



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 5, 2020

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

Note: Co-Chair, Kouroushis presided over the meeting until the election of the Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Co-Chair, Kouroushis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells led the opening prayer with special intentions for family members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

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:

Parent Members	Geographical Area	Present	Excused	Absent
Shonna Daly	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	√		
Jessica Coutinho	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	√		
Todd Ulbinas	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	√		
Mary-Kate O'Hara-Skubel	Merritton/Thorold	√		
Rita Colling	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Marilyn Fabiano	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Chris Kouroushis	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√		
Jitto Tom Uthup	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√	
Jeremy Harb	St. Catharines			
George Roussos	St. Catharines	√		
Melanie Oakes-Flegg	Welland	√		
Carrie Vernelli	Welland	√		
Shelley Gilbert	Society of St. Vincent de Paul	√	Arrived at 6:40 p.m.	
Fr. Paul MacNeil	Bishop/Diocesan Representative	√		
Allan Buri	Secondary Student Senate Representative	√		
Trustees				
Dino Sicoli	Vice-Chair of the Board	√		
Leanne Prince	Trustee	√		

Regrets: Jitto Tom Uthup, Joe Tornabuono, Elementary Principal and Lou Stranges,
Secondary Principal.

The following staff attended:

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

3. Commissioning of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

Fr. Paul MacNeil 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: Rita Colling

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

CARRIED

5. NCPIC Membership 2020-2021 and Terms of Office

Co-Chair, Kouroushis reviewed the parent/guardian membership, and the terms of office were determined by consensus.

Terms of Office NCPIC Parent Members 2020-2021			
Name	Geographical Area	Terms of Office	
		One year term	Two year term
Shonna Daly	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	√	
Jessica Coutinho	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham	√	
Todd Ulbinas	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham		√
Mary-Kate O'Hara-Skubel	Merritton/Thorold		√
Rita Colling	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√
Marilyn Fabiano	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√
Chris Kouroushis	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√	
Jitto Tom Uthup	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√	
Jeremy Harb	St. Catharines	√	
George Roussos	St. Catharines		√
Melanie Oakes-Flegg	Welland	√	
Carrie Vernelli	Welland		√

6. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Rita Colling and Melanie Oakes-Flegg informed the members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee that they are employees of the Board.

7. Election of Chair

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells, reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chair in accordance with the *Education Act* and By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, appointed Trustee Sicoli and Trustee Prince as scrutineers if required, and asked if there were any questions of the procedures before proceeding.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked for nominations for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee to hold office from November 5, 2020 until September 2021.

Moved by: Shonna Daly

THAT Carrie Vernelli be nominated for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee to hold office from November 5, 2020 until September 2021.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked Carrie Vernelli if she wished to stand for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Carrie Vernelli accepted the nomination.

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

Moved by: Jeremy A. Harb

THAT Chris Kouroushis be nominated for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee to hold office from November 5, 2020 until September 2021.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked Chris Kouroushis if she wished to stand for the position of Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Chris Kouroushis accepted the nomination.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked if there were any further nominations. There were no further nominations forthcoming.

An election took place and Carrie Vernelli was elected as the Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee from November 5, 2020 until September 2021.

Co-Chair, Chris Kouroushis will continue as the co-chair until September 2021.

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

8. Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2020

Moved by: Shonna Daly

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

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATION

Niagara Catholic Elementary and Secondary Virtual Schools

Elementary Principal, Chris Boyer and Secondary Principal, Adele Filice of the virtual schools provided a brief video presentation on the virtual schools. The video included examples of student engagement and learning.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that there are approximately 2500 elementary students and 950 secondary students enrolled in the virtual schools with approximately 130 elementary teachers and 40 secondary teachers. All educational departments to support student achievement and well-being support the virtual schools. Students enrolled in the virtual schools continue to be connected to their home schools and home school principals may address any question about the virtual schools.

C. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Faith Formation

Josie Rocca stated that as a result of COVID-19 and school closure, faith formation was deferred. Josie would like to set-up a faith formation subcommittee for the 2020-2021 school year. Interested members are to email Josie Rocca with their intent.

2. Goals/Parent Engagement Events

Chair Vernelli stated that she would also like to set-up a goals/parent engagement subcommittee for the 2020-2021 school year. Interested members are to email Chair Vernelli with their intent.

D. POLICY FEEDBACK

Chair Vernelli reported that no policies were currently being vetted.

E. CHAIR/CO-CHAIR REPORTS

- Nil Report

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

1. Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee-Newsletter Insert

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells stated that a report was provided on September 24, 2020 to all elementary and secondary principals/vice-principals for the Catholic School Council agenda and the October school newsletters. A report will be provided on a bi-monthly basis to support parent engagement and information about the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

2. Thank you letters on behalf of the NCPIC

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that thank you letters on behalf of the NCPIC were sent to the retirees from Senior Administration, as well as members of the NCPIC that resigned or came to the end of their term and were not returning as members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

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

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked for feedback on the By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and reported that the approved By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee would be presented at the Board Meeting of December 15, 2020 and will be reflected in the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Administrative Operational Procedures (800.7). The By-Laws of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee were approved as presented.

4. 2020-2021 Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that for the 2020-2021 school year, the Niagara Catholic District School Board received \$13,792.34 to support parent engagement projects.

Projects for the 2020-2021 school year are to demonstrate a commitment to respecting the role of parents in students' educational experiences by working with parents or seeking parent input on how schools can:

- provide a safe and welcoming school environment;
- maintain open communication with teachers;
- respect parents as valued partners within the education system in relation to decisions about their child's education; and
- inform parents about the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells asked for any feedback and/or suggestions for parent engagement projects to support the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant. The NCPIC subcommittee will discuss parent engagement projects to present to the NCPIC.

5. NCPIC Financial Report

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported on the finances of the NCPIC for 2020-2021.

G. COMMUNITY REPORTS

Society of St. Vincent de Paul-Shelley Gilbert

Shelley reported that:

- the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Welland Thrift Store is looking for volunteers. Catholic secondary students could receive community hours for their volunteer time.
- the assembling of Christmas Hampers are underway.
- North of 60 received the sea container the end of September.

H. SEAC REPORT

- Nil Report

I. BISHOP/DIOCESAN REPORT-Fr. Paul MacNeil

Fr. Paul MacNeil stated that he was pleased to return to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee as the Bishop's Diocesan Representative. Fr. Paul shared that his goal on this committee is to support the Catholic faith and strengthen the triad of the home, school, and church, and welcomed any feedback and ideas from the members to support the implementation this goal.

J. STUDENT SENATE REPORT-Allan Buri

Allan Buri reported that:

- Secondary Senate launched a Mask Sticker fundraiser, for \$2.00, students at participating secondary schools can purchase an iron-on sticker with their school logo, which can be placed on their masks or other suitable clothing item. All proceeds will benefit a local charity unique to each school.
- Secondary Senate is planning two virtual conferences for second semester. One will be a Mental Health Summit where a series of panelists will answer questions related to the pandemic and distance learning. The other will be the “Lead Out Loud” conference for elementary senators to build their leadership skills and engage with other student leaders across Niagara Catholic.
- As each secondary school is pursuing their own initiatives to make this school year positive for everyone, the Senate has acted as a productive forum for students to share their new ideas to improve student experiences.

J. STAFF REPORTS-Joe Tornabuono and Lou Stranges

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided the members with elementary and secondary school updates for information.

K. TRUSTEE REPORTS-Dino Sicoli and Leanne Prince

- Trustee Prince stated that much has changed to the new school year but what has not changed is the “hope and unity” within the Niagara Catholic District School Board.
- Trustee Sicoli reported that two Niagara Catholic elementary schools, Cardinal Newman and Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary Schools were renamed in June 2020. Cardinal Newman Catholic Elementary School was renamed St. John Henry Newman Catholic Elementary School after Pope Francis granted its namesake sainthood, and Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School was renamed St. Teresa of Calcutta in recognition of Mother Teresa’s sainthood.
- Trustee Sicoli reported that earlier today, the students at St. Teresa of Calcutta celebrated the school’s new name with a Mass led by Father Paul MacNeil and Father Richard Kowlachuk.

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

Open dialogue with Director Cipriano took place regarding initiatives to continue to support parents/guardians, students and families during the school year. Further discussion will take place at the subcommittee meeting and presented at the NCPIC January 7, 2021 meeting.

M. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

N. CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Paul MacNeil led the closing prayer.

O. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Shonna Daly

THAT the November 5, 2020 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.
