



# MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

## TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 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 6:30 p.m. by Vice-Chair Burkholder.

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Trustee Huibers.

2. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Burkholder noted that Trustee Benoit, Joyner and Student Trustee Geremia are excused.

Trustee	Present	Present Electronically	Absent	Excused
Natalia Benoit				✓
Joseph Bruzzese	✓			
Rhianon Burkholder	✓			
Danny Di Lorenzo	✓			
Larry Huibers	✓			
Doug Joyner				✓
Jim Marino	✓			
Paul Turner	✓			
<b>Student Trustees</b>				
Charlotte Johnstone	✓			
Emilio Geremia				✓

The following staff were in attendance:

**Camillo Cipriano**, Director of Education; **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Kimberly Kinney, Gino Pizzoferrato, Pat Rocca, Domenic Massi, Joseph Zaroda**, Superintendents of Education; **Giancarlo Vetrone**, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services; **Clark Euale**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Julia Tiessen**, Executive Officer of Human Resources; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Turner

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 5, 2024, as amended.

**In-Camera Item G1 added**

**CARRIED**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Declaration of Conflict of Interest was declared by Trustee Di Lorenzo with In Camera Agenda item G1. This trustee has family members who are employees of the Board. This Trustee left the meeting during discussion of this item.

**5. Approval of Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 13, 2024**

Moved by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 13, 2024, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**6. Consent Agenda Items**

**6.1 Niagara Student Transportation Services Annual Plan**

Presented for information.

**6.2 Capital Projects Progress Report Update**

Presented for information.

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole adopt consent agenda items.

**CARRIED**

## **B. PRESENTATIONS**

## **C. GOVERNANCE POLICIES**

### **1. Governance Policies for Recommendation to the Board**

#### **1.1. Student Transportation Policy (500.2)**

Director Cipriano presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Student Transportation Policy (500.2), following the vetting process.

Following discussion, the Committee of the Whole recommended the following additional amendments:

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Student Transportation Policy (500.2), as presented.

**APPROVED**

#### **1.2. Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy (800.7)**

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy (800.7), following the vetting process.

Following discussion, the Committee of the Whole recommended the following additional amendments:

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee Huibers

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy (800.7), as presented.

**APPROVED**

#### **1.3. Code of Conduct Policy (302.6.2)**

Domenic Massi, Superintendent of Education, presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Code of Conduct Policy (302.6.2), following the vetting process.

Following discussion, the Committee of the Whole recommended the following additional amendments:

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Code of Conduct Policy (302.6.2), as presented.

**APPROVED**

**2. Governance Policies Prior to Vetting**

**2.1. Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Policy (600.1)**

Superintendent Vetrone, presented the Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Policy (600.1).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Policy (600.1), be vetted from March 6, 2024 to May 1, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in May, for consideration to the Board in May.

**2.2. Employee Workplace Harassment Policy (201.7)**

Julia Tiessen, Executive Officer of Human Resources, presented the Employee Workplace Harassment Policy (201.7).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Employee Workplace Harassment Policy (201.7), be vetted from March 6, 2024 to May 1, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in May, for consideration to the Board in May.

**2.3. Employee Workplace Violence Policy (201.11)**

Executive Officer Tiessen, presented the Employee Workplace Violence Policy (201.11).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Employee Workplace Violence Policy (201.11), be vetted from March 6, 2024 to May 1, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in May, for consideration to the Board in May.

**2.4. Occupational Health and Safety Policy (201.6)**

Executive Officer Tiessen, presented the Occupational Health and Safety Policy (201.6).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Occupational Health and Safety Policy (201.6), be vetted from March 6, 2024 to May 1, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in May, for consideration to the Board in May.

### 3. Governance Policy Review Schedule

Director Cipriano presented the Governance Policy Review Schedule.

## D. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

### 1. Interim Math Achievement Action Plan

Kimberly Kinney, Superintendent of Education presented the Niagara Catholic Math Achievement Action Plan 2023-2024 Interim report.

Superintendent Kinney answered questions of Trustees.

Moved by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board continues to endorse the Math Achievement Action Plan 2023-2024 – Interim Report, as presented.

**APPROVED**

### 2. Monthly Updates

#### 2.1 Student Trustees' Update

Charlotte Johnstone, Student Trustee, presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

#### 2.2 Senior Staff Good News Update

Senior Staff highlights included:

##### **Superintendent Zaroda**

- Niagara Catholic skills competition took place last week with 200 students participating in 27 different events. The event culminated in an awards assembly where students received their medals and many students received prizes and monetary gifts from a variety of community partners. These students will move on to further competitions. In addition, 100 grade 7 students participated in their own workshop.

##### **Superintendent Pizzoferrato**

- We've expanded our partnership with Learnstyle to enhance our education services. Learnstyle, the creator of our new software, Rise, provides technology coaching for students using supportive devices to optimize their use. We're also administering individualized literacy screeners to assess reading skills. Students identified for additional instruction may join the Corrective Reading program, supporting Tier 3 reading interventions for grades K-12.
- Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School hosted a Mardi Gras-themed Special Education Formal for students from across Niagara Catholic on February 13th. The event featured a colorful parade, a photo booth, a music video, and an art exhibition.

Participants enjoyed a delicious lunch and a lively dance. Saint Michael Catholic High School will host a Mustang Hoedown on May 17<sup>th</sup> at Heartland Forest in Niagara Falls. Students can explore the forest's Nature Discovery Centre, accessible trails, and Sensory Garden. There will be guided activities like face painting, bubbles, and games, followed by music for line dancing after lunch.

## **E. INFORMATION**

### **1. Trustee Information**

## **F. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action**

- 1.1 Trustees are reminded of the Lenten retreat taking place on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School.
- 1.2 Reminder of the Niagara Foundation Gala on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at Club Roma.

## **G. BUSINESS IN CAMERA**

Moved by Trustee Huibers

**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 7:49 p.m. and reconvened at 7:56 p.m.

## **H. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION**

An update was given on OECTA negotiations.

## **I. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Marino

**THAT** the March 5, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

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Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **March 5, 2024.**

Approved on **April 9, 2024.**

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Rhianon Burkholder  
Vice-Chair of the Board

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Camillo Cipriano  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer