- Nil Report

2. POLICY- Shonna Daly

There are no policies currently being vetted.

3. PRO GRANT - Mary Mannella-Byers and Heather Pyke

1. Family Games Night 2014-2015

An overview of the “Family Games Night” activities and the keepsake for families to take home was provided as information. NCPIC members were requested to sign-up for the Family Games Night that they would be attending and supporting.

D. GOOD NEWS

- Nil Report

E. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE NCPIC MEETING OF MAY 7, 2015

F. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION-Superintendent Forsyth-Sells

1. EXL National Award

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that Director of Education, John Crocco has received the Canadian Superintendent of the Year Award and will be recognized at the 2016 American Association of School Administrators (AASA) Conference in Phoenix, Arizona in February 2016.

2. 2015-2016 Niagara Catholic System Priorities and the DRAFT Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSAW)

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided and reviewed the 2015-2016 Niagara Catholic System Priorities and the 2015-2016 Draft BIPSAW. The BIPSAW has been provided to all Principals, Vice-Principals, Niagara Catholic staff and the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee for feedback to be forwarded to Yvonne Anderson no later than Friday, September 25, 2015. The BIPSAW will be submitted to the Ministry of Education on Wednesday, September 30, 2015.

3. 2015-2016 School Year Calendar

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided and reviewed the 2015-2016 School Year Calendar.

4. 2015-2016 NCPIC Membership

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells shared that a letter of resignation had been received from Sean Bertleff effective September 2015 as he has moved out of the Niagara region.

Therefore, there are currently nine (9) parent/guardian representative positions available for the 2015-2016 school year:

Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
St. Catharines	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Welland	1 position	Parent/Guardian Representative
Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	1 position	Parent/Guardian Representative
Thorold/Merritton	1 position	Parent/Guardian Representative
Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells encouraged parent/guardian members to complete and submit their nomination form to Yvonne Anderson no later than 4:00 p.m. EST., on Friday, October 16, 2015. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that two (2) nomination forms had been received for the position of Community Representative. A recommendation will be made at the Board Meeting of September 29, 2015 that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the appointment of Shelley Gilbert representing the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Leone Strilec representing the St. Catharines Diocesan Council for Development and Peace to serve as Community Representatives on the NCPIC for the term of 2015-2016.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that Anna Racine was re-elected as the SEAC Representative on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee for the 2015-2016 at the June 2015 SEAC Meeting.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the 2015-2016 NCPIC Meeting dates:

- November 19, 2015
- January 7, 2016
- March 10, 2016
- May 12, 2016
- September date-TBD

5. Annual Catholic School Council Chairs/Co-Chairs and Members Meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2015
 - Deferred

6. Federal Elections Administrative Procedures: October 19, 2015

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the Federal Elections Administrative Procedures reporting that Trustees, the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, SEAC and Catholic School Council members have specific roles as defined in the *Education Act*, Regulation 464/97 (Special Education Advisory Committee), Regulation 612/00 (School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees), and Ministry memoranda.

Neither a Trustee, NCPIC, SEAC nor a Catholic School Council member can use the Board, a school name, material or associate their preference for a political party, candidate or party policy with the Board or school operated by the Board in the course of their duties.

7. OAPCE 77th Conference AGM Gala Dinner: May 6 and 7, 2016

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells congratulated Heather Pyke as Vice-President of OAPCE for 2015-2016. A save the date flyer was also provided for the OAPCE 77th Conference AGM Gala Dinner.

8. NCPIC Financial Report

A financial statement was provided for information.

F. COMMUNITY REPORT

1. Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE)-*Heather Pyke*

- Cardinal Collins will be presiding over Mass at the OAPCE 77th Conference AGM Gala Dinner, a variety of workshops will be available and high attendance is anticipated.
- When making a donation to United Way you are able to direct your donation to OAPCE.
- Heather is also a member of the Ontario Institute for Catholic Education (ICE). The role of the ICE is to coordinate the work of Catholic associations and organizations in writing Catholic curriculum within the parameters established by the Ministry of Education, develop material in Religious Education and related areas under the guidance and in the name of the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario and develop foundation documents in Catholic educational practice. Resources to support the revised Health and Physical Education curriculum are available on the ICE website at iceont.ca.

2. Society of St. Vincent de Paul-*Shelley Gilbert*

- Shelley Gilbert was elected for a five (5) year term as Central Council President presiding over the St. Catharines, Welland, Fort Erie, Crystal Beach and Niagara Falls areas.
- The summer months have been extremely busy for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul trying to keep up with the demands for food, rent, etc.
- September 27, 2015 is the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul and Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bergie at the St. Catharines Cathedral at 10:00 a.m.
- September 27, 2015 kicks-off St. Vincent de Paul week where many special events will take place.
- St. Vincent de Paul is also promoting their bracelets fundraiser to support local St. Vincent de Paul.

3. St. Catharines Diocesan Council Development and Peace

- Nil Report

A motion was suggested Trustee Burtnik to send letters of appreciation to Linda Marie O'Hagan and Heather Pyke for their service as community representatives on the NCPIC.

A discussion occurred regarding Heather Pyke continuing as a community representative on the NCPIC.

MOTION

Moved by: Kim Hedden

Seconded by: Lisa Finely

THAT as determined by the NCPIC a letter of appreciation would be send to Linda Marie O'Hagan for her participation and support on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee as a community representative.

CARRIED

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells stated that she would follow-up on Heather Pyke's eligibility to continue as a community representative for the 2015-2016 NCPIC.

G. SEAC REPORT-*Anna Racine*

- Nil Report

H. BISHOP/DIOCESAN REPORT-*Fr. Peter Rowe*

Fr. Peter Rowe acknowledged and thanked the Board for providing the Niagara Catholic Baptismal packages to parishes to welcome families to the Catholic faith. This is a wonderful resource to support the home, school and church.

I. STUDENT SENATE REPORT-*Carter Cake*

- Carter Cake from Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School is the Student Senate Representative on the NCPIC for the 2015-2016 school year.
- Carter is looking forward to his role as part of the student senate and is expecting a great year.

J. STAFF REPORT

- Nil Report

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS

- Trustee Burtnik reported that the start of the 2015-2016 school year is just a transition period as Niagara Catholic never closes their doors. Overall Niagara Catholic enrollment for 2015-2016 has increased.
- Niagara Catholic will be providing resources to all families in Niagara Catholic regarding the revised Health and Physical Education Curriculum. Only 9% of the document is related to sexual and reproductive health and we have the ability to teach this unit through the Catholic faith. Further resources are also available on the ICE website at iceont.ca.

L. NEW BUSINESS

M. AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

N. NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre

P. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Shelley Gilbert

Seconded by: Gregg Kirchofer

THAT the September 17, 2015 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

O. CLOSING PRAYER: Closing prayer was led by Fr. Peter Rowe

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF
OCTOBER 7, 2015**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 7, 2015 as presented for information.



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015

Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee, held on Wednesday, October 7, 2015, 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 Chair Racine

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers were led by Chair Racine

2. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations	Present	Excused	Absent
Anna Racine	The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario	✓		
Rob Lavorato	Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara)	✓		
Carol Baldinelli	VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children		✓	
Sarah Farrell	Learning Disabilities Association – Niagara	✓		
Bill Helmeczi	Pathstone Mental Health		✓	
Andrew Howcroft	Community Living Welland Pelham	✓		
Trustees				
Pat Vernal		✓		
Maurice Charbonneau			✓	
Student Senate Representative				
Taylor Timoney		✓		

The following staff were in attendance:

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education; **Colleen Atkinson**, Special Education Coordinator; **Jim Whittard**, Principal – Secondary; **Tina DiFrancesco**, Recording Secretary

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Rob Lavorato
Seconded by Sarah Farrell

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 7, 2015.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Interest

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

5. Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 9, 2015

Moved by Trustee Vernal
Seconded by Sarah Farrell

THAT the Special Education Advisory Committee approve the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 9, 2015 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) – Janet Rylett, Special Needs Facilitator

Janet Rylett, Special Needs Facilitator presented information on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Information was provided regarding signs of FASD, statistics and strategies used to support students with FASD. Questions were asked and answered during the presentation.

C. VISIONING

1. Goals and Vision for 2014-2015

1.1 Goals for 2014-2015 – SEAC Presentation at the New Teacher Induction Program

SEAC members provided suggestions to finalize the content of the PowerPoint presentation for the upcoming presentation at the New Teacher Induction program on October 28 at the Sheraton Four Points in Thorold.

1.2 Goals for the 2015-2016 School Year

Chair Racine suggested that ideas for goals for the 2015-2016 school year be brought forward to the November meeting.

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

1. **Learner Advocacy**
2. **Parent Outreach**
3. **Program and Service Recommendations**
4. **Special Education Budget**
5. **Annual Review, Special Education Plan**
6. **Other Related Items**
7. **Policy Review**

E. SEAC REPORT

1. **Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for Catholic School Council Agenda**
 - Nil Report
2. **Review and Approval of SEAC Insert for School Newsletters**
 - Nil Report

F. AGENCY REPORTS

1. **VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children – Carol Baldinelli**
 - Nil Report
2. **Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara) – Rob Lavorato**
 - September 19 – Participated in the Pied Piper Parade.
 - October 30 – Halloween Dance
 - 1st week of November is Down Syndrome Awareness Week.
 - November 14 – Trivia Night

3. The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario – Anna Racine

- Tourette Syndrome Association meetings are starting up again to try and build this support group.

4. Learning Disabilities Association (Niagara) – Sarah Farrell

- October is LD Awareness Month! To raise more awareness on learning disabilities and to reduce the stigma, we have sent each elementary school with one LD Awareness poster and each secondary school with two LD Awareness posters to display in a public space. As this is our blackout month, we are unable to fundraise; however, Freedom 55 has helped out and are raising funds for us through various initiatives and they have raised \$1,506 so far and still have 2 weeks left. We are very grateful for their efforts and support!
- Our Fall programs have kicked off this week. We are running Reading Rocks, Reading Rocks Jr. and BEST now until December 3, 2015. All of the programs filled up quickly. We will be planning for our Winter programs very soon.
- Within the past few years, we have been responsible for the local ADHD support group in Niagara called HOPE (Helping Others Parent Effectively). HOPE is a parent support group ran by parents for caregivers of children with ADHD to provide them with them with resources and tools. We are pleased to announce that we received funding through the Ministry of Education's PRO (parents reaching out) grant to support this year's work within HOPE. This means more resources for the HOPE group and the parents involved, such as babysitters onsite for the meetings, refreshments, handouts, resources to send home with caregivers, etc. We are looking forward to carry out all of these great initiatives this year.

5. Pathstone Mental Health – Bill Helmeczi

- Nil Report

6. Community Living Welland Pelham – Andrew Howcroft

- The article "*Quality Education: It's not a Choice!*" by Marsha Forest and Jack Pearpoint will be included in the November agenda package.
- The Community Living Annual Dinner Dance will be held on November 21 at the Croatian Hall.

G. STAFF REPORTS

1. Lisa Selman – Principal, Elementary

- Nil Report

2. Jim Whittard – Principal, Secondary

Blessed Trinity

- Educational Resource Teachers and Special Education Teachers throughout Niagara Catholic were thrilled to welcome our students back to school after a busy summer holiday.
- All schools will host a Grade 9 Curriculum Night during the month of September. The Special Education Department, in conjunction with the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), has developed two Power Point presentations that will be shared with school communities on Curriculum Night. On this evening, at Blessed Trinity, we will also host an Open House for our Special Education Class where new and returning parents will have the opportunity to mingle and meet each other's families.
- Blessed Trinity Special Education Staff will continue our work with Transitional Aged Youth and our partners within the community. We are looking forward to working together to support individuals and their families develop a plan for when it is time to leave the high school setting. This initiative will be reflected specifically for each and every student on their Individual Education Plan.
- SEA equipment (laptops and FM Systems) are currently being distributed to students.
- Individual Education Plans (IEP's) are currently being developed. Parental input is always invited and appreciated. IEP's will be mailed home no later than 30 days after the commencement of the school year. Teachers have been made aware of the students they will accommodate and there is ongoing discussion between them and the Resource Department to ensure student needs are met.
- Schedules for Educational Assistants and timetables for students have been developed as our students are integrated into a variety of classes and activities throughout the school. Classes include not only core subjects but also Culinary Arts, Construction, Drama, Art, Transportation and Co-Operative Education.
- We are excited to be participating in Music with Mendelt, a Music Therapy Program. Other upcoming events include swimming at the YMCA twice a month, Halloween Cooking Classes at the Superstore and a trip to Puddicombe Farms for some Halloween fun.
- The Peer Tutoring course is taught by our Special Education Teacher who does a wonderful job of educating students in regard to exceptionalities and inclusion. This rewarding program pairs peers with our students with special education needs as they go to classes and participate in events. The bonds are incredible and can be felt at the special events held throughout the year.
- It's been a busy and exciting beginning!

Saint Francis

- Several students from our Special Education Classroom are attending the APC Horticulture program in the afternoon.
- Our Special Education Classroom students are baking muffins for our P3 program each week and help to prepare muffins and other breakfast items for our Breakfast program each day.
- One of our Special Education Classroom students is involved in a Co-op placement at Swiss Chalet.
- We are in the process of meeting with all grade nine students on an IEP in order to ensure a smooth transition to high school.
- We are in the process of completing draft copies of IEPs for all of our students.
- Our school swim club begins this week, and some of our Special Education Classroom students will be participating again this year.

Notre Dame College

- We are happy to have a new Special Education teacher who brings new ideas and a great deal of enthusiasm to her new role in the school.
- The Special Education Class went on a field trip to the Welland Public Library where students listened to a book being read and then had a chance to look through books of their choice. They finished their session at the library with a short movie and then walked back to Notre Dame. We have another library visit booked for September 26.
- October 5 – The Special Education class is going by bus to Heartland Forest where we will take part in a pumpkin program. The students will also have an opportunity to go on a trail walk, train ride and various other activities.
- September 18 - The Special Education class made lunch; pizza on an English muffin. Students were able to choose their own toppings. On September 25 we cooked again as it was hot dog day and our students were able to choose their condiments.
- October 6 is our bake sale to raise money for our room and trips. Students will pair up with Social Climate and make treats to sell in the cafeteria during both lunches.
- We have students doing a co-op at the Dollar Tree, The Restore Store, The Blue Star and Pet Value.

Holy Cross

- The Special Education Class at Holy Cross has been learning about the power of positive language. We have been posting words that inspire us around our room and using beads to create necklaces with positive messages. We have also been researching the meanings of our names and reflecting on the traits that make us unique in the eyes of God.
- Holy Cross is looking forward to the Halloween masquerade party at Denis Morris where we will meet our new pen pals from Blessed Trinity. We plan to share transportation with Saint Francis and forge new friendships throughout the day.

Saint Paul

- A new year begins in the Special Education class at Saint Paul Catholic High School bringing some new staff and new students. We bid adieu to four graduating students. We wish them the best of luck in all future endeavors! The new year will provide our students many new opportunities and experiences in academic and social settings. Some upcoming events include a Halloween Party at Denis Morris and Christmas/Hockey event here at Saint Paul High school. We have a senior student participating in the co-op program who has just started a placement at Sobeys. The Special Education Department is looking forward to a great year!

3. Yolanda Baldasaro – Superintendent of Education

- The *Niagara Catholic System Priorities 2014-2015 Achievement Report* was presented for information.
- *A Parent's Guide to Understanding Family Life Education in Catholic Schools, A Parent's Guide to Understanding How Human Development and Sexual Health in the Health and Physical Education Curriculum Will be Taught in Catholic Schools, Primary, Junior and Intermediate* pamphlets were presented for information.
- October 8 - Annual Director's Inspiration Award at Our Lady of Scapular Church in Niagara Falls.

4. **Colleen Atkinson – Coordinator Special Education**

- Schools are in the midst of completing Individual Education Plans for students.

H. TRUSTEE REPORTS

1. **Pat Vernal – Trustee**

- October 7 – Trustees attended a meeting in Hamilton. Special Education funding was a big topic of discussion amongst all Trustees.

2. **Maurice Charbonneau – Trustee**

- Nil Report

I. STUDENT REPORT

1. **Taylor Timoney – Student Senate Representative**

- Student Senate had their first meeting and will be having another meeting on Tuesday, October 13.
- Student Senate participated in the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival Parade held on Saturday, September 26.

J. NCPIC REPORT

- The NCPIC hosted the first Family Games Night at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary school on September 29. The next Family Games Night will be held at Lakeshore Catholic High School on October 14 and Saint Francis Catholic Secondary school on October 15.

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Learner Advocacy**

3. **Parent Outreach**

3. **Program and Service Recommendations**

4. **Special Education Budget**

5. **Annual Review, Special Education Plan**

6. Other Related Items

7. Policy Review

The *Attendance Support Program Policy (201.16)* and the new *Asthma Policy* were presented for information and review. Chair Racine and Superintendent Baldasaro suggested that any comments be brought back to the November meeting. The deadline to respond is November 15, 2015.

L. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Superintendent Baldasaro informed the SEAC members that the letter received from St. John Ambulance Saint-Jean, Chair A Van Division regarding the appointment of a new representative to serve on the Niagara Catholic Special Education Advisory Committee was reviewed. According to the guidelines set by the Ministry of Education regarding eligibility, the proposed representative did not meet eligibility requirements to sit as a member of the Niagara Catholic SEAC.
2. New correspondence was received and will be reviewed at the November meeting.

M. QUESTION PERIOD

1. A question was asked about the school board's relationship to Special Olympics. More information to follow at the next meeting.

N. NOTICES OF MOTION

O. AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Special Needs Strategy
2. Highlight students/schools in the system
3. Faith Formation – Board Chaplaincy Leader

P. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. The Annual SEAC Christmas Dinner was mentioned and further information is forthcoming.

Q. NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, November 4, 2015 at 7:00p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre

R. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Rob Lavorato

THAT the October 7, 2015 meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:10p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: RESCIND THE APPROVAL OF NIAGARA CATHOLIC
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)
MEMBERS 2014-2018**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board rescind the January 27, 2015 Board Motion approving the following local association representatives to serve as Special Education Advisory Committee members for the term of 2014-2018:

Cindy Palumbo - Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (Alternate Representative)
Mario Palumbo - Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (Alternate Representative)

Prepared by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education
Presented by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education
Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: November 24, 2015



REPORT TO THE BOARD NOVEMBER 24, 2015

RESCIND THE APPROVAL OF NIAGARA CATHOLIC SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEMBERS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In the Education Act, Ontario Regulation 464/97 (O. Regulation 464/97) Special Education Advisory Committees outlines the composition, eligibility requirements and length of term served by the membership of this Board committee.

Sections 1, 2, 5 and 6 below are the excerpts from O. Regulation 464/97:

1. In this Regulation, “local association” means an association or organization of parents that operates locally within the area of jurisdiction of a Board and that is affiliated with an association or organization that is not an association or organization of professional educators but that is incorporated and operates throughout Ontario to further the interests and well-being of one or more groups of exceptional children or adults. O. Regulation 464/97, s. 1.
2. (1) Every district school Board shall establish a Special Education Advisory Committee that shall consist of,
 - (a) subject to subsections (2) and (3), one representative from each of the local associations that operates locally within the area of jurisdiction of the Board, as nominated by the local association and appointed by the Board;
 - (b) one alternate for each representative appointed under clause (a), as nominated by the local association and appointed by the Board;
 - (c) such number of members from among the Board’s own members as is determined under subsection (4), as appointed by the Board;
 - (d) where the number of members appointed under clause (c) is less than three, one alternate, as appointed by the Board from among its own members, for each member appointed under clause (c);
 - (e) one or two persons to represent the interests of Indian pupils, as provided by section 4; and
 - (f) one or more additional members appointed under subsection (5).
- (2) The Board shall not appoint more than twelve (12) representatives under clause (1) (a).
- (3) Where there are more than twelve (12) local associations within the area of jurisdiction of the Board, the Board shall select the twelve (12) local associations that shall be represented.
- (4) The number to be appointed by the Board under clause (1) (c) shall be the lesser of,
 - (a) three; and
 - (b) twenty-five (25) per cent of the total number of members of the Board, rounded down to the nearest whole number.
- (5) For the purposes of clause (1) (f), the Board may appoint one or more additional members who are neither representatives of a local association nor members of the Board or another committee of the Board. O. Regulation 464/97, s. 2.

5. (1) A person is not qualified to be nominated or appointed under section 2 or 3 to a Special Education Advisory Committee of a Board unless the person is qualified to vote for members of that Board and is resident in its area of jurisdiction.
- (3) A person is not qualified to be nominated or appointed under section 2, 3 or 4 if the person is employed by the board. O. Reg. 464/97, s. 5.
6. Subject to section 7, each of the persons appointed to a Special Education Advisory Committee of a Board shall hold office during the term of office of the members of the Board and until a new Board is organized. O. Regulation 464/97, s. 6.

It was brought to the attention of Superintendent Baldasaro that the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region Alternative Representative nominees, Cindy Palumbo and Mario Palumbo are ineligible to serve as members of Niagara Catholic's Special Education Advisory Committee for the term 2014-2018 as outlined in section 5. (3) above as they are employees of the Board.

Therefore, the following recommendation is provide to the Board.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board rescind the January 27, 2015 Board Motion approving the following local association representatives to serve as Special Education Advisory Committee members for the term of 2014-2018:

Cindy Palumbo - Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (Alternate Representative)

Mario Palumbo - Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (Alternate Representative)

Prepared by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education

Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: November 24, 2015

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: ANNUAL CULTURE OF LIFE CONFERENCE 2015

The Annual Culture of Life Conference 2015 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Stephanie Jarrett and Greg Robertson, Chaplaincy Leaders

Presented by: Stephanie Jarrett and Greg Robertson, Chaplaincy Leaders

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: November 24, 2015



REPORT TO THE BOARD NOVEMBER 24, 2015

ANNUAL CULTURE OF LIFE CONFERENCE 2015

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Church has used terminology to reflect the philosophy of Culture of Life since its earliest days. The Didache, a first century document included in the Magisterium of the Church, refers to the “way of life” and the “way of death.” Saint Pope John Paul II in *Evangelium Vitae* (Gospel of Life) stated “In our present social context, marked by a dramatic struggle between the culture of life and the culture of death, there is the need to develop a deep critical sense capable of discerning true values and authentic needs.”

In more recent years the term has been used extensively, often in political arenas, to defend or fight specific life issues such as abortion, euthanasia and stem cell research, with these battles often placing these concerns in very narrow silos.

When we return to the root of this concept, however, we can see that this philosophy is actually much broader, that all the elements of Catholic Social Teaching build the Culture of Life and should be a way of life that weaves through our entire day, a perspective that helps us fight against abortion but also helps us choose to be kind, fight bullying, and preserve the dignity of every human person.

3rd Annual Culture of Life Conference 2015

On Thursday, November 5, 2015 Niagara Catholic hosted its *3rd Annual Culture of Life Conference* at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls. Approximately 140 students from all 8 of our Catholic secondary schools gathered for a day and were guided through an exploration of the key concepts of the Culture of Life.

Our keynote this year was Alex Schadenberg, the Executive Director of Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. End-of-life issues are of great concern in our current political landscape, with developing legislation on doctor-assisted suicide and euthanasia. Alex brings new understanding to these issues, supported by developments in other nations who have grappled with these issues. Through the sharing of personal stories and concrete examples Alex was able to put a human face on an issue that is often spoken of in philosophical and legal terms.

This year’s conference also featured two workshop presenters from St. Catharines Right to Life Association. Rachel Mathie shared her experience working with the L’Arche Community in the presentation *L’Arche: The Value of All Life*. In addition to teaching students about the unique vision of care giving and community building that fosters inclusion, understanding and belonging that is the hallmark of L’Arche communities around the world, Rachel also introduced students to issues around prenatal testing as related to Down’s Syndrome and other intellectual delays and its links to abortion.

Nikki Sinke, in partnership with Elisha House, spoke on *Sexual Integrity & Healthy Relationships*. Nikki talked to the students about the effects of sexual relationships on our brain chemistry and provided some

strategies specifically for teenagers to help in maintaining a chaste life. Both of these young women brought a fresh approach to these often ignored areas which are so central to our work in building a Culture of Life.

Mass was celebrated in the beautiful Mount Carmel Chapel, with Fr. Michael Wastag OCarm presiding.

In keeping with Niagara Catholic District School Board's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan and the Strategic Direction to *Build Strong Catholic Identity and Community to Nurture the Distinctiveness of Catholic Education*, feedback from both staff and students indicate that the Culture of Life Conference 2015 was a meaningful experience that equipped students with the understanding and language to bring a distinctly Catholic perspective on these issues back to their communities. Many students in attendance were able to bring this learning back to their classes as they study these issues in Law, Religion, Sociology, and Parenting Classes as well as Culture of Life Clubs from our secondary schools.

This information report will be highlighted through a brief visual of the 3rd Annual Culture of Life Conference.

The Annual Culture of Life Conference 2015 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Stephanie Jarrett and Greg Robertson, Chaplaincy Leaders

Presented by: Stephanie Jarrett and Greg Robertson, Chaplaincy Leaders

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: November 24, 2015

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: EDUCATION QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE
(EQAO) PRIMARY AND JUNIOR ASSESSMENTS OF
READING, WRITING AND MATHEMATICS – 2014-2015**

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Primary and Junior Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics – 2014-2015 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education
Christine Battagli, Consultant-Research, Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: November 24, 2015



REPORT TO THE BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 24, 2015

EDUCATION QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE (EQAO) PRIMARY AND JUNIOR ASSESSMENTS OF READING, WRITING AND MATHEMATICS – 2014-2015

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

EQAO released the school and Board level results of the 2014-2015 Primary and Junior Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics on November 18, 2015. Provincial results are unavailable for the 2014-2015 Primary and Junior Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics because not all English-language school systems participated in the assessment due to labour action.

Senior Administrative Council, Principals, Vice-Principals, teaching and support staff continue to work collaboratively to improve the achievement of each student by ensuring that individual needs are being met in the classroom through Ministry, Board and school initiatives. Analysis of the results will continue at the Board and school levels with Board and School Improvement planning to support the improvement of student achievement.

This Board report includes the following Appendices:

- Primary Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics Results including participation, trend data, and gender (Appendix A)
- Junior Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics Results including participation, trend data, and gender (Appendix B)
- Tracking Student Achievement in Relation to the Provincial Standard, Primary (Grade 3) to Junior Division (Grade 6), 2011–2012 to 2014–2015 (Appendix C)

The Individual Student Reports will be sent home to parents/guardians in support of the improvement of student achievement in literacy and numeracy.

The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) Primary and Junior Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics - 2014-2015 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education
Christine Battagli, Consultant-Research, Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

Presented by: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education

Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: November 24, 2015

EQAO 2014-2015
Primary Division (Grades 1 to 3)
Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics

Results for All Students - % of Students at Level 3 or Above

2014-2015	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	74	81	66
Province	EC	EC	EC

2013-2014	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	74	87	71
Province	70	78	67

Five Year Trend - % increase/decrease

Five Year Trend	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	+4	+4	-7

Results Based on Gender

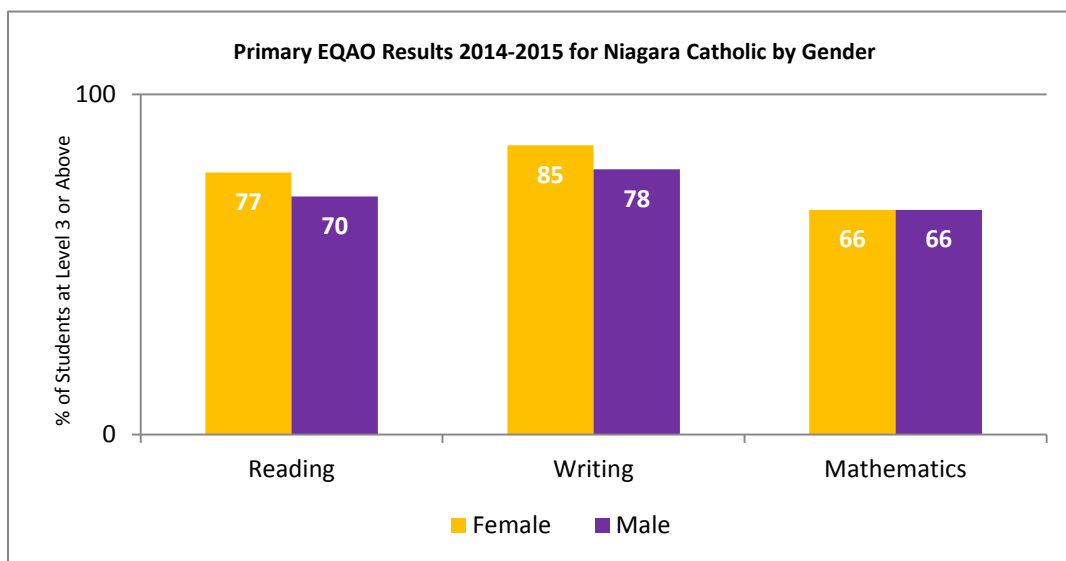
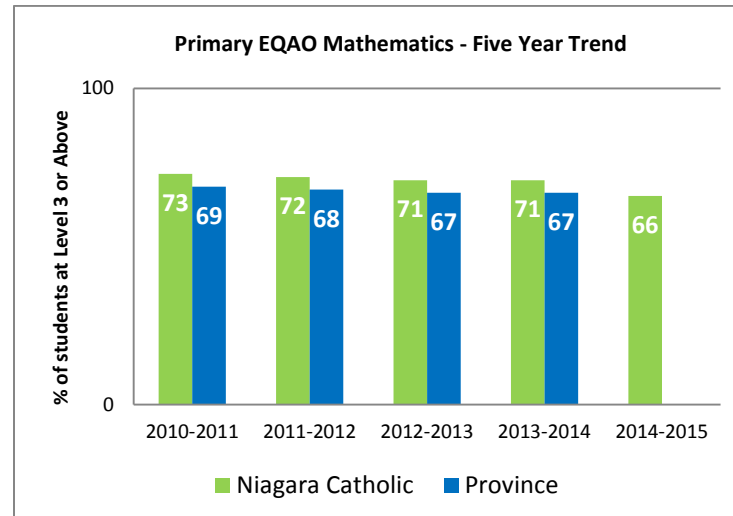
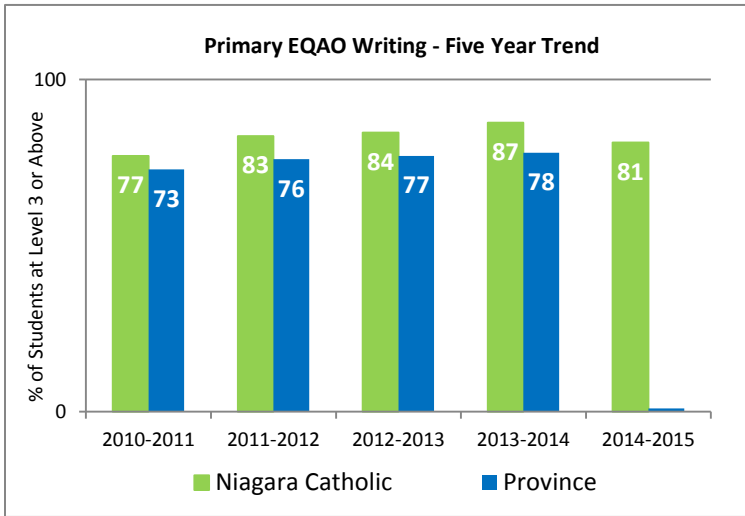
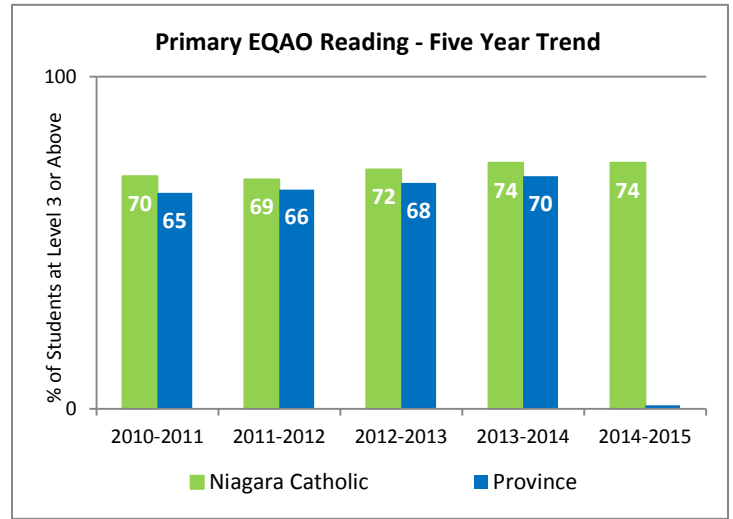
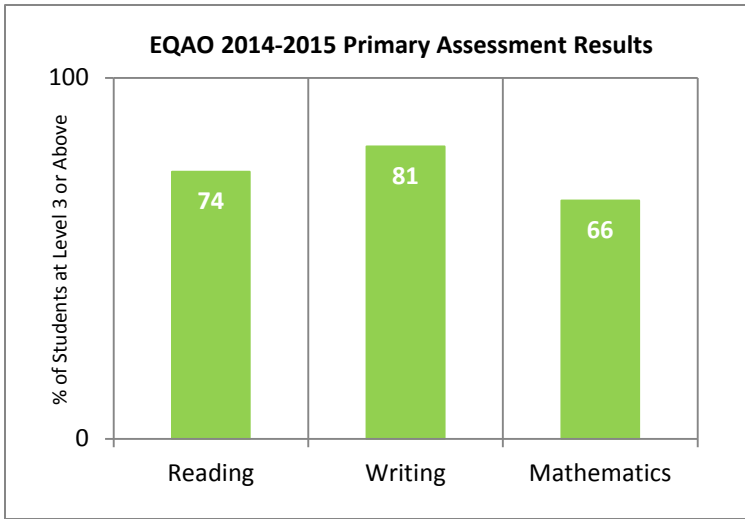
2014-2015	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Male NCDSB	70	78	66
Female NCDSB	77	85	66

Exemption Rates 2014-2015

2014-2015	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	2	1	1
Province	EC	EC	EC

*EC - Due to exceptional circumstances in 2015, provincial data are unavailable to report provincial results.

EQAO Primary Assessment Results 2014-2015



EQAO 2014-2015
Junior Division (Grades 4 to 6)
Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics

Results for All Students - % of Students at Level 3 or Above

2014-2015	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	83	85	59
Province	EC	EC	EC

2013-2014	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	82	84	58
Province	79	78	54

Five Year Trend - % increase/decrease

Five Year Trend	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	+5	+9	-5

Results Based on Gender

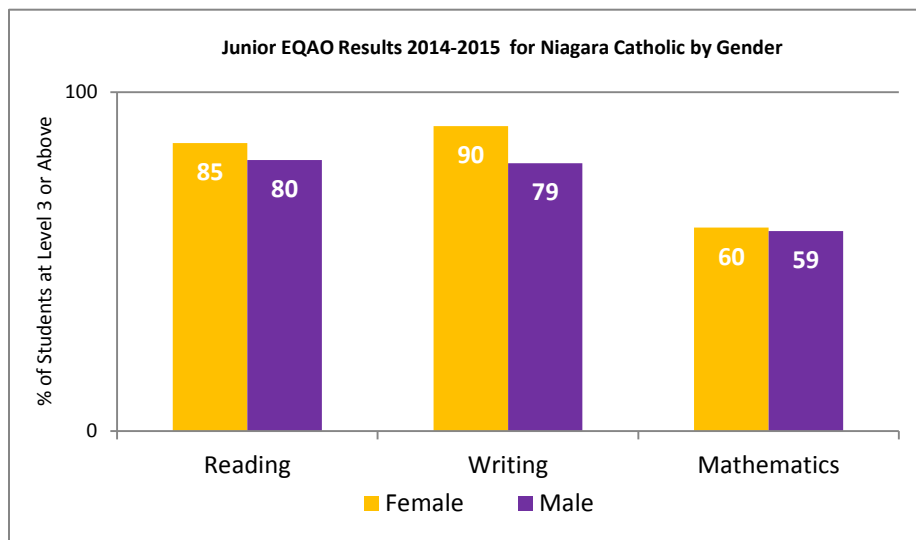
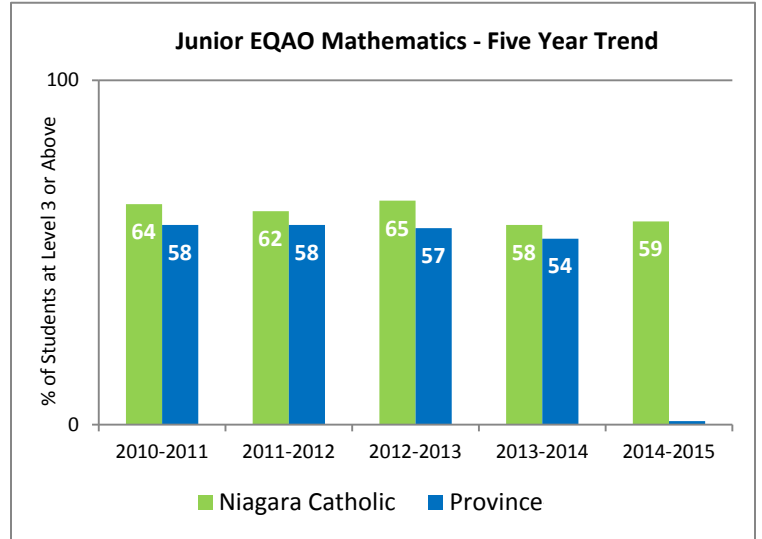
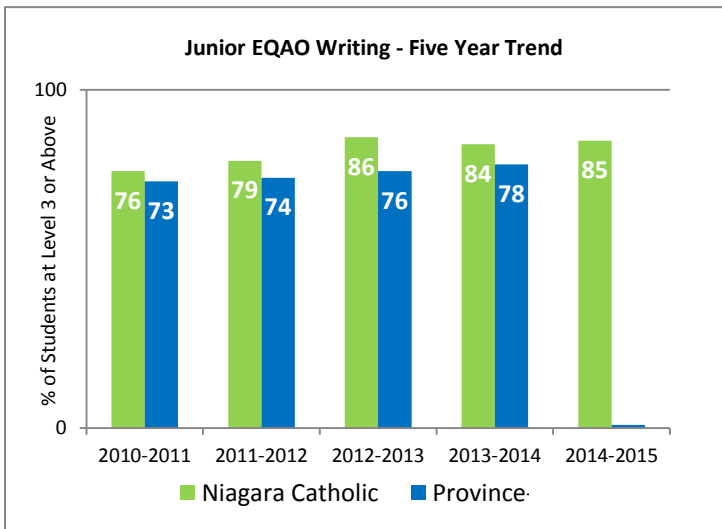
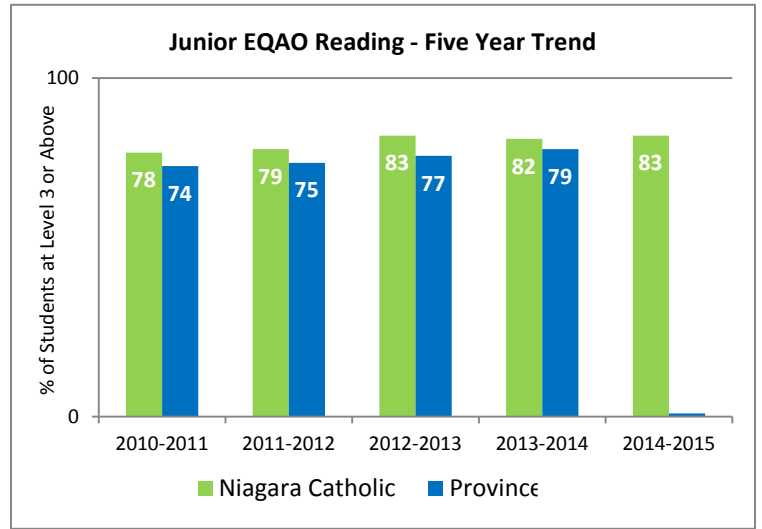
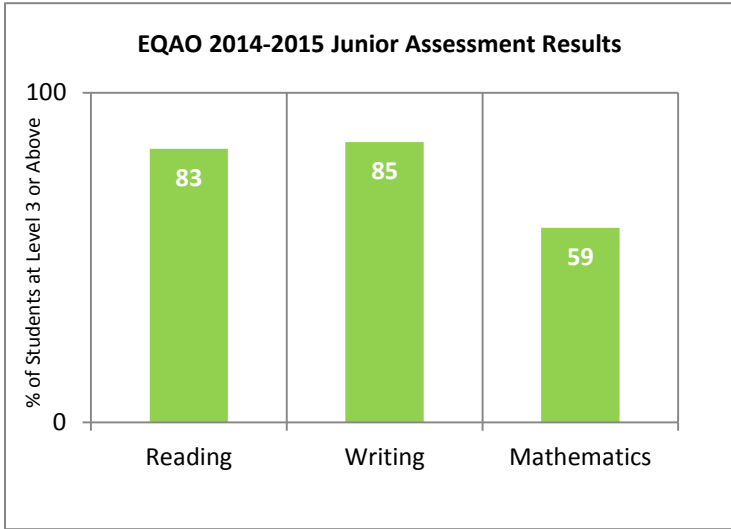
2014-2015	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Male NCDSB	80	79	59
Female NCDSB	85	90	60

Exemption Rates

2014-2015	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Niagara Catholic	1	1	1
Province	EC	EC	EC

*EC - Due to exceptional circumstances in 2015, provincial data are unavailable to report provincial results.

EQAO Junior Assessment Results 2014-2015



EQAO 2014-2015

Primary (Grades 1 to 3) Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics

Results for All Grade 3 Students at Level 3 or Above

Category	Reading (%)			Writing (%)			Mathematics (%)		
	2015	2014	Diff	2015	2014	Diff	2015	2014	Diff
NCDSB	74	74	0	81	87	-6	66	71	-5
Province	EC	70	+2	EC	78	+1	EC	67	0
% Difference with Province		+4			+9			+4	

Five Year Trend for All Grade 3 Students at Level 3 or Above

Category	Reading (%)					Writing (%)					Mathematics (%)				
	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
Years: 2011-2015															
NCDSB	70	69	72	74	74	77	83	84	87	81	73	72	71	71	66
Province	65	66	68	70	EC	73	76	77	78	EC	69	68	67	67	EC
% Difference w/Province	+5	+3	+4	+4		+4	+7	+7	+9		+4	+4	+4	+4	

Gender Results for All Grade 3 Students at Level 3 or Above

Category	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Male	70	78	66
Female	77	85	66
% Difference	7	7	0

*EC - Due to exceptional circumstances in 2015, provincial data are unavailable to report provincial results.

EQAQ 2014-2015

Junior (Grades 4 to 6) Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics

Results for All Grade 6 Students at Level 3 or Above

Category	Reading (%)			Writing (%)			Mathematics (%)		
	2015	2014	Diff	2015	2014	Diff	2015	2014	Diff
NCDSB	83	82	+1	85	84	+1	59	58	+1
Province	EC	79		EC	78		EC	54	
% Difference with Province		+3			+6			+4	

Five Year Trend for All Grade 6 Students at Level 3 or Above

Category	Reading (%)					Writing (%)					Mathematics (%)				
	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)
Years: 2011-2015															
NCDSB	78	79	83	82	83	76	79	86	84	85	64	62	65	58	59
Province	74	75	77	79	EC	73	74	76	78	EC	58	58	57	54	EC
% Difference w/Province	+4	+4	+6	+3		+3	+5	+10	+6		+6	+4	+8	+4	

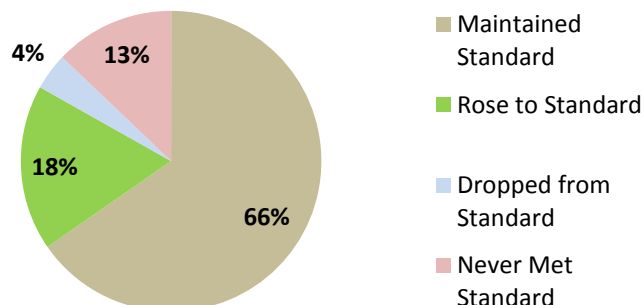
Gender Results for All Grade 6 Students at Level 3 or Above

Category	Reading (%)	Writing (%)	Mathematics (%)
Male	80	79	59
Female	85	90	60
% Difference	5	11	1

*EC - Due to exceptional circumstances in 2015, provincial data are unavailable to report provincial results.

Tracking a Cohort in Relation to the Provincial Standard: Grade 3 (2011-2012) and Grade 6 (2014-2015)

Reading

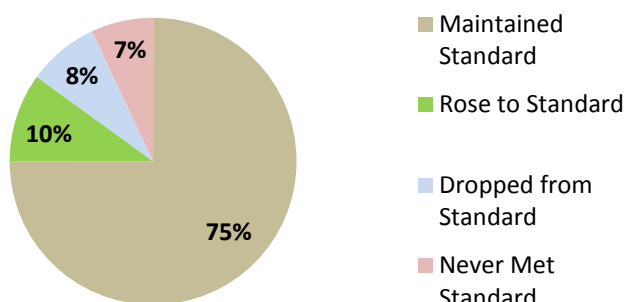


Reading

The reading results for the 1449 students in the cohort are as follows:

- ✓ 66% (982) met the provincial standard in Grade 3 and Grade 6;
- ✓ 18% (264) did not meet the standard in Grade 3 but met it in Grade 6;
- ✓ 4% (59) met the standard in Grade 3 but did not meet it in Grade 6; and
- ✓ 13% (194) did not meet the standard in Grade 3 and did not in Grade 6.

Writing

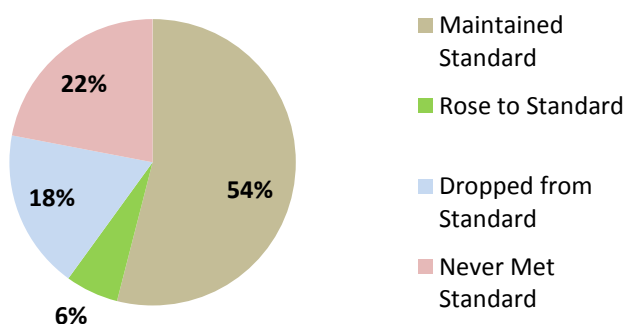


Writing

The writing results for the 1449 students in the cohort are as follows:

- ✓ 75% (1119) met the provincial standard in Grade 3 and Grade 6;
- ✓ 10% (157) did not meet the standard in Grade 3 but met it in Grade 6;
- ✓ 8% (122) met the standard in Grade 3 but did not meet it in Grade 6; and
- ✓ 7% (101) did not meet the standard in Grade 3 and did not in Grade 6.

Mathematics



Mathematics

The mathematics results for the 1449 students in the cohort are as follows:

- ✓ 54% (803) met the provincial standard in Grade 3 and Grade 6;
- ✓ 6% (92) did not meet the standard in Grade 3 but met it in Grade 6;
- ✓ 18% (271) met the standard in Grade 3 but did not meet it in Grade 6; and
- ✓ 22% (333) did not meet the standard in Grade 3 and did not in Grade 6.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MULTI-YEAR SNOWPLOWING AND SALTING TENDER
APPROVAL**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Multi-Year Contracts for Snowplowing and Salting, as presented.

Prepared by: Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services
Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services
Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: November 24, 2015



REPORT TO THE BOARD NOVEMBER 24, 2015

MULTI-YEAR SNOWPLOWING AND SALTING TENDER APPROVAL

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Board approved the Niagara Catholic Strategic Direction and System Priorities and Board Budget for 2015-2016, which included a provision for a multi-year snowplowing and salting contract. As per tender number #T15-007 the companies are as follows:

Area A	St. Catharines, ON	Regional Construction
Area B	St. Catharines, ON	Griffin Landscaping
Area C	Lincoln, ON	Steele's Landscaping
Area D	Welland, ON	Niagara Compost Soil Farm
Area E	Thorold, ON	Niagara Compost Soil Farm
Area F	Port Colborne, ON	Griffin Landscaping
Area G	Fort Erie, Ridgeway, ON	Stevensville Lawn Service
Area H	Niagara Falls, ON – North	Sacco Construction Ltd.
Area I	Niagara Falls, ON – South	Sacco Construction Ltd.

Snowplowing and salting price quote per occurrence are as follows:

Snowplowing per occurrence	\$16,485.00
Salting per occurrence	\$13,216.00

The snowplowing per occurrence price quote is a savings of 1.55% from our previous contracts.

The salting per occurrence price quote is a savings of 18.42% from our previous contracts.

In compliance with the Board's Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Policy, the multi-year contract will have a total value of greater than \$500,000. With the total value of the purchase at approximately \$4,000,000., the Board of Trustees is required to formally approve the four year snowplowing and salting tender, as recommended and approved by the Superintendent of Business & Financial Services and the Director of Education.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Multi-Year Contracts for Snowplowing and Salting.

Prepared by: Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services
 Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services

Presented by: Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services
 Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services

Recommended by: John Crocco, Director of Education, Secretary/Treasurer

Date: November, 24 2015

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
2014-2015**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2014-2015, as presented.

Prepared by: Mark Palumbi, CPA, CA Crawford, Smith and Swallow Chartered Accountants LLP
Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Audit Committee
Mark Palumbi, CPA, CA Crawford, Smith and Swallow Chartered Accountants LLP

Recommended by: Audit Committee

Date: November 24, 2015



REPORT TO THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 24, 2015

AUDITED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2014-2015

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Each year all publically funded school boards are required to submit Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and related forms to the Ministry of Education. As required by the Ministry of Education, the external Auditors have presented the 2014-2015 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements to the Audit Committee on November 20, 2015.

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Administration Act supplemented by Ontario Ministry of Education memorandum 2004:B2 and Ontario Regulation 395-11 of the Financial Administration Act.

The 2014-2015 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements operating deficit is (\$1,954,631). However, the total accumulated deficit for Ministry compliance purposes resulted in a (\$3,036,641) deficit for 2014-2015. The non-compliant deficit exceeds the ministry threshold of 1% of operating allocation by \$692,712. The Ministry approval of \$1.4M in proceeds of disposition netted against the accumulated deficit resulted in a year-end balance of (\$301,038). The Board continues to be non-compliant in the Administration and Governance allocation by approximately \$662,463.

The 2014-2015 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and related schedules have been submitted to the Ministry of Education on November 15, 2015.

A copy of the final Draft of the 2014-2015 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements and the related Audit letters are hereby attached for the review of the Trustees. (Appendix A)

After review and discussion, the members of the Audit Committee recommended that the 2014-2015 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements be approved by the Board.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements 2014-2015, as presented.

Prepared by: Mark Palumbi, CPA, CA Crawford, Smith and Swallow Chartered Accountants LLP
Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business and Financial Services

Presented by: Audit Committee
Mark Palumbi, CPA, CA Crawford, Smith and Swallow Chartered Accountants LLP

Recommended by: Audit Committee

Date: November 24, 2015

*crawford
smith &
swallow*

**NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD**

Consolidated Financial Statements

August 31, 2015

DRAFT

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Consolidated Financial Statements

August 31, 2015

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Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements	8-26
Schedule of Tangible Capital Assets	27

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MANAGEMENT REPORT

August 31, 2015

The accompanying consolidated financial statements of the Niagara Catholic District School Board (the "Board") are the responsibility of the Board's management and have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Administration Act, supplemented by Ontario Ministry of Education memorandum 2004:B2 and Ontario Regulation 395/11 of the Financial Administration Act, as described in Note 1(a) to the consolidated financial statements.

The preparation of consolidated financial statements necessarily involves the use of estimates based on management's judgement, particularly when transactions affecting the current accounting period cannot be finalized with certainty until future periods.

Board management maintains a system of internal controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions are properly authorized and recorded in compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements and reliable financial information is available on a timely basis for preparation of the consolidated financial statements. These systems are monitored and evaluated by management.

The Board meets with management and the external auditors to review the consolidated financial statements and discuss any significant financial reporting or internal control matters prior to their approval of the consolidated financial statements.

The consolidated financial statements have been audited by Crawford, Smith and Swallow Chartered Accountants LLP, independent external auditors appointed by the Board. The accompanying Independent Auditors' Report outlines their responsibilities, the scope of their examination and their opinion on the Board's consolidated financial statements.

Director of Education/
Secretary Treasurer
Mr. John Crocco
November 24, 2015

Superintendent of Business
and Financial Services
Mr. Giancarlo Vetrone
November 24, 2015

Crawford, Smith and Swallow
Chartered Accountants LLP

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**crawford
smith &
swallow**

Offices in:
Niagara Falls, Ontario
St. Catharines, Ontario
Fort Erie, Ontario
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
Port Colborne, Ontario

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Board of Trustees of the
Niagara Catholic District School Board

We have audited the accompanying consolidated financial statements of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at August 31, 2015, the consolidated statements of operations and accumulated surplus, cash flows and change in net debt for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of these consolidated financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1(a) to the consolidated financial statements, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained in our audit is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements of the Niagara Catholic District School Board as at and for the year ended August 31, 2015 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1(a) to the consolidated financial statements.

Emphasis of Matter

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1(a) to the consolidated financial statements which describes the basis of accounting used in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements and the significant differences between such basis of accounting and Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Niagara Falls, Ontario
November 24, 2015

CRAWFORD, SMITH AND SWALLOW
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS LLP
LICENSED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

DRAFT

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

August 31, 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Financial Assets		
Cash	17,109,380	18,393,969
Accounts receivable	10,249,652	8,400,143
Accounts receivable - Province of Ontario approved capital - note 3	72,746,779	82,042,306
	100,105,811	108,836,418
Contingent Liabilities - note 14		
Financial Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	11,550,230	13,474,353
Deferred revenue - note 4	7,623,797	8,989,809
Employee future benefits - note 6	10,189,041	10,879,805
Net long-term liabilities and capital leases- note 7	78,796,272	83,115,313
Deferred capital contributions - note 5	173,248,564	169,798,121
	281,407,904	286,257,401
Net Debt	(181,302,093)	(177,420,983)
Non-Financial Assets		
Tangible capital assets - schedule 1	190,488,702	188,936,361
Prepaid expenses	784,768	410,630
	191,273,470	189,346,991
Accumulated Surplus - note 8	9,971,377	11,926,008

Signed on behalf of the Board:

Chairperson of the Board

Director of Education/Secretary Treasurer

See accompanying notes

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED SURPLUS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

	Budget \$	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenues			
Provincial legislative grants	236,303,544	238,524,055	225,548,731
Provincial grants - other	3,030,405	4,993,496	15,401,147
Federal grants and fees	390,500	397,436	441,376
Other fees and revenue	3,040,000	3,137,516	3,039,356
Investment income	249,717	260,418	305,045
School fundraising	8,065,000	8,374,730	7,984,161
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	10,186,243	9,668,826	8,950,835
	261,265,409	265,356,477	261,670,651
Expenditures			
Instruction	201,457,667	204,114,156	202,717,668
Administration	7,371,201	8,287,114	8,447,425
Transportation	9,720,670	9,821,210	10,003,787
Pupil accommodation	37,064,430	36,540,414	35,950,974
Other operating expenses	117,487	117,487	117,487
School funded activities	8,065,000	8,430,727	8,032,644
	263,796,455	267,311,108	265,269,985
Annual Deficit	(2,531,046)	(1,954,631)	(3,599,334)
Accumulated Surplus, Beginning of Year	11,926,008	11,926,008	15,525,342
Accumulated Surplus, End of Year	9,394,962	9,971,377	11,926,008

See accompanying notes

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Operations		
Annual deficit	(1,954,631)	(3,599,334)
Sources (Uses)		
Change in accounts receivable	(1,849,509)	3,137,257
Change in accounts receivable - Province of Ontario approved capital	9,295,527	2,982,309
Change in prepaid expenses	(374,138)	438,675
Change in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(1,924,123)	1,069,676
Change in deferred revenue	(1,366,012)	(1,917,739)
Change in employee future benefits	(690,764)	(81,085)
	3,090,981	5,629,093
Non-cash charges to operations		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	10,068,004	9,435,325
Gain on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	(305,885)
Amortization of deferred capital contributions	(9,668,826)	(8,950,835)
	399,178	178,605
Net increase in cash from operations	1,535,528	2,208,364
Capital		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	(11,620,345)	(15,651,241)
Proceeds on disposal of tangible capital assets	-	874,503
Net additions to deferred capital contributions	13,119,269	18,667,624
Net increase in cash from capital	1,498,924	3,890,886
Financing		
Debt and capital lease issued	212,018	-
Debt repayments and sinking fund contributions	(4,531,059)	(7,744,916)
Net decrease in cash from financing	(4,319,041)	(7,744,916)
Decrease in Cash Position	(1,284,589)	(1,645,666)
Cash Position, Beginning of Year	18,393,969	20,039,635
Cash Position, End of Year	17,109,380	18,393,969

See accompanying notes

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET DEBT

for the year ended August 31, 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Annual Deficit	(1,954,631)	(3,599,334)
Acquisition of Tangible Capital Assets	(11,620,345)	(15,651,241)
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	10,068,004	9,435,325
Gain on Disposal of Tangible Capital Assets	-	(305,885)
Proceeds on Disposal of Tangible Capital Assets	-	874,503
Change in Prepaid Expenses	(374,138)	438,675
Increase in Net Debt	(3,881,110)	(8,807,957)
Net Debt, Beginning of Year	(177,420,983)	(168,613,026)
Net Debt, End of Year	(181,302,093)	(177,420,983)

See accompanying notes

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

1. Significant Accounting Policies

The consolidated financial statements are prepared by management in accordance with the basis of accounting described below.

(a) Basis of accounting

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Administration Act supplemented by Ontario Ministry of Education memorandum 2004:B2 and Ontario Regulation 395/11 of the Financial Administration Act.

The Financial Administration Act requires that the consolidated financial statements be prepared in accordance with the accounting principles determined by the relevant Ministry of the Province of Ontario. A directive was provided by the Ontario Ministry of Education within memorandum 2004:B2 requiring school boards to adopt Canadian public sector accounting standards commencing with their year ended August 31, 2004 and that changes may be required to the application of these standards as a result of regulation.

In 2011, the government passed Ontario Regulation 395/11 of the Financial Administration Act. The Regulation requires that contributions received or receivable for the acquisition or development of depreciable tangible capital assets and contributions of depreciable tangible capital assets for use in providing services, be recorded as deferred capital contributions and be recognized as revenue in the consolidated statement of operations and accumulated surplus over the periods during which the asset is used to provide service at the same rate that amortization is recognized in respect to the related asset. The regulation further requires that if the net book value of the depreciable tangible capital asset is reduced for any reason other than depreciation, a proportionate reduction of the deferred capital contribution along with a proportionate increase in revenue be recognized. For Ontario school boards, these contributions include government transfers, externally restricted contributions and, historically, property tax revenue.

The accounting policy requirements under Regulation 395/11 are significantly different from the requirements of Canadian public sector accounting standards which requires that:

- government transfers, which do not contain a stipulation that creates a liability, be recognized as revenue by the recipient when approved by the transferor and the eligibility criteria have been met in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standard PS3410;
- externally restricted contributions be recognized as revenue in the period in which the resources are used for the purpose or purposes specified in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standard PS3100; and
- property taxation revenue be reported as revenue when received or receivable in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standard PS3510.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

1. Significant Accounting Policies - continued

(a) Basis of accounting - continued

As a result, revenue recognized in the consolidated statement of operations and accumulated surplus and certain related deferred revenues and deferred capital contributions would be recorded differently under Canadian public sector accounting standards.

(b) Reporting entity

The consolidated financial statements reflect the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of the reporting entity. The reporting entity is comprised of all organizations accountable for the administration of their financial affairs and resources to the Board and which are controlled by the Board.

School generated funds, which include assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of various organizations that exist at the school level and which are controlled by the Board are reflected in the consolidated financial statements.

The following entities are consolidated with the Board:

Niagara Student Transportation Services Consortium
School Generated Funds

Interdepartmental and inter-organizational transactions and balances between these organizations are eliminated.

(c) Trust funds

Trust funds and their related operations administered by the Board are not included in the consolidated financial statements as they are not controlled by the Board.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

1. Significant Accounting Policies - continued

(d) Tangible capital assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at historical cost less accumulated amortization. Historical cost includes amounts that are directly attributable to the acquisition, construction, development or betterment of the asset, as well as interest related to financing during construction. When historical cost records were not available, other methods were used to estimate the costs and accumulated amortization.

Leases which transfer substantially all of the benefits and risks incidental to ownership of property are accounted for as leased tangible capital assets. All other leases are accounted for as operating leases and the related payments are charged to expenses as incurred.

Tangible capital assets, except land, are amortized on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Basis</u>
General Assets		
Land	- NIL	
Land improvements	- 15 years	straight line
Buildings	- 40 years	straight line
Portable structures	- 20 years	straight line
Equipment	- 5-15 years	straight line
First-time equipping	- 10 years	straight line
Furniture	- 10 years	straight line
Computer hardware	- 5 years	straight line
Computer software	- 5 years	straight line
Vehicles	- 5 years	straight line

Assets under construction and assets that relate to pre-acquisition and pre-construction costs are not amortized until the asset is available for productive use.

Land permanently removed from service and held for resale is recorded at the lower of cost and estimated net realizable value. Cost includes amounts for improvements to prepare the land for sale or servicing. Buildings permanently removed from service and held for resale cease to be amortized and are recorded at the lower of carrying value and estimated net realizable value. Tangible capital assets which meet the criteria for financial assets are reclassified as "assets held for sale" on the consolidated statements of financial position.

Works of art and cultural and historic assets are not recorded as assets in these consolidated financial statements.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

1. Significant Accounting Policies - continued

(e) Deferred revenue

Certain amounts are received pursuant to legislation, regulation or agreement and may only be used in the conduct of certain programs or in the delivery of specific services and transactions. These amounts are recognized as revenue in the fiscal year the related expenditures are incurred or services performed.

(f) Deferred capital contributions

Contributions received or receivable for the purpose of acquiring or developing a depreciable tangible capital asset for use in providing services, or any contributions in the form of depreciable tangible assets received or receivable for use in providing services, are recognized as deferred capital contributions as defined in Ontario Regulation 395/11 of the Financial Administration Act. These amounts are recognized as revenue at the same rate as the related tangible capital asset is amortized:

- government transfers received or receivable for capital purpose;
- other restricted contributions received or receivable for capital purpose;
- property taxation which were historically used to fund capital assets.

(g) Retirement and other employee future benefits

The Board provides defined retirement and other future benefits to specified employee groups. These benefits include pension, health care benefits, dental benefits, retirement gratuity, workers' compensation and long-term disability benefits. The Board has adopted the following policies with respect to accounting for these employee benefits:

- (i) The costs of self-insured retirement and other employee future benefit plans are actuarially determined using management's best estimate of salary escalation, accumulated sick days during employment and at retirement, insurance and health care cost trends, disability recovery rates, long-term inflation rates and discount rates. The cost of retirement gratuities are actuarially determined using the employee's salary, banked sick days and years of service as at August 31, 2012 and management's best estimate of discount rates. Any actuarial gains and losses arising from changes to the discount rate are amortized over the expected average remaining service life of the employee group.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

1. Significant Accounting Policies - continued

(g) Retirement and other employee future benefits - continued

For self-insured retirement and other employee future benefits that vest or accumulate over the periods of service provided by the employees, such as health care benefits for retirees or retirement gratuities, the cost is actuarially determined using projected benefits method prorated on service. Under this method, the benefit costs are recognized over the expected average service life of the employee group.

For those self-insured benefit obligations that arise from specific events that occur from time to time, such as obligations for workers' compensation, long-term disability and life insurance and health care benefits for those on disability leave, the cost is recognized immediately in the period the events occur. Any actuarial gains and losses that are related to these benefits are recognized immediately in the period they arise.

- (ii) The costs of multi-employer defined pension plan benefits, such as the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System pensions, are the employer's contributions due to the plan in the period.
- (iii) The costs of insured benefits are the employer's portion of insurance premiums owed for coverage of employees during the period.

(h) Government transfers

Government transfers, which include legislative grants, are recognized in the consolidated financial statements in the period in which events giving rise to the transfer occur, providing the transfers are authorized, any eligibility criteria have been met and reasonable estimates of the amount can be made.

Government transfers for capital that meet the definition of a liability are referred to as deferred capital contributions ("DCC"). Amounts are recognized into revenue as the liability is extinguished over the useful life of the asset.

(i) Investment income

Investment income is reported as revenue in the period earned.

When required by the funding government or related Act, investment income earned on externally restricted funds such as pupil accommodation, education development charges and special education forms part of the respective deferred revenue balances.

(j) Long-term debt

Long-term debt is recorded net of related sinking fund assets.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

1. Significant Accounting Policies - continued

(k) Budget figures

Budget figures have been provided for comparison purposes and have been derived from the budget approved by the Trustees. The budget approved by the Trustees is developed in accordance with the provincially mandated funding model for school boards and is used to manage program spending within the guidelines of the funding model. The budget figures are unaudited.

(l) Use of estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with the basis of accounting described in Note 1(a) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the consolidated financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Accounts subject to significant estimates include accounts receivable, accounts receivable - Province of Ontario, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and employee future benefits. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

(m) Property Tax Revenue

Under Canadian public sector accounting standards, the entity that determines and sets the tax levy records the revenue in the financial statements, which in the case of the Board, is the Province of Ontario. As a result, property tax revenue received from municipalities is recorded as part of Provincial Legislative Grants.

2. Change in Accounting Policies

The Board has implemented Canadian public sector accounting board section PS3260 Liability for contaminated sites. PS3260 requires governments to record a liability in their financial statements if they have a contaminated site that meets the requirements set out in the standard. The standard defines contamination as the introduction into air, soil, water or sediment of a chemical, organic or radioactive material or live organism that exceeds an environmental standard. The standard generally applies to sites that are not in productive use. Sites that are in productive use are only considered contaminated if there was an unexpected event that resulted in contamination. This change has been applied retroactively without the restatement of prior periods.

The adoption of this standard did not have an impact on the Board's consolidated financial statements.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

3. Accounts Receivable - Province of Ontario

The Province of Ontario (the "Province") replaced variable capital funding with a one-time debt support grant in 2009-10. The Board received a one-time grant that recognized capital debt as of August 31, 2010 that was supported by the existing capital programs. The Board receives this grant in cash over the remaining term of the existing capital debt instruments. The Board may also receive yearly capital grants to support capital programs which would be reflected in this account receivable.

The Board has an accounts receivable from the Province of \$ 72,746,779 as at August 31, 2015 (2014 - \$ 82,042,306) with respect to capital grants.

4. Deferred Revenue

Revenues received and that have been set aside for specific purposes by legislation, regulation or agreement are included in deferred revenue and reported on the consolidated statement of financial position.

Deferred revenue set-aside for specific purposes by legislation, regulation or agreement as at August 31, 2015 is comprised of:

	Balance, as at August 31, 2014 \$	Externally Restricted Revenue and Investment Income \$	Revenue recognized in the period \$	Transfers to deferred capital contributions Revenue \$	Balance, as at August 31, 2015 \$
Retrofitting school spaces for child care	1,760,133	28,400	-	(89,543)	1,698,990
Proceeds of disposition	2,831,074	12,372	(91,072)	(1,892,130)	860,244
Mental Health Leader	-	120,000	(94,126)	-	25,874
Special education	1,350,139	803,856	(414,860)	-	1,739,135
Energy efficient schools - operating	10,522	-	-	-	10,522
Energy efficient schools - capital	309,264	-	-	(37,064)	272,200
School renewal	432,602	3,602,573	(1,018,472)	(1,769,749)	1,246,954
School condition improvement	893,662	3,024,261	(107,873)	(3,366,879)	443,171
Others	1,402,413	4,072,749	(4,148,455)	-	1,326,707
Total deferred revenue	8,989,809	11,664,211	(5,874,858)	(7,155,365)	7,623,797

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

5. Deferred Capital Contributions

Deferred capital contributions include grants and contributions received that are used for the acquisition of tangible capital assets in accordance with Regulation 395/11 that have been expended by year end. These contributions are amortized into revenue over the life of the asset acquired.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Balance, beginning of year	169,798,121	160,081,332
Additions to deferred capital contributions	11,426,534	18,674,623
Recognition of deferred revenue related to prior eligible capital expenses	1,693,828	-
Revenue recognized in the period	(9,668,826)	(8,950,835)
Unsupported capital spending	(1,093)	(6,999)
Balance, end of year	173,248,564	169,798,121

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NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

6. Employee Future Benefits

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Retirement gratuities	6,145,436	6,771,449
Retirement health care benefits	189,528	226,576
Long-term disability health care benefits	2,077,787	2,466,573
WSIB - Schedule II future liability	1,669,257	1,310,274
Compensated absences	107,033	104,933
	10,189,041	10,879,805

Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan

Teachers and related employee groups are eligible to be members of Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. Employer contributions for these employees are provided directly by the Province of Ontario. The pension costs and obligations related to this plan are a direct responsibility of the Province. Accordingly, no costs or liabilities related to this plan are included in the Board's consolidated financial statements.

Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System

All non-teaching employees of the Board are eligible to be members of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System ("OMERS"), a multi-employer pension plan. The plan provides defined pension benefits to employees based on their length of service and rates of pay. The Board contributions equal the employee contributions to the plan. During the year ended August 31, 2015, the Board contributed \$ 3,508,621 (2014 - \$ 3,418,303) to the plan. As this is a multi-employer pension plan, these contributions are the Board's pension benefit expenses. No pension liability for this type of plan is included in the Board's consolidated financial statements.

Retirement Gratuities

The Board provides retirement gratuities to certain groups of employees hired prior to specified dates. The Board provides these benefits through an unfunded defined benefit plan. The benefit costs and liabilities related to this plan are included in the Board's consolidated financial statements. The amount of the gratuities payable to eligible employees at retirement is based on their salary, accumulated sick days, and years of service as at August 31, 2012.

As at August 31, 2015, an unamortized actuarial loss of \$ 222,478 exists. This amount is being amortized over the expected average remaining service lives of several employee groups. The actual obligation is \$ 6,367,914.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

6. Employee Future Benefits - continued

Retirement Health Care Benefits

The Board continues to provide dental and health care benefits to certain employee groups after retirement until the members reach 65 years of age. The premiums are based on the Board's experience and retirees' premiums are subsidized by the Board. The benefit costs and liabilities related to this plan are provided through an unfunded defined benefit plan and are included in the Board's consolidated financial statements. Effective September 1, 2013, employees retiring on or after this date, no longer qualified for Board subsidized premiums or contributions.

Long-Term Disability Health Care Benefits

The Board provides dental and health care benefits to employees on long-term disability leave. The Board is responsible for the payment of the costs of health care benefits under this plan. The Board provides these benefits through an unfunded defined benefit plan. The costs of salary compensation paid to employees on long-term disability leave are fully insured and not included in this plan.

WSIB - Schedule II Future Liability

The Board is a Schedule II employer under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act and, as such, assumes responsibility for the payment of all claims to its injured workers under the Act. The Board does not fund these obligations in advance of payments made under the Act. The benefit costs and liabilities related to this plan are included in the Board's consolidated financial statements. Plan changes made in 2012 require school boards to provide salary top-up to a maximum of four and one-half years for employees receiving payments from WSIB, where the previously negotiated collective agreement included such provision. A reserve has been established for this liability. The balance as at August 31, 2015 is \$ 928,687 (2014 - \$ 928,687).

Compensated Absences

As a result of changes made in 2013 to the short-term sick leave and disability plan, a maximum of 11 unused sick leave days from the current year may be carried forward into the following year only, to be used to top-up salary for illnesses paid through the short-term leave and disability plan in that year. The net benefit costs expensed in the consolidated financial statements are \$ 2,100 (2014 - \$ 23,185).

For accounting purposes, the valuation of the accrued benefit obligation for the sick leave top-up is based on actuarial assumptions about future events determined as at August 31, 2015 and is based on the average daily salary and banked sick days of employees as at August 31, 2015.

As at August 31, 2015, an unamortized actuarial loss of \$ 30,973 exists. The actual obligation is \$ 138,006.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

6. Employee Future Benefits - continued

Retirement gratuities:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Employee benefit plan assets	-	-
Employee benefit plan liabilities	6,145,436	6,771,449
Employee benefit plan deficit	6,145,436	6,771,449

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Accrued benefit obligation, beginning of year	6,771,449	7,102,203
Benefit cost and interest	182,246	226,852
Amortized loss (gain)	2,160	(20,356)
Benefits paid during the year	(810,419)	(537,250)
Accrued benefit obligation, end of year	6,145,436	6,771,449

Retirement health care benefits:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Employee benefit plan assets	-	-
Employee benefit plan liabilities	189,528	226,576
Employee benefit plan deficit	189,528	226,576

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Accrued benefit obligation, beginning of year	226,576	251,756
Benefit cost and interest	5,798	7,831
Amortized loss	3,445	9,853
Benefits paid during the year	(46,291)	(42,864)
Accrued benefit obligation, end of year	189,528	226,576

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

6. Employee Future Benefits - continued

Long-term disability health care benefits:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Employee benefit plan assets	-	-
Employee benefit plan liabilities	2,077,787	2,466,573
Employee benefit plan deficit	2,077,787	2,466,573

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Accrued benefit obligation, beginning of year	2,466,573	2,266,544
Benefit cost and interest expense (recovery)	(151,962)	446,905
Benefits paid during the year	(236,824)	(246,876)
Accrued benefit obligation, end of year	2,077,787	2,466,573

WSIB Schedule II future liability:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Employee benefit plan assets	-	-
Employee benefit plan liabilities	1,669,257	1,310,274
Employee benefit plan deficit	1,669,257	1,310,274

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Accrued benefit obligation, beginning of year	1,310,274	1,258,639
Benefit cost and interest	784,089	453,246
Benefits paid during the year	(425,106)	(401,611)
Accrued benefit obligation, end of year	1,669,257	1,310,274

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

6. Employee Future Benefits - continued

Compensated absences:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Employee benefit plan assets	-	-
Employee benefit plan liabilities	107,033	104,933
Employee benefit plan deficit	107,033	104,933

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Accrued benefit obligation, beginning of year	104,933	81,748
Benefit cost and interest	107,033	104,933
Amortized loss	-	23,351
Benefits paid during the year	(104,933)	(105,099)
Accrued benefit obligation, end of year	107,033	104,933

Plan Changes

In 2013, changes were made to the short-term leave and disability plan. Under the plan, 11 unused sick days may be carried forward into the following year only, to be used to top-up benefits received under the short-term leave and disability plan in that year. A provision was established as of August 31, 2013 representing the expected usage of sick days that have been carried forward for benefit top-up in the following year.

Retirement life insurance and health care benefits have been grandfathered to existing retirees and employees who retired in 2012/13. Effective September 1, 2013, any new retiree accessing retirement life insurance and health care benefits paid the full premiums for such benefits and will be included in a separate experience pool that is self-funded.

Actuarial Assumptions

The accrued benefit obligations for employee future benefit plans as at August 31, 2015 are based on the most recent actuarial valuations completed for accounting purposes. These valuations take into account the plan changes outlined above and the economic assumptions used in the valuations are the Board's best estimates of expected rates of:

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

6. Employee Future Benefits - continued

General Inflation - Future general inflation levels were assumed to be 1.5% (2014 - 2%).

Interest (Discount) Rate - The present value of future liabilities and the expense were determined using a discount rate of 2.45% (2014 - 2.85%).

Wage and Salary Escalation - There is no salary increase assumption required as the benefit is based on August 31, 2012 salaries.

7. Net Long-Term Liabilities and Capital Leases

Debenture debt and capital lease debt reported on the consolidated statement of financial position comprises of the following:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Unmatured debenture debt	76,713,658	81,007,347
Sinking fund debentures	2,729,430	2,729,430
Obligations under capital leases	61,700	-
Less: Sinking fund assets	(708,516)	(621,464)
	78,796,272	83,115,313

The net long-term debt outstanding bears interest at annual rates ranging from 2.425% to 8.625% maturing between 2016 and 2036. Principal and interest payments relating to net debenture debt and capital leases of \$ 78,796,272 outstanding as at August 31, 2015 are due as follow:

	Principal and Sinking Fund Contributions \$	Interest \$	Capital Lease Payments \$	Total \$
2016	4,585,376	4,124,490	31,743	8,741,609
2017	3,690,494	3,857,866	29,957	7,578,317
2018	6,614,095	3,577,342	-	10,191,437
2019	3,804,583	3,285,985	-	7,090,568
2020	4,433,353	3,060,516	-	7,493,869
Thereafter	55,606,671	17,205,631	-	72,812,302
	78,734,572	35,111,830	61,700	113,908,102

Included in net debenture debt are outstanding sinking fund debentures of \$ 2,729,430 (2014 - \$ 2,729,430) secured by sinking fund assets with a carrying value of \$ 708,516 (market value - \$ 708,516). Sinking fund assets are comprised of bank deposits.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

8. Accumulated Surplus

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Available for Compliance Operating fund	(301,039)	1,042,881
Available for Compliance - Internally Appropriated		
WSIB	928,687	928,687
Capital planning capacity - unspent	150,672	
Committed sinking fund interest	654,427	650,038
Pupil accommodation	109,871	109,871
Committed capital	6,777,690	8,625,473
	8,621,347	10,314,069
Unavailable for Compliance		
Amounts to be recovered - employee future benefits	(8,652,723)	(9,516,979)
Interest accrued	(1,322,066)	(1,402,010)
School activities fund	2,129,807	2,185,804
Revenues recognized for land purchases	9,496,051	9,302,243
	1,651,069	569,058
	9,971,377	11,926,008

9. Trust Funds

Trust Funds administered by the Board, which have not been included on the consolidated statement of financial position nor have their operations been included on the consolidated statement of operations and accumulated surplus, are comprised of the following:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Larkin Award Fund	14,045	9,424
Kristen French Scholarship Fund	123,827	125,214
Marion Oakley Fund	5,601	5,538
Nicole Longe Memorial Fund	6,378	6,505
James and Anna McGarry	8,222	8,232
Teachers Finance Leave Plan	1,665,112	1,845,292
Michael and Isabelle Moran	50,150	50,585
Hugo and Corrinne Massotti	53,613	53,513
	1,926,948	2,104,303

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

10. Debt Charges and Capital Lease Interest

The expenditure for debt charges and capital lease interest includes principal, sinking fund contributions and interest payments as follows:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Principal payments on long-term capital loans and sinking fund contributions	4,497,740	7,744,916
Interest payments on long-term capital loans	4,308,547	4,604,486
	8,806,287	12,349,402

The expenditure for capital leases is allocated to the related expenditure category. The total principal, sinking fund contributions and interest payments for capital leases are as follows:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Principal payments on capital leases	33,319	-
Interest payments on capital leases	2,604	-
	35,923	-

11. Expenditures by Object

The following is a summary of the expenses reported on the consolidated statement of operations and accumulated surplus by object:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current expenditures:		
Salaries and wages	182,469,432	182,012,850
Employee benefits	29,486,046	29,165,078
Staff development	393,664	657,241
Supplies and services	19,399,223	18,918,912
Interest	4,311,151	4,604,486
Rental expenditures	570,334	653,525
Fee and contract services	12,182,527	11,789,924
	248,812,377	247,802,016
Amortization of tangible capital assets	10,068,004	9,435,325
School funded activities	8,430,727	8,032,644
Total expenditures by object	267,311,108	265,269,985

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

12. Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange

The Board is a member of the Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange ("OSBIE"), a reciprocal insurance company licensed under the Insurance Act. OSBIE insures general public liability, property damage and certain other risks. Liability insurance is available to a maximum of \$ 24,000,000 per occurrence.

The ultimate premiums over a five year period are based on the reciprocal's and the Board's actual claims experience. Periodically, the Board may receive a refund or be asked to pay an additional premium based on its pro-rata share of claims experience. The current five year term expires December 31, 2016.

13. Related Party Transactions

Related party transactions during the year not separately disclosed in the consolidated financial statements include the following:

An amount of \$ 215,357 has been received from the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education and recorded net of related expenditures.

14. Contractual Obligations and Contingent Liabilities

Legal

As at August 31, 2015, the Board has certain legal claims outstanding. It is management's assertion that adequate insurance coverages are in effect for the settlement of these claims, if necessary.

Letters of Credit

The Board has authorized letters of credit in favour of the City of Welland in the amount of \$ 248,000, the City of St. Catharines in the amount of \$ 164,101, the Township of West Lincoln in the amount of \$ 1,051,732, Horizon Utilities in the amount of \$ 27,015, the City of Niagara Falls in the amount of \$ 105,000, and the Town of Port Colborne in the amount of \$ 314,749. All of these letters of credit relate to site plan deposits. These letters of credit are covered under the security as described under credit facilities in note 16.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

15. Commitments

Capital Expenditures

The Board is committed to spending approximately \$ 16,200,000 on capital projects in the following year.

Lease Obligations

The Board is committed to make the following minimum future lease payments under several operating leases over the next five years:

	\$
2016 -	1,348,417
2017 -	731,683
2018 -	381,088
2019 -	155,537
2020 -	94,241

16. Credit Facilities

The Board has two facilities available at any time for use. Credit facility #1 is a revolving demand operating credit available in the amount of \$ 12,000,000 for use for current expenditures only and bears interest at prime less 0.5%. Credit facility #2 is a revolving demand instalment loan in the amount of \$ 500,000 to finance capital expenditures which would bear interest at prime. Further, the Board has a \$ 230,000 Corporate VISA and \$ 900,000 VISA purchase card credit facility available. As at August 31, 2015, no balance has been drawn upon by way of a bank overdraft against credit facility #1 and \$ 1,910,597 by way of letters of credit as per note 14 against credit facility #1 and NIL against credit facility #2. Security is by way of executed by-laws in compliance with applicable legislative requirements.

17. Niagara Student Transportation Services Consortium

On March 6, 2007, the Board entered into an agreement with the District School Board of Niagara ("DSBN") to provide common administration of student transportation services. On March 9, 2007, Niagara Student Transportation Services ("NSTS") was incorporated under the Corporations Act of Ontario. Each Board participates in the shared costs associated with this service for the transportation of their respective students through NSTS. No Board is in a position to exercise unilateral control.

The entity is proportionately consolidated in the Board's consolidated financial statements to reflect the Board's pro-rata share of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses. Inter-organizational transactions and balances between these organizations are eliminated.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

18. Subsequent Event

Subsequent to August 31, 2015, the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association ("OECTA") ratified the 2014-2017 collective agreement ("Agreement") at the central level. The Agreement includes a retirement gratuity voluntary early payout ("VEP") provision. To be effective, the Agreement must be ratified at both the central and local level. As at the date of this report, the Agreement has not been ratified at the local level.

According to Canadian public sector accounting standards PS2400, management's interpretation is that the tentative VEP is a subsequent event that occurred between the date of the consolidated financial statements and the date of their completion and does not relate to conditions that existed on the consolidated financial statement date. Therefore, the tentative VEP is a subsequent event for which no adjustment should be made to the consolidated financial statements but for which disclosure is required.

The VEP provides OECTA members the option of receiving a discounted frozen retirement gratuity benefit payment on August 31, 2016. The VEP may result in payouts occurring earlier than anticipated and generally at a discount to August 31, 2015 consolidated financial statement carrying values. Gains or losses associated with members accepting the VEP will be an expense or income item on the Board's 2015-16 year consolidated financial statements. At this time, the retirement gratuity VEP gains or losses cannot be estimated since members of OECTA have until May 31, 2016 to declare their participation in the VEP.

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NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SCHEDULE OF TANGIBLE CAPITAL ASSETS

for the year ended August 31, 2015

Schedule 1

	Cost			Accumulated Amortization			Balance, End of Year	Net Book Value	
	Balance, Beginning of Year	Additions	Disposals	Balance, End of Year	Balance, Beginning of Year	Amortization			Disposals
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$			\$
Land	9,302,241	193,809	-	9,496,050	-	-	-	9,496,050	
Land improvements	7,014,841	2,134,923	-	9,149,764	2,011,578	535,807	2,547,385	6,602,379	
Buildings	243,448,129	15,847,461	-	259,295,590	85,342,257	8,387,798	93,730,055	165,565,535	
Portable structures	4,019,800	-	-	4,019,800	3,411,903	202,991	3,614,894	404,906	
Equipment	1,188,914	54,873	131,460	1,112,327	728,466	217,042	814,048	298,279	
First-time equipping	1,790,042	420,323	601,715	1,608,650	888,544	169,935	456,764	1,151,886	
Furniture	63,267	8,384	-	71,651	24,693	5,908	30,601	41,050	
Computer hardware	2,415,762	190,158	332,365	2,273,555	1,519,215	468,931	1,655,781	617,774	
Computer software	217,088	29,453	116,264	130,277	171,660	34,734	90,130	40,147	
Vehicles	184,730	37,844	53,761	168,813	96,345	35,356	77,940	90,873	
Computers under capital lease	-	95,019	-	95,019	-	9,502	9,502	85,517	
Construction in progress	13,486,208	5,588,978	12,980,880	6,094,306	-	-	-	6,094,306	
August 31, 2015	283,131,022	24,601,225	14,216,445	293,515,802	94,194,661	10,068,004	1,235,565	103,027,100	190,488,702
Land	9,336,277	18,964	53,000	9,302,241	-	-	-	9,302,241	
Land improvements	6,571,511	657,169	213,839	7,014,841	1,758,414	459,935	2,011,578	5,003,263	
Buildings	237,322,133	7,190,864	1,064,868	243,448,129	78,220,902	7,677,674	85,342,257	158,105,872	
Portable structures	4,019,800	-	-	4,019,800	3,208,913	202,990	3,411,903	607,897	
Equipment	1,436,693	24,333	272,112	1,188,914	738,018	262,560	728,466	460,448	
First-time equipping	2,718,082	363,123	1,291,163	1,790,042	1,954,300	225,406	1,291,162	901,498	
Furniture	63,267	-	-	63,267	18,366	6,327	24,693	38,574	
Computer hardware	2,672,991	214,681	471,910	2,415,762	1,482,249	508,876	1,519,215	896,547	
Computer software	328,521	-	111,433	217,088	228,532	54,561	171,660	45,428	
Vehicles	185,233	26,780	27,283	184,730	86,632	36,996	96,345	88,385	
Construction in progress	6,330,881	12,339,958	5,184,631	13,486,208	-	-	-	13,486,208	
August 31, 2014	270,985,389	20,835,872	8,690,239	283,131,022	87,696,326	9,435,325	2,936,990	94,194,661	188,936,361

See accompanying notes

Crawford, Smith and Swallow
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smith &
swallow*

Offices in:
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St. Catharines, Ontario
Fort Erie, Ontario
Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario
Port Colborne, Ontario

July 22, 2015

Members of the Board of Trustees
Niagara Catholic District School Board
427 Rice Road
Welland, Ontario
L3C 7C1

PLEASE KEEP FOR
REFERENCE

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

We have been engaged to audit the consolidated financial statements of the Niagara Catholic District School Board for the year ending August 31, 2015.

The Rules of Professional Conduct of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario require that we communicate at least annually with you regarding all relationships between the Board of Trustees and ourselves that, in our professional judgement, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence.

In determining which relationships to report, the rules require us to consider relevant rule related interpretations and applicable legislation, covering such matters as:

- (a) holding a financial interest, either directly or indirectly, in a client;
- (b) holding a position, either directly or indirectly, that gives the right or responsibility to exert significant influence over the financial or accounting policies of a client;
- (c) personal or business relationships of immediate family, close relatives, partners or retired partners, either directly or indirectly, with a client;
- (d) economic dependence on a client; and
- (e) provision of services in addition to the audit engagement.

We are not aware of any relationships between the Board of Trustees and ourselves that, in our professional judgement, may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, that have occurred from September 1, 2014 to July 22, 2015.

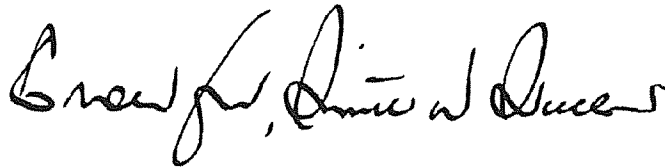
The Rules of Professional Conduct of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario require that we confirm our independence to the Board of Trustees. Accordingly, we hereby confirm that we are independent with respect to the Board of Trustees within the meanings of the Rules of Professional Conduct of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario as of July 22, 2015.

A

This report is intended solely for the use of the Audit Committee, the Board of Trustees, management and others within the Board of Trustees and should not be used for any other purposes.

We look forward to discussing with you the matters outlined in this letter as well as other matters that may be of interest to you.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Crawford, Smith and Swallow".

CRAWFORD, SMITH AND SWALLOW
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS LLP

Crawford, Smith and Swallow
Chartered Accountants LLP

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July 22, 2015

Members of the Board of Trustees
Niagara Catholic District School Board
427 Rice Road
Welland, Ontario
L3C 7C1

PLEASE KEEP FOR
REFERENCE

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

The following is the communication prior to the completion of the audit of the Niagara Catholic District School Board for the year ending August 31, 2015 required under Canadian Auditing Standard 260 of the CPA Canada Handbook.

Auditors' Responsibilities under Canadian Auditing Standards and Planning the Audit

The August 31, 2015 consolidated financial statements are covered by the auditors' report. The preparation of these consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes are the responsibility of management. As stated in our engagement letter dated July 22, 2015, our responsibility is to express our opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. An audit is performed to obtain reasonable but not absolute assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

The audit includes assessing the risk that the consolidated financial statements contain material misstatements, examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and their application and assessing the significant estimates made by management.

It is management's responsibility to ensure that the internal control systems are capable of producing accurate and timely financial information. This includes the design and maintenance of accounting records, recording transactions, selecting and applying accounting policies, safeguarding of assets and preventing and detecting fraud and error. In making our risk assessments, we consider internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation of the consolidated financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. We will communicate with you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies in internal controls relevant to the audit of the consolidated financial statements that we have identified during the audit.

B

Audit and Non-Audit Services

The following are the audit and non-audit services that we are providing to the Niagara Catholic District School Board:

We will audit and report on the statement of financial position of the Niagara Catholic District School Board as at August 31, 2015, and the statements of operations and accumulated surplus, cash flows and change in net financial liabilities for the year then ended.

We will audit and report on the statement of revenue and expenditure of the Niagara Catholic District School Board Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program for the year ended August 31, 2015.

We will audit and report on the statement of operations of the Niagara Catholic District School Board Literacy and Basic Skills Program for the year ended March 31, 2016.

We will review and report on the statement of operations of the Niagara Catholic District School Board Ontario Early Years Centre for the year ended March 31, 2016.

The standard audit fee for the above engagements for each of the fiscal years ending August 31, 2014 and March 31, 2015 was \$ 59,500.

We were requested to perform additional special services in the amount of \$ 9,000 during the last fiscal year. We performed the following special services:

- We prepared a Specified Auditing Procedures and Accountants Report for the 7 month period September 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

Audit Approach

The following is a summary of the audit approach of the Niagara Catholic District School Board for the year ending August 31, 2015. This list is not meant to be all inclusive, nor in any way to restrict the communication of other matters.

General approach to the audit:

Our approach for the Niagara Catholic District School Board is tailor made and modified as necessary to assure all aspects of the engagement are covered effectively. Our engagement can be divided into the following major segments:

Segment One - Planning: Our general approach to the audit of the Niagara Catholic District School Board is to assess the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements and then respond by designing audit procedures. Our risk-based approach focuses on obtaining sufficient appropriate audit evidence to reduce the risk of material misstatement to an appropriately low level. This means that we focus our work on the higher risk areas that have a higher risk of being materially misstated. In responding to our risk assessment, we will use a combination of test of details and substantive analytical procedures. We have reviewed the prior year working papers, management letters, correspondence, etc. to ensure all matters documented for follow-up in the previous audit are addressed in the current year. The scheduling of attendance for the audit is prepared at this time. This scheduling includes tentative dates of our attendance for performance of internal control compliance testing procedures, year-end positive confirmation circularization selection, and year-end substantive procedures.

Segment Two - Internal Control Compliance Testing: In order to facilitate timely completion of the annual audit, the system of internal control is tested to obtain a level of audit assurance which will assist in the nature, timing and extent of year-end audit procedures. The systems tested include revenues, receivables, receipts, purchases, payables, payments and payroll. Each system is reviewed and documented as necessary to highlight the key internal controls on which audit reliance will be placed. This documentation is updated annually based on system changes which may occur from year to year. The testing procedures utilized during the compliance portion of the audit are based on statistical sampling procedures.

Segment Three - Year-End Positive Confirmation Selection: At a convenient time, a staff member attends your offices to select account balances for which direct confirmation is requested. Direct confirmation of bank balances and accounts receivable balances are normally requested.

Segment Four - Year-End Substantive Procedures: Year-end substantive procedures are essentially the verification of various financial statement balances. These procedures are performed at such time as the client's staff are ready for the audit team's attendance. The time required and the extent of these procedures are based largely on the results of the compliance test procedures, the results of confirmation requests and the nature of the records and supporting working papers available to the audit team. In most cases, certain substantive audit procedures may be performed satisfactorily in conjunction with the client's preparation of related working papers. We will request written representations from your lawyers. A letter of representation will be requested from management to confirm that management is cognizant of their responsibility to disclose issues that may be material to financial statement presentation. In general, our experience indicates that the audit team requires approximately two weeks after the client has completed all necessary working papers for our audit procedures to be completed.

Areas of the financial statements as having a high risk of material misstatement:

All areas of our audit have been assigned a risk rating ranging from low to medium. We do not feel that they warrant further discussion at this time.

Materiality and audit risk levels on which the audit is based:

Materiality is the term used to describe the significance of financial statement information to decision makers. An item of information, or an aggregate of items, is material if it is probable that its omission or misstatement would influence or change a decision. Materiality is a matter of professional judgement in the particular circumstance.

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Therefore, our audit will involve judgement about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. Also, we will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

However, because of the concept of reasonable assurance and because we will not perform an examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material errors, irregularities, or wilful or accidental violations of law and regulations including fraud or misappropriation, may exist and not be detected by us. We will advise you however, of any matters of that nature that come to our attention.

For purposes of our audit, we have established a preliminary materiality figure of \$ 2,520,000.

Preliminary assessment of internal control, the planned extent of audit work related to internal control and the effect of any control reliance on year-end procedures:

We are satisfied that the controls in place are adequate for the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are not materially misstated.

Significant deficiencies in internal control:

We have not identified any significant internal control deficiencies.

How matters requested by the members of the Board of Trustees during the planning process affected the planned nature and scope of the audit, including any extensions of its scope requested by the members of the Board of Trustees or management:

We have not received any requests from the members of the Board of Trustees to extend the scope of our audit work. Please feel free to bring any additional areas of concern to our attention.

Use of specialists:

Reliance will be placed on the actuarial report for Employee Future Benefits prepared by School Boards' Co-operative Inc. These actuarial valuations were updated for the year ending August 31, 2015.

Timing of the audit:

The timing of the engagement is as follows. Audit planning and interim testing will take place over a two week period commencing August, 2015. Final field work will take place over a three week period commencing in October, 2015.

Scheduled meeting with the members of the Audit Committee to approve the financial statements and the date of the auditors' report:

We will meet with the members of the Audit Committee in September, 2015 to discuss our audit plan and in November, 2015 to discuss the consolidated financial statements and results of our audit, the management letter, and any other issues that need to be addressed. At this point, we will request that the Committee approve the audited consolidated financial statements. This will be the date on our auditors' report for which we express our opinion on the audited consolidated financial statements.

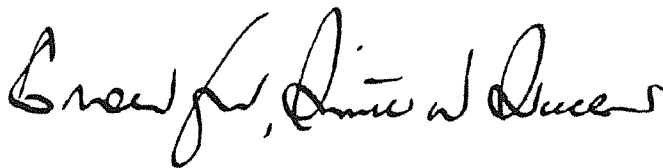
Engagement Team

The engagement team will consist of: Christine Morrow, CPA, CA, Audit Manager and Mark Palumbi, CPA, CA, LPA, Engagement Partner. The audit manager, Christine Morrow, CPA, CA, will be responsible for the day to day provision of professional services and supervision of the audit process. The engagement partner, Mark Palumbi, CPA, CA, LPA, holds a Public Accounting License issued by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario and is responsible for the engagement and its performance, and for the report that is issued on behalf of the firm.

This report is intended solely for the use of the members of the Board of Trustees, Audit Committee, and management within Niagara Catholic District School Board and should not be used for any other purposes.

We look forward to discussing with you the matters outlined in this letter as well as other matters that may be of interest to you.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Crawford, Smith and Swallow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**CRAWFORD, SMITH AND SWALLOW
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS LLP**

Crawford, Smith and Swallow
Chartered Accountants LLP

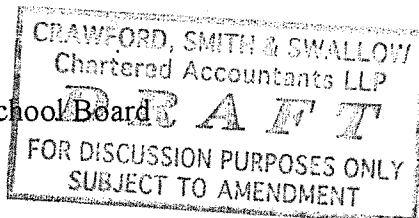
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Port Colborne, Ontario

November 24, 2015

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



Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

The following is the communication of matters arising from the audit of Niagara Catholic District School Board for the year ended August 31, 2015 required under Canadian Auditing Standards 260 and 265 of the CPA Canada Handbook. This list is not meant to be all-inclusive, nor in any way to restrict the communication of other matters.

Completion of External Audit

The responsibilities of the auditors in relation to the consolidated financial statements is to form and express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements which have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities. We have expressed an unqualified opinion as to whether the consolidated financial statements present fairly in accordance with Board of Trustees the financial position, results of operations and cash flows of the Board.

The interim audit was performed during a two week period commencing in August, 2015. The year end audit was performed from October 7, 2015 until November 24, 2015.

Fraud

Auditors' Responsibilities Relating to Fraud in an Audit of Financial Statements, CPA Canada Handbook CAS 240, defines fraud as "an intentional act by one or more individuals among management, employees, those charged with governance, or third parties, involving the use of deception to obtain an unjust or illegal advantage". Although fraud is a broad legal concept, the auditor is concerned with fraudulent acts that cause a material misstatement in the financial statements. Misstatement of the financial statements may not be the objective of some frauds, and misappropriation of assets may not necessarily result in a misstatement of the financial statements. Auditors do not make legal determinations of whether fraud has actually occurred. Fraud involving one or more members of management or those charged with governance is

C

referred to as "management fraud"; fraud involving only employees of the entity is referred to as "employee fraud". In either case, there may be collusion with third parties outside the entity.

We confirm that there were no findings of fraud.

Consideration of Laws and Regulations

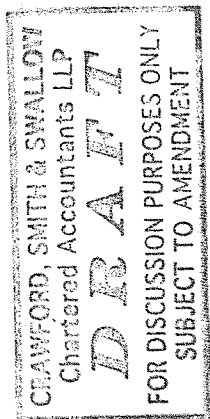
Consideration of Laws and Regulations in an Audit of Financial Statements, CPA Canada Handbook CAS 250 states that the term "non-compliance" means "acts of omission or commission by the entity, either intentional or unintentional, which are contrary to the prevailing laws or regulations. Such acts include transactions entered into by, or in the name of, the entity, or on its behalf, by those charged with governance, management or employees. Non-compliance does not include personal misconduct (unrelated to the business activities of the entity) by those charged with governance, management or employees of the entity." As explained in CPA Canada CAS 250, auditors conducting an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards must obtain a general understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the entity and the industry of sector in which the entity operates and how the entity is complying with that framework. To do this the auditors inquire of management, and where appropriate those charged with governance, as to whether the entity is in compliance with such laws and regulations and inspecting correspondence, if any, with the relevant licensing or regulatory authorities. Although the auditors are required to remain alert to the possibility that other audit procedures applied may bring instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations to the auditor's attention, in the absence of identified or suspected non-compliance the auditors are not required to perform audit procedures regarding the entity's compliance with laws and regulations.

We confirm that no evidence which indicates non-compliance with laws and regulations was found.

Weaknesses in Internal Control

Internal Control in the Context of an Audit, CPA Canada Handbook CAS 265, provides the following guidance concerning the communication of significant weaknesses in internal control:

CPA Canada Handbook CAS 265.11 In conducting the audit, the auditors would consider only those "internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control". An audit is not designed to consider whether internal control is adequate for management's purposes. Consequently, the auditors would only identify weaknesses in internal control that come to the auditors' attention during the financial statement audit. The auditors may not identify all the weaknesses that exist. A weakness in internal control is a deficiency in the design or effective operation of internal control. The identification of weaknesses in internal control is influenced by matters such as the auditors' assessment of materiality, the auditors' preliminary assessment of the components of audit risk and the audit approach used by the auditors. For example, if the auditors use a substantive audit approach for a particular financial statement assertion, they will not perform tests of controls in this area. Therefore the auditors' knowledge of controls in this area will generally be limited. Accordingly, the auditors will not have a detailed knowledge of the control systems



that enhance the reliability of data and information and therefore may not identify weaknesses in these control systems.

A deficiency exists when, a control is designed, implemented or operated in such a way that it is unable to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis or a control necessary to prevent, or detect and correct, misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis is missing. A significant deficiency exists when a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies in internal control, is of sufficient importance to merit the attention of those charged with governance in the auditor's professional judgment. The matters being reported are limited to those deficiencies of sufficient merit to be reported to those charged with governance.

We confirm that we encountered no significant deficiencies in internal control.

Related Party Transactions

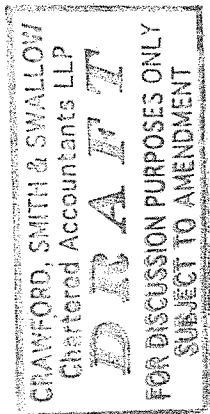
As explained in Related Parties, CPA Canada Handbook CAS 550, auditors conducting an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards may identify related party transactions which are not in the normal course of operations and which, in the auditors' professional judgement, involve significant judgements by management concerning measurement or disclosure.

We confirm that other than the transactions disclosed in note thirteen (Related Party Transactions) of the consolidated financial statements, no such transactions requiring the Board of Trustees to be informed were identified during the audit. We also confirm that the organization has adequate controls in place to identify related party transactions.

Significant Accounting Principles and Policies

The auditors should determine that the Board of Trustees is informed about:

- (a) the initial selection of and changes in significant accounting policies, including the adoption of new accounting pronouncements, which encompass the specific principles and their method of application;
- (b) the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial or emerging areas, or those unique to an industry;
- (c) the existence of acceptable alternative policies and methods, and the acceptability of the particular policy or method used by management;
- (d) the extent to which the financial statements are affected by unusual transactions (including non-recurring amounts recognized during the period) and the extent to which such transactions are separately disclosed in the financial statements; and
- (e) the effect of the timing of transactions in relation to the period in which they are recorded.



Please refer to note 1(a) Basis of Accounting of the consolidated financial statements for a summary of the differences between Canadian public sector accounting standards and the basis of accounting as recommended by the Ministry of Education in accordance with the Financial Administration Act supplemented by Ontario Ministry of Education memorandum 2004:B2 and Ontario Regulation 395/11 of the Financial Administration Act.

Management Judgements and Accounting Estimates

The auditors should determine that the Board of Trustees is informed about:

- (a) the issues involved, and related judgements made by management, in formulating particularly sensitive accounting estimates and disclosures (for example, disclosures related to going concern, subsequent events and contingency issues);
- (b) the basis for the auditors' conclusions regarding the reasonableness of the estimates made by management in the context of the financial statements taken as a whole;
- (c) the risks of material misstatement from estimates;
- (d) indicators of possible management bias;
- (e) the factors affecting asset and liability carrying values, including the entity's basis for determining useful lives assigned to tangible and intangible assets;
- (f) the timing of transactions that affect the recognition of revenues or avoid recognition of expenses; and
- (g) disclosure of estimation uncertainty in the financial statements.

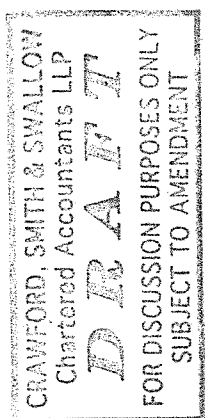
We confirm that none of the above items require any further discussion.

Financial Statement Disclosures

The auditors should determine that the Board of Trustees is informed about:

- (a) the issues involved, and related judgements made, in formulating particularly sensitive financial statement disclosures;
- (b) the overall neutrality, consistency, and clarity of the disclosures in the financial statements;
- (c) the potential effect on the financial statements of significant risks, exposures and uncertainties (such as pending litigation); and
- (d) the selective correction of misstatements.

We confirm that none of the above items require any further discussion.



Other Matters Arising From the Audit

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters. When the auditors are aware that such consultation has occurred, the auditors would communicate with the Board of Trustees as appropriate. If the auditors find that the consultation has not occurred in accordance with Reports on the Application of Accounting Principles, Auditing Standards or Review Standards, CPA Canada Handbook 7600, this would be communicated with the Board of Trustees.

We confirm that we are not aware of any consultations with other accountants.

The auditors communicate with the Board of Trustees any major issues discussed with management in connection with the initial or recurring appointment of the auditors, including, among other matters, discussions regarding the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, and fees.

We confirm that there are no major issues in connection with the recurring appointment of the auditor.

The auditors inform the Board of Trustees of any significant difficulties encountered while performing the audit, including significant delays in management providing information required for the audit, an unnecessarily brief timetable in which to complete the audit, extensive unexpected effort required to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence, the unavailability of expected information, restrictions imposed on the auditor by management, and management's unwillingness to make or extend its assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern when requested.

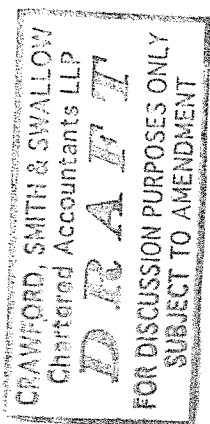
We confirm that no significant difficulties were encountered in the performance of the audit.

The auditors inform the Board of Trustees of any significant matters discussed, or subject to correspondence with management, while performing the audit including business conditions affecting the entity and business plans and strategies that may affect the risks of material misstatement and written representations requested.

We confirm that no significant matters were discussed or communicated with management during the course of the audit. Please see management's representation letter for written representations requested.

In accordance with CPA Canada Handbook CAS 450, the auditors shall communicate with the Board of Trustees uncorrected misstatements and the effect that they, individually or in aggregate, may have on the opinion in the auditors' report. The auditors' communication shall identify material uncorrected misstatements individually. The auditor shall request that uncorrected misstatements be corrected.

Please refer to management's letter of representation for all adjustments made and the list of uncorrected misstatements not made by management during the course of the audit. We agree with management's assessment that the effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. However, in accordance with the requirements of CPA Canada Handbook CAS 450(12), we request that the Board of Trustees instruct management to have the uncorrected misstatements corrected.

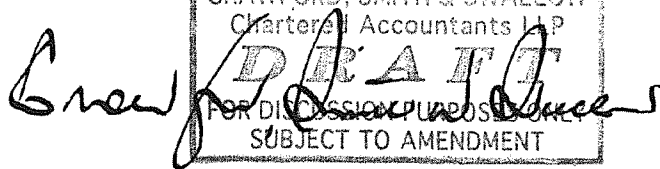


The auditors inform the Board of Trustees of any other significant matters relevant to the financial reporting process including material misstatements of fact or material inconsistencies in information accompanying the audited financial statements that have been corrected.

We confirm that no significant matters relevant to the financial reporting process were identified during the audit.

We look forward to discussing with you the matters outlined in this letter as well as other matters that may be of interest to you.

Yours very truly,


CRAWFORD, SMITH & SWALLOW
Chartered Accountants LLP
DRAFT
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY
SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

**CRAWFORD, SMITH AND SWALLOW
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS LLP**

Crawford, Smith and Swallow
Chartered Accountants LLP

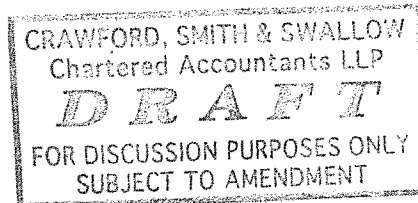
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Port Colborne, Ontario

November 24, 2015

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



Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

We have now completed our examination of the consolidated financial statements of the Niagara Catholic District School Board for the year ended August 31, 2015.

Scope of Examination

As stated in our report dated November 24, 2015 addressed to the Board of Trustees of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements based on our audit. In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements of the Niagara Catholic District School Board for the year ended August 31, 2015 are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in note 1(a) to the consolidated financial statements.

We were provided with full co-operation and no limitations of any kind were placed on the scope of our examination.

Intent of the Management Letter

The post audit management letter is intended to provide an additional professional service of the auditor as a direct by-product of the audit. We are pleased to offer the comments that follow as a service to the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

The management letter should communicate the following general explanations:

- the recommendations arise out of normal audit work related to the expression of an opinion on the financial statements and do not constitute a complete report on internal control;
- normal audit work will not detect all internal control weaknesses;
- the audit procedures performed were as extensive as necessary for audit report purposes;

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- suggestions or comments concern systems only and are not intended to reflect on the competence or integrity of personnel;
- there are inherent limitations to any system of internal control;
- internal controls should be evaluated annually.


Current Observations

We have no observations that would be considered to be significant in nature.

This communication is prepared solely for the information of the Niagara Catholic District School Board and is not intended for any other purpose. We accept no responsibility to a third party that relies on this communication.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for all their assistance and co-operation during our audit. Should you wish to discuss the above matters further, please contact our office at your convenience.

Yours very truly,



CRAWFORD, SMITH & SWALLOW
Chartered Accountants LLP
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY
SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT

**CRAWFORD, SMITH AND SWALLOW
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS LLP**

MP*gz

c.c. Mr. J. Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary Treasurer
Mr. G. Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2015**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: CORRESPONDENCE
NOVEMBER 3, 2015 LETTER FROM SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**



SUPERIOR-GREENSTONE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*P.O. Bag 'A', 12 Hemlo Drive
Marathon, Ontario P0T 2E0
Telephone: 807-229-0436 Fax: 807-229-1471
E-Mail: boardoffice@sgdsb.on.ca*

November 3, 2015

The Honourable Liz Sandals
Minister of Education
22nd Floor, Mowat Block, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Sandals:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Superior-Greenstone District School Board we are sending this letter to voice our support for the Bluewater District School Board communique sent to you on October 1, 2015.

Having reviewed the Bluewater DSB letter at its Regular Board meeting on October 26, the Superior-Greenstone DSB carried the following motion expressing its sentiments for expanding the Ontario Aboriginal curriculum in schools.

Moved by T. Pitre, Seconded by K. Figliomeni

That the Director of Education be directed to send a letter to Minister Liz Sandals in support of the Bluewater District School Board motion regarding developing Kindergarten to grade 12 curriculum and learning resources on Aboriginal People in Canadian History.

Further to this, the Board concurs that the Ministry should in consultation with First Nations, continue and expand the process of developing the Kindergarten to grade 12 curriculum and learning resources on Aboriginal people in Canadian history, and the history and legacy of residential schools, as per Calls to Action 62 i) and 63 i) of the Truth and Reconciliation Report.

Certainly, we recognize the Ministry's efforts to date regarding the Aboriginal portfolio, however we believe that boards desire such work continue in earnest toward cultivating a much deeper awareness and understanding of all facets of Aboriginal Canadian history amongst our youth. Educating our students from kindergarten through high school provides a marvelous opportunity to foster stronger connections and relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

Superior-Greenstone DSB urges the Ministry to develop a more comprehensive curriculum where teachings on Aboriginal cultures, history and the legacy of residential schools are embedded across several subject areas. Our Board with its robust Aboriginal enrolment looks forward to the Ministry's continued and expanded movement toward the delivery of a more comprehensive Aboriginal curriculum.

Yours in education,

Pinky McRae
Chair

Mark Mannisto
Vice-Chair

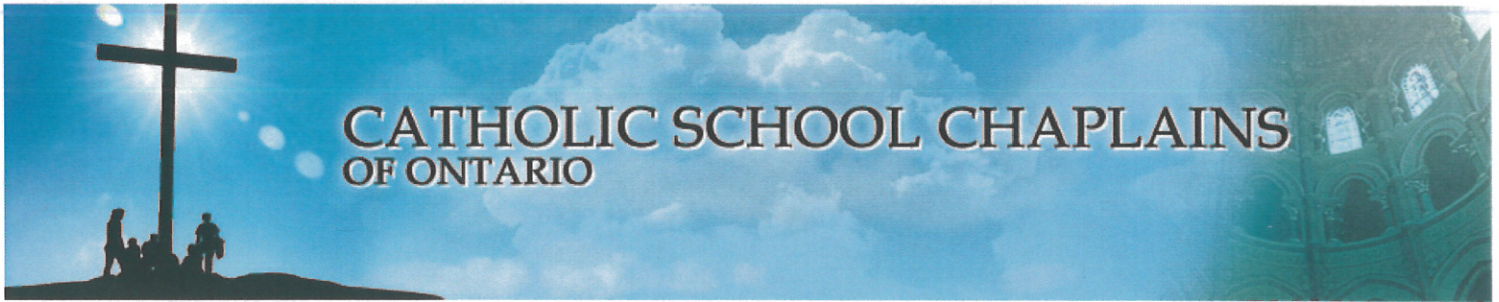
cc: The Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario - kwynne.mpp@liberal.ola.org
Michael Barrett, President of OPSBA - MBarrett@opsba.org
National Chief Perry Bellegarde, Assembly of First Nations - pbellegarde@afn.ca
MPP Michael Gravelle, Thunder Bay-Superior North- - mgravelle.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
MPP Bill Mauro, Thunder Bay-Atikokan - bmauro.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org
The Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs - dzimmer.mpp@liberal.ola.org
MPP Norm Miller, PC Aboriginal Affairs Critic - norm.miller@pc.ola.org
MPP France G linas, NDP Aboriginal Affairs Critic - fgelinas-qp@ndp.on.ca
MPP Patrick Brown, PC Education Critic - Patrick.brown@pc.ola.org
MPP Lisa Gretzky, NDP Education Critic - L.Gretzky-QP@ndp.on.ca
All School Boards in Ontario - *Via E-mail to Directors*

DT:mj

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 24, 2015**

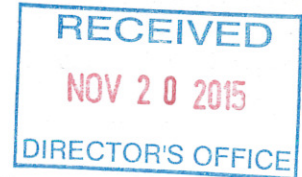
PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: CORRESPONDENCE
NOVEMBER 11, 2015 LETTER FROM CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CHAPLAINS OF ONTARIO**



CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHAPLAINS OF ONTARIO

35 WEBER STREET W., KITCHENER, ON N2G 4G2
519-578-3660 x2233
CSCO.PRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM



November 11, 2015

John Crocco
Director of Education - Secretary-Treasurer
Niagara Catholic District School Board
427 Rice Road
Welland, ON L3C 7C1

Dear John,


Please allow me to begin by expressing my deepest sympathy to you, your entire Board, and in particular, to your Chaplaincy Leaders in the tragic passing of Debra McCaffrey. The loss of such a committed, dynamic leader of our faith is a crushing blow to all of us in Chaplaincy, but to your Board in particular.

It was important to me to create the opportunity to meet you for several reasons. To begin, I wanted to commend you on the exemplary notice you sent out to your system announcing Debra's passing. The words you chose spoke as much about the priority you place on faith within your Board, as on the person of Debra as a model of our faith. That a Director of Education could speak so knowledgeably about the role, effect and importance of your System Chaplain, and indeed all your Chaplaincy Leaders, was nothing short of stunning. I felt affirmed "by association" through your words. The value you place on the essential role of faith and those who promote it in the education of our children is a beacon for all of us in these politically uncertain times. Throughout our province, Niagara Catholic stands as a Board which "gets it" in terms of the importance of Catholic education, and today I witnessed firsthand why it does. Nowhere was that more in evidence than in the collaboration and participation I observed at the Funeral Mass for Debra: Chaplaincy Leaders walking together with their Director as pall bearers; the involvement of the remaining Chaplaincy Leaders in the choir, guiding the family, acting as gift bearers, shepherding the student honour guard and supporting one another in their grief. It was inspirational and I thank you, all, for your testimony.

Twenty years ago, when I first began as a Chaplaincy Leader in the province of Ontario, I vividly recall hearing Sr. Clare Fitzgerald's challenge to all present at When Faith Meets Pedagogy: "Show me your budget, and I'll tell you your priorities!" and I have never forgotten it. Niagara Catholic can proudly stand as one example of a Catholic School Board which could unapologetically reveal its budget for all to see. Thank you!

God bless you, all, in your ministry! You continue to be in my thoughts and prayers.

Sincerely,



Dee Sproule

President: Dee Sproule

Vice-President: Marianna Worth

Communications: Genevieve Anderson

Treasurer: Ann Clarke

Secretary: Jolene Smith

Member at Large 1: Dean Woodbeck

Member at Large 2: David Dubowits

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
SPOTLIGHT ON NIAGARA CATHOLIC – NOVEMBER 10, 2015**



November 10, 2015

Remembering Debra McCaffery; April 9, 1956 – November 6, 2015



The Niagara Catholic family mourns the loss of one of our own.

Debra McCaffery, our Board's Chaplaincy Leader, was called Home to the Lord on Friday, November 6, 2015. She was surrounded by her family, close friends and the prayers of the Niagara Catholic family at the time of her death.

While we grieve at the suddenness of her passing, and try to come to terms with our loss, our faith teaches us that Debra is celebrating in Heaven with the loved ones who had gone before her, and with the Lord she loved so dearly. It is this faith that will see Debra's family, friends and colleagues through the difficult few days and weeks ahead.

For those who loved her, the loss is immeasurable. So while we grieve for a life cut too short, we give thanks for the gift that was Debra – for her smile, her compassion, her forthright nature, her commitment to Catholic education and for all she did for so many throughout the years.

We needed you, Debra, but Heaven needed you more.

Life is fleeting. Love one another. Be kind to strangers. Please keep Debra's family, and the Niagara Catholic family, in your prayers.



Notre Dame's 40th Annual Pilgrimage

Niagara Catholic Pilgrimage Raises More Than \$170,000

On October 25, 2015, approximately 4,000 Niagara Catholic students, staff, trustees and supporters took to the streets to raise money for our brothers and sisters in need around the world in the Annual Pilgrimage.

This year's event raised more than \$170,000, which will be used to help fund social programs for children, youth and the elderly, provide fresh water and relief for people living in South and Central America, Africa and the Caribbean.

Thank you to all those who took part, and all those who sponsored Pilgrims as they walked.

A short synopsis of each event is below:

Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School

Theme: *Make a Change*

330 Pilgrims raised \$16,000 for residents of Las Pajas, Dominican Republic.

Denis Morris Catholic High School

Theme: *Let's Do Something*

400+ Pilgrims from Denis Morris Catholic High School joined Pilgrims from Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School and Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School in the Annual Pilgrimage. The DM Pilgrims raised \$14,000 and 1,500 cans of food for Ecole Immaculee Conception in Pilate, Haiti, and Wells of Hope.

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

Theme: *We Rise by Lifting Others*

Approximately 270 members of the Angus Army Pilgrims joined Pilgrims from Denis Morris Catholic High School and Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School in the Annual Pilgrimage. The Raiders raised \$14,000 to support the work of the Holy Cross Brothers and Sisters in Thibeau, Cap Haitian and Milot, Haiti.

Lakeshore Catholic High School

Theme: *Walk in Love*

300+ Gators raised \$10,000 during the annual Gatorwalk. The funds will be used to support the recovery efforts in Dominica, which was heavily damaged during Tropical Storm Erika.

Notre Dame College School

Theme: *Walk On!*

On the 40th Anniversary of the first Pilgrimage in 1975, approximately 1,200 Pilgrims raised \$40,000 – \$1,000 for every year – for Development and Peace, Yancana Huasy in Lima, Peru and the Canadian-Dominican Community Development Group.

Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School

Theme: *Fire in Our Hearts*

350+ Phoenix joined Pilgrims from Denis Morris Catholic High School and Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School in the Annual Pilgrimage. The Phoenix Pilgrims raised an average of \$100 per person to contribute \$35,000 to Ecole Madeleine Orphanage and School in Cap Haitian, Haiti.

Saint Michael Catholic High School

Theme: *Walking in Someone Else's Shoes*

400+ Mustangs were joined by Pilgrims from Saint Paul Catholic High School in this year's Annual Pilgrimage. The Mustangs raised \$19,600 for the Hope for Rwanda Children's Fund and the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

Saint Paul Catholic High School

Theme: *Love, Truth and Action*

450+ Patriots were joined by Pilgrims from Saint Michael Catholic High School in this year's Annual Pilgrimage. The Patriots raised \$17,000 for the Immaculate Conception School in Milot, Haiti.

View scenes from the 2015 Pilgrimage on our [Good News Blog](#) and our [Facebook page](#).

Five-Year Improvement for Grade 9 Math Assessments at Niagara Catholic



The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) has released the results for Grade 9 provincial mathematics assessments in 2014-2015, including the results for the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Eighty-four per cent of Grade 9 students taking academic courses performed at or above the provincial standard (Levels 3 and 4) on the assessments last year. Fifty-seven per cent of students taking applied courses met or exceeded the provincial standard. This represents a two per cent increase in assessment scores over five years for academic students, and a 14 per cent increase in the same time period for students studying mathematics at the applied level.

Fewer than one per cent of academic students were exempted from the assessment. One per cent of applied students were exempted. Due to exceptional circumstances in 2015, provincial data is unavailable.

Board Chair Father Paul MacNeil credited students and staff for their dedication to academic excellence.

“As Board Chair, I am always impressed by the results our students receive on provincial assessments,” said Father MacNeil. “This is a direct result of the strong partnerships we have between home and school. Our teachers are committed to ensuring students are well-prepared for these assessments, our students show up ready to learn and this is reinforced by parents and guardians at home. The data released today will be used to make thoughtful decisions about the best way to continue to nurture students in our classrooms, and to guide staff and students to remain committed to academic excellence.”

Director of Education John Crocco congratulated the students and staff for their focused work, which results in student success throughout the year.

“I am extremely proud of the exemplary Catholic leadership of our school and system administrators, the dedication and skills of our talented staff and the commitment of our students to academic excellence” said Niagara Catholic Director of Education John Crocco. “It is gratifying to see the continued improvement of our academic students on this provincial assessment since 2010, and I am pleased that the number of applied students meeting or exceeding the provincial level has climbed 14 per cent in the past five years. Combined with other data, assessments, and the important interactive dialogue with students, parents and staff throughout the school year, this provides consistent opportunities for feedback and planning to design and provide programs and services for the success of all students in all schools throughout the Niagara Catholic District School Board.”

Niagara Catholic’s 2014-2015 Grade 9 Mathematics Assessment results are available [online](#).

Building Leadership

The Ontario Leadership Strategy was developed by the Ministry of Education to foster leadership quality in schools and school boards in Ontario. The strategy has two goals: To attract the right people to Principal positions, and to help Principals and Vice-Principals develop into the best possible instructional leaders.

To implement this Strategy, the Ontario Institute for Education Leadership developed the Catholic Ontario Leadership Framework, which describes a set of core leadership competencies and leadership practices for Catholic Principals, Vice-Principals and Supervisory Officers.

Niagara Catholic's Leadership Identification Program is a two-year program, based on the Catholic Ontario Leadership Framework. It supports the Niagara Catholic Leadership Pathway Policy.

Candidates applied to the program in November 2014. Twenty-seven people were accepted into the 2014-2016 Cohort. In their first year, they will focus on Catholic leadership as a vocation and on the Personal Leadership Resources section of the Framework. Year Two will focus on Core Leadership Capacities.

The full report, which includes the names of participants, can be found in the [November 10 Committee of the Whole Agenda](#).

Catholic Education Congress 2016-2017

Following discussion with various stakeholders on the Board's Alliance Committee, Niagara Catholic has begun making plans to hold a Catholic Education Congress. This Congress will involve the Alliance Committee members, their organizations and the Diocese of St. Catharines, and will be the first of its kind since to take place in the Diocese since the Jubilee Year of 2000.

The first stage of the three-tier engagement program will take place during Catholic Education Week, and will involve four areas of the Board, hosted by Catholic secondary schools. Father Tom Rosica from Salt + Light Television, will be the facilitator for these sessions.

The second tier will take place between Summer 2016 and Fall 2017, and will involve designing ways to make sustainable connections between home, school and parish.

The final tier will be the one-day Diocesan/Board-wide Catholic Education Congress, which will take place in the spring of 2017.

The full report can be found in the [November 10 Committee of the Whole Agenda](#).

Don't miss the Good News!

Have you checked out our [Good News Blog](#) lately? If you haven't, you're missing great stories about life at Niagara Catholic. And please don't forget to send us your story ideas for the upcoming issue of Showcase. Story ideas can be sent to showcase@ncdsb.com.

Follow us!

To ensure you stay connected with Niagara Catholic news and events, please be sure to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter, and check our website often for updates and breaking news. It's the best way to stay in the know.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2015**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
CALENDAR OF EVENTS – DECEMBER 2015**



DECEMBER 2015

Sun First Sunday Of Advent	Mon	Tue 1 Org. Board Meeting CW Meeting	Wed 2 SEAC Meeting	Thu 3 Grade 8 Transition Masses	Fri 4	Sat 5
6 Second Sunday Of Advent	7	8	9	10 Trustee, Priests and Administrators Annual Faith Formation	11	12
13 Third Sunday Of Advent	14	15 Board Meeting	16	17	18	19
20 Fourth Sunday Of Advent	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve!	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day
Christmas Break						
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	1 Happy New Year! Welcome to 2016	
Christmas Break						