



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE COMPLIANCE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Meeting, held on Thursday, June 22, 2023, in the Father Kenneth Burns c.s.c. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, Ontario.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement

Land Acknowledgement statement was delivered by Jennifer Pellegrini.

2. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was led by Jennifer Pellegrini.

3. Roll Call

Compliance Audit Review Committee Members	Present	Absent
Murray Christie	✓	
Margo Pinder	✓	
Heather Salter	✓	

Also in attendance were the following:

Jennifer Pellegrini, Communications Officer of the Niagara Catholic District School Board

Jeff Loucks, Agent to the Candidates, Jolanta Pawlak and Natalia Benoit

Ann Marie Zammit, complainant and citizen of St. Catharines

Bill Sawchuk, reporter of the St. Catharines Standard

Shari Bush, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Business and Financial Services of the Niagara Catholic District School Board

4. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. by Margo Pinder.

5. Selection of Chair

Margo Pinder indicated that she was preselected as Chair to the Compliance Audit Review Committee Meeting.

6. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no direct or indirect pecuniary interest in relation to this meeting.

7. Opening Statement by Chair

Margo Pinder stated that this Compliance Audit Review Committee Meeting was to determine whether an audit will be granted or is required.

8. Applications for Compliance Audit

Margo Pinder agreed to let Jeff Loucks have a moment to respond to the calling of this Compliance Audit Review Committee Meeting.

Jeff Loucks brought concerns regarding the Compliance Audit and Application process. He also expressed concern that the website and forms hard to navigate.

8.1 Application by Ann Marie Zammit and Christine Campbell for English-Separate School Board Trustee (St. Catharines/NOTL) Jolanta Pawlak and for English-Separate School Board Trustee (St. Catharines/NOTL) Natalia Benoit

In a unified agreeance, both applicants and candidates will be reviewed together as both applications are basically the same.

Ann-Marie Zammit presented her application for compliance audit regarding omissions and inaccuracies in both of the Candidates 2022 Financial Statements.

8.2 Presentation and Submission for both Jolanta Pawlak and Natalia Benoit was heard by their agent Jeff Loucks

Jeff Loucks brought concerns regarding the Compliance Audit Application process and that fact both Jolanta Pawlak and Natalia Benoit made mistakes.

9. Committee Consideration of Applications

The Niagara Compliance Audit Review Committee Meeting adjourned in camera to deliberate and to seek legal advice concerning the issue of who is an eligible elector in a Catholic School Board Trustee Election at 11:41 a.m. and reconvened at 1:14 p.m.

10. Committee Consideration of Application

Chair Margo Pinder summarized the Compliance Audit Review Committee Meeting.

The Committee agreed with Jeff Loucks, that the website needs improvements navigating and more examples on how to complete forms authorizations. The Committee will relay these items to the clerk committee to help with the administration and improvements in the future.

Following a preliminary discussion with legal counsel the Committee with Board Secretary in attendance will meet again with legal counsel in camera at 4:00 p.m. through Microsoft Teams to

receive the advice as to whether Ann Marie Zammit meets the qualifications in her applications, as a qualified elector as she currently supports the Public School Board.

The applications of Christine Campbell will be granted with written reasons for decision on all applications to follow.

The Committee decided that an Audit is approved for both candidates, based upon *Municipal Elections Act* Section 88.19, Campaign Expenses and Section 88.22, Duties of Candidates. The Niagara Catholic District School Board will determine who the auditor will be.

Noted in the minutes here are Jeff Loucks remarks that both respondents have a right to appeal to the Ontario Court of Justice.

B. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Margo Pinder called to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

Minutes of the Compliance Audit Review Committee Meetings held on June 23, 2023, approved by:

Date: Jun 28/23 Margo Pinder
Chair Compliance Audit Review Committee



Date: June 28/23 Jennifer Pellegrini
Communications Officer of the Niagara Catholic
District School Board


