



# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2013

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Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, held on Tuesday, December 3, 2013, at 6:00 p.m. in the Father Kenneth Burns C.S.C. Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland.

## A. ROUTINE MATTERS

### 1. Meeting Call to Order – John Crocco, Director of Education/CEO/Secretary-Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chief Executive Officer and Director of Education John Crocco, in accordance with section 208-4 of the Education Act.

Director Crocco thanked Bishop Bergie, Principals, Vice-Principals, Managers, special guests, students, family and friends for attending the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco informed the guests in attendance that at the Inaugural Meeting of the Board in 2010, the first action of the elected Board of Trustees was to approve a motion naming His Excellency - Bishop Gerard Bergie as the Honourary Chair of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

On behalf of all in attendance, the Director expressed gratitude to Bishop Bergie for his valued partnership with Niagara Catholic, his continuous support and celebration of the importance and excellence of Niagara Catholic schools, the Board, Administrators and staff, as Niagara Catholic models and shares the teachings of Jesus and the Church.

### 2. Opening Prayer (Most Rev.) Gerard P. Bergie, D.D., Bishop of St. Catharines Honorary Chair of the Board

Bishop Bergie thanked Director Crocco for his kind words and the opportunity to participate in the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board. He expressed appreciation for the dedication of Trustees, administrators, staff and everyone involved in the gift of Catholic Education.

Bishop Bergie said that Catholic education involves developing the whole person, mind, body and soul. He thanked everyone involved in Catholic education for their diligence in putting students first and recognizing that faith is fundamental in Catholic Education.

His Excellency then opened the 2013 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board with a dedicated prayer.

**3. Roll Call**

Director Crocco noted that Bishop Bergie, all Trustees and Student Trustees were in attendance.

<b>Trustee</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Rhianon Burkholder	✓		
Kathy Burtnik	✓		
Maurice Charbonneau	✓		
Frank Fera	✓		
Fr. Paul MacNeil	✓		
Ed Nieuwesteeg	✓		
Ted O’Leary	✓		
Dino Sicoli	✓		
<b>Student Trustees</b>			
Vincent Atallah	✓		
Michael Blair	✓		

Special Guest:

Honorary Chair: (Most Rev.) **Gerard P. Bergie**, D.D., Bishop of St. Catharines

The following staff were in attendance:

**John Crocco**, Director of Education; **Yolanda Baldasaro**, **Ted Farrell**, **Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells**, **Frank Iannantuono**, **Mark Lefebvre**, Superintendents of Education, **Giancarlo Vetrone** Superintendent of Business & Finance Services; **Scott Whitwell**, Controller of Facilities Services; **Jennifer Brailey**, Manager of Corporate Services & Communications; **Kristine Murphy**, Recording Secretary/Administrative Assistant, Corporate Services & Communications

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the Agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board of December 3, 2013, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the Agenda of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

**6. Saint Francis Catholic Secondary High School Senior Concert Band**

Yolanda Baldasaro, Superintendent of Education, welcomed Ken Griepsma, Principal of Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School, who introduced Music Teachers, Mr. Steve De Angelis and Mr. Frank Mancuso. The Phoenix Funk Band from Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School performed for the Board.

Director Crocco, on behalf of Trustees, Senior Staff and everyone present, congratulated and thanked the students of Saint Francis Catholic Secondary School for sharing their special gift of song and music.

St. Catharines Trustees Burtnik and Charbonneau presented the students with Niagara Catholic “Excellence in the Arts” pins.

**7. Election Procedures**

Director Crocco reviewed the procedures for the election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson in accordance with Section 7 of the Board By-Laws. He appointed Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendents of Business and Finance Services and Scott Whitwell, Controller of Facilities Services, as scrutineers.

**8. Election of Chairperson**

Moved by Trustee Burkholder

**THAT** Trustee Kathy Burtnik be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 3, 2013 until the December 2014 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco asked Trustee Burtnik if she wished to stand for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Burtnik accepted the nomination.

Moved by Trustee Fera

**THAT** Trustee MacNeil be nominated for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 3, 2013 until the December 2014 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco asked Trustee MacNeil if he wished to stand for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee MacNeil accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee O’Leary

**THAT** the nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be closed.

**CARRIED**

Following the counting of the ballots, Trustee Burtnik was elected to the position of Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Director Crocco turned over the Chairship of the Annual Organization Meeting of the Board to Chairperson Burtnik.

Moved by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

Seconded by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** the ballots for the election of the Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be destroyed.

**CARRIED**

**9. Election of Vice-Chairperson**

Moved by Trustee Sicoli

**THAT** Trustee MacNeil be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 3, 2013 until the December 2014 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

Chairperson Burtnik asked Trustee MacNeil if he wished to stand for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee MacNeil accepted the nomination.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

**THAT** Trustee Burkholder be nominated for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board to hold office from December 3, 2013 until the December 2014 Inaugural Meeting of the Board.

Chairperson Burtnik asked Trustee Burkholder if she wished to stand for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Trustee Burkholder accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations forthcoming.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Fera

**THAT** the nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be closed.

**CARRIED**

Following the counting of the ballots, Trustee Burkholder was elected to the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Moved by Trustee MacNeil

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

**THAT** the ballots for the election of the Vice-Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be destroyed.

**CARRIED**

**10. Chairperson's Remarks**

Chair Burtnik thanked Bishop Bergie for his constant inspiration, support and friendship as Niagara Catholic's Honorary Chair of the Board. In her remarks Chair Burtnik reaffirmed her commitment to The Excellence of Catholic Education in Niagara and Ontario and to serving Niagara Catholic and its students.

A copy of Chair Burtnik's remarks are attached to the Minutes for information and are posted on the Board, My Niagara Catholic and My Niagara Catholic Alumni websites.  
(Appendix A)

### **11. Vice-Chairperson's Remarks**

Trustee Burkholder thanked Trustees for their support. In her remarks Vice-Chairperson Burkholder pledged her commitment to working with Trustees and staff to provide the best education for all Niagara Catholic students.

A copy of Vice-Chairperson Burkholder's remarks are attached to the Minutes for information are posted on the Board, My Niagara Catholic and My Niagara Catholic Alumni websites.  
(Appendix B)

## **B. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **1. Board Committees**

Director Crocco presented the Report on Board Committees, in accordance with Board By-Law 17 which calls for Trustee membership on Board Ad Hoc, Statutory, Standing and Liaison Committees until the next Annual Organizational Meeting of the Board.

Director Crocco stated that members to the committees are appointed by the Chairperson of the Board in consultation with the Vice-Chairperson of the Board. He asked that Trustees submit their completed form to the Office of the Director of Education by the December 17, 2013 Board Meeting.

Moved by Trustee Charbonneau

Seconded by Trustee Nieuwesteeg

**THAT** the Niagara Catholic District School Board approve the continuation of the following Ad Hoc Committees for the year 2014:

- Blessed Trinity Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- Denis Morris, Holy Cross, and Saint Francis Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- Lakeshore Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- Notre Dame College Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee
- Saint Michael and Saint Paul Catholic Elementary and Secondary Family of Schools Attendance Area Ad Hoc Committee

**CARRIED**

## **C. MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION FOR LIFE**

## **D. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Fera

Seconded by Trustee MacNeil

**THAT** the December 3, 2013 Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board be adjourned.

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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Minutes of the Annual Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Catholic District School Board held on **December 3, 2013.**

Approved on **December 17, 2013.**

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Kathy Burtnik  
Chairperson of the Board

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John Crocco  
Director of Education/Secretary -Treasurer

**CHAIRPERSON KATHY BURTNIK'S REMARKS**

**Annual Organizational Meeting  
of the Niagara Catholic District School Board  
December 3, 2013**

Bishop Bergie, thank you for your constant inspiration, support and friendship as our honorary chair. Your leadership inspires all of us to work together with the diocese to celebrate all that is good and to work toward reconciliation for things that can be better.

Forgive me if you have heard parts of this before – it bears repeating for to me it expresses who we are as a system, and a little bit of who I am. I look forward with humble anticipation to fulfilling the role of Chairperson of this dynamic family of Faith. Niagara Catholic is not a place, it is not a single person; it is a community of people at various stages in their individual faith journeys who need to be inspired by the birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ. Each of us is called to be a leader, as each of us has someone who is looking to us for an authentic Christ-like response to their life story. To be a Catholic leader, requires first and foremost that we be followers, that we recognize the absolute fact that we alone are not capable of that which we are collectively capable of. To be a follower of Christ, we are called to carry on His story: To love unconditionally, to put the needs of others always before our own, to not cast stones or pass judgment, to have meaningful conversations with God, to be thankful for the smallest of things, to know that every human is created in the likeness and image of God to fulfill whatever promise lives within them. The greatest joy of being a follower is to recognize and celebrate that we are fully human, we fall, we fail, we seek forgiveness and we rise again. To be able to live this truth each and every moment of our day at work and at home is an incredible gift.

Each of you can be assured of my commitment to Catholic Education. What we have been given as a gift is meant to be shared. It can only be shared if each of us, in each of our roles, lives joyfully the promise that comes from the birth of Christ. There are many challenges ahead of us – those from the ministry, those from staff, those from the families that choose our system and most importantly those from the students we are here to serve. Every challenge must be responded to through the lens of student success – academic, physical, emotional and spiritual. I look forward to working with the vice chair Rhianon Burkholder and my trustee colleagues as we continue to hold our senior team accountable to meet those challenges with grace, dignity and consistency. I look forward to doing my part to bring the life of Christ to every person I encounter over the next year as the Chair of Niagara Catholic.

May all of us have the wisdom to recognize just how blessed we are. Thank you.

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON RHIANON BURKHOLDER'S REMARKS**

**Annual Organizational Meeting  
of the Niagara Catholic District School Board  
December 3, 2013**

My congratulations to Kathy Burtnik on her election as Chair of the Board for 2014 and to my fellow Trustees for your confidence in electing me as Vice Chair of the Board. Thank you for entrusting me with the position of Vice Chair and I will make every effort to meet the expectations as Vice Chair and our collective responsibilities for Catholic education in our Board. Thank you to Trustee Charbonneau for his strong leadership as our Vice Chair this past year. As Vice Chair, I look forward to working closely with Kathy as our Chair of the Board and Director Crocco as part of Executive Council, all Trustees, Senior Staff, administrators and staff across the system this coming year.

As Trustees, together with our staff, we are the voice for all students throughout Niagara Catholic. With our strong support we can ensure that students continue to receive the best Catholic education which they deserve. I trust that my fellow Trustees will agree with me that with the hard work and dedication which I have witness of our staff, I believe that our students do receive the very best in Catholic education in Ontario. As a strong proponent for all students, most especially our most vulnerable, we as Trustees need to ensure that we stay focused on our priorities to provide the resources and supports so that Niagara Catholic continues to take the best care of all our students, ELKP to Grade 12.