



*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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

**TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

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



A. ROUTINE MATTERS

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. Opening Prayer – Trustee O’Leary | - |
| 2. Roll Call | - |
| 3. Approval of the Agenda | - |
| 4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest | - |
| 5. Approval of Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 7, 2017 | A5 |
| 6. Consent Agenda Items | - |
| 6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of March 28, 2017 | A6.1 |
| 6.2 Trustee Honorarium Policy (100.11) | A6.2 |
| 6.3 Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities | A6.3 |
| 6.4 Capital Projects Update | A6.4 |
| 6.5 Naming of the Niagara Launch Centre | A6.5 |
| 6.6 In Camera Items F1 and F3 | - |

B. PRESENTATIONS

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Niagara Catholic Alternative Learning Program | C1 |
| 2. Transition to the Ontario Autism Program – New Funding to Support School Boards | C2 |
| 3. Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Update | C3 |
| 4. Monthly Updates | |
| 4.1 Student Senate Update | - |
| 4.2 Senior Staff Good News Update | - |

D. INFORMATION

- 1. Trustee Information
 - 1.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – March 28, 2017 D1.1
 - 1.2 Calendar of Events – April 2017 D1.2
 - 1.3 OCSTA Information – March 24 and 31, 2017 D1.3

E. OTHER BUSINESS

- 1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action -

F. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

G. REPORT ON THE IN CAMERA SESSION

H. ADJOURNMENT

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
APRIL 4, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 7, 2017, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2017

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 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-Chair Burtnik.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Trustee MacNeil

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				
Kira Petriello	✓			
Nico Tripodi	✓			

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 Sicoli

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 7, 2017, as amended.

Item C1, C2 and C4.2 deferred to March 28, 2017 Board Meeting.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No Declaration of Conflict of Interest was declared with any items on the Agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 14, 2017

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 14, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

6. Consent Agenda Items

6.1 Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of February 28, 2017

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive the Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of February 28, 2017, as presented.

6.2 Accessibility Standards Policy (800.8)

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Accessibility Standards Policy (800.8), as presented.

6.3 Catholic School Councils Policy (800.1)

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Catholic School Councils Policy (800.1), as presented.

6.4 Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities

Presented for information.

6.5 Capital Projects Update

Presented for information.

6.6 In Camera Items F1 and F3

Moved by Trustee O'Leary

THAT the Committee of the Whole adopt consent agenda items.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

Nil

C. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Niagara Catholic Alternative Learning Program

Deferred to March 28, 2017 Board Meeting.

2. Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 Update

Deferred to March 28, 2017 Board Meeting.

3. Administrative Pool Assignments 2017-2019

Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education/Human Resources presented the report on the Administrative Pool Assignments 2017-2019 for Trustee information.

4. Monthly Updates

4.1 Student Trustees' Update

Kira Petriello and Nico Tripodi, Student Trustees, presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

4.2 Senior Staff Good News Update

Deferred to March 28, 2017 Board Meeting.

D. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

1.1 Spotlight on Niagara Catholic – February 28, 2017

Director Crocco highlighted the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic February 28, 2017.

1.2 Calendar of Events – March 2017

Director Crocco presented the March 2017 Calendar of Events for Trustees information.

Director Crocco reminded Trustees that the week of March 13-17, 2016 is March Break and that the Catholic Education Centre will follow summer hours and will be open Monday to Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and closed on Friday.

Director Crocco shared the OCSTA media announcement.

Director Crocco highlighted the March 7, 2017 OCSTA memorandum regarding Bill 92 School Boards Collective bargaining Act Amendments.

E. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

Director Crocco informed the Board of the continued implementation of this year's system priorities and that Senior Administrative Council continues building the System Priorities and Balanced Budget 2017-2018 for presentation at the May 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Director Crocco announced that with the approval of the Modified Pupil Accommodations Review for Monsignor Clancy Catholic Elementary School and St. Charles Catholic Elementary School Senior Administrative Council will be auctioning this as part of Phase 2 of the Board's Long Term Accommodations Plan.

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 7:19 p.m. and reconvened at 8:16 p.m.

G. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 7, 2017.

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 February 14, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F1)

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

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 B: Student Trustees Excluded) held on February 14, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED (Item F3)

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

THAT the March 7, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **March 7, 2017.**

Approved on **April 4, 2017.**

Kathy Burtnik
Vice-Chair of the Board

John Crocco
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
APRIL 4, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF MARCH 28, 2017**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole receive the Unapproved Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of March 28, 2017, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 2017

Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in the Holy Cross Community Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Policy Committee Chair Vernal.

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Trustee Vernal.

2. Attendance

Committee Members	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Pat Vernal (Committee Chair)	✓			
Kathy Burtnik	✓			
Dino Sicoli	✓			

Student Trustees:

Kira Petriello

Nico Tripodi

Staff:

John Crocco, Director of Education

Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education

Sherry Morena, Coordinator of Information Management

Anna Pisano, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications Department
/Recording Secretary

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

THAT the March 28, 2017 Policy Committee Agenda be approved, as presented.

APPROVED

4. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

5. **Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of February 28, 2017**

Moved by Trustee Burtnik

THAT the Policy Committee approve the minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting of February 28, 2017, as presented.

APPROVED

6. **Policies**

ACTION REQUIRED

POLICIES – DEFERRED FROM FEBRUARY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

6.1 Educational Field Trips Policy (400.2)

Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education, presented the Educational Field Trips Policy (400.2) with additional revisions from Senior Administrative Council.

The Policy Committee suggested the following amendments:

POLICY STATEMENT

- No amendments

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

- Remove “*supervision, support for special needs and any special requests*” from Bullet #2 of Part III
- Remove “*taking into consideration that some students may have limited financial resources*” from Bullet #4 of Part III
- Remove Bullet #6 of Part III

The Policy Committee requested that Educational Field Trips Policy, be vetted from March 29, 2017 to May 10, 2017 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Policy Committee in May 23, 2017, for consideration to the Committee of the Whole and Board in June 2017.

POLICIES - FOR RECOMMENDATION TO APRIL 4, 2017 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

6.2 Trustee Honorarium Policy (100.11)

John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer, presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted amendments to the Trustee Honorarium Policy (100.11) following the vetting process.

Following discussion, the Policy Committee recommended the following additional amendments:

POLICY STATEMENT

- Paragraph 5 remove “*for the consideration of the Board*” and add “*and then all amounts shall be posted*”

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee

THAT the Policy Committee recommend to the April 4, 2017 Committee of the Whole Meeting to approve the revisions to the Trustee Honorarium Policy, as amended.

APPROVED

POLICIES - PRIOR TO VETTING

6.3 Privacy Policy (NEW)

Director Crocco and Sherry Morena, Coordinator of Information Management, presented the Privacy Policy (NEW).

The Policy Committee suggested the following amendments:

POLICY STATEMENT

- No amendments

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

- Change “*Guidelines Policy*” to “*Procedures*”
- Change “*his/her*” to “*their*”

The Policy Committee requested that the Privacy Policy, be vetted from March 29, 2017 to May 10, 2017 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Policy Committee in May, 2017, for consideration to the Committee of the Whole and Board in June 2017.

INFORMATION

6.4 Policies Currently Being Vetted to April 19, 2017

- Monthly Financial Reports Policy (600.3)
- Employee Workplace Harassment Policy (201.7)
- Employee Workplace Violence Policy (201.11)
- Occupational Health & Safety Policy (201.6)

6.5 Policy and Guideline Review 2016-2017 Schedule

Director Crocco presented the Policy and Guideline Review 2017-2017 Schedule.

7. Date of Next Meeting

April 25, 2017 – Start time to be determined and posted on the Board website and agenda cover.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 4, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

TOPIC: TRUSTEE HONORARIUM POLICY (100.11)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Trustee Honorarium Policy (100.11), as presented.

Prepared by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Presented by: Policy Committee
Recommended by: Policy Committee
Date: April 4, 2017



Niagara Catholic District School Board
TRUSTEE HONORARIUM POLICY
STATEMENT OF POLICY

100 – Board

Policy No 100.11

Adopted Date: September 28, 2010

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: NIL

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, Niagara Catholic is committed to recognizing the importance and value of providing fair levels of honoraria for elected Trustees of the Board members as set out in Ontario Regulation 357/06, “Honoraria for Board Members”

Ontario Regulation 357/06 sets out the method for calculating the limits on honoraria paid to elected Trustees under section 191 of the Education Act. The regulation states that the honorarium shall consist of the following four (4) components:

1. The base amount for the year
2. The enrolment amount for the year
3. The attendance amount for the year
4. The distance amount for the year

The honorarium for elected Trustees of the Board will be calculated in accordance with the provisions of Ontario Regulation 357/06 and the honorarium will be adjusted each year to take into consideration the changes in enrolment from the previous year. Separate honoraria will be calculated for the Chair of the Board, the Vice Chair of the Board and for the Other Elected Trustees.

The Honorarium for elected Trustees of the Board Members, will be for each year of the term of office from December 1, 2010 to the following November 30, 2014 annually. will be calculated in accordance with Regulation 357 and shall consist of the following amounts:

In compliance with the Education Act Regulation 357/06, at the annual December Board Meeting, a Trustee Honorarium report and recommendation for the annual honorarium for all elected Trustees will be presented and then all amounts shall be posted.

Honorarium Component	%	2010-11 Honorarium	2011-12 Honorarium	2012-13 Honorarium	2013-14 Honorarium
Base Amount		5,900	5,900	5,900	5,900
Enrolment Amount	100%	4,951	TBD	TBD	TBD
Attendance Amount		0	0	0	0
Distance Amount		0	0	0	0
Annual Honorarium		10,851	TBD	TBD	TBD

The Honorarium for the Chairperson of the Board, for each year of the term of office from December 1, 2010 to November 30, 2014, will be calculated in accordance with Regulation 357 and shall consist of the following amounts:

Honorarium Component	%	2010-11 Honorarium	2011-12 Honorarium	2012-13 Honorarium	2013-14 Honorarium
Base Amount		10,900	10,900	10,900	10,900
Enrolment Amount	100%	6,082	TBD	TBD	TBD
Attendance Amount		0	0	0	0
Distance Amount		0	0	0	0
Annual Honorarium		16,982	TBD	TBD	TBD

The Honorarium for the Vice-Chairman of the Board, for each year of the term of office from December 1, 2010 to November 30, 2014, will be calculated in accordance with Regulation 357 and shall consist of the following amounts:

Honorarium Component	%	2010-11 Honorarium	2011-12 Honorarium	2012-13 Honorarium	2013-14 Honorarium
Base Amount		8,400	8,400	8,400	8,400
Enrolment Amount	100%	5,517	TBD	TBD	TBD
Attendance Amount		0	0	0	0
Distance Amount		0	0	0	0
Annual Honorarium		13,917	TBD	TBD	TBD

The amounts payable under this policy will be reviewed and approved by the Board annually.

References

- [Education Act \(Sec. 191\)](#)
- [Ontario Regulation 357](#)

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 4, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: STAFF DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The Report on Staff Development Department:
Professional Development Opportunities is presented for information.

Prepared by: Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education
Anthony Corapi, Coordinator of Staff Development

Presented by: Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: April 4, 2017



REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING APRIL 4, 2017

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In alignment with the Board's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan and Annual System Priorities, the Department of Staff Development, as an integral aspect of its mandate, acts as the point of co-ordination among various departments. Thus ensuring that all professional development opportunities for staff, both teaching and non-teaching, occur in a seamless fashion so as to minimize disruptions to the myriad services provided within our Niagara Catholic community.

The following is a listing of activities occurring during the period April 4, 2017 through May 9, 2017.

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting Learning Sessions with Tom Schimmer (Double Tree Fallsview Resort)

- As we continue to implement and improve assessment, evaluation and reporting practices, Tom Schimmer, author of *Grading From the Inside Out*, will be providing two professional learning sessions for administrators and select staff from both the elementary and secondary panels.

Thursday, April 6, 2018

Early Childhood Educators - Teacher Talk Training (Catholic Education Centre)

- As part of our continued effort to develop strong oral language skills in our youngest learners, Early Childhood Educators from the following schools are invited to participate in The Hanen Centre – Teacher Talk workshops. Teacher Talk covers the key principles of Learning Language and Loving It, providing educators with core strategies that will help them create rich and stimulating classroom learning environments. The Teacher Talk training sessions are designed to actively engage participants through discussions, small group activities, analysis of video examples and practical Action Plans that participants can take back to the classroom.

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Gap Closing in Literacy (Catholic Education Centre) – Session #3 of 4

- As part of the Ministry of Education's ongoing commitment to supporting literacy achievement, special funding has been allocated to support Gap Closing in Literacy in Grades 7-12. This initiative will aim to foster more precise and targeted reading instruction in applied level courses within specific subject areas (2017 Dates: February 15, March 9, April 18 and May 18).
- The work will focus on using assessment to better inform our decision making around next steps for reading instruction, and learning about how technology and specific ministry resources, such as, the *Adolescent Literacy Guide*, can help support student learning. The learning will be approached with an understanding that the literacy challenges students encounter will be different in each discipline and will need to be differentiated accordingly.

Wednesday, April 19, 2017

New Teacher Induction Program (Holiday Inn, Ontario Street)

- Protégés and mentors will participate in a full day professional development session focusing on a variety of Special Education topics such as Individualized Education Programs (IEP's), Executive Functioning and Niagara Catholic DSB support structure for students with special needs.

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Leadership Identification Program (LIP) – Session #4

- The Niagara Catholic LIP Committee will host Frances Jacques and Nick Teti from CPCO. The LIP candidates will participate in two sessions. Session one is titled: Integrating Life and Work. Session two is titled: and Leading Through Difficult Conversations.

The Report on Staff Development:
Professional Development Opportunities is presented for information.

Prepared by: Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education
Anthony Corapi, Coordinator of Staff Development

Presented by: Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: April 4, 2017

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 4, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT UPDATE

The Capital Projects Progress Report Update is presented for information.

Prepared by: Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services
Presented by: Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services
Approved by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Date: April 4, 2017



**REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 4, 2017
CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRESS REPORT UPDATE**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Individual progress reports for capital projects are presented as follows:

In Progress

NEW BUILD

Appendix A

St. Martin Catholic Elementary School

ADDITIONS

Appendix B

Our Lady of Fatima (G) Catholic Elementary School

The Capital Projects Progress Report Update is presented for information.

Prepared by: Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services

Presented by: Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services

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

Date: April 4, 2017



**NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
CAPITAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
APRIL 4, 2017**

APPENDIX A

ST. MARTIN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Scope of Project:

Design and construction of a replacement school and child care centre on a new site.

Current Status: Storm sewer work is complete. Water service installation is complete. The electrical primary/secondary ductbanks have been installed. Roofing is nearing completion. Parking lot curbing and asphalt base coat is complete. Masonry veneer is nearing completion. Window installation is underway. Exterior masonry is nearing completion. Painting has begun. Millwork is arriving on site.

Project Information:

New Area to be Constructed	44,067	sq. ft.
Existing Area to be Renovated		sq. ft.
Total New Facility Area	44,067	sq. ft.
Total Site Area	6	acres
Pupil Places Added	115	students
New Facility Capacity	454	students



Project Funding:

Capital Priorities	9,910,289
	<u>\$9,910,289</u>

Project Costs:

	Budget	Paid
Construction Contract	7,734,824	5,382,035
Fees & Disbursements	937,360	972,002
Furniture & Equipment	260,917	0
Other Project Costs	977,188	161,857
	<u>\$9,910,289</u>	<u>\$6,515,894</u>

Project Timelines:

	Scheduled Completion	Actual Completion
Funding Approval	July 7, 2011	July 7, 2011
Ministry Approval (space)	December 2011	February 14, 2012
Architect Selection	January 30, 2012	March 22, 2012
Design Development	March 2012	October 2013
Contract Documents	January 2014	Feb 2014
Tender & Approvals (re-design)	Summer/Fall 2015	October 2015
Ministry Approval (cost - revised)	Summer/Fall 2015	November 2015
Ground Breaking Date	December 2015	December 9, 2015
Construction Start	December 2015	
Occupancy	Spring 2017	
Official Opening & Blessing	TBD	

Project Team:

Architect	MMMC Inc. Architects
General Contractor	Brouwer Construction
Project Manager	Anthony Ferrara
Superintendent	Yolanda Baldasaro
Principal	Chris Zanuttini



**NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
CAPITAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT
APRIL 4, 2017**

APPENDIX B

OUR LADY OF FATIMA (G) CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Scope of Project: Design and construction of a 6 classroom/3 child care room addition.

Current Status: Tender closed on March 23, 2017. Waiting for Site Plan Agreement.

Project Information:

New Area to be Constructed		sq. ft.
Pupil Places Added	138	students
New Facility Capacity	541	students



Project Funding:

Capital Priorities	2,997,890
Child Care	1,527,338
	<hr/>
	\$4,525,228

Project Costs:

	Budget	Paid
Construction Contract	0	0
Fees & Disbursements	0	201,865
Furniture & Equipment	0	0
Other Project Costs	0	25,777
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$4,525,228	\$227,642

Project Timelines:

	<u>Scheduled Completion</u>	<u>Actual Completion</u>
Funding Approval	November 9, 2015	November 9, 2015
Ministry Approval (space)		
Architect Selection	April 18, 2016	June 30, 2016
Design Development	August 2016	December 2016
Contract Documents	January 2017	February 2017
Tender & Approvals	February 2017	
Ministry Approval (cost)	March 2017	
Ground Breaking Date	March 2017	
Construction Start	March 2017	
Occupancy	December 2017	
Official Opening & Blessing	January 2018	

Project Team:

Architect	Svedas Architects Inc.
General Contractor	
Project Manager	Tunde Labbancz
Superintendent	Yolanda Baldasaro
Principal	Brian Palujanskas

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 4, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: NIAGARA CATHOLIC ALTERNATIVE LEARNING
PROGRAMS**

The Niagara Catholic Alternative Learning Programs report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education
Marco Magazzeni, Administrator - Alternative Learning and Community Partnerships

Presented by: Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education
Marco Magazzeni, Administrator - Alternative Learning and Community Partnerships

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

Date: April 4, 2017



REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE APRIL 4, 2017

NIAGARA CATHOLIC ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAMS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In alignment with the Niagara Catholic District School Board's Mission, Vision, Values, its Vision 2020 Strategic Plan and its annual System Priorities and Budget, the Boards Alternative Learning Programs provides all students with different programs, supports, services and environments in order to achieve personal and academic goals.

Pope Francis Centre

The Pope Francis Centre provides our students with an alternative - school connected place to learn with individually designed programs, experiences and support. The Pope Francis Centre motto is "A Place Where all are Welcome". The Centre works in conjunction with several other Niagara Catholic alternative programs designed to support all students, wherever their educational journey takes them, in a non-traditional school setting.

Niagara Catholic LINK

Niagara Catholic LINK is a program designed for students who are not currently attending secondary school or who are at risk of leaving school before graduation. Niagara Catholic LINK allows students to work towards earning secondary school courses while at the same time earning one Niagara College Dual Credit. (A Dual Credit counts both as a secondary school credit AND a College general elective credit).

Supervised Alternative Learning Plan

A Supervised Alternative Learning Plan (SALP) is used to encourage students who are at risk of not graduating to continue their education in an alternative manner. Students who are not attending school regularly are encouraged to apply to a SALP along with parental/guardian support. The goal of the SALP is to re-engage students to work towards their secondary school diploma and graduate with their peers.

Saint Kateri Located in the Former Village of St. John's

The Niagara Catholic District School Board and Niagara Regional Native Centre have formed a partnership in providing secondary school students as well as adult learners of the indigenous community an opportunity to complete their OSSD in an alternative learning setting. Together in partnership with Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority we are able to provide this learning environment at Saint Kateri located in the former Village of St. John's.

Community Outreach Teacher

The Niagara Catholic District School Board supported a Community Outreach Teacher in the Fall of 2016. Together with the assistance of the Board Attendance Councilor, several students have been provided various options in order to complete the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). Both the teacher and counselor reach out to community partners and agencies and find students of all needs and all points of their life who need assistance.

Young Parent Support Program

A Young Parent Support Program has been established to provide a safe nurturing environment for young parent(s) who may be experiencing challenges with completing school credits within a traditional school setting. With the added responsibility of caring for their child, the Parent Support Program provides an environment conducive to learning and caring for their child all within the same setting.

Parent Support Program

The Parent Support Program is for young mothers and fathers or mothers-to-be (up to 21 years of age) working to earn high school credits in an alternative learning environment and have the opportunity to bring their child to school. Parents are provided with opportunity to complete the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma and their home school's Catholic School Graduation Diploma.

Children Youth in Care

The Children Youth in Care (CYIC) Program at Niagara Catholic District School Board provides additional support to Crown Ward students in Secondary Schools. A designated teacher is assigned and provides academic support to students and assists them in navigated school resources as well as transitioning to post-secondary opportunities. The CYIC Teacher meets students in their school or off site.

Alternative Learning Program - Current Staffing:

Administrator of Alternative Programs and Community Partnerships	Marco Magazzeni
Pope Francis Centre, Welland	
Secondary Teacher	Ryan Dudley
Secondary Child and Youth Worker	Virginia Natale
Elementary Teacher	James Watson
Elementary Child and Youth Worker	Krista Belcamino
Niagara Link Program Niagara College Welland (Secondary)	
Educational Assistant	Chris McLean (.5) Tammy Morrone (.5) Dina Sheridan
Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL)	
Stay in School Coordinator	Bridgette Ridley
Niagara Regional Native Centre (NRNC)	
Saint Kateri (Soaring Eagles) – Secondary Resource Worker (NRNC)	Kelsey Dick Sherry Emmerson
Community Outreach Program (Secondary Success)	
Attendance Counselor	Paul DiFrancesco Brenda Allington
Children Youth in Care (.5 Secondary)	TBD - currently unfilled

A visual component of this report will be presented at the April Committee of the Whole meeting.

The Niagara Catholic Alternative Learning Programs report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education
Marco Magazzeni, Administrator – Alternative Learning and Community Partnerships

Presented by: Mark Lefebvre, Superintendent of Education
Marco Magazzeni, Administrator - Alternative Learning and Community Partnerships

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

Date: April 4, 2017

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 4, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: TRANSITION TO THE ONTARIO AUTISM PROGRAM –
NEW FUNDING TO SUPPORT SCHOOL BOARDS**

The Transition to the Ontario Autism Program – New Funding to Support School Boards
report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education
Kristin Baker, Cathy McMullin, Julia Nemcko, ABA Supervisors

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

Date: April 4, 2017



REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE APRIL 4, 2017

TRANSITION TO THE ONTARIO AUTISM PROGRAM – NEW FUNDING TO SUPPORT SCHOOL BOARDS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On June 28, 2016, the Ministry of Education (EDU) issued a memorandum to Directors of Education providing information regarding new one-time funding to support district school boards as a result of the changes to autism services under the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS). The new funding provided spans both the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 schools years to support boards during the transition period to the new Ontario Autism Program. A subsequent memorandum to Directors of Education and Supervisory Officers of School Authorities, issued on September 29, 2016, outlined information regarding the eligibility to apply to run After Schools Skills Development Programs specifically for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). EDU and MCYS continue to work together to provide supportive environments for children with ASD and their families.

As outlined in both memoranda, the role for school boards regarding the one-time funding from EDU is outlined below:

- meet the increased demand for Connections for Students transition teams, including the hiring of additional personnel (e.g. professionals with Applied Behavioural Analysis (ABA) expertise);
- provide school-based team support to all students impacted by changes to autism services; and
- submit applications to receive funding for After Schools Skills Development Programs that focus on different areas such as social and communication skills development and behaviour management for students with ASD, intended to run in the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years during the transition period.

Based on the EDU funding received, Niagara Catholic has been able to provide additional supports (human resources, professional development, programs, supplies) to respond to the needs of staff and students during the transition period. A sample of supports is listed below:

- hiring of additional ABA Supervisor to align with Student Achievement three team area approach;
- hiring of three new short term positions, ABA Special Needs Facilitators, that provide direct service to schools to support students with ASD and resource support to staff;
- approval of Niagara Catholic's submission to provide After Schools Skills Development Programs for students with ASD. These after school ABA programs will introduce selected students to a variety of activities geared to support skill acquisition in the following domains: social skills, executive function, self-regulation, safety/community, communication, fine/gross motor skills;
- release time and resources for secondary school staff for professional development in the area of ABA principles and executive functioning to support the work of the Renewed Mathematics Strategy.

During the Committee of the Whole Meeting, Kristin Baker, Cathy McMullin and Julia Nemcko, ABA Supervisors, will provide a short overview of Niagara Catholic's work in supporting all students using ABA principles and outlining the after school skills development programs proposed to be offered during the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years.

The Transition to the Ontario Autism Program – New Funding to Support School Boards
report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education
Kristin Baker, Cathy McMullin, Julia Nemcko, ABA Supervisors

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

Date: April 4, 2017

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
APRIL 4, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SYSTEM PRIORITIES AND
BUDGET 2016-2017 AND 2017-2018 UPDATE**

The Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2016-2017 and 2017-2018
update report is presented for information.

Prepared by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Senior Administrative Council

Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Senior Administrative Council

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

Date: April 4, 2017



**REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
APRIL 4, 2017**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SYSTEM PRIORITIES AND BUDGET
2016-2017 AND 2017-2018 UPDATE**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At each month's Committee of the Whole meeting, the Director of Education and members of Senior Administrative Council will provide a verbal update on the implementation of the annual Board approved System Priorities and Budget 2016-2017 and the Design of the System Priorities and Budget for 2017-2018.

This monthly report information, will be provided through a visual presentation.

This monthly report will provide an opportunity for dialogue with the Committee of the Whole on the status of the implementation of the annual System Priorities and Budget.

The Committee of the Whole System Priorities and Budget 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 update report is presented for information.

Prepared by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Senior Administrative Council

Presented by: John Crocco, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Senior Administrative Council

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

Date: April 4, 2017

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
APRIL 4, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
SPOTLIGHT ON NIAGARA CATHOLIC – MARCH 28, 2017**



March 28, 2017

Committee of the Whole Approves Policies

During the March 28 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Trustees approved two revised Policies.

Accessibility Standards Policy (800.8) and Catholic School Councils Policy (800.1) are available in the [Policies](#) section of the Board website for public review.

Shining the Spotlight on St. Michael Catholic Elementary School



Students Nieva Mastromatteo (left) and Oishi Ray from St. Michael Catholic Elementary School deliver part of the School Excellence Presentation at the

Each month during the Board Meeting, one school makes a presentation to the Board of Trustees, showcasing the great things happening in their school.

This month, St. Michael Catholic Elementary School in Niagara-on-the-Lake was in the spotlight, and Principal Blaine

MacDougall was joined by Nieva Mastromatteo and Oishi Ray to share what makes St. Michael such an integral part of the Niagara-on-the-Lake community.

The school is heavily involved in both local projects, such as the Board's Kids Helping Kids campaign, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Christmas parade and food and toy drives, as well as national and global projects such as the Terry Fox Run, WE Day, Backpacks of Hope and adopting a "sister school" each Christmas.

Principal MacDougall spoke about the ways in which staff at the school work together to promote student success and engagement.

Divisional meetings take place at the school level to discuss programming each month, and School-Based Team meetings take place monthly to discuss students in need of support.

Career days are held to promote the pathways available to students. Student council holds weekly meetings to discuss topics that are important to students and monthly Catholic School Council meetings are held to promote parent involvement. Volunteer reading and math programs encourage students to continue to grow their skills.

St. Michael has a close relationship with its parish church, St. Vincent de Paul, through rosary circles led by members of the parish's Catholic Women's League. The school has been active in participating in the second tier of the Board's Catholic Educational Congress in collaboration with Father Randy Gallant, and students have expanded its retreat program for students.

Contract Awarded for Addition to Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School

During the March 28 Board Meeting, the Board approved awarding the contract for a \$4.5-million addition to Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Elementary School in Grimsby to Brouwer Construction (1981) Ltd. of St. Catharines.

This project consists of six classrooms and three child care rooms, and includes improvements to parking, landscaping and walkways, as well as the demolition of the former Cyberquest program building.

Stay up to date with our Good News!

Have you checked out the [Good News](#) section of the Board website lately? If not, you're missing some great stories and photos about our students. Be sure to check it out often to keep up to date on the fantastic things happening in our schools and across the system. There's also some great stories on the In the News section of our website, accessible through the [home page](#). Don't forget our monthly Director's Video is also available on the main page of this website.

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 [Instagram](#), and check our website often

for updates and breaking news. It's the best way to stay in the know. Be sure to check on our Journey to Vimy Ridge 2017 link on the main page of the Board website to follow our students and staff as we travel through Europe to stand with Canadians at Vimy Ridge for the 100th anniversary of the battle that truly defined us as a country.

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
APRIL 4, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
CALENDAR OF EVENTS APRIL 2017**

APRIL 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Bishop's Gala
2	3	4 SAL Meeting CW Meeting	5 SEAC Meeting	6	7	8
9 Palm Sunday	10	11	12 Holy Week	13 Holy Thursday	14 Good Friday	15
16 Easter Sunday	17 Easter Monday	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25 Policy Committee Board Meeting	26	27	28	29

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
APRIL 4, 2017**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: TRUSTEE INFORMATION
OCSTA INFORMATION – MARCH 24 AND 31, 2017**

ENTERPRISE

ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

 enterprisecanada.com/ontario-legislative-highlights-march-24/

March 24, 2017

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

WELL FED – With Liberal majorities in Ottawa and Queen’s Park, gone is the rhetorical bombast that used to surround Budget days – which reached its apex a decade ago when federal Finance Minister **Jim Flaherty** and his provincial counterpart **Dwight Duncan** would spend weeks hammering each other every spring. Nowadays the men in those respective roles, **Bill Morneau** federally and **Charles Sousa** in Ontario, speak of each other only in the softest of tones – if at all. “It’s a budget that talks about maintaining the status quo,” was as much as Sousa could muster in terms of a review of the federal fiscal plan unveiled this week. (PC Finance Critic **Vic Fedeli** noticed the partisan niceness, chiding, “Look, if this was a Conservative budget you would have seen passion, table pounding from [Sousa].”) Even before Morneau tabled the federal Budget, Sousa had pronounced that it would make little difference to his own, at least in terms of eliminating the deficit. Sousa affirmed that Ontario will “absolutely” be in the black in the upcoming provincial Budget, which is expected within the next few weeks – reportedly either April 6 or April 13. Sousa wouldn’t confirm the date, but acknowledged that Morneau’s Budget was the final major piece. “The [Ontario Budget] will come out after we take a full review [of the federal plan] and after we lock in our numbers,” Sousa told reporters. Much of the document is no doubt already written.

UP AND AD ‘EM – Government advertising is always buried in Budget minutiae, but it inevitably raises the hackles of the Opposition – and, they hope, voters. Both the PCs and NDP were apoplectic this week about radio ads touting the Ontario Liberals’ plan to reduce consumer hydro bills. They assert that the taxpayer-funded ads, featuring a narrator intoning, “We’ve heard you and we’re taking action with the fair hydro plan,” are actually quite partisan. PC House Leader **Jim Wilson** went so far as to claim the ad campaign is in contempt of the Legislature by presuming the outcome of the legislative process. “It not only definitively states the result of legislation that is yet to be tabled by the Minister of Energy, which is ‘25% off your hydro bill,’ but also presents an unqualified timeline: ‘starting this summer,’” Wilson argued in his contempt complaint. Speaker **Dave Levac** shot it down, but the Tories know most voters don’t much care about parliamentary process anyway. The real value from an Opposition standpoint is in the attendant media coverage. To that end, Auditor General **Bonnie Lysyk**, who has been in a public feud with the Liberals over their diluting of her authority to censor government ads, didn’t miss the opportunity to pile on. “Under the previous legislation it would likely not have passed because it does convey a positive impression of the current government,” Lysyk said. “It’s more like a pat-on-the-back type of advertisement.” Both PC Leader **Patrick Brown** and NDP Leader **Andrea Horwath** parlayed Lysyk’s umbrage into platform planks, each committing to reinstate the Auditor’s vetting authority if they form government.

BROWN AND SERVE – Speaking of partisan advertising (which nobody has a problem with as long as the parties

pay for it), the Tories have launched a new series of short videos in what is openly being called the “Brand Brown” campaign. The 20-second spots emphasize the big-tent philosophy Brown is espousing, each opening with the caption “I BELIEVE” followed by shots of the PC Leader marching in the Pride parade, in ethnic garb and meeting with various stakeholders. All of this is overlaid by excerpts from Brown’s speech to a party convention a year ago, when he described himself as “a pragmatic progressive conservative” and welcomed a wide range of demographics with, “It doesn’t matter ... who you love ... where you worship ... if you belong to a union ... etc. ... You have a home in the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario.” Not surprisingly, the Liberals have their own “Brand Brown” campaign that is somewhat less complimentary. In their latest salvo, they launched a website building on a recent theme, FactsStillMatter.ca. According to Liberal agitprop, “We developed these tools to document the misinformation that Patrick Brown has been spreading across Ontario, and challenge the myths in one place.” There isn’t anything subtle about the partisanship here – the home page features a large picture of Brown scowling, with the caption, “The Man with No Plan.”

COFFEE SPILL – In the hyper-sensitivity of the current pre-election atmosphere, statements don’t have to be blatant to cause problems, as PC MPP **Randy Pettapiece** found out this week. Pettapiece was evidently trying to be funny at a committee hearing on public appointments, but his choice of words was all Liberal **Daiene Vernile** needed to pounce. In approving the appointment of engineer **Rumina Velshi** to the Ontario Energy Board, Pettapiece made a joke about the committee’s notoriously bad coffee. But the way he phrased it led to an uncomfortable exchange:

Pettapiece: Maybe with her background, she could go to the kitchen and get them to do something about this coffee.

Vernile: You want a woman to go get coffee for us, is that what you’re saying?

Pettapiece: No, do something about it, the taste of it.

Vernile: Why is it her responsibility?

Pettapiece: With her scientific background.

Vernile went in for the kill later with reporters, aiming to reinforce the Neanderthal image the Tories are trying to dispel. “This is a woman with incredible academic and professional credentials,” Vernile fumed. “That he would order her to go to the kitchen — ‘go to the kitchen,’ he said — and do something about the coffee was demeaning, degrading and, I think, sexist.” Pettapiece subsequently apologized, and Velshi insisted she was not in any way offended. “It was a clumsy attempt at humour,” she said. “During the committee meeting, his comments about my qualifications were entirely positive.” Her son, **Alykhan Velshi**, just happens to be Patrick Brown’s new Chief of Staff.

LEAVING LADY – As nominations for incumbent MPPs continue to accumulate, one long-serving MPP – in fact the longest ever serving female MPP – has reached the end of her political road. **Julia Munro** announced this week that she will not be seeking re-election in 2018, bringing to a close a Queen’s Park career that began nearly 22 years ago. Despite being elected on the **Mike Harris** *Common Sense Revolution* ticket in 1995, Munro has a reputation as a moderate, which has earned her respect across party lines. Indeed, Women’s Issues Minister and Liberal MPP **Indira Naidoo-Harris** praised Munro as a “trailblazer,” noting, “There was a time when people thought there was no place for women in politics. Well, they were wrong.” PC MPP **Laurie Scott** also paid tribute, telling the House, “Every day is a new record for the member from York-Simcoe or, as we call her, Lady Munro. We seek to be as professional as, and to continue to be mentored by, the gracious member.”

IN THE HOUSE

- Treasury Board President **Liz Sandals** introduced Bill 111, the *Supply Act*, routine legislation to authorize the public payroll for the current fiscal year.
- Bill 92, tweaking school board collective bargaining, passed Third Reading, by a vote of 53-38, with the Tories and NDP voting against it.

FOR THE RECORD

“There’s a whole lot of people in the Ontario Liberal party who think that it’s all over. ...You have to ask yourself, Premier, whether given that scenario, it’s better to step down before the next election. The [polling] numbers do not lie and the ability to win the next election is in grave grave doubt.”

- Former Ontario Finance Minister and Ontario Liberal Party President **Greg Sorbara**, on TVO’s *The Agenda*, suggesting Premier **Kathleen Wynne** is hindering the party’s re-election chances since, in his words, it is “extremely unlikely” she’ll win.

“The fact is there is a lot of momentum in the U.S. right now for ‘Buy America’ kinds of approaches. That’s what we’re up against. So it will be a challenge for us to get an exemption. We recognize that. But it’s something we’ll certainly be doing our very best to try to achieve.”

- Economic Development Minister **Brad Duguid**, who along with International Trade Minister **Michael Chan** was in the New York state capital of Albany this week, trying to convince legislators there not to adopt President **Donald Trump**’s protectionist stance. Duguid said they positioned their argument as being in the Americans’ own self-interest, explaining, “there are a lot of American jobs dependent on an unfettered trading relationship and open procurement between New York State and Ontario.”

ENTERPRISE

ONTARIO LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

 enterprisecanada.com/ontario-legislative-highlights-march-31/

March 31, 2017

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

FISCAL THERAPY – The now-annual drip-drip-drip of the provincial Budget is underway, with Finance Minister **Charles Sousa** offering little hints about what will be in his pending fiscal plan. This week he talked of measures to cool Toronto’s blistering housing market, adding that it won’t be just one step, suggesting he’s looking at a “suite of options.” Sousa is also being coy about the actual date for the Budget – “It’s not complete, yet” was his answer to that question from reporters. April 13th is seen as a possible timeframe, although that’s the day before Good Friday. Given that Sousa needs a robust post-Budget tour to sell the initiatives – a must for the Liberals to have any hope of turning around their sagging popularity – it would be an odd strategy to launch the Budget right before a momentum-killing long weekend. Once the date is set, look for an onrush of announcements, as the LIBs keep up a tradition of rolling out many of the key Budget themes in advance.

GREGATIVITY – As Sousa prepares for the upcoming Budget, the words of a *former* Liberal Finance Minister are hanging heavily in the air. **Greg Sorbara**, who once wielded supreme influence in Ontario Liberal politics, stunned friends and foes alike when he opined, on TVO’s *The Agenda*, that poll numbers put Liberal re-election chances in “grave, grave doubt,” and that Premier **Kathleen Wynne** should step down. Coming from a Liberal power broker – Sorbara notably threw his support behind Wynne during the leadership convention that installed her as Premier – the comment has layers of intrigue. He’s known as a canny politician, so many observers assume the move was calculated, and there is much speculation about what might happen next. Wynne couldn’t have been happy about it, surely, but she put on a brave face when it once again raised questions about her immediate future. “Punditry is a wonderful thing,” she shrugged. “Retired politicians engaging in punditry is an even more wonderful thing. I will leave Greg and whoever else to their opinions. There’s no secret there have always been people in the Liberal Party who weren’t keen on me. That’s a reality.” If there is going to be an internal campaign to push Wynne out, it will have to happen soon, giving the party time to pick and groom a new leader before next year’s election.

DIRTY DOZEN – Even before Sorbara made his pronouncement, new polling numbers bolstered his case. A national survey by the Angus Reid Institute pegged Wynne’s approval rating at 12% – a horrible number on many levels. It’s a drop of four points from a similar poll last December; it’s the worst among Premiers across the country; and it’s the second-lowest rating ever recorded in this regular poll. (Only B.C.’s **Gordon Campbell** ever got lower approval, in single digits – paving the way for his resignation in 2010. As Sorbara is no doubt aware, Campbell’s successor **Christy Clark** managed to fix the damage, keeping the Liberals in power in the subsequent election.) Later in the week Forum Research poured more fuel on the fire, releasing poll results showing the Liberals potentially losing party status. According to Forum, the Tories have 43% support among decided voters, the NDP

28% and the Liberals just 19% – which, translated to seat counts, would give the PCs a big majority and leave the LIBs with only seven seats. Despite these low numbers, however, most pundits – excepting, perhaps, Sorbara – still see a race in Ontario. Wynne has a reputation as a very good campaigner, and her chief opponent, PC Leader **Patrick Brown**, is still a relative unknown. Interestingly, Wynne and Brown have somewhat similar story arcs, in that both have been perpetually underestimated, and both made careers from outthrusting rivals.

OH, MAN – We're still more than a year away from the next provincial election, but already the hyper-partisanship of a campaign is starting to swamp Queen's Park – when every move and utterance is subjected to howls of outrage from the other side. Two cases in point this week:

- PC MPP **Jack MacLaren**, whose sexist jokes at a cancer fundraiser last year got him banished from the Tory caucus while he underwent sensitivity training – and thereby painted a target on his back for the Liberals – got in trouble again during legislative debate. The offending quote had to do with protecting patients from sexual abuse, and MacLaren's contention that the proposed laws are too rigid: "Any time you hear the term 'zero tolerance', I find that dangerous, because there always has to be consideration of leniency, of understanding and of tolerance." Cue the umbrage, ranging from Health Minister **Eric Hoskins** admonishing, "Zero tolerance means just that. Zero tolerance for any form of sexual abuse of any kind by anyone, period," to Deputy Premier **Deb Matthews** going for the jugular by describing MacLaren's comment as "a throwback to another era when misogynist opinions were the norm." MacLaren later apologized, but Brown felt compelled to distance himself from the wayward MPP – again. "There's no grey in this issue," Brown pronounced. "It was a foolish comment." (Brown, notably, has not blocked a nomination challenge against MacLaren. Prominent Ottawa physician **Merilee Fullerton** has the green light to try and usurp MacLaren, and she reportedly has the backing of some Tory heavyweights in the area.)
- Brown was also on the defensive about another event that, under normal circumstances, would barely register on the political radar. But in these days of overheated scrutiny, giving a speech to the Cambridge Club is apparently akin to a war crime. See, the Cambridge Club is men-only, and when the Liberals learned Brown would be speaking there they pounced, with Women's Issues Minister **Indira Naidoo-Harris** charging, "He's sending a very strong message that, in terms of how he regards Ontarians, he's fine leaving women out." Except that Brown's speech was at the Toronto Athletic Club which, while owned by the Cambridge Club, is in fact wide open to anyone. As the Tories snidely pointed out, former NDP MP and noted feminist **Olivia Chow** has spoken there. They, and many commentators, deemed the Liberal indignation to be "excessive."

Only 14 more months of this to go.

NIAGARA FRONTIER – One woman who clearly doesn't think the Tories are sexist is Wainfleet Mayor **April Jeffs**, who will be acclaimed for the party's nomination in the newly-created riding of Niagara Centre on April 9th. This is something of a coup for Brown, inasmuch as Jeffs is exactly the kind of candidate he is trying to attract – female, relatively young, experienced in business and politics. The only knock against her would be that she doesn't live in the new riding, but few expect that to be a serious hindrance. Jeffs lives in the reconfigured riding of Niagara West, which is held, strongly, by **Sam Oosterhoff**. Speaking of the teenage MPP, he's another reason for Brown to smile. Far from the punchline he was supposed to be, most of the reviews of Oosterhoff have been positive, with stakeholders visiting his office saying he is always well-briefed and articulate, earning respect that belies his youth.

RUMOURS & RUMBLINGS

TO DIE FOR

Many MPPs report they have rarely seen a public response as intense as that around Bill 84, provincial legislation with respect to medical assistance in dying. Public hearings finished this week, amid an outpouring of correspondence. Literally tens of thousands of people have emailed or snail-mailed constituency offices asking that

the conscience rights of healthcare professionals be protected through the bill – i.e., healthcare providers who are morally opposed to assisted suicide should not be forced to provide it, or referrals, for their patients. Conscience rights advocates were equally active in successfully lobbying at the federal level, convincing MPs and Senators to agree to protections last year. Under the banner of www.canadiansforconscience.ca almost 43,000 electronic letters have been sent to federal and provincial officials. Of those, some 22,000 were to Ontario politicians, while thousands more were sent by regular mail. “The days of traditional lobbying are over,” observed our own **Peter Landry**, Enterprise’s Managing Principal, who spearheaded the campaign. “The digital world has changed everything. If you can’t harness constituents to care and act on an issue, your cause will be an also-ran.”

IN THE HOUSE

For the current status of government legislation, click [Government Bills](#)

- **Michael Coteau**, Minister responsible for Anti-Racism, introduced Bill 114, the *Anti-Racism Act*, to embed the Anti-Racism Directorate in law and promote a “whole-of-government effort towards identifying and redressing systemic racism in our society.”
- Bill 111, the *Supply Act* authorizing the public payroll, passed Third Reading.

FOR THE RECORD

“At a time when Ontario ratepayers are hurting, this kind of compensation is not only undeserving, it’s a slap in the face. In a year where tens of thousands of Hydro One customers were disconnected and hundreds of thousands were found to be in arrears because of uncontrolled hydro prices, executive salaries ... hit astronomical new highs.”

- PC Energy Critic **Todd Smith**, getting a jump on the annual “Sunshine List” of high government earners – which comes out today – by assailing the salaries of Hydro One brass. Although the newly-privatized utility only has to publicly release the pay packets of its top five executives, the fact that the quintet pulled in some \$11 million last year gave Smith plenty of ammunition.

“All municipalities are struggling, including our own. I think we just have to make it work, because I can’t imagine any government de-amalgamating a city like Sudbury. I think it would create all sorts of chaos. It’s a good debating point, however.”

- **Floyd Laughren**, who was MPP for Nickel Belt for 26 years and Finance Minister in the NDP government of the 1990s, opposing renewed calls for Greater Sudbury – which was created under the PC government that succeeded his – to be split back into smaller municipalities.

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