



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**INFORMATION SESSION  
NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MARCH 22, 2018**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Daly at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was an information session as quorum was not in attendance.

**A. ROUTINE MATTERS**

**1. Opening Prayer**

Opening prayer was led by Superintendent Forsyth-Sells.

**2. Roll Call: John Crocco, Director of Education**

<b>Parent</b>	<b>Affiliations</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Members</b>				
Shonna Daly	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	√		
Leanne Prince	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham		√	
Rebecca Williams	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham		√	
Kim Hedden	Merritton/Thorold		√	
Heather McCluckie	Merritton/Thorold		√	
Chris Kouroushis	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Rita Colling	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√	
Mary Mannella-Byers	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Josephine Muraca-Lettieri	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√	
Marion Battersby	St. Catharines		√	
Lisa Finley	St. Catharines	√		
Kate Hingston	St. Catharines	√		
Angela Lorenzo	St. Catharines		√	
Carrie Vernelli	Welland		√	
<b>Development and Peace</b>				
Leone Strilec	Development and Peace	√		
<b>Society of St. Vincent de Paul</b>				
Shelley Gilbert	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	√		
<b>SEAC Representative</b>				
Anna Racine	SEAC Representative	√		
<b>Bishop/Diocesan Representative</b>				
Fr. Peter Rowe	Bishop/Diocesan Representative	√		
<b>Secondary Student Senate Representative</b>				
Gabriel Demizio	Secondary Student Senate Representative		√	
<b>Trustees</b>				
Kathy Burtnik	Trustee	√		
Dino Sicoli	Trustee		√	

The following staff was in attendance:

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, Josie Rocca, Support Staff, and Yvonne Anderson, Recording Secretary.

Regrets sent: Rita Colling, Garbriel Demizio, Kim Hedden, Bradley Johnstone, Kim Kuchar, Angela Lorenzo, Heather McCluckie, Leanne Prince, Dino Sicoli, Carrie Vernelli, and Rebecca Williams.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

**5. Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2018**

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

**Niagara Catholic 2018-2019 System Priorities and Budget- John Crocco, Director of Education**

Director Crocco presented and reviewed the Ministry of Education Funding Model and the Niagara Catholic 2018-2019 Budget. The 2018-2019 budget has been designed to align with and to achieve the Board approved System Priorities 2018-2019 and accomplish the expectations of Niagara Catholic's Vision 2020 Strategic Plan. Director Crocco invited NCPIC members to submit a measureable action verb System Priority 2018-2019 to Superintendent Forsyth-Sells no later than April 20, 2018.

**C. Chair's Report**

**D. 2017-2018 NCPIC GOALS**

**E. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. FAITH FORMATION**

Josie suggested a Teaching Mass for Catholic School Council Chairs/Co-Chairs at St. Alfred Church on Thursday, October 25, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Further discussion will take place at the NCPIC meeting of May 3, 2018.

**2. POLICY- Chair Daly**

The following Policies and Administrative Guidelines are currently being reviewed as part of the cyclical Policy and Administrative Guidelines Review process.

- Christian Community Service Policy (400.3)
- Electronic Communications Systems Policy (Students) (301.5)
- Employee Hiring and Selection Policy (Teachers) (203.1)

*Feedback due to Jennifer Pellegrini by April 12, 2018*

- Bottled Water Policy (701.5)
- Employee Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy (201.17)
- Environmental Stewardship Policy (400.6)
- Voluntary and Confidential Self-Identification for First Nations, Métis and Inuit Students Policy (301.9)

*Feedback due to Jennifer Pellegrini by May 10, 2018*

## **F. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION**

### **1. Recommendation to the Board by the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that at the Board meeting of February 27, 2018, the Board received and approved the recommendation made by the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee:

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board review the Catholic School Councils Policy No. 800.1 to include the following statement, "that each Catholic School Council of the Board is to host an annual Faith Formation for the school community".

The recommendation was discussed at the Policy Committee Meeting on March 20, 2018. The Catholic School Council Policy No. 800.1 will be reviewed by the Policy Committee at the May 22, 2018 meeting.

### **2. Bishop's Gala**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells invited NCPIC members to attend the Bishop's Gala on Friday, April 20, 2018 at Club Roma. Tickets are available online on the Board website.

### **3. Ninth Annual Parent Involvement (PIC) Symposium**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the Minister's Ninth Annual Parent Involvement (PIC) Symposium will take place on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21, 2018 in Toronto. An invitation has been extended to the Chair of the NCPIC as well as four (4) Catholic School Council representatives and one (1) parent representative from the Board's Indigenous Education Advisory Council.

The symposium will provide an opportunity for parents from across the province to come together to discuss the importance of parent engagement and to participate in meaningful networking collaboration. The symposium will feature engaging speakers, facilitated discussions, workshops, tools and resources for parents to support their children's learning and well-being.

Overnight accommodations will be covered on Friday, April 20, 2018 for those who live in excess of 100 km. Mileage and meals will also be covered according to Ministry Guidelines. NCPIC members interested in attending the symposium are to please contact Yvonne Anderson no later than March 29, 2018.

### **4. 2018-2019 Parents Reaching Out (PRO Grants)**

Applications for the 2018-2019 Parents Reaching Out Grants are now being accepted. Applications must be completed and submitted online no later than Tuesday, June 5, 2018 at 11:59 p.m. EST. Catholic School Councils of the Niagara Catholic District School Board are encouraged to apply for the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants for the school year of 2018-2019 to support school-based initiatives to address barriers to parent engagement in support of student achievement, human rights and equity and well-being.

This year, special consideration will be given to eligible Catholic School Council projects that:

1. Support and engage parents who have not been previously active in the school community, parents from racially or ethnically diverse communities, or hard-to-reach parents; and/or
2. Support the engagement of parents from Indigenous communities; and/or
3. Promote increased access and awareness of mathematic strategies and resources for parents to support their children's learning at home and at school, or

4. Promote the value of postsecondary education (apprenticeship, college, or university) by providing parents with information on postsecondary education pathways, possibilities, and supports for their children.

**5. NCPIC Financial Report**

A financial statement was provided for information.

**G. COMMUNITY REPORTS**

**1. Development and Peace**

- The Share Lent Launch for the Diocese of St. Catharines was held on Saturday, February 3, 2018 at St. Alfred with the theme “Together for Peace”. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Bergie with representatives from 12 parishes.
- Parishes will have a collection for Share Lent on Solidarity Sunday, March 18, 2018.
- The Annual General Meeting for the Diocese of St. Catharines will take place on Saturday, May 26, 2018 at St. Alfred Church.
- Members of Development and Peace participated in a half-day session with the Grade 10 students from Saint Michael Catholic High School.

**2. Society of St. Vincent de Paul-Shelley Gilbert**

- Shelley provided a flyer in support the St. Vincent de Paul 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Trivia Night on Friday, May 25, 2018 at St. Alfred. Proceeds will support sending children to the St. Vincent de Paul summer camp in Chatham ON.
- Shelley provided background information on the North of 60 Project. St. Vincent de Paul will once again be reaching out to Niagara Catholic elementary and secondary schools to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual North of 60 project in support of the Naujaat Nunavut communities.
- Elementary and Secondary schools are supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Easter Food Drive.
- St. Vincent de Paul’s Soup Kitchen was featured on Cogeco.

**H. SEAC REPORT-Anna Racine**

- SEAC is fulfilling the 2017-2018 goals:
  - SEAC will be holding a SEAC Meeting at Denis Morris Catholic Secondary School on April, 4, 2018.
  - SEAC members will also be visiting various schools to determine the best practices of inclusion in Niagara Catholic schools.
- Director Crocco, presented the 2018-2019 System Priorities and Budget to SEAC and invited members to submit a measurable action verb System Priority for 2018-2019.
- Jim DiGioia, Special Education Coordinator, presented an informative presentation on *Supporting Niagara Catholic Students through the Individual Education Plan (IEP)*

**I. BISHOP/DIOCESAN REPORT-Fr. Peter Rowe**

Fr. Peter Rowe shared that he was delighted to join the Grade 12 students at Saint Michael Catholic High School as they discussed assisted suicide. Fr. Peter was pleased to report that the Pro-Life message is alive and active in our schools.

**J. STUDENT SENATE REPORT-***Gabriel Dimizio*

- Student Senate subcommittee created the current scholarship application by receiving feedback through multiple video chats, and review of the pros and cons of previous scholarship applications. Student Senate is promoting the Secondary Student Senate Scholarship through various social media platforms such as Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. Two (2) recipients from the 2017-2018 graduating class will receive a \$500 scholarship. Students must fill out the online application before Thursday March 29, 2018. Student Senate will be reviewing the scholarships applications anonymously.
- Student Senate is participating in the discussions around the 2018-2019 Niagara Catholic System Priorities. Student Senate has invited feedback from secondary students to present to the Board.
- At the May symposium hosted by the Student Senate the 2017-2018 Senate will meet the 2018-2019 Senate and the 2018-2019 Student Trustees will be elected.
- Student Senate continues to prepare for hosting the Ontario Catholic Student Leadership Conference (OCSLC) in October of 2018. The conference will be held at the Americana Resort and will include guest speakers and workshops while highlighting our faith. We have also added a night where guests will be able to board busses and head to Clifton Hill for a night to explore the tourist areas of Niagara Falls.

**K. STAFF REPORTS-***Josie Rocca*

- All elementary schools are currently participating in a variety of Lenten Activities and works of Charity such Share Lent, Thinkfast, Mission Days and Interactive Stations of the Cross led by our Chaplaincy leaders.
- Holy Week will be celebrated in each school with their own student-led versions of The Passion Play or Stations of the Cross.
- Schools are working on their Eco-School Designations by composting, recycling and various other projects while learning more about our environment. Earth Hour is on Saturday, March 24 with many schools celebrating earlier that week with the lights out for one hour.
- Grade Two Classes are preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Many students will receive their First Holy Eucharist with their families on Easter Sunday followed by a class mass later in the month.
- Chess Teams around the Board are preparing for their Chess Tournaments April 3-6<sup>th</sup>
- Student Art Galleries are on display at the CEC throughout the school year -Intermediate Artists are being celebrated on Feb. 28 and the Primary Art Gallery will take place in April followed by a Kindergarten Art display in May
- Schools are currently preparing for their Heritage Fairs. The Niagara Catholic system Fair takes place on April 18, 2018.
- Many other Art opportunities will take place in May as we prepare for spring and Catholic Education Week May 6-11, 2018.

**L. TRUSTEE REPORTS-Trustee Burtnik**

- Trustee Burtnik reported that Eileen McCarthy, a long-time teacher, counsellor and social justice advocate at Notre Dame College and Peter Ferren, President of the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education and former Director of Education of one of Niagara Catholic's predecessor Boards have been selected as the 2018 recipients of the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction. Trustee Burtnik invited the NCPIC members to attend the Bishop's Gala on Friday, April 20, 2018 to honour these worth recipients.
- Trustee Burtnik reported that the Ministry of Education will provide five (5) million dollars to support the amalgamation of Monsignor Clancy and St. Charles Catholic Elementary Schools.
- Trustee Burtnik reported that the Board is reviewing the possibility of incorporating St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School with the two (2) DSBN schools in Wainfleet. A public consultation has taken place and a recommendation to the Board was made on took place on February 27, 2018:

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board make an application to the Ministry of Education Joint-Use Seed Funding Program with the District School Board of Niagara, and if successful, steps will be taken to further develop the joint-use school project and report back to the Board for further approvals as required.

- Trustee Burtnik reported that it is essential for parents/guardians to provide feedback when given the opportunity as their voice is part of the decision making to support students.
- Trustee Burtnik reported that the Ministry of Education announced funding to ensure that every secondary school will have a mental health support worker to support students in need.
- Trustee Burtnik reported that provincial elections will be held on June 7, 2018 and municipal elections take place on October 22, 2018. Trustee Burtnik encouraged everyone to get out and vote.
- Trustee Burtnik stated that the Lenten season is the most important celebration of our faith and the reason we are here. Trustee Burtnik asked that we reflect on our faith, renew our promise, and have a blessed Easter.

**M. AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

**N. NEXT MEETING:**

Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.

**O. CLOSING PRAYER:** Closing Prayer was led by Fr. Peter Rowe.

**P. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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