



**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
NIAGARA CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

May 11, 2023

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., in the Father Kenneth Burns csc Board Room at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

Co-Chair Annen called the meeting to order at 6:32p.m.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer
Superintendent Forsyth-Sells led the Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer.

2. Roll Call:

Regrets: Fr. Paul MacNeil, Julie Bateman, Rita Colling, Stephanie Ireland and Ian Woods

Parent Members	Geographical Area	Present In-person	Present Electronically	Excused	Absent
Lindsey Spanik	Grimsby/Lincoln/West Lincoln				√
Alexandria Attree	Merritton/Thorold	√			
Ian Woods	Merritton/Thorold			√	
Julie Bateman	Niagara Falls			√	
Marilyn Fabiano	Niagara Falls	√			
Olivia O'Reilly-Romanoff	Niagara Falls				√
Luciano Robazza	Niagara Falls		√		
Brenda Annen	St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake	√			
Rita Colling	St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake			√	
Jeremy Harb	St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake		√		
Stephanie Ireland	St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake			√	
Melanie Oakes-Flegg	Welland/Pelham	√			
Carrie Vernelli	Welland/Pelham	√			
Fr. Paul MacNeil	Bishop/Diocesan Representative			√	
Ava Venzon	Secondary Student Senate Representative	√			
Trustees					
Natalia Benoit	Trustee				√
Joe Bruzzese	Trustee	√			

The following staff attended:

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Superintendent of Education, **Joe Tornabuono**, Elementary Principal, **Kevin Timmins**, Secondary Principal, **Josie Rocca**, Support Staff and **Yvonne Anderson**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Alexandria Attree

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of May 11, 2023 as presented.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

5. Approval of the Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of March 2, 2023

Moved by: Carrie Vernelli

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of March 2, 2023 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

Niagara Catholic Budget 2023-2024-Superintendent of Business and Financial Services, Giancarlo Vetrone

- Superintendent of Business and Financial Services, Giancarlo Vetrone presented the Niagara Catholic Budget for 2023-2024 for information. A brief question and answer session followed.

C. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Feedback Faith Formation/Parent Engagement Event-May 3, 2023 at Denis Morris Catholic High School

- Josie Rocca provided an overview of the event.
- Alexandria Attree reported that positive feedback was received from participants. The presentation by Fr. Tony and his team was energetic and engaging and the parent workshops were informative. Two recommendations were to provide a longer timeframe for future parent workshops and enhanced promotion of the future events (i.e., Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, School Messenger, etc.).

D. POLICY

Co-Chair Annen reported that the Occupational Health and Safety Policy (201.6), Employee Workplace Harassment Policy (201.7) and the Employee Workplace Violence Policy (201.11) are currently being vetted.

1. Feedback to be submitted on behalf of the NCPIC is to be sent to Yvonne Anderson, no later than 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2023.
2. Feedback being submitted as an individual is to be submitted directly to Anna Pisano, no later than 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

E. CO-CHAIRS REPORT

1. Co-Chair Annen reported that she and Co-Chair Vernelli are representing the NCPIC on the Niagara Catholic Growth and Retention Ad Hoc Committee. The focus of the committee is to discuss best practices to increase enrolment and retention rates. Suggestions have included; the addition of childcare sites to increase kindergarten enrolment; improved communication via social media; updated school websites; and increased interaction between secondary schools and their feeder schools.
2. Co-Chair Annen reported on her volunteer experience with the PROM Project and encouraged donations to this worthy cause. Elementary Principal, Tornabuono stated that the West Lincoln Community Centre also supported a similar program for students.

F. OAPCE REPORT

Co-Chair Annen stated that on April 20, 2023, Ian Woods notified the NCPIC that he would be continuing as a parent representative on the NCPIC, but would be stepping down as the Niagara Catholic OAPCE Regional Director, effective immediately.

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

1. Celebrating Excellence Award Ceremony 2023

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided a report on the Celebrating Excellence Award, Catch the Spirit Award and the Distinguished Alumni celebration held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 at the Brock University Sean O'Sullivan Theatre. Award recipients have been posted on the Board website.

2. NCPIC Membership and Meeting Dates 2023-2024

Superintendent Forsyth-Sells provided a report on the NCPIC Membership and Meeting Dates for the 2023-2024 school year.

3. NCPIC Financial Report

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

H. BISHOP/DIOCSEAN REPORT

Co-Chair Annen, on behalf of Fr. Paul MacNeil provided Fr. Paul's report on:

- the commitment of the Catholic Church to raise funds to support the Indigenous reconciliation efforts across the country
- staying informed through the Vineyard Magazine and the Diocesan website

I. STUDENT SENATE REPORT

Ava Venzon provided a report on the:

- Student Senate Symposium and Elections
- "Time To Shine Formal" for students with special education needs
- Secondary Student Senate Scholarships

J. SEAC REPORT

Alexandria Attree provided a report on the:

- Accessibility Conference for students with Unstoppable Tracy
- Accessibility Conference for parents with Unstoppable Tracy and Dr. Lauren McNamara
- Autism Ontario-Scholarships
- Niagara Catholic Special Education Department was honoured to a recipient of the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region (LDANR) “Outstanding Contributor Award”
- SEAC Handbook
- Down Syndrome Trivia Night-June 3, 2023-Merritton Community Centre

K. STAFF REPORTS

Joe Tornabuono, Elementary Principal and Kevin Timmins, Secondary Principal provided reports on all the wonderful spiritual, social, athletic and academic initiatives taking place in our schools.

- Catholic Education Week
- Mental Health Week
- Social Justice Activities
- Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation
- Educational Field Trips and Athletics
- EQAO Assessments in Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Grade 9 Mathematics and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)
- Elementary and secondary graduations and end-of-year community events

L. TRUSTEE REPORTS

- Nil Report

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

- No new business or agenda items were received.

N. NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., at the Catholic Education Centre
(this is the last meeting of the 2022-2023 school year)

O. CLOSING PRAYER: Superintendent Forsyth-Sells led the closing prayer.

P. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Alexandria Attree

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of May 11, 2023 be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 8:08p.m.