



MINUTES OF THE ELECTRONIC NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 7, 2020

Minutes of the Electronic Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, May 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. The Electronic Meeting was held in Compliance with the Education Act Section 207 and Ontario Regulation 463/97 Section 5.1 (2) Public Access 1-866-862-7608 Access Code 2139996#.

Chair Nohara called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells led the opening prayer in celebration of Catholic Education Week and with special intentions.

2. Roll Call:

Parent Members	Geographical Area	Present Electronically	Excused	Absent
Shonna Daly	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	√		
Darryl Nohara (Chair)	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	√		
Kim Hedden	Merritton/Thorold	√		
Heather McCluckie	Merritton/Thorold	√		
Marilyn Fabiano	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Chris Kouroushis (Co-Chair)	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			√
Melanie Oakes-Flegg	Welland		√	
Carrie Vernelli	Welland	√		
Leone Strilec	Development and Peace		√	
Shelley Gilbert	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	√		
Fr. Peter Rowe	Bishop/Diocesan Representative		√	
Vincent Mancuso	Special Education Advisory Committee	√		
Melissa Coleman	Secondary Student Senate Representative			√
Trustees				
Dino Sicoli	Vice-Chair of the Board	√		
Leanne Prince	Trustee	√		

The following staff was in attendance:

John Crocco, Director of Education, Secretary/Treasurer, Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, Kim Kuchar, Elementary Principal, Josie Rocca, Support Staff and Yvonne Anderson, Recording Secretary.

Regrets: Brad Johnstone, Melanie Oakes-Flegg, Fr. Peter Rowe and Leone Strilec.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Co-Chair Kouroushis

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of May 7, 2020 as presented.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest was declared with any item on the agenda.

5. Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2020

Moved by: Rita Colling

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of March 5, 2020 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATION

C. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Faith Formation-*Josie Rocca*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the subcommittee was unable to meet. This item is deferred to the September 10, 2020 meeting.

2. Goals/Parent Engagement Events-*Chair Nohara*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the subcommittee was unable to meet. Chair Nohara suggested a virtual meeting with the subcommittee to discuss the Blueprint to support Catholic School Councils in building community, networking, fundraising and the Triad of the home, school and church. Yvonne Anderson will follow-up with Kate Hingston and send an email to all members.

D. POLICY FEEDBACK

Chair Nohara asked for feedback on the policies currently being vetted.

1. Equity and Inclusive Education Policy (100.10)
2. Retirement and Service Recognition Celebration Policy (201.2)
3. Leadership Pathways Policy (203.4)
4. Volunteer Recognition Policy (800.4)

- No feedback was received at this time.
- Members were asked to forward additional feedback to be submitted on behalf of the NCPIC to Yvonne Anderson no later than Wednesday, September 9, 2020.
- Members are also welcome to submit feedback as an individual to Jennifer Pellegrini by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2020.

E. CHAIR'S REPORT

1. Chair Nohara reported that he participated in the Niagara Catholic Alliance Committee Meeting on March 6, 2020.
2. Chair Nohara reported that he participated in the Ministry of Education Virtual Meeting with Parent Involvement Committee Chairs on April 23, 2020. PIC Chairs and Board Administration from across Ontario participated and provided feedback on the discussion questions.
Discussion Questions:
 1. Please tell us about promising practices of your PIC and board to support families and support learning from home?
 2. Please tell us about the challenges that learning at home may pose for parents and families in your board's communities?
 3. How else can the Ministry be helpful during these unprecedented times?

Chair Nohara shared that all Boards across the province are experiencing the same challenges during social/physical distancing. Chair Nohara is looking forward to receiving and sharing the report from the Ministry of Education with the NCPIC.

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

1. Niagara Catholic Updates
Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction, the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education Gala and the Annual Volunteers Breakfast had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Director Crocco, reported that Award recipients for the Catch the Spirit, Inspiration Award and Distinguished Alumni Award were acknowledged this week during Catholic Education Week through our social media and posted on our Board website. It is hoped that a Celebrating Excellence Ceremony will be held in the Fall to recognize these individuals personally.
2. Niagara Catholic 2020-2021 System Priorities and Budget
Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the feedback that was received for the Niagara Catholic 2020-2021 System Priorities and Budget will be presented in a report to the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, May 12, 2020.
3. NCPIC Meeting Dates 2020-2021
Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the NCPIC will continue to meet on a on a bi-monthly basis at the Catholic Education Centre from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There is also an option for electronic meetings.

NCPIC Meeting Dates for 2020-2021

September 10, 2020 (last meeting of the 2019-2020 school year)

November 5, 2020

January 7, 2021

March 4, 2021

May 6, 2021

Chair Nohara asked if there were any questions.

1. Co-Chair Kouroushis, inquired on the timeline for the approval of the 2020-2021 school year calendar. Director Crocco, reported that the province has put a hold on the approval of all

- school year calendars at this time. Information will be shared once confirmation has been received.
2. Director Crocco, requested parent feedback on Board and teacher/classroom supports being offered to students and parents during distance learning to continue to support student achievement and well-being. Members shared positive feedback including how teachers and support staff are being creative and supportive during distance learning at all grade levels. Appreciation was extended to administrators and staff for their acknowledgement of grade 12 graduates and support of students with special education needs throughout the Board.
 4. NCPIC Membership 2020-2021
Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported on the NCPIC Membership for the 2020-2021 school year.

Community Representatives

Community Representatives should represent and be supported by an agency, association, or organization in the Niagara Region. Interested parties are to complete and submit the community representative application form, along with a letter of recommendation from the community agency, association, or organization addressed to Frank Fera, Chair of the Board. Complete application packages must be received **no later than 4:00 p.m. EST. on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.**

Parent/Guardian Representatives

Available parent/guardian positions for the 2020-2021 Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Membership are as follows:

Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	1 position	Parent/Guardian Representative
Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	1 position	Parent/Guardian Representative
Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	2 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
St. Catharines	3 positions	Parent/Guardian Representatives
Thorold/Merritton	1 position	Parent/Guardian Representative
Welland	1 position	Parent/Guardian Representative

Interested parents/guardians are to complete and submit the parent/guardian nomination form to Yvonne Anderson **no later than 4:00 p.m. EST., on Friday, October 9, 2020.** Nomination forms are available at the school and on the Board website under the Community Tab-Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

5. OAPCE Update
Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the OAPCE AGM & Summit hosted by Halton CDSB and Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2020 at Holy Trinity High School in Oakville was postponed due to COVID-19.
6. NCPIC Financial Report
Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported on the NCPIC financial statement for information.

G. COMMUNITY REPORTS

1. Development and Peace-*Chair Nohara on behalf of Leone Strilec*
 - This year, due to COVID-19, the churches were closed for Solidarity Sunday, which is the major fundraising collection in all Canadian parishes for Development and Peace. A virtual campaign was put together and did well. However, there is a significant shortfall. Development and Peace is encouraging more people to join Share Year Round in order to

provide a consistent stream of money in order to continue to help our sisters and brothers in the Global South. In addition, a virtual ThinkFast was held across Canada with about 100 participants registered and raised over \$10,000.

- Four local members attended the virtual Ontario Regional Assembly on May 1 and 2, 2020. It was a successful meeting looking at the past year's successes and planning for a very different upcoming year.

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

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Vincent de Paul had to close all their thrift stores and Trivia Night and Summer Camp have been cancelled for the year.
- Most of the St. Vincent de Paul conferences are still distributing food, keeping their distance and handing out food at the door, and not letting anyone into the church hall.
- The Ozanam Centre (soup kitchen) is still providing bag lunches, which are distributed through the front door.
- St. Vincent de Paul is moving forward with the North of 60 project, however only one container will be sent at the end of August this year.

H. SEAC REPORT

- The Coordinators of Student Support Services will be updating the Niagara Catholic Special Education Plan in June.
- SEAC provided feedback on the Design of System Priorities and Balanced Budget 2020-2021.
- SEAC will be submitting a Community Collaboration Form to the Ministry's Advisory Council on Special Education (MACSE) on May 22, 2020 which includes successful practices and challenges.
- SEAC continues to review and provide feedback on Board policies under review.

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

- Nil Report

J. STUDENT SENATE REPORT

- Nil Report

K. STAFF REPORTS-*Kim Kuchar*

Kim Kuchar provided information on the distance learning being provided to all students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Prince

- Trustee Prince extended a thank you, to all Niagara Catholic families for their continued support, not just during the current COVID-19 pandemic, but always.
- Niagara Catholic loves seeing all of the community postings of the excitement within Niagara Catholic and our Catholic communities as we celebrate Catholic Education Week 2020 and "Igniting Hope". Trustee Prince encouraged visiting the Niagara Catholic website, and following Niagara Catholic on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for new initiatives and the latest great news and formation from across the system including Mental Health Monday, Technology Tuesday, Wisdom Wednesday, Thank you Thursday, and Faith Friday.
- The Board continues to meet electronically on a regular basis. The Committee of the Whole will review the feedback received for the Niagara Catholic 2020-2021 System Priorities and Budget at the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 12, 2020.

Trustee Sicoli

Trustee Sicoli shared that a letter sent of behalf of the Board, signed by Chair Fera and Director Crocco was sent to all Niagara Catholic staff inviting them to participate in making a donation to support Niagara Catholic students and families in need during these unprecedented times. Donations will be used to purchase Walmart gift cards and will be mailed or delivered to Niagara Catholic families in need.

M. AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/NEW BUSINESS

Congratulations and well wishes were extended to Director Crocco on his impending retirement, along with special thanks and appreciation for his leadership and commitment to Catholic Education in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

N. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. NCPIC members will be notified if this will be an in person or electronic meeting.

O. CLOSING PRAYER: Chair Nohara led the closing prayer.

P. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Kim Hedden

THAT the May 7, 2020 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.
