

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
APRIL 23, 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING OF APRIL 9, 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 9, 2024, as presented.

The following recommendations are being presented for the Board's consideration from the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 9, 2024:

7.1.1 Elementary Standardized Dress Code (Safe Schools) Policy (302.6.10)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Elementary Standardized Dress Code (Safe Schools) Policy (302.6.10), as presented.

7.1.2 Advocacy Policy (100.9)

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Advocacy Policy (100.9), as presented.

7.1.3 Board and Committee Meeting Dates Calendar 2024-2025

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Board and Committee Meeting Dates Calendar 2024-2025, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, April 9, 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 Marino.

2. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Burkholder noted that Trustee Benoit's absence approved due to sanction, and Student Trustees Johnstone and 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	✓			
Student Trustees				
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 Bruzzese

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 9, 2024, as presented.

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 March 5, 2024**

Moved by Trustee Marino

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 5, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

6. **Consent Agenda Items**

6.1 **Extended Overnight Field Trip, Excursion and Exchange Committee**

Presented for information.

6.2 **Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities**

Presented for information.

6.3 **Capital Projects Progress Report Update**

Presented for information.

6.4 **In Camera Item G1**

Moved by Trustee Huibers

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. Elementary Standardized Dress Code (Safe Schools) Policy (302.6.10)

Domenic Massi, Superintendent of Education presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Elementary Standardized Dress Code (Safe Schools) Policy (302.6.10), following the vetting process.

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

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee Joyner

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Elementary Standardized Dress Code (Safe Schools) Policy (302.6.10), as presented.

APPROVED

1.2. Advocacy Policy (100.9)

Giancarlo Vetrono, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services, presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Advocacy Policy (100.9), 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 Advocacy Policy (100.9), as presented.

APPROVED

2. Governance Policies Prior to Vetting

2.1. Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10)

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, presented the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10), be vetted from April 10, 2024 to May 29, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in June, for consideration to the Board in June.

2.2. Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction Policy (100.7)

Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education, presented the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction Policy (100.7).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- Paragraph 3 – remove last line
- Add “*The names of the individuals or groups nominated for this award will be brought to the Board for information at an in-camera Board meeting. The names of the recipients of this award will also be brought for information at an in-camera Board meeting.*”

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction Policy (100.7), be vetted from April 10, 2024 to May 29, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in June, for consideration to the Board in June.

2.3. Attendance Area Policy (301.3)

Clark Euale, Controller of Facilities Services, presented the Attendance Area Policy (301.3).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- Paragraph 3 – add “*region*”

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Attendance Area Policy (301.3), be vetted from April 10, 2024 to May 29, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in June, for consideration to the Board in June.

2.4. Leadership Pathways Policy (203.4)

Superintendent Rocca presented the Leadership Pathways Policy (203.4).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Leadership Pathways Policy (203.4), be vetted from April 10, 2024 to May 29, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in June, for consideration to the Board in June.

3. Governance Policy Review Schedule

Director Cipriano presented the Governance Policy Review Schedule.

D. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Enrolment and Retention Report

Joseph Zaroda, Superintendent of Education provided background information on Enrolment and Retention, and introduced Andrew Boon, Principal of Notre Dame College School and Adel Filice, Principal of Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School.

Superintendent Zaroda answered questions of Trustees.

Mr. Boon and Ms. Filice presented the Enrolment and Retention report for Trustee information.

Mr. Boon and Ms. Filice answered questions of Trustees.

2. Draft Board and Committee Meeting Dates Calendar 2024-2025

Director Cipriano presented the Draft Board and Committee Meeting Dates Calendar 2024-2025.

Moved by Trustee Marino

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Draft Board and Committee Meeting Dates Calendar 2024-2025, as presented.

CARRIED

3. Monthly Updates

3.1 Student Trustees' Update

Deferred to May Committee of the Whole meeting.

3.2 Senior Staff Good News Update

Senior Staff highlights included:

Director Cipriano

- Annually, the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association organizes a fundraiser titled Toonies for Tuition, aimed at supporting provinces without publicly funded Catholic education. Niagara Catholic high schools, along with an elementary school, have collectively raised over \$6,500 to contribute to this noble cause.

E. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

1.1 Celebrating Excellence Awards Ceremony – May 8, 2024

Director Cipriano extended an invitation to the Celebrating Excellence Awards Ceremony taking place on May 8, 2024.

Trustees were asked to confirm their attendance with Anna Pisano.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

1. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

- 1.1 Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, noted that the NCPIC Parent Night will be held at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School Thursday, April 11th at 5:00 pm and asked that Trustees confirm their attendance.

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 8:06 p.m. and reconvened at 8:11 p.m.

H. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Huibers

THAT the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 9, 2024.

CARRIED

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Huibers

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 March 5, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED (Item G1)

The Trustees were presented with an update on Capital Priorities.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Huibers

THAT the April 9, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **April 9, 2024.**

Approved on **May 14, 2025.**

Rhianon Burkholder
Vice-Chair of the Board

Camillo Cipriano
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
APRIL 23, 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: ELEMENTARY STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE (SAFE
SCHOOLS) POLICY (302.6.10)**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Elementary Standardized Dress Code (Safe Schools) Policy (302.6.10), as presented

Prepared by: Domenic Massi, Superintendent of Education

Presented by: Domenic Massi, Superintendent of Education

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: April 23, 2024



Niagara Catholic District School Board

ELEMENTARY STANDARDIZED DRESS CODE POLICY (Safe Schools)

STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE POLICY

300 – Schools/Students

Policy No 302.6.10

Adopted Date: November 27, 2012

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: November 24, 2020

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board and in accordance with the dress code requirements of the *Safe Schools Act*, all elementary schools within the Niagara Catholic District School Board will implement an elementary standardized dress code that creates a unified sense of belonging for all students from Kindergarten to Grade 8.

This Policy acknowledges a respect for self and others by supporting each student to actively and equitably participate fully in the Catholic learning environment through the creation of safe, inclusive and accepting school climates.

The elementary standardized dress code promotes Catholic school identity, instills pride and spirit, and supports the commitment of students to be visible Catholic role models of the Gospel Values and the Ontario Catholic School Graduation Expectations in our Catholic school communities.

The elementary standardized dress code strives to equalize peer pressure through proper and respectful dress which is intended to be economical for all families. All Niagara Catholic elementary standardized dress code items as defined in the Administrative Operational Procedures can be purchased either through Board suppliers or through parent/guardian selected retail stores who supply the acceptable elementary standardized dress code clothing items.

This Policy has been developed in compliance with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the *Ontario Human Rights Code* and the *Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario* and for the purpose of this Policy, the term standardized elementary dress code aligns with the *Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario* term dress code.

The Director of Education will issue [*Administrative Operational Procedures*](#) for the implementation of this policy.

References:

- [*Ephesians 4:1 “Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”*](#)
- [*Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*](#)
- [*Education Statutes and Regulations of Ontario - Regulation 298 S.23 \(1\) \(f\)*](#)
- [*Ontario Human Rights Code*](#)
- [*Safe Schools Act, 2007. Education Act S. 301 \(1\) \(3\), 302 \(3\) \(5\)*](#)
- [*Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations*](#)
- [*Niagara Catholic District School Board Policies/Procedures*](#)
 - [*Dress Code-Secondary Uniform Policy \(302.6.6\)*](#)
 - [*Purchasing / Supply Chain Management Policy \(600.1\)*](#)
 - [*Religious Accommodation Policy \(100.10.1\)*](#)
 - [*Fundraising \(301.4\) AOP*](#)

Adopted Date: November 27, 2012

Revision History: February 23, 2016
November 24, 2020

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
APRIL 23, 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: ADVOCACY POLICY (100.9)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Advocacy Policy (100.9), as presented

Prepared by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services

Presented by: Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: April 23, 2024



Niagara Catholic District School Board

ADVOCACY POLICY

STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE POLICY

100 - Board

Policy No 100.9

Adopted Date: March 27, 2007

Latest Reviewed/Revised Date: May 26, 2020

In keeping with the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, the Board supports and engages in direct ongoing communication with the Diocese of St. Catharines and the Government of Ontario to identify and discuss policies, financial issues and other common interests. The Board will work in partnership with all its education partners including other school boards and governments (local, provincial and federal) through established channels with the objective of maximizing resources for students.

The Niagara Catholic District School Board also recognizes that Ontario has an effective education governance structure to ensure there is open and ongoing communication with the province, including partnership tables, regular meetings and other vehicles established by the government.

The Board communicates indirectly with the government through established professional and interest advocacy organizations including, but is not limited to, Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA), Ontario Catholic School Business Officials Association (OCSBOA), Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association (OCSOA), Catholic Council of Ontario Directions of Education (ECCODE), Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario (CPCO), and the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE).

Definition Advocacy:

Advocacy is active support for an idea or a cause. It can take many forms, but includes speaking up and drawing attention to an important issue. It may also include influencing decision-makers. It usually involves the interests of specific groups or organizations and the interests of the government.

In education, advocacy often revolves around topics such as funding, special needs, language delivery, or early childhood education; the common denominator is the interests of students and the value of publicly funded education.

The Director of Education will issue [Administrative Operational Procedures](#) for the implementation of this Policy.

References

- ***Niagara Catholic District School Board Policies/Procedures***
 - [***Employee Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy \(201.17\)***](#)
 - [***Trustee Code of Conduct Policy \(100.12\)***](#)

Adopted Date: March 27, 2007

Revision History: May 27, 2014
May 26, 2020

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
APRIL 23, 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETING DATES CALENDAR 2024-2025

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Board and Committee Meeting Dates Calendar 2024-2025, as presented.

Prepared by: Corporate Services

Presented by: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Recommended by: Committee of the Whole

Date: April 23, 2024



REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE APRIL 9, 2024

BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETING DATES CALENDAR 2024-2025

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At the February 27, 2024 Board Meeting, the Board approved the 2024-2025 School Year Calendar for submission to the Ministry of Education. On March 4, 2024 the board was notified by the Ministry of Education that the “electronic school year calendar submission meets the requirements of Sections 2, 3, and 4 of Regulation 304 – School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days and is deemed compliant for posting”.

Annually, staff utilizes the approved Board and Ministry of Education school year calendar to design the Board School Year Calendar and Meeting Dates along with a calendar of dates for school and system activities, celebrations, events, faith formation, meetings and professional development.

In compliance with the Niagara Catholic District School Board By-Laws on Annual Organizational Meeting (Section 7), Regular Meetings of the Board (Section 8) and Committee Meetings (Section 19), meeting date recommendations from the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC), the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and the Audit Committee along with historical annual meeting date adjustments for the Committee of the Whole and Board Meetings in December and June, a draft Board and Committee Meeting Dates Calendar 2024-2025 is presented for the consideration of the Committee of the Whole (Appendix B).

When the Board approves the Board and Committee Meeting Dates Calendar 2024-2025, staff will place a copy on Board websites and notify Board Committees and staff.

Appendix A – Board and Committee Meeting Dates Calendar 2024-2025 (Draft)

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Draft Board and Committee Meeting Dates Calendar 2024-2025, as presented.

Prepared By: Corporate Services

Presented By: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Recommended By: Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer

Date: April 9, 2024



NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

2024-2025 School Year Calendar & Meeting Dates

SEPTEMBER 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 SEAC	5 NCPIC	6	7
8	9	10 SAL CW	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 AC	19	20	21
22	23	24 BD	25	26	27	28
29	30					

OCTOBER 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 SEAC	3	4	5
6	7	8 SAL CW	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 BD	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6 SEAC	7 NCPIC	8	9
10	11	12 SAL CW	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 AC	21	22	23
24	25	26 BD	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3 ORG BD CW	4 SEAC	5	6	7
8	9	10 SAL	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 BD	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Christmas	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JANUARY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 SEAC	9 NCPIC	10	11
12	13	14 SAL CW	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 BD	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5 SEAC	6	7	8
9	10	11 SAL CW	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 BD	26	27	28	

MARCH 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 SAL CW	5 Ash Wednesday	6 NCPIC SEAC	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 AC	20	21	22
23	24	25 BD	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 SEAC	3	4	5
6	7	8 SAL CW	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Holy Thursday	18 Good Friday	19 Holy Saturday
HOLY WEEK						
20 Easter	21 Easter Monday	22 BD	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 NCPIC	2	3
4	5	6	7 SEAC	8	9	10
CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK MAY 4-9						
11	12	13 SAL CW	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 BD	28	29	30	31

JUNE 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4 SEAC	5	6	7
8	9	10 SAL CW	11	12 AC	13	14
15	16	17 BD	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JULY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

AUGUST 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

REGULAR SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

- Committee of the Whole Meeting
- Supervised Alternative Learning Meeting
- Board Meeting
- Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board
- Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting
- Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting
- Audit Committee Meetings

- 6:30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday of each month or as Noted
- 2:00 p.m. 2nd Tuesday of each month or as Noted
- 6:30 p.m. 4th Tuesday of each month or as Noted
- 6:00 p.m. 1st Tuesday of December
- 6:30 p.m. 1st Wednesday of each month or as Noted
- 6:30 p.m. 1st Thursday bi-monthly or as Noted
- 10:00 a.m. As Noted

- CW
- SAL
- BD
- ORG
- SEAC
- NCPIC
- AC

- Elementary P.A. Day
- Statutory/Other
- Secondary P.A. Day
- School Holidays
- Elementary & Secondary P.A. Day
- Secondary Exams

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
APRIL 23 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2024
AND MARCH 6, 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Meeting of February 7, 2024 and March 6, 2024 as presented for information.



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024
6:30 PM**

Virtual Meeting in Compliance with Education Act Section 207 and
Ontario Regulation 463/97 Section 5.1 (2)

PUBLIC ACCESS LIVE STREAM LINK
<https://niagaracatholic.ca/meetings-livestream/>

APPROVED

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement – Susy Walsh

Introduction:

The Niagara Catholic District School Board wishes to honour the Indigenous people who have been the protectors of this land, known as Turtle Island, for more than ten thousand years.

We begin this meeting by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

2. Opening Prayer – Chair Somma

3. Roll Call

Roll Call Members	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Somma, Monique	Community Living (Welland/Pelham) - CHAIR	X	
Cipriano, Madeline	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region		X
Maxwell, Michelle	Niagara Children’s Centre	X	
T.B.D.	Pathstone Mental Health		X
Andrea Pede	Down Syndrome Niagara	X	
Attree, Alexandria	Autism Ontario Niagara Region		X
T.B.D.	Indigenous Representative		X

T.B.D.	Mainstream		X
Smith, Rita	Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)		X
Wilson, Alyson	Bethesda Services		X
Donato, Krystine	Community Representative	X	
Joyner, Doug	Trustee of the Board		X
Marino, Jim	Trustee of the Board	X	
Cipriano, Camillo	Director of Education		X
Filice, Adele	Principal, Secondary	X	
Walsh, Susy	Principal, Elementary	X	
Pizzoferrato, Gino	Superintendent of Education	X	
Alli, Babra	Student Senate Representative	X	
Di Gioia, Jim	Coordinator of Student Support		X
Giancola, Danny	Coordinator of Student Support		X
Criddle, Ann Marie	Coordinator of Student Support	X	

Observers	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Keigan, Kelly	Speech-Language Pathologist		X
Brochu, Grace	Student Support Facilitator		X
Nemcko, Julia	Behaviour Analyst		X
Mancuso, Vince	Behaviour Resource Teacher		X
Bailey, Babette	Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing	X	
Hornick, Tina	Special Initiative Teacher		X
Loughhead, Brooke	ABA Lead		X
Ciarlo, Melissa	Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary		X
Taylor, Paige	Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary	X	

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Madeline Cipriano

Seconded by: Alyson Wilson

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No disclosure of interest was declared with any items on the agenda.

6. Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of January 10th, 2024.

Moved by: Madeline Cipriano

Seconded by: Alyson Wilson

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Julia Nemcko – ABASE

C. AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Chair's Report** – Chair Somma

2. **Accessibility Committee Update** – Chair Somma

3. **Goals Update**

4. **MACSE** – Superintendent Pizzoferrato

D. AGENCY REPORTS

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region – Madeline Cipriano

Niagara Children's Centre – Michelle Maxwell

Pathstone Mental Health – Vacant
N/A

Down Syndrome Niagara –Andrea Pede

Autism Ontario Niagara Region - Alexandria Attree

Mainstream – Vacant
N/A

Bethesda Services – Alyson Wilson

Extensive Needs Service – Niagara Collaborative

Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet) – Rita Smith

Community Living (Welland/Pelham) – Monique Somma

E. STUDENT REPORT

Student Senate Representative - Babra

F. STAFF REPORTS

Secondary Principal – A. Felice

Elementary Principal – S. Walsh

Student Support Department - Superintendent Pizzoferrato/Danny/Jim/Ann Marie

G. TRUSTEE REPORTS –Trustee Marino

H. NCPIC REPORT

I. NOTICES OF MOTION

N/A

J. INFORMATION ITEMS

K. MOMENT OF SILENCE / REFLECTION OF LIFE

L. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 6:30 pm

M. ADJOURNMENT:



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2024
6:30 PM**

Virtual Meeting in Compliance with Education Act Section 207 and
Ontario Regulation 463/97 Section 5.1 (2)

APPROVED

ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement – Susy Walsh

Introduction:

The Niagara Catholic District School Board wishes to honour the Indigenous people who have been the protectors of this land, known as Turtle Island, for more than ten thousand years.

We begin this meeting by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

2. Opening Prayer – Chair Somma

3. Roll Call

Roll Call Members	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Somma, Monique	Community Living (Welland/Pelham) - CHAIR	X	
Cipriano, Madeline	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region		X
Maxwell, Michelle	Niagara Children’s Centre		X
T.B.D.	Pathstone Mental Health		X
Andrea Pede	Down Syndrome Niagara	X	
Attree, Alexandria	Autism Ontario Niagara Region		X
T.B.D.	Indigenous Representative		X
T.B.D.	Mainstream		X

Smith, Rita	Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)		X
Wilson, Alyson	Bethesda Services		X
Donato, Krystine	Community Representative		X
Joyner, Doug	Trustee of the Board		X
Marino, Jim	Trustee of the Board	X	
Cipriano, Camillo	Director of Education		X
Filice, Adele	Principal, Secondary	X	
Walsh, Susy	Principal, Elementary	X	
Pizzoferrato, Gino	Superintendent of Education	X	
Alli, Babra	Student Senate Representative	X	
Di Gioia, Jim	Coordinator of Student Support		X
Giancola, Danny	Coordinator of Student Support		X
Criddle, Ann Marie	Coordinator of Student Support	X	

Observers	Affiliations	Yes	Excused
Keigan, Kelly	Speech-Language Pathologist		X
Brochu, Grace	Student Support Facilitator	X	
Nemcko, Julia	Behaviour Analyst		X
Mancuso, Vince	Behaviour Resource Teacher	X	
Bailey, Babette	Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing		X
Hornick, Tina	Special Initiative Teacher		X
Loughhead, Brooke	ABA Lead		X
Taylor, Paige	Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary	X	

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Table this item

5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No disclosure of interest was declared with any items on the agenda.

6. Approval of Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of February 7, 2024.

Moved by: Table this item

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Giancarlo Vetrone – Financial

C. AGENDA ITEMS

1. **Chair's Report** – Chair Somma
2. Future SEAC meetings offsite
April – Community Living Port Colborne
May – Community Living Welland/Pelham
June - Bethesda
3. **Accessibility Committee Update** – Chair Somma
4. **Goals Update**

D. AGENCY REPORTS

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region – Madeline Cipriano

The LDANR's Summer SLAM Camp Applications are open on our website. The camp is for children ages 6-11, and sites will be held in both Thorold and St Catharines this year. Eligible families can register for as many weeks as they would like. For more information and to register, please visit our website at ldaniagara.org

We will also be opening our Spring Applications on Monday, March 18th at 6:00 am for our BEST, Reading Rocks, Student Social, and Parent Social programs. The information can also be found on our website.

We will be holding our annual trivia night on Friday, March 22nd to help support our programs and services. You are welcome to register a table, or register as an individual where we will pair you up with other individual registrants. There will be free pizza, lots of prizes, and some tricky questions – so come out to help us support our organization.

The LDANR would also like to provide information about an event not held by our organization, but by another community organization, Gallery Players. They will be hosting a free Adaptive Performance for neurodiverse individuals on Saturday, April 6th to help them engage with classical music. The free performance will be held by the distinguished String Ensemble, The Eybler Quartet, at the Thorold Senior Centre. They will have quiet space available for attendees, fidget devices, reserved seating, and other accessibility friendly measures to ensure that all attendees enjoy the night. For more information, please visit their website at [Intimate Chamber Music | Gallery Players of Niagara](#).

Niagara Children's Centre – Michelle Maxwell

This month's report contains a continuation of two great new initiatives that have been brought forward previously. Our continued roll out of the tiered model for therapy services, and planning for our new extensive needs program. As the lead alongside Contact Niagara for the extensive needs program, we are continuing to design and implement. A presentation could be made available to ERTs if interested.

Within our school-based OT services we are just finishing up this month with our first 10 schools for

early roll out of the tiered model. Focus was on k-3. The program manager will be confirming on Thursday with Student Support Coordinators the next number of schools. There will be 7 this time round due to staffing challenges related to retirement vacancy and mat leaves. Verbal reports received thus far from SSF's and therapists, have been very positive. Lots of shared mutual learning between therapists and educators.

The therapists report they have had a greater feeling of connectedness with the schools due to the concentrated frequency of visits and they have reported that the schools have been exceptionally welcoming. They have found being embedded within the classrooms during contextual learning activities has helped with "in the moment" relevant modeling, coaching and dialogue to facilitate opportunities of implementing universal design activities in a proactive way, ideally mitigating need for future referrals as concern being addressed in timely manner, while also supporting inclusivity.

We will be following up with a survey monkey to the 10 schools after March Break to do further analysis and look for opportunities for continued development and improvement.

We are knee deep in the preschool to school transition process with functional checklist meetings completed for the first round of children and All About Me's starting to be completed with families for dissemination to boards. To date we have had an increase over last year at this time, in parents telling us they have not yet registered for school and we also had only a 50% uptake on the observation sessions for children not attending child care. We will continue to follow up with new referrals and new pickups that are a 2020 date of birth to assist them with the transition process.

Pathstone Mental Health – Vacant

Down Syndrome Niagara –Andrea Pede

World Down Syndrome Day – Thursday, March 21st, 2024

World Down Syndrome Day is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. This year on World Down Syndrome Day, we are asking supporters around the world to call for an end to stereotypes! People with Down syndrome and intellectual disabilities encounter stereotypes every day. This can lead to people with disabilities being underestimated, excluded, treated poorly, and even abused. Join us in creating a single, global voice during March by sharing the **#EndTheStereotypes** message. Help raise awareness and start conversations at school, work, and everywhere you go by wearing colourful or mismatched socks.

In the past, many global landmarks have lit up for World Down Syndrome Day. The Niagara Falls are often lit in special colours for many registered charities marking a significant date in support of their cause. **This year on World Down Syndrome Day, Niagara Falls will be lit up blue and yellow from 10:15 – 10:30 pm.**

WDSO School Resources

Leading up to World Down Syndrome Day, the CDSS is reminding school administrators about their Education Hub which is filled with shareable, printable resources and quick guides that include practical tips and suggestions to help support students as they learn together in the school community. The WDSO website also offers FREE, downloadable resources, including a guide for children, that educators can use in the classroom created to talk to children about Down syndrome, intellectual disabilities, and stereotypes.

DSN Annual Trivia Night

Gather your friends, family, and colleagues for an unforgettable evening filled with brain-teasing questions, laughter, and friendly competition. There will be a silent auction, 50/50 draw, and many prizes to be won.

Autism Ontario Niagara Region - Alexandria Attree

Mainstream – Vacant

N/A

Bethesda Services – Alyson Wilson

Extensive Needs Service – Niagara Collaborative

Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet) –

Community Living (Welland/Pelham) – Monique Somma

E. STUDENT REPORT

Student Senate Representative - Babra

2. STAFF REPORTS

Secondary Principal – A. Felice

Elementary Principal – S. Walsh

3. Student Support Department - Superintendent Pizzoferrato/Danny/Jim/Ann Marie

Secondary Special Education Classroom Events

Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School graciously hosted a Mardi Gras themed Special Education Formal event for Special Education Classroom students from across Niagara Catholic on February 13th. Students enjoyed a wonderfully colourful Marti Gras parade complete with festive beads, a photo booth and a video of top song requests from the various schools from Mendelt Music Therapy. Participants were also treated to an art showing from keynote speaker and Art from the Heart artist, Aiden Lee. This was followed by a delicious lunch and lively dance. We wish to give

heartfelt thanks to the staff and students of Holy Cross for their warm and generous hospitality. A wonderful time was had by all who attended.

We are pleased to announce that Saint Michael Catholic High School will be hosting a Mustang Event for the next board-wide Special Education Event which will take place on Friday May 17th at the Heartland Forest in Niagara Falls. Students will have time to explore the many exciting aspects of the forest including the Nature Discovery centre, Accessible Nature trails and Sensory Garden. They will be able to engage with a variety of stations prepared with guided activities such as face painting, bubbles and active games, to name a few. Following lunch, there will be music for those who want to show off their best line dance moves! Thanks are extended to the staff and students of Saint Michael in advance of this exciting event.

Student Support Learning Sessions for Educational Resource Teacher and Special Education Classroom Teachers

Student Support has completed Secondary schools Family of Schools meetings with Elementary and Secondary ERTs focusing on grade 8 to 9 transitions and continuing conversations around pathway planning including the Transitional-Aged Youth (TAY) process.

Gifted module

The next Gifted Module, hosted at Notre Dame College School in Welland, will engage students in hands-on learning to complete a set of science experiments. Students will investigate the concepts of space and time while exploring their thinking related to distance and speed. While collaborating in small groups, students will be challenged to maximize outcomes for the various experiments.

F. TRUSTEE REPORTS –Trustee Marino

In an earlier report, I mentioned the serious financial problems facing supporters of nutrition programs in schools all across Canada. Reasons include higher costs for food and delivery compounded by a large increase in the number of students depending on school nutrition programs. Now concerted efforts are being made to have increased assistance at provincial and federal government levels.

As a follow up to the federal government's National Review of Food Policy conducted in 2023, the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association has just sent a letter to the Federal Minister of Finance with suggestions regarding the 2024-2025. The letter supports the concept of a universal national food policy and program for publicly funded schools, with certain requirements. The Association claims the program could provide a variety of benefits that include: improving access to nutritious food for students, allowing all students to focus on learning in school, addressing food insecurity and the resulting anxiety and mental challenges that affect students, and improving student achievement and well-being.

Recommendations say the food program should be available at every publicly funded Catholic school: Be accessible, at no cost to the student or their care provider, their school or school board: Offered in a manner that is stigma free. There are other recommendations and requests in the letter and I have copies to distribute. The Association is calling on the government to move forward with its 2021 election commitment of \$1 billion dollars over five years, with a minimum of \$200 million per year to be included in the 2024 budget for a National Food Program. It was included in 2022, but not 2023.

On Thursday, March 21, three long-time supporters of Catholic Education will be honoured with the presentation of the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction.

They are John Belcastro senior, a former principal, vice principal, trustee and board chair. Sister Mary Kay Camp who has been involved in Catholic Education for 50 years in Niagara. She is a former teacher and Principal, and is currently Diocesan Director, Office of Religious Education. The third recipient is Angelo Di Ianni, a former Director of Education who is known for having established faith formation programs, religious education credit programs, was instrumental in creating the province's first regional Catholic Council, and the Italian Heritage Language program, leading to government support and funding of all international language programs. The Awards will be presented at the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education's Annual Benefit Gala at Club Roma in support of students in need and scholarships. The honorary guest is His Excellency Bishop Gerard Bergie.

G. NCPIC REPORT – Read by Gino Pizzoferrato

The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee is pleased to invite all Niagara Catholic parents/guardians to a Faith Formation/Parent Engagement Event on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School. Fr. Paul MacNeil will open the evening with Faith Formation for parents with the topic of Family Prayer.

Parents/guardians will have the opportunity to participate in two workshops presented by Niagara Region Public Health: ***Adolescent Brain and Substance Use Prevention, Raising Competent, Confident Kids, or Youth Connectedness-Helping Students Thrive.***

Agenda:

5:00 p.m. - Light Refreshments

5:30 p.m. - Fr. Paul MacNeil-NCPIC Diocesan representative, appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines

Parent Workshops

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Breakout Session 1

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Breakout Session 2

Parents/guardians are asked to register for this event no later than Friday, April 5, 2024. Childcare will be provided for school age children up to 12 years of age.

H. NOTICES OF MOTION

N/A

I. INFORMATION ITEMS

J. MOMENT OF SILENCE / REFLECTION OF LIFE

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 6:30 pm at Community Living Port Colborne

K. ADJOURNMENT

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
APRIL 23 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TITLE: MINUTES OF THE GROWTH AND RETENTION AD HOC
COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 7, 2023**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Minutes of the Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of November 7, 2023, as presented for information.



MINUTES OF THE GROWTH AND RETENTION AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

Minutes of the Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, November 7, 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 5:42 p.m. by Chair Turner.

2. **Opening Prayer**

Opening Prayer were led by Fr. Paul MacNeil.

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	✓		
Fr. Paul MacNeil	Diocese	✓		
Anna Maxner	CUPE		✓	
Jennifer McArthur	OECTA Elementary	✓		
John Piccoli	OECTA Secondary	✓		
Rawan Omran	Elementary Student Rep			✓
Willow Shawanoo	Indigenous Community		✓	
Juliette Sullivan	Elementary Student Rep		✓	
Carrie Vernelli	NCPIC			✓

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 Brenda Annen

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Growth and Retention Committee Meeting of November 7, 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 May 30, 2023**

Moved by Brenda Annen

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Minutes of the Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of May 30, 2023, as presented.

CARRIED

7. **Progress and Implementation of Proposed Recommendations**

Senior staff provided an update on the progress and implementation of the proposed recommendations approved at the June 20, 2023 Board meeting.

Following discussion, the committee requested the recommendation that *the Niagara Catholic District School Board develop professional development days for principals and staff to share effective good practices* be amended.

Moved by Trustee Di Lorenzo

THAT beyond professional activity days, Niagara Catholic supports principals and staff to engage in ongoing learning and collaboration structures that support growth and retention.

CARRIED

Next meeting date – April 16, 2024 at 5:30 pm.

8. **Adjournment**

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

THAT the November 7, 2023 Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.