



MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, June 11, 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 Chair Di Lorenzo for Vice-Chair Burkholder.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Trustee Turner.

2. Roll Call

Chair Di Lorenzo noted that Trustees Burkholder and Huibers asked to be excused, Trustee Benoit's absence was approved due to sanction, and Trustee Joyner joined electronically.

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; **Anna Pisano**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Trustee Marino

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 11, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Declaration of Conflict of Interest was declared by Trustee Di Lorenzo with item D1 of the Agenda. This trustee has family members who are teachers, or employees of the Board and will not vote on the first portion of the motion.

5. Approval of Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 14, 2024

Moved by Trustee Marino

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 14, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

6. Consent Agenda Items

6.1 Capital Projects Progress Report Update

Presented for information.

6.2 In Camera Items G1

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

THAT the Committee of the Whole adopt consent agenda items.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. New Student Trustee and Co-Chair – Student Senate 2024-2025/2025-2026

Student Trustee Charlotte Johnstone welcomed and introduced incoming Student Trustee Taylor Sexton.

Chair Di Lorenzo extended a welcome on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

C. GOVERNANCE POLICIES

1. Governance Policies for Recommendation to the Board

1.1. Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Policy (600.1)

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services, highlighted recommended amendments to the Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Policy (600.1).

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 Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Policy (600.1), as presented.

APPROVED

1.2. Attendance Area Policy (301.3)

Clark Euale, Controller of Facilities Services, presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Attendance Area Policy (301.3), 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 Attendance Area Policy (301.3), as presented.

APPROVED

1.3. Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10)

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10), 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 Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10), as presented.

APPROVED

1.4. Leadership Pathways Policy (203.4)

Pat Rocca, Superintendent of Education, presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Leadership Pathways Policy (203.4), 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 Leadership Pathways Policy (203.4), as presented.

APPROVED

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

Superintendent Rocca presented feedback received from the vetting process and highlighted recommended amendments to the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction Policy (100.7), following the vetting process.

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

- No amendment

Moved by Trustee Turner

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction Policy (100.7), as presented.

APPROVED

D. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. 2024-2025 Original Estimates

Trustee Bruzzese chaired the Board meeting at this time.

Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business & Financial Services presented the 2024-2025 Original Estimates.

Superintendent Vetrone answered questions of Trustees.

The 2024-2025 Original Estimates has been deferred to the June 18, 2024 Board meeting, due to lack of quorum.

Trustee Di Lorenzo chaired the Board meeting at this time.

2. Monthly Updates

2.1 Student Trustees' Update

Charlotte Johnstone, and Emilio Geremia, Student Trustees, 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

- The kindergarten class from St. Ann Catholic Elementary School in St. Catharines learned about Jesus, His miracles, and the Easter Story. They wrote to Pope Francis, and received a response from the Vatican.
- Our International Ed team is thrilled to announce that 143 students from Medellin and Bogota, Colombia, chose Niagara Catholic over other Ontario districts for a 4-week stay. Due to their large number, they stayed at Brock University and were bused to our 23 schools by NSTS. On May 29, Bishop Bergie welcomed the group, emphasizing the value of our international program in fostering global community and friendships. Several appreciative letters from their families were received.
- Niagara Catholic International is honored to partner with the Municipal Government of Recife, Brazil, in a social-educational initiative for underprivileged students. Unlike publicly funded schools in Canada, Brazilian public school students often come from low-income families. Recife's Mayor Joao Campos has launched a program offering English language training and fully-paid scholarships for international summer English programs. The first 100 students have been selected, with 40 joining us at Saint Michael CHS in Niagara Falls this July. This initiative aims to expand English learning and broaden social and cultural perspectives. Additionally, Niagara Catholic is being considered for a larger program offering full academic scholarships for a semester in fall 2024 and winter/spring 2025.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells

- On May 24, 2024, Fred Fox, brother of Terry Fox, visited St. Michael Catholic Elementary School to share memories of Terry and express gratitude for the community's support of the Terry Fox Foundation.
- On May 30, students in grades four to eight performed the musical "Heroes of the Faith," directed by Principal Fera-Massi and staff, showcasing the integration of faith and the arts.
- The Niagara Roots of Empathy Baby Celebration 2024 took place on May 31, involving volunteer parents, their babies, staff, and instructors. This program, in partnership with the Early Childhood Community Development Centre, develops social-emotional skills and empathy in kindergarten classrooms.

Superintendent Kinney

- Members of the Notre Dame College School swim team had the unique opportunity to film a commercial for *Kids Help Phone*. It was part of the nation-wide campaign *Even Champions need Champions* to help bring awareness to mental health and the resources available to young Canadians. This two minute long commercial will be featured in internet platforms and 30 second and 60 second shorts will be featured on TV and cinema screens.

E. INFORMATION

1. Trustee Information

Director Cipriano reminded Trustees of the Retirement & Service Recognition Celebration on Thursday at 6:00 pm.

F. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Cyber Security

Deferred

2. General Discussion to Plan for Future Action

2.1 Director Cipriano reminded Trustees, that due to graduation celebrations, the Board meeting will be on June 18, 2024 rather than the usual 4th Tuesday of the month.

G. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

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 7:34 p.m. and reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

H. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

THAT the Committee of the Whole report the motions from the In Camera Session of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 11, 2024.

CARRIED

SECTION B: STUDENT TRUSTEES EXCLUDED

Moved by Trustee Bruzzese

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 May 14, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED (Item G1)

Discussion took place regarding the Director of Education travel allowance.

Moved by Trustee Marino

THAT the Committee of the Whole recommend that the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the recommendation as outlined in Item G4.1 of the In Camera Agenda.

CARRIED (Item G4.1)

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Joyner

THAT the June 11, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **June 11, 2024.**

Approved on **September 10, 2024.**

Danny Di Lorenzo
Chair of the Board

Camillo Cipriano
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer