



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 7, 2019

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

Note: The Director of Education’s designate Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells; Superintendent of Education presided over the meeting until the election of the Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells led the opening prayer about Remembrance Day with special intentions.

Welcome

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells welcomed the new and returning members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and thanked them for their support and commitment to Catholic education and parent engagement in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

2. **Roll Call:** John Crocco, Director of Education attended for the Commissioning of the members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Director Crocco also welcomed the returning and new members, and thanked them for their participation on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and their commitment to Catholic education.

Parent Members	Affiliations	Present	Excused	Absent
Shonna Daly	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	Late arrival 6:47 p.m.		
Darryl Nohara	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	√		
Kim Hedden	Merriton/Thorold		√	
Heather McCluckie	Merriton/Thorold	√		
Marilyn Fabiano	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Chris Kouroushis	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Josephine Muraca-Lettieri	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Jitto Tom Uthup	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Rita Colling	St. Catharines	√		
Jeremy Harb	St. Catharines	√		
Kate Hingston	St. Catharines	√		
AJ McLaughlin	Welland	√		
Carrie Vernelli	Welland	√		
Leone Strilec	Development and Peace	√		
Shelley Gilbert	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	√		

Fr. Peter Rowe	Bishop/Diocesan Representative	√		
Melissa Coleman/Cristina Soares	Secondary Student Senate Representative	√		
Trustees				
Dino Sicoli	Vice-Chair of the Board	√		
Leanne Prince	Trustee	√		

The following staff attended:

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells, Kim Kuchar, Elementary Principal, Brad Johnstone, Secondary Principal and Yvonne Anderson, Recording Secretary.

Regrets: Kim Hedden and Josie Rocca.

Cristina Soares attended in the absence of Melissa Coleman.

3. Commissioning of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

Fr. Peter Rowe presided over the commissioning ceremony of the members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee as they publicly proclaimed their commitment to promote the Mission of Catholic education and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Heather McCluckie

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of November 7, 2019 as presented.

CARRIED

5. NCPIC Membership 2019-2020 and Terms of Office

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the NCPIC parent/guardian membership and the terms of office were determined by consensus.

Terms of Office NCPIC Parent Members 2019-2020			
Name	Geographical Area	Terms of Office	
		One year term	Two year term
Shonna Daly	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet		√
Darryl Nohara	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham		√
Kim Hedden	Merritton/Thorold	√	
Heather McCluckie	Merritton/Thorold		√
Marilyn Fabiano	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√	
Chris Kouroushis	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√
Josephine Muraca-Lettieri	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√	
Jitto Tom Uthup	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√
Rita Colling	St. Catharines	√	
Jeremy Harb	St. Catharines		√
Kate Hingston	St. Catharines	√	
AJ McLaughlin	Welland		√
Carrie Vernelli	Welland	√	

6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Rita Colling informed the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee that she is an employee of the Board.

7. Election of Chair

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the process for the election of the Chair.
Superintendent Forsyth-Sells called for nominations for the position of Chair of the NCPIC.

Moved by: Carrie Vernelli

THAT Shonna Daly be nominated for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Shonna Daly was not present to accept or decline the nomination.

Moved by: Kate Hingston

THAT AJ McLaughlin be nominated for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked AJ McLaughlin if he wished to stand for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

AJ McLaughlin accepted the nomination.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked if there were any further nominations.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

AJ McLaughlin was acclaimed as the Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells turned over the Chairship of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting to Chair McLaughlin.

Shonna Daly arrived at 6:47 p.m. and Chair McLaughlin asked if Shonna Daly wanted to run for the position of Chair. Shonna responded that she would have liked to run for Chair, if no one else had been nominated.

A brief discussion occurred on the possibility of having Co-Chairs.

Chair McLaughlin asked Shonna Daly if she was interested in a Co-Chair position. Shonna Daly declined.

8. Election of the Niagara Catholic Regional Director for the Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE)

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the role and responsibilities of the Niagara Catholic Regional Director on OAPCE.

Chair McLaughlin called for nominations for the position of the Niagara Catholic Regional Director on OAPCE.

Moved by: Carrie Vernelli

THAT Shonna Daly be nominated for the position of the Niagara Catholic Regional Director on OAPCE.

Chair McLaughlin asked Shonna if she wished to stand for the position of the Niagara Catholic Regional Director on OAPCE.

Shonna Daly accepted the nomination.

Chair McLaughlin asked if there were any further nominations.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Shonna Daly was acclaimed as the Niagara Catholic Regional Director on OAPCE.

9. Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2019

Moved by: Rita Colling

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of September 5, 2019 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

C. 2019-2020 NCPIC GOALS

Discussion occurred on possible goal:

- To create a blueprint to support Catholic School Councils to expand beyond fundraising.

Discussion also occurred on a 2017-2018 goal:

- To create a blue print as a serving model to strengthen the triad and support Catholic education and students, parents/guardians, parish and community engagement to be presented to the Board.

D. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Nil Report

E. POLICY FEEDBACK

Chair McLaughlin reviewed the policies currently being vetted and encouraged all members to use the templates provided to assist with the collection of policy feedback.

Feedback due November 11, 2019

- Catholic Leadership Principal and Vice-Principal Selection Policy (202.2)
- Religious Accommodation Policy (100.10.1)
 - Secondary Principal Brad Johnstone, provided information on the process and the occurrences of requests for religious accommodation in Niagara Catholic.

Feedback due January 15, 2020

- Establishment and Cyclical Review of Policies Policy (100.5)
- Volunteering in Catholic Schools Policy (800.9)
- Trustee Electronic Meetings (Board and Committees) Policy (100.8)
- Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Policy (600.1)
- Code of Conduct-Safe Schools Policy (302.6.2)

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

1. Annual Reports for Catholic School Councils and the NCPIC 2018-2019

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the Annual Reports for Catholic School Councils and the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee were presented at the October 8, 2019 Committee of the Whole Meeting for information. A copy of the report was available for review.

2. Annual Catholic School Council Chairs/Co-Chairs and Members Meeting-Feedback

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that Catholic School Council Chairs and Co-Chairs in attendance found the evening to be informative and appreciated the opportunity to dialogue with other members of the Catholic School Councils and the members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

3. Review: By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells stated the NCPIC By-Laws were sent to all members for review and feedback. This item was deferred to the January 9, 2020 for further discussion.

4. NCPIC Financial Report

1. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported on the NCPIC financial statement for information.
2. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that for the 2019-2020 school year the Ministry of Education allocated funds to each board centrally for parent engagement. Niagara Catholic received \$13, 953.51. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells proposed that funds be allocated to a parent workshop with Kevin Cameron titled "Parenting with Wisdom" on January 9, 2020 at White Oaks Conference Resort and Spa.

A discussion occurred on the process for vetting a guest speaker. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that Niagara Catholic has specific guidelines and procedures when requesting to book a guest speaker or performance in Niagara Catholic schools/sites and that these guidelines and procedures are currently under review. Director Crocco reported that Principals/Vice-Principals have the right to warn a presenter or stop a performance, and if this takes place, the Principal/Vice-Principal are to contact the Family of Schools' Superintendent and the name and affiliation/organization will distribute to all school administrators within the Board.

A discussion also occurred on the cost of the parent workshop. Superintendent Forsyth-Sells stated that Kevin Cameron had volunteered his time, but that funds would be allocated to cover the cost of the room, refreshments and incidentals to accommodate parents.

Moved by: Shonna Daly

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve funding to support the parent workshop with Kevin Cameron titled “Parenting with Wisdom” on January 9, 2020 at White Oaks Conference Resort and Spa.

CARRIED

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the Ministry of Education also provided \$500.00 for parent engagement in each elementary and secondary school.

F. COMMUNITY REPORTS

1. Development and Peace-*Leone Strilec*

- Development and Peace had a nice turnout to the Fall Campaign workshop held on September 28, 2019. Eight parishes were represented at the workshop. The parish contact list for Development and Peace will be updated in order to increase the participation of parishes in the Fall Campaign.
- Development and Peace Campaign “For our Common Home”, asks us to take 3 actions to demonstrate our solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Amazon.
 1. become educated on the importance of saving the Amazon rainforest.
 2. take the intergenerational pledge, such as pledging to choose more plant-based meals, or eco-friendly transport, or consuming wisely and/or reconnecting with nature. You can also choose your own pledge idea. Pledges can be made online at <https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/forourcommonhome/pledge>.
 3. sign the Solidarity Letter, online at <https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/forourcommonhome/action>. Parishes that are supporting this campaign will set aside a specific date for the community to sign the Solidarity Letter after Sunday Masses. The Solidarity Letter will be sent to the Indigenous and traditional communities in Brazil who are working to defend the Amazon from destruction to show our support.

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

- Many elementary and high schools participated in Thanksgiving food drive to support St. Vincent de Paul.
- The Niagara Falls Thrift Store will be celebrating their 3rd anniversary on Saturday, November 16, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 3: 00 p.m.
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul hosted an information/appreciation dinner for the North of 60 project. New groups community groups committed to participating next year.
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul AGM will take place on Saturday, November 9, 2019.
- St. Vincent de Paul is getting ready for Christmas Hamper Drive and look forward to many schools participating.

G. SEAC REPORT-Nil Report

H. BISHOP/DIOCESAN REPORT-Fr. Peter Rowe

- Fr. Peter thanked all the members of the NCPIC for their commitment to Catholic education in a time of discernment.
- Fr. Peter stated that we are blessed to have Bishop Bergie at the helm of our Diocese over the past nine years.
- REGENERATE(D) 2019-Branches of the Word will be hosting an Adult and Youth Conference on November 23, 2019 at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls. Most Rev. Gerard Bergie will deliver the opening address and there will be dynamic talks from Catholic speakers: Jackie Francois, Matthew Leonard, David Patterson, Ante and Roberta Skoko.
- November 25, 2019 is the Anniversary of our Diocese. In celebration a Diocesan Anniversary Mass will be held at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria at 5:30 p.m. Married couples celebrating a 25th, 40th, 50th or 60th Anniversary in 2019 are invited to attend this beautiful celebration of married life. The celebration will continue at Club Roma following the mass.
- Fr. Peter commended the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education and the Knights of Columbus for their undertaking and promotion of the Flying Father's Hockey Game to support Niagara Catholic students in need and other local charities. Tickets are \$10.00 each and are available at local parishes and Niagara Catholic schools.

I. STUDENT SENATE REPORT-Cristina Soares

- The Lead Out Loud Forum will take place as one large event on February 28, 2020.
- Senate will be working alongside Team '72 as they discuss leadership development.
- Senate is planning to develop an elementary school senators' exclusive event.
- May Symposium: video and keynote speakers are being discussed.
- Graduation Celebration will now hopefully host all the high schools to have a more effective and exciting environment for students to interact. Senate is hoping to having more interactive games, competitions and icebreakers to promote integration and friendship among the 8 high schools and the graduating classes.
- Orange Shirt Day has been a concern for Senate. Senate is planning to make orange Shirt Day a board - wide event with board wide spirit wear. Senate is hoping to have the schools acknowledge the land on which each school is built on, and perhaps integrate a school contest in order to create more interest in the subject.
- Senate has been discussing having therapy dogs during exam week and have seen increased success with the use of quiet rooms currently in the high schools.
- Climate Change has been frequently discussed. With the advancements in technology and availability of technology, Senate is planning to have paperless meetings in the future, plastic reduction in all high schools board wide, as well as some type of school donation to the David Suzuki Fund.

J. STAFF REPORTS-*Kim Kuchar and Brad Johnstone*

Elementary and secondary school updates were provided for information.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS

- Nil Report

L. AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Kate Hingston discussed the possibility of having Fr. Greg Boyle as a guest speaker at a Niagara Catholic event. Kate shared that Fr. Greg Boyle is an American Roman Catholic priest of the Jesuit order. He is the founder and Director of Homeboy Industries, the world's largest gang-intervention and rehabilitation program, and former pastor of Dolores Mission Church in Los Angeles. Kate stated that members could listen to Fr. Greg Boyle's Clear and Vivid podcast dated September 24, 2018.

M. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at White Oaks Conference Resort and Spa.

N. CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Peter Rowe led the closing prayer with member participation.

Q. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Shonna Daly

THAT the November 7, 2019 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.
