



MINUTES OF THE GROWTH AND RETENTION AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023

Minutes of the Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. 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 5:58 p.m. by Chair Turner.

2. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer were led by Trustee Bruzzese.

3. Roll Call

Members	Affiliations		Present	Absent	Excused
Joseph Bruzzese	Trustee		✓		
Danny Di Lorenzo	Trustee		✓		
Jim Marino	Trustee		✓		
Paul Turner	Trustee		✓		
Brenda Annen	NCPIC		✓		
Liam Disley	Elementary Student Rep				✓
Charlotte Johnstone	Student Trustee			✓	
Fr. Paul MacNeil	Diocese				✓
Anna Maxner	CUPE			✓	
Jennifer McArthur	OECTA Elementary		✓		
Larry Newton	OECTA Secondary				✓
Rawan Omran	Elementary Student Rep		✓		
Willow Shawanoo	Indigenous Community			✓	
Juliette Sullivan	Elementary Student Rep		✓		
Carrie Vernelli	NCPIC		✓		
Steffen Zylstra	Student Trustee			✓	

The following staff were in attendance:

Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education; **Domenic Massi**, **Pat Rocca**, Superintendents of Education; **Monique Mastroianni**, **Scott Root**, Principals; **Jennifer Pellegrini**, Communications Officer; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services

4. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Monique Mastroianni

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Growth and Retention Committee Meeting of April 18, 2023, as presented.

CARRIED

5. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

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

6. **Minutes of the Growth & Retention Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of March 8, 2023**

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of March 8, 2023, as presented.

CARRIED

7. **Review of Data**

Director Cipriano presented the historic population and estimated growth for the Niagara region, the on the ground capacity and enrolment data of the District School Board of Niagara.

Director Cipriano answered questions the committee.

8. **Breakout Sessions – Group Work**

Chair Turner highlighted the procedure and questions for the breakout sessions group work. The committee broke out into two groups to discuss and answer the following questions;

1. In the next 10-15 years, what will have the greatest impact on the growth of Niagara Catholic Schools?
2. What are 3-5 ideas/proposal to help stimulate growth in our Board?
3. What are 3-5 ideas/proposals to help retain students from grade 8 to grade 9 in our schools?

9. **Share Group Work**

The following suggestions were presented following the breakout sessions;

1. In the next 10-15 years, what will have the greatest impact on the growth of Niagara Catholic Schools?
 - Immigration, new development and families relocating to Niagara from larger cities.
2. What are 3-5 ideas/proposal to help stimulate growth in our Board?
 - Create a welcoming environment for all newcomers.
 - Offer translation services to immigrants to foster a more inclusive and hospitable environment.

- Educate and advertise Catholic education by debunking myths and sharing our story.
 - Arrange to have schools open during the summer months to facilitate new registrations in a timely manner.
 - Boost the presence of administration in the community to foster relationships.
 - Incorporate student testimonials into our marketing strategy.
 - Review our Student Admission Policy.
 - Promote our schools through our churches and highlight the advantages of a Catholic education to invite other denominations to join our schools.
 - Advertise our schools in model homes and encourage real estate agents to promote them.
 - Increase social media marketing efforts by sharing activities at our schools.
 - Provide more diverse programs.
3. What are 3-5 ideas/proposals to help retain students from grade 8 to grade 9 in our schools?
- Rather than wait until they reach grades 7 and 8 encourage student involvement at a much earlier age by giving out school merchandise to promote their secondary school and arranging field trips during sporting or special events held at their perspective secondary schools.
 - Arrange for secondary schools go to participate in leadership programs or provide coaching assistance at elementary schools.
 - Share best practices such as the Notre Dame Family
 - Provide extracurricular activities.
 - Personal reach out to families by administration.
 - Publicly promote the inclusivity and safety of our schools.

10. Next Meeting Date

Next committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Brenda Annen

THAT the April 18, 2023 Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.