

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE
WHOLE MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the unapproved Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 8, 2024, as presented.



MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024

Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, October 8, 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 Benoit.

2. Roll Call

Vice-Chair Burkholder noted that Trustee Joyner was 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**, **Gino Pizzoferrato**, **Pat Rocca**, **Domenic Massi**, 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 Huibers

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Agenda of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 8, 2024, as amended.

Add In Camera Item G2.1.1 to Consent Agenda Items

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 September 10, 2024**

Moved by Trustee Marino

THAT the Committee of the Whole approve the Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 10, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

6. **Consent Agenda Items**

6.1 **2024-2025 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants**

Presented for information.

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

Presented for information.

6.3 **Staff Development Department Professional Development Opportunities**

Presented for information.

6.4 **Capital Projects Progress Report Update**

Presented for information.

6.5 **In Camera Items G1 & G2.1.1**

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

2. Governance Policies Prior to Vetting

2.1. Board By-Laws Policy (100.1)

Director Cipriano, presented the Board By-Laws Policy (100.1).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- Page 5, Bullet i. (e) – replace “*Board*” with “*Director of Education as appropriate*”
- Page 14 Bullet (m) – add “*or delegate*”

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Board By-Laws Policy (100.1), be vetted from October 9, 2024 to November 20, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in November, for consideration to the Board in November.

2.2. Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement Policy (100.13)

Director Cipriano, presented the Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement Policy (100.13).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Trustee Expenses and Reimbursement Policy (100.13), be vetted from October 9, 2024 to November 20, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in November, for consideration to the Board in November.

2.3. Complaint Resolution Policy (800.3)

Director Cipriano, presented the Complaint Resolution Policy (800.3).

The Committee of the Whole suggested the following amendments:

- No amendment

The Committee of the Whole requested that the Complaint Resolution Policy (800.3), be vetted from October 9, 2024 to November 20, 2024 with a recommended deadline for presentation to the Committee of the Whole in November, for consideration to the Board in November.

3. Governance Policy Review Schedule

Director Cipriano presented the Governance Policy Review Schedule.

D. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

1. Religious Education Part 1 Requirement for Employment

Julia Tiessen, Executive Officer of Human Resources Services provided background information on the Religious Education Part 1 Requirement and introduced Michelle Fast and Mallory Korab, Human Resources Staffing and Labour Relations Specialists and Brennan Bunnage, Human Resources Specialist.

Ms. Fast, Ms. Korab and Mr. Bunnage presented the Religious Education Part 1 Requirement for Employment report for Trustee information.

Executive Office Tiessen answered questions of Trustees.

2. Capital Priorities Program Submissions 2024-2025

Clark Euale, Controller of Facilities Services presented the Capital Priorities Program Submissions for 2024-2025.

Controller Euale answered questions of Trustees.

3. Monthly Updates

3.1 Student Trustees' Update

Emilio Geremia and Taylor Sexton, Student Trustees, presented a brief verbal update on the current activities of the Student Senate.

3.2 Senior Staff Good News Update

Senior Staff highlights included:

Superintendent Rocca

- The theme for the October 11th Faith Day is *Called by Name, hear my voice and come follow me*. Staff will enjoy a day filled with many opportunities for reflection, celebration and thanksgiving.
- A PowerPoint presentation was shared, highlighting the activities of Niagara Catholic's Truth and Reconciliation Week. The week included educational events, ceremonies, guest speakers, prayer services, and activities focused on raising awareness about the legacy of residential schools and the broader impact of colonization on Indigenous communities. The staff and students of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha Centre's soaring eagles program also participated in the Niagara Region's Native Centre's powwow celebration on October 5th.

Superintendent Massi

- The recent intermediate soccer tournament held in Welland over a four-day period last week received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participating schools. Overall, the tournament was a great success, providing a positive and competitive experience for everyone involved.

E. INFORMATION

1. **Trustee Information**

F. OTHER BUSINESS

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

- 1.1 Director Cipriano reminded Trustees of the Blessing of the new turf field at Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School and the Special Blessing of the St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School.

G. BUSINESS IN CAMERA

Addressed within consent agenda section.

H. REPORT ON THE IN-CAMERA SESSION

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Marino

THAT the October 8, 2024 Committee of the Whole Meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **October 8, 2024.**

Approved on **November 12, 2024.**

Rhianon Burkholder
Vice-Chair of the Board

Camillo Cipriano
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

TITLE: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT PLAN 2024-2027

The Student Achievement Plan 2024-2027 report is presented for information.

Prepared by: Kim Kinney, Superintendent of Education
Amit Sansanwal, Administrator of Research and Data Analytics

Presented by: Kim Kinney, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: October 22, 2024



REPORT TO THE BOARD OCTOBER 22, 2024

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT PLAN 2024-2027

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

During the 2023-2024 school year the Ministry of Education introduced a new Student Achievement Plan which replaces the Board Improvement plan. The Student Achievement Plan is intended to support school boards in adopting the provincial priorities into their multi-year plans, with goals and indicators to focus their improvement planning process.

The provincial priorities in the Student Achievement Plan reflect the priorities in Ontario Regulation 224/23:

1. Achievement of learning outcomes in core academic skills.
2. Preparation of students for future success.
3. Student engagement and well-being.

The Student Achievement Plan is an accountability strategy to drive and assess progress on improving student outcomes and experiences in the education sector.

Key Objectives:

1. Common system-wide set of provincial priorities, goals and performance indicators for quality improvement.
2. Data-driven action planning process that leverages quantitative and qualitative data as well as community engagement.
3. Transparency to parents, students and local communities.

School Boards have been provided with a standardized framework to guide boards' improvement planning.

Student Achievement Planning Process

The Student Achievement Plan process and action plans will span a three-year cycle. The process is iterative and each year school boards will be:

Analyzing and reflecting on indicator data → Engaging and consulting with local communities → Reporting to the Public and Ministry

To enhance accountability and transparency, school boards will be asked to report annually on their commitments and progress made on student achievement outcomes.

The Ministry states that the purpose of the Student Achievement Action Plan is to level up achievement outcomes and experiences for every student. The framework outlines three priority areas and corresponding goals:

1. Priority: Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills
 - a. Goal: Improve students' literacy earning and achievement
 - b. Goal: Improve students' math learning and achievement
2. Priority: Preparation of Students for Future Success
 - a. Goal: Improve students' graduation rates and preparedness for future success
3. Priority: Student Engagement & Well-being
 - a. Goal: Improve students' participation in class time and learning
 - b. Goal: Improve student well-being

The Niagara Catholic District School Board Student Achievement Plan summary is attached.

The Student Achievement Plan 2024-2027 report is presented for information.

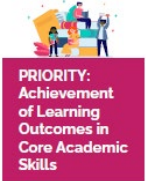
Prepared by: Kim Kinney, Superintendent of Education
Amit Sansanwal, Administrator of Research & Data Analytics




Presented by: Kim Kinney, Superintendent of Education

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

Date: October 22, 2024

Niagara Catholic District School Board Student Achievement Plan 2023-2024 – DRAFT

Ministry Priorities	Niagara Catholic Priorities	2024-2025 Goals	Strategies/Actions	Monitoring
 <p>PRIORITY: Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Skills</p>	<p><i>Advance student achievement for all students</i></p>	<p>Improve Students' literacy learning and achievement</p> <p>Improve students' math learning and achievement</p>	<p>Literacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build educator capacity in literacy instruction and assessment. Continue to build Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) approach to reading grounded in the Science of Reading. Continue professional learning sessions for all Educational Resource Teachers, Principals, Vice Principals and educators on the Acadience Universal Screener – Data Interpretation and next steps in small group instruction. Implementation of the Universal Screener twice a year in Kindergarten to Grade 2 with fidelity across the system for the 2024-2025 school year. Use screener data to support Tier 1 instruction and where needed - targeted small group classroom instruction through Lexia and Empower <p>Numeracy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build educator capacity in mathematics instruction and assessment as it relates to the three Priority Areas through the use of the new Niagara Catholic Scope and Sequence document. Engage educators in professional learning about Mathematics curricula with a focus on Grades 1-9 Engage Principals and Vice-Principals in networks for reflection and professional learning about the elements of a comprehensive math program, establishing coherence across classrooms, and coordinated support for educators, specifically through Principal Learning Teams and Short Learning Cycles. Ensure more regular use of MathUP School, MathUp Classroom, and Knowledgehook by educators for students and their families. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate implementation of MathUp Student to provide purposeful practice for students in Grades 1-8. Support schools to set school and classroom targets for increased numbers of students achieving the provincial standard on EQAO Mathematics Assessments and report cards as it relates to their Math Achievement Action Plan Continue to support tiered instruction for students in the Number strand. <p>Overall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring culturally relevant and responsive strategies are being implemented in instruction Tutors in the classroom supporting student learning in Math 	<p>% of students who meet or exceed the provincial standard on Grade 3,6, and 9 EQAO (all areas)</p> <p>% of fully participating, first-time eligible students who are successful on OSSLT</p> <p>K-2 Reading Screening Data^[AS1]</p> <p>Formative Progress Monitoring^[AS2]^[SA3]</p> <p>Report Card Data</p> <p>Knowledgehook Data^[AS4]</p> <p>Educators' Survey Data^[AS5]</p>

 <p>PRIORITY: Preparation of Students for Future Success</p>	<p>Advance student achievement for all students</p>	<p>Improve students' graduation rates and preparedness for future success</p>	<p>Implement responsive, reciprocal communication strategies with students and families which honour all voices and foster strong, active partnerships. Engage students early and often in future pathways with community partners such as municipalities, post-secondary institutions, trade unions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skilled Trades Competition, with attendance by grade 10 careers classes. Careers classes attending Level UP career/job fair Coop Fair at school level. SHSM sector leads and OYAP table representation at event. Experiential Learning Activities PD and resources for Guidance Counsellors, Co-op Teachers, Success Teachers, Program Chairs – Ongoing Board wide marketing program to highlight learning pathways through: skilled trades, dual credit, OYAP, Coop, and SHSM Hiring of school based SHSM lead to increase engagement and enrolment Expansion of OYAP Level One programming to multiple tech sector pathways to increase student engagement Building community and industry relationships through innovative and collaborative projects, including with Niagara Skilled Trades Academy Dual Credit program LiUNA Level One Construction Craft learning and employment pathway opportunity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of students who earn 16 or more credits by the end of Grade 10 % of students participating in at least one job skills program % of students graduating with an OSSD within five years of starting Grade 9 % of students enrolled in at least one Grade 12 math or Grade 11 or 12 science courses % of students who believe their learning has prepared them for the next step in their learning experience. Survey data
 <p>PRIORITY: Student Engagement & Well-being</p>	<p>Celebrate the richness of our Catholic faith and our holistic values-based Catholic education.</p>	<p>Improve students' participation in class time and learning</p>	<p>Use Growing in Faith Growing in Christ K-8 in daily religious instruction as the primary resource/program Continued implementation of our Theological Theme “Called by Name” infused in all that we do, in all classrooms, departments and school communities. Align all learning and achievement with the Catholic Graduate Expectations, including opportunities to demonstrate CGE. Foster strong relationships between the Board and Diocese and schools with their local parishes. Address student achievement and well-being in an individualized, culturally responsive manner. Continued training and support for staff within the area of student mental health and well being.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of students in Grades 1-8 whose individual attendance rate is equal to or greater than 90% % of students in Grades 4-12 who were suspended at least once % of Grade 6,9, and 10 students who report being aware of mental health supports and services in order to seek supports for mental health
 <p>PRIORITY: Student Engagement & Well-being</p>	<p>Foster inclusive, equitable and safe school communities where all are welcomed and ‘called by name’</p>	<p>Improve student well being</p>		

**TO: NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 22, 2024**

PUBLIC SESSION

**TOPIC: APPROVED MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MEETING OF
SEPTEMBER 4, 2024**

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Niagara Catholic District School Board receive the Approved Minutes of the Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of September 4, 2024, as presented for information.



**MINUTES OF THE
 SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 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 – Chair Somma

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

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	
Bowers, Christine	Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet)		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
Erica Simmanivong-Elizarraras	Mainstream	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
Prohaszka, Ashley	EA	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

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 September 4, 2024.

- **AGENDA ITEMS**

1. **Chair's Report –**
2. **Accessibility Committee Update –**
3. **Goals Update –**

- **AGENCY REPORTS**

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region

Pathstone Mental Health – Vacant
N/A

Down Syndrome Niagara – Andrea Pede

Autism Ontario Niagara Region - Alexandria Attree

Mainstream – Vacant
N/A



Bethesda Services –Bethesda offers a variety of different **Foundational Family Services and Supports** that are available to families registered with the Ontario Autism Program or Children's Behaviour Services. Our latest Service Guide can be found on our website - <https://bethesdaservices.com/en/youth/home>. All of the services are free and immediately available to families! Services include:

- Caregiver and Youth Workshops
- Social Recreational Groups
- Clinical Group Services
- Family Activities and Community Events
- Family and Sibling Support Groups
- Brief Consultation Services (SLP, OT, ABA and Mental Health Services)

For more information about the services offered at Bethesda, please contact our Service Coordinators at (905) 684-6918, ext. 170 or serviceinfo@bethesdaservices.com.

The guide includes workshops for youth designed to support a student's transition back to school, including:

Strategies for Successful Homework - Feeling overwhelmed by homework? This interactive workshop is packed with tips and tricks to help you conquer your assignments and ace your classes!

- Discover effective planning methods to stay on top of deadlines

- Get tips for tackling different types of assignments and projects
- Learn techniques to improve information retention and understanding

Date: Wednesday October 2nd, 2024 - 5:15pm - 6:15pm

Organizational Skills - Discover techniques to juggle schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and a healthy social life. Feeling stressed by schoolwork and other priorities? This interactive workshop equips you with powerful organization skills to take control of your schedule and boost your academic success!

- Develop effective planning methods to prioritize tasks and deadlines
- Learn strategies for managing files, folders, and online platforms
- Design an environment that maximizes focus and minimizes distractions

Date: Wednesday October 9th, 2024 - 5:15pm - 6:15pm

Ontario Autism Program - Entry to School Program

Bethesda and the Niagara Children's Centre serve 90 children across five classrooms through the Ontario Autism Program's **Entry to School Program (ETS)**. Three of the locations were in NCDSB schools, including:

- St. Anthony – St. Catharines
- St. Gabriel Lalemant – Niagara Falls
- St. Augustine - Welland

The current program started March 4, 2024 and ran through to the end of August. Children received up to 15 hours a week of interdisciplinary group service. The team prepared Integrated Transition to School Reports that were shared with caregivers and school staff. The ETS Program also includes consultations to families and educators to help support the child's transition to school throughout the first term.

Consultations from members of the Interdisciplinary team are still available. Educators can request consultations by emailing entrytoschool@bethesdaservices.com.

Niagara Childrens Centre - *Transition to School period for students starting the 2024/2025 school year is in its last phase, with the last large batch of our transition reports making their ways to the school boards, including our ETS summaries.*

ETS continues in partnership with Bethesda and will be collaborating on a fall cohort to support another group of students.

The Extensive Needs Program continues with our many community partners. We are at 57 clients receiving extensive needs services so far which really speaks to the need in our community. Many are simultaneously involved with our SBRS services so we have been able to streamline and use our SBRS clinicians to support the ENS needs.

Tiered OT Services under our School-Based Rehabilitation Service program continue to roll out across the elementary schools in Niagara Catholic. We also continue to add to complement with Occupational/Physiotherapy Assistants providing services under the supervision of our OTs and PTs supporting classrooms and students.

Our Fall event guide has been published and shared with the community and we continue to encourage our community partners to share these opportunities with families.

<https://www.niagarachildrenscentre.com/calendar>

Our Superhero Run is our signature fundraising event and includes a silent auction. This event not only raises essential funds for our programs but also fosters a strong sense of community support for the Centre where our centre families and the community can come together to participate in both a 5km walk/run and a 1km activity circuit. Please consider registering individually or as a team, or making a bid on one of the exciting items in our online auction: Sunday, September 29th, at Brock University

www.NiagaraSuperheroRun.ca

<https://www.32auctions.com/SuperheroRun2024>

Extensive Needs Service – Niagara Collaborative

Community Living (Port Colborne/Wainfleet) – Christine

Community Living (Welland/Pelham) – Monique Somma

E. STUDENT REPORT

Student Senate Representative - Babra

2. STAFF REPORTS

Secondary Principal – A. Felice (Away)

Elementary Principal – S. Walsh (Away)

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

F. TRUSTEE REPORTS –Trustee Marino, Trustee Joyner

G. NCPIC REPORT – No update

H. NOTICES OF MOTION

I. INFORMATION ITEMS

N/A

J. MOMENT OF SILENCE / REFLECTION OF LIFE

L. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, Oct 2, 2024 at 6:30 pm

M. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn:

Monique Somma