



# MINUTES OF THE NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MARCH 3, 2022

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. held virtually and in-person in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON

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

## A. ROUTINE MATTERS

### 1. Opening Prayer

Fr. Paul MacNeil led the Land Acknowledgment and the Opening Prayer.

### 2. Roll Call:

Parent Members	Geographical Area	Present In-person	Present Electronically	Excused	Absent
Chris Kouroushis	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet	√			
Diana Zlomislic	Fort Erie/Port Colborne/Wainfleet			√	
Lindsey Spanik	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham			√	
Todd Ulbinas	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln/Pelham		√		
Alexandria Attree	Merritton/Thorold				√
Mary-Kate O'Hara Skubel	Merritton/Thorold		√		
Rita Colling	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√		
Marilyn Fabiano	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√		
Olivia O'Reilly-Romanoff	Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√			
Luciano Robazza	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			√	
Fr. Paul MacNeil	Bishop/Diocesan Representative	√			
Allan Buri	Secondary Student Senate Representative			√	
<b>Trustees</b>					
Leanne Prince	Trustee	√			
Dan Moody	Trustee/Vice-Chair of the Board				√

The following staff attended:

**Camillo Cipriano**, Director of Education, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, Superintendent of Education, **Joe Tornabuono**, Elementary Principal, **Kevin Timmins**, Secondary Vice-Principal, **Jane Farah-Smith**, Teacher Representative, **Josie Rocca**, Support Staff, and **Yvonne Anderson**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant.

Regrets: Allan Buri, Shelley Gilbert, Luciano Robazza, Lindsey Spanik and Diana Zlomislic.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by: Melanie Oakes-Flegg

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of March 3, 2022 as presented.

**CARRIED**

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No disclosures of conflict of interest were declared with any items on the agenda.

**5. Approval of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2022**

Moved by: Olivia O'Reilly-Romanoff

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of January 13, 2022 as presented.

**CARRIED**

**B. PRESENTATION**

1. *unlearn*-Due to a conflict in scheduling this presentation was cancelled.

**C. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Faith Formation

The subcommittee meeting minutes of January 27, 2022 and Synod Meeting of February 25, 2022 were provided for information. Josie Rocca, Chair of the Faith Formation Subcommittee and Fr. Paul provided further details regarding the process for the virtual Synod session that will take place on Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. for Niagara Catholic parents/guardians. A training session will be provided to NCPIC members who are interested in participating as a facilitator. Interested parties are asked to contact Josie Rocca. The virtual Synod session was approved by consensus. This session will be promoted with Catholic School Councils to share with parents/guardians.

2. Goals/Parent Engagement Events

The subcommittee meeting minutes of January 27, 2022 were provided for information. Co-Chair Vernelli reported that the subcommittee approved the use of the PRO Grants funds to host the Math Learning Sessions for parents/guardians.

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells introduced Niagara Catholic Consultants: Christine Battagli, Research, Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting and Laura Cronshaw, K-12 Numeracy, who provided details regarding the parent/guardian Math Learning Sessions with Dr. Marian Small for information.

#### Niagara Catholic Virtual Family Math Events

- Family Math Webinar Series with Dr. Marian Small
  - **Session #1-** K-12 Focus-Tuesday, March 29, 2022 (6:30 to 7:30 p.m.)
  - **Session #2-** K-8 Focus-Thursday, May 12, 2022 (6:30 to 7:30 p.m.)
  - **Session #3-** Gr. 7-12 Focus-Wednesday, June 1, 2022 (6:30 to 7:30 p.m.)
- Virtual Family Math Night-Wednesday, April 27, 2022 (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.) Focus: Using games to support mathematics learning (K-6)
  - Participating families will receive math games kits ahead of the Family Math Night
  - Two rotations with choice of session to attend (by grade and topic)
  - Families keep the math games kits and have an opportunity to win other family math prizes.

A digital flyer with registration details will be sent to all elementary and secondary principals, to share and promote the Niagara Catholic Virtual Family Math Events with educators, Catholic School Councils and the wider school community. The Family Math Night was approved by consensus.

#### **D. POLICY FEEDBACK**

Co-Chair Vernelli reported that there are no policies currently being vetted.

#### **E. CO-CHAIR REPORTS**

- Nil Report

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

##### **1. March Break 2022**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that March Break will take place March 14-18, 2022. Schools are closed but the Catholic Education Centre will be open Monday to Thursday.

##### **2. Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education Gala-Friday, May 20, 2022**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education Gala to support students in need and scholarships will take place on Friday, May 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. with honorary guest, Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D. Bishop of St. Catharines at Club Roma Event and Conference Centre, 125 Vansickle Rd., St. Catharines ON. Tickets are \$100.00 per person. Payment must be received by May 11, 2022. Tickets are available online or by contacting Anna Pisano at 905.735.0240 ext. 219.

**3. Distinguished Alumni: Nomination Forms Due-April 8, 2022**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that the Distinguished Alumni Awards are presented annually to graduates from a Niagara Catholic secondary school. The individual must be described by the nominee as extraordinary, notable or acclaimed and has achieved distinguished success in their adult life. The nominee must have achieved and reflect the characteristics described by the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. Nominations may be submitted by staff and/or members of school communities. The nomination form was provided to all members and must be submitted to Linda Marconi no later than April 8, 2022.

**4. Niagara Catholic 2022-2023 School Year Calendar**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported that based on feedback from the consultation process, discussions with the School Year Calendar Committee, Senior Administrative Council and our coterminous board, the 2022-2023 Elementary and Secondary *modified* School Year Calendars were presented at the February 8, 2022, Committee of Whole Meeting and approved at the Board Meeting of February 22, 2022. The 2022-2023 School Year Calendars have been sent to the Ministry for final approval.

Highlights of the School Year Calendars for 2022-2023

First Day of School Elementary and Secondary  
September 6, 2022

Elementary and Secondary PA Day

Monday, October 24, 2022 is to support hosting polling centres for the Ontario Municipal Elections in our schools.

Christmas Break

Monday, December 26, 2022 to Friday, January 6, 2023

March Break

Monday, March 13 to Friday, March 17, 2023

**5. NCPIC Financial Report**

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells reported on the finances of the NCPIC.

**G. COMMUNITY REPORTS**

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

- Regrets sent-Nil report.

**H. SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

- Due to Ash Wednesday, the SEAC Meeting will take place on March 9, 2022.

**I. BISHOP/DIOCESAN REPORT-Fr. Paul MacNeil**

Fr. Paul MacNeil reported:

- Parishes are open at 100% capacity. Although parishioners are still a little apprehensive, it is exciting to see more return to Mass. Parishes will continue to follow Niagara Public Health Guidelines.

- 40 Days of Life Campaign will take place from March 2 to April 10, 2022 in front of the Niagara Falls General Hospital. All are welcome to participate. The vigils are held daily from 8:00a.m. to 8:00 p.m., free parking and signs are available for participants.

Since the 40 Days of Life Campaign began:

- 19 campaigns have been held
- welcomed 725 thousand volunteers
- saved 16,000 babies
- converted 150 supporters
- closed 75 abortion sites

#### **J. STUDENT SENATE REPORT-Allan Buri**

Regrets sent-Co-Chair Vernelli on behalf of Allan Buri reported that:

- Mental Health Week will partner with Catholic Education Week during the week of May 1-6, 2022. This year's theme is "Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together".
- The Student Senate will be providing several opportunities for students to increase their awareness of how to prevent and address mental health issues. These opportunities will include brochures, social media posts, announcements, videos and a quiz.
- Applications are now being accepted for Student Senate Scholarship. There are two scholarships valued at \$500 available to any graduating Niagara Catholic student who exemplifies exceptional commitment to their school, community and faith.

#### **K. STAFF REPORTS-Joe Tornabuono and Kevin Timmins**

Elementary Principal, Joe Tornabuono and Secondary Vice-Principal, Kevin Timmins provided elementary and secondary school updates.

Teacher representative, Jane Farah Smith reported on the OECTA Status of Women: Period Poverty Campaign taking place during the month of March.

#### **L. TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee Prince reported:

- Grants for Student Needs (GSN) were released in mid-February allowing Niagara Catholic (and every board) the ability to start the budget for 22/23. Superintendent Vetrone will present the proposed budget to the NCPIC in May.
- After consulting with stakeholders the 2022-2023 school calendar has been approved by the Board and submitted to the Ministry for approval.
- Secondary schools have commenced a traditional semester with students back to 4 courses. Students and staff greet this with enthusiasm.
- Catholic Education Week is May 1-6. The theme is "Rebuild, Renew, Restore Together". For resources, please check out [www.goodnewsforall.ca](http://www.goodnewsforall.ca)
- A continued thank you to students, staff and families as we continue this trek through the pandemic, but there is hope and light drawing near.

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

- Nil

**N. NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, May 11 2022 at 6:30 p.m. due to a conflict on May 5, 2022.

**O. CLOSING PRAYER:** Fr. Paul MacNeil led the closing prayer.

**P. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by: Melanie Oaks-Flegg

**THAT** the March 3, 2022 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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