



## MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2015**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 15, 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 7:07 p.m. by Chairperson MacNeil.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayers on the Year of Mercy were led by Trustee Charbonneau

2. Roll Call

Chairperson MacNeil noted that all Trustees and Student Trustees were in attendance.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Maurice Charbonneau	✓			
Frank Fera	✓			
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓			
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓			
Ted O'Leary	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			
Pat Vernal	✓			
<b>Student Trustees</b>				
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; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Board Meeting of December 15, 2015, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

A Disclosure of Interest was declared by Trustee O'Leary with Items F8.1.1, F8.1.2, F8.1.4, F8.2.1 and F8.2.2 of the In Camera Agenda.

Disclosures of Interest were declared by Trustee Fera with Items F8.1.6 and F8.2.4 of the In Camera Agenda.

**5. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting of November 24, 2015**

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of November 24, 2015, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. Approval of Minutes of the Board Meeting of December 1, 2015**

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee Charbonneau

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Board Meeting of December 1, 2015, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**B. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Be A Voice Video Competition**

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education provided background information and introduced Ralph DeFazio, Principal of Notre Dame College School.

Principal DeFazio introduced Jonathan Lau, teacher at Notre Dame Catholic School. Mr. Lau, along with students, Kiersten Atamanyk and Matt Mocha presented their first place award winning video entitled "Affordable Housing Man".

Chair MacNeil thanked Mr. Lau and the students for their video.

**2. Christmas Cards 2015**

Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education, presented the report on Christmas Cards 2015. He indicated that schools throughout Niagara Catholic were invited to submit artwork designed by their students in order to create the 2015 Niagara Catholic Christmas Cards.

Chair MacNeil, Vice-Chair Burtnik and Director Crocco presented the following students with Excellence in the Arts pins and a plaqued picture of their artwork. The students, whose artwork

was selected for the Board's Christmas cards were introduced by Superintendent Lefebvre. Tori Aquino (Grade 9, Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School), Brooke Atamanyk (Grade 8, Alexander Kuska Catholic Elementary School), Dana Borowitz (Grade 10, Saint Paul Catholic High School), Jedidiak Demesa (Grade 5, St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School), Paula Gomez (Grade 8, Mary Ward Catholic Elementary School), Stephanie Naccarato (Grade 11, Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School), Janel Szarko (Grade 6, St. John Catholic Elementary School) and Herman Tang (Grade 9, Lakeshore Catholic High School).

## C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

### 1. School Excellence Program – Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School

Director Crocco provided background information on the monthly School Excellence Program. Ted Farrell, Family of Schools Superintendent of Education provided background information on Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School and introduced Denise Robertson, Principal of Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School.

Principal Robertson, with the assistance of students and staff showcased Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School as part of the School Excellence Program.

Chair MacNeil thanked Principal Robertson, the staff and students for their presentation and performance. Trustees Charbonneau and Burtnik also expressed their appreciation and gratitude to the staff and students.

### 2. Unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 1, 2015 and Consideration of Recommendations

Moved by Trustee O'Leary  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 1, 2015, as presented.

**CARRIED**

The following recommendations were presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 1, 2015

#### 2.1 Approval of Policies

##### 2.1.1 Attendance Support Program Policy (201.16)

Moved by Trustee Fera  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Attendance Support Program Policy (201.16), as presented.

**CARRIED**

##### 2.1.2 Asthma Policy (NEW)

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau  
Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Asthma Policy (NEW), as presented.

**CARRIED**

3. **Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of November 4, 2015**

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of November 4, 2015 as presented for information.

**CARRIED**

4. **Director of Education's Annual Report 2015**

Director Crocco presented the Report on the Director's Annual Report 2015 which included a copy of the Director's Annual Report 2015. He informed Trustees that the Annual Report 2015 is in compliance with the requirements of the Education Act and the Minister of Education regarding the submission of Directors Annual Reports.

Director Crocco thanked the members of Senior Administrative Council for their submissions, Jennifer Pellegrini, Communications Officer and Print Shop for their work in the preparation and design of the impressive Director's Annual Report 2015.

Chair MacNeil and Trustee Charbonneau expressed their gratitude and pride to Director Crocco and Senior Staff for the excellent report.

5. **Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement – Fiscal Year 2014-2015**

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services presented the report on Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement – Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Superintendent Vetrone answered questions of Trustees.

6. **Revised Estimates for Budget for the Year 2015-2016**

Director Crocco and Superintendent Vetrone presented the report on the Revised Estimates for Budget for the Year 2015-2016.

Superintendent Vetrone answered questions of Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Fera

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Report on the Revised Estimates for the Year 2015-2016, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**7. Trustee Honorarium for the Year December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016**

Director Crocco presented the report on Trustee Honorarium for the Year December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016.

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Honorarium for the year December 1, 2015 to November 30, 2016, as noted in Appendix A, as follows:

\$16,825 for the Chairperson of the Board

\$13,775 for the Vice-Chairperson of the Board

\$10,710 for the Other Trustees

**CARRIED**

**8. International Holocaust Awareness Day**

Director Crocco presented the report on International Holocaust Awareness Day.

Director Crocco answered questions of Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Vernal

Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board recognize the United Nations International Holocaust Awareness Day annually on January 27, as presented.

**CARRIED**

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

**1. Correspondence**

**1.1 November 25, 2015 Letter from Trillium Lakelands District School Board**

Chair MacNeil, highlighted information contained in the letter from Trillium Lakelands District School Board.

**1.2 November 25, 2015 Letter from Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center**

Chair MacNeil noted the letter which was also sent to Director Crocco as noted in agenda item C8.

**2. Report on Trustee Conferences Attended**

Nil Report

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

Director Crocco reported that multi-year reports, as noted in previous reports, as well as discussions on the System Priorities and Budget for 2016-2017 will be provided to the Committee of the Whole beginning in January 2016.

#### **4. Trustee Information**

##### **4.1 Spotlight – December 1, 2015**

Director Crocco highlighted the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – December 1, 2015 issue for Trustee's information.

##### **4.2 Calendar of Events – January 2016**

Director Crocco reviewed the Calendar of Events – January 2016 for Trustees information and noted the following important dates:

###### **Christmas Break – December 21, 2015 to January 3, 2016**

Director Crocco informed Trustees that all schools, along with the Catholic Education Centre, will be closed from December 21, 2015 to January 4, 2016 inclusive.

###### **Open Houses January 12 – 14, 2016 – Elementary and Secondary**

Director Crocco informed Trustees that open houses at elementary and secondary schools will be held January 12-14, 2016.

###### **Niagara Catholic Baby Celebration – January 13, 2016**

Director Crocco informed and invited Trustees to the Annual Niagara Catholic Baby Celebration being held at the Catholic Education Centre on January 13, 2016 from 10:00 am – 12:00 p.m. in the Father Burns C.S.C. Board Room.

##### **4.3 OCSTA 2016 January Regional Meeting Discussions**

Director Crocco presented the OCSTA 2016 January Regional Meeting discussions for Trustee information.

##### **4.4 Business Education Council 2016 Annual Partners Breakfast – February 5, 2016**

Director Crocco informed Trustees that a table has been reserved for the Business Education Council 2016 Annual Partners Breakfast being held on Friday, February 5, 2016 at the Marriot Gateway on the Falls.

Trustees are asked to inform Anna Pisano, Administrative Assistant of Corporate Services & Communications if interested in attending by the January 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting.

##### **4.5 OCSTA 2015 Resolutions**

Director Crocco presented the OCSTA 2015 Resolutions for Trustee review in preparation for the OCSTA AGM.

##### **4.6 Man of the Shroud Exhibit – March 2-8, 2016**

Director Crocco highlighted the dates of the Man of the Shroud Exhibit being held during the month of March 2016 and noted that Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Bergie on March 6, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

Director Crocco noted two additional Trustee Information Items.

**4.7 Syrian Refugees**

Director Crocco provided details regarding welcoming Syrian refugees as our newest Canadians into our Niagara Catholic family.

**4.8 Letter to all Niagara Catholic Families**

Director Crocco provided a copy of the letter being sent to all Niagara Catholic families.

**5. Open Question Period**

None Submitted

**E. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Sicoli  
Seconded by Trustee Vernal

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

**CARRIED**

The Niagara Catholic District School Board moved into the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting at 8:40 p.m. and reconvened at 9:11 p.m.

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

Moved by Trustee Sicoli  
Seconded by Trustee Vernal

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting of December 15, 2015

**CARRIED**

**SECTION A: STUDENT TRUSTEES PRESENT**

Moved by Trustee Vernal  
Seconded by Trustee O'Leary

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Board Meeting - SECTION A: Student Trustees Present of November 24, 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 December 1, 2015, as amended.

**CARRIED (Item F2)**

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

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 B: Student Trustees Excluded of November 24, 2015, as presented.

**CARRIED (Item F4)**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Burtnik

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting - SECTION B: Student Trustees Excluded of December 1, 2015, as amended.

**CARRIED (Item F5)**

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

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

## **J. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

Seconded by Trustee Vernal

**THAT** the December 15, 2015 meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 15, 2015**.

Approved on **January 26, 2016**.

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Fr. Paul MacNeil  
Chairperson of the Board

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John Crocco  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer