



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE ELECTRONIC NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

Minutes of the Electronic Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, September 10, 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 6:38 p.m.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Chair Nohara led the opening prayer.

2. Welcome

Chair Nohara welcomed Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education to the meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Chair Nohara also welcomed the two new Superintendents of Education, Kimberly Kinney and Gino Pizzoferrato as well as Clark Euale, new Controller of Facilities Services to the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Director Cipriano stated that he was pleased to be the Director of Education of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, and thanked all stakeholders for their warm welcome. Director Cipriano also thanked the members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee for their commitment and support of the parent voice as partners in Catholic education and the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

3. Letters of Resignation

Chair Nohara shared that he, himself, submitted a letter of resignation as the Chair and parent member of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee as his family has made a decision to home school for the 2020-2021 school year. Chair Nohara also shared that Heather McCluckie had also submitted her letter of resignation as a parent member, as a family decision was made to attend a private school.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells shared that Fr. Peter Rowe had submitted a letter to Bishop Bergie requesting that a new Bishop/Diocesan Representative be selected as he has held the position since 2009.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells, thanked Josephine Muraca-Lettieri and Leone Strilec who have come to the end of their terms and would not be returning, for their commitment and support of parent engagement and student achievement and well-being, as members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee throughout the years.

4. 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	√		
Development and Peace				
Leone Strilec	Development and Peace		√	
Society of St. Vincent de Paul				
Shelley Gilbert	Society of St. Vincent de Paul		√	
Bishop/Diocesan Representative				
Fr. Peter Rowe	Bishop/Diocesan Representative		√	
Special Education Advisory Committee				
Anna Racine	Special Education Advisory Committee	√		
Secondary Student Senate Representative				
Melissa Coleman	Secondary Student Senate Representative		√	
Trustees				
Vice-Chair of the Board				
Dino Sicoli	Vice-Chair of the Board	√		
Trustee				
Leanne Prince	Trustee	√		

The following staff was in attendance:

Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education, Secretary/Treasurer, Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, Gino Pizzoferrato, Superintendent of Education, Kim Kuchar, Elementary Principal, Brad Johnstone, Secondary Principal, Josie Rocca, Support Staff and Yvonne Anderson, Recording Secretary.

Regrets: Melissa Coleman, Shelley Gilbert, Heather McCluckie, Melanie Oakes-Flegg, Fr. Peter Rowe and Leone Strilec.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Shonna Daly

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of September 10, 2020 as presented.

CARRIED

6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

7. Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2020

Moved by: Co-Chair Kouroushis

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

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATION

C. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Faith Formation-*Josie Rocca*
 - Deferred
2. Goals/Parent Engagement Events
 - Deferred

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)

Members were asked to forward additional feedback to be submitted on behalf of the NCPIC to Yvonne Anderson no later than noon on Friday, September 11, 2020 or to Jennifer Pellegrini by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, September 11, 2020.

1. Dress Code-Secondary Uniform Policy (302.6.6)
2. Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy (302.6.10)
3. Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy (800.7)
4. Accessibility Customer Service Policy (800.8.1)
5. Complaint Resolution Policy (800.3)

Members were asked to forward feedback to be submitted on behalf of the NCPIC to Yvonne Anderson no later than 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 7, 2020 or to Jennifer Pellegrini by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 9, 2020.

E. CHAIR/CO-CHAIR REPORTS

1. Chair Nohara reported that Chair/Co-Chairs of parent involvement committees across Ontario were in communication with each other over the summer months, and were preparing to submit a letter to the Ministry of Education to address parental concerns regarding; safe return to school, class sizes, special education, additional staffing, remote learning and public health guidelines.
2. NCPIC Newsletter for Catholic School Councils
Co-Chair Kouroushis requested that information be provided to Principals/Vice-Principals from the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) to be shared at the Catholic School Council meetings, included in school newsletters (elementary) and shared with staff and Catholic school communities. Approved.

3. Thank you letters on behalf of the NCPIC

Co-Chair Kouroushis suggested that thank you letters be sent on behalf of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee to the parent and community members that will not be returning, and to the Niagara Catholic Senior Administrative Council retirees. Approved.

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

1. Niagara Catholic 2020-2021 System Priorities

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells invited Director of Education, Camillo Cipriano to speak to the Niagara Catholic 2020-2021 System Priorities for information.

2. Niagara Catholic Reduces Elementary Class Sizes-Media Release: September 3, 2020

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the Niagara Catholic Reduces Elementary Class Sizes-Media Release.

3. Summary Report of the Parent Involvement Committee Chairs-April 2020

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reviewed the summary report of the Parent Involvement Committee Chairs meeting received from the Ministry of Education and provided to all NCPIC members.

4. NCPIC Meeting Dates 2020-2021

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the NCPIC will continue to meet 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

November 5, 2020 (Terms of Office and Election of Chair)

January 7, 2021

March 4, 2021

May 6, 2021

5. NCPIC Membership 2020-2021

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported on the NCPIC Membership for the 2020-2021 school year.

Community Representatives

Complete application packages must be received **no later than 4:00 p.m. EST. on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.**

Parent/Guardian Representatives

Complete parent/guardian nomination forms must be received **no later than 4:00 p.m. EST., on Friday, October 9, 2020.**

6. NCPIC Financial Report

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported on the NCPIC financial statement for information.

Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants 2019-2020

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that on July 6, 2020, an email was sent to the Ministry of Education requesting that the unspent 2019-2020 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant funds be used to purchase Walmart gift cards to support identified Niagara Catholic families in need. On July 13, 2020, the Ministry of Education approved the request, and the Board supported 97 Niagara Catholic families.

G. COMMUNITY REPORTS

1. Development and Peace-*Nil Report*

2. Society of St. Vincent de Paul-*Chair Nohara on behalf of Shelley Gilbert*

- The sea container for Naujaat Nunavut left on Thursday, September 9, 2020. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 only one container was sent as St. Vincent de Paul experienced a decline in donations.
- St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores are now open and accepting donations.
- St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen in St. Catharines is still handing out bag lunches, and is working on a plan to reopen for the colder weather.
- Some of St. Vincent de Paul food banks are still closed, but clients are still being supported by area food banks.

H. SEAC REPORT-*Anna Racine*

Anna reported the SEAC met on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 and reviewed the Goals and Visions for School Year 2020-2021. SEAC is looking into a joint presentation from Dr. Sheila Bennett from Brock University and Terri Pauco from the Diocese. Dr. Bennett's presentation would discuss her work with Special Education and Terri Pauco would be discussing her concern about families that have children with special needs and not feeling welcome at church so therefore not participating in their faith. Initially this presentation was scheduled to take place in May 2020 at Denis Morris Catholic High School. The committee is hoping to schedule this Parent Out-Reach event during the 2020-2021 school year with consideration given to hosting virtually due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Once finalized, an invitation will be sent to all parents/guardians.

- Working Sub-Committees that gather after the meeting
 - Policy Committee – Through a SEAC eye
 - Survey Committee – Survey to Parents
 - Communication Committee – SEAC Brochure
 - Ministry Reports Committee – looking at the Ministry's guidelines

Anna also reported that one of the on-going goals, of SEAC is to provide a monthly SEAC update to Principals to share the information at Catholic School Council Meetings and to include in the school newsletters.

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

- Nil Report

J. STUDENT SENATE REPORT

- Nil Report

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

Good news and updates from the elementary and secondary schools were provided for information.

L. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Trustee Prince

Trustee Prince thanked the previous senior administrative team for providing the framework in which we opened schools and welcomed new staff including Director Cipriano, Superintendents of Education, Kim Kinney, and Gino Pizzoferrato and Clark Euale, Controller of Facilities Services.

Trustee Prince thanked Chair Nohara and Co-Chair Kouroushis for representing the parent voice and NCPIC on the school reopening taskforce.

Trustee Prince, emphasized that yes the buildings may look different, but like every year students and staff return to a feeling of community, welcoming atmosphere and we are joined by our faith. We as a Board of Trustees are excited for the 20/21 school year and all that will come with it. We will continue to lean on each other and grow together.

Trustee Sicoli

Trustee Sicoli reported that earlier today, Chair Fera and himself were in attendance when Ontario's Minister of Education Stephen Lecce and Niagara West MPP and parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Education, Sam Oosterhoff visited St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School in Wainfleet to announce a new joint elementary school between the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) and Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB).

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

N. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, November 5, 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 with special intentions for the passing of Shelley Gilbert's father.

P. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Josephine Muraca-Lettieri

THAT the September 10, 2020 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.
