



**NIAGARA CATHOLIC REGIONAL SCHOOL COUNCIL
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010
FATHER KENNETH BURNS BOARD ROOM
CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE
7:00 – 9:00 P.M.**

Minutes

Members in attendance: Vanessa Alexis, Shonna Daly, Heather Pyke, Scott Root, Frances Stewart, Michelle Zappitelli, Lisa Burland, Marion Battersby, Mary-Jo Au, Laurel Ives-Allison, Yvonne Wowk, Khayyam Syne, Teri Venzon, Anna Racine, Mary Manella-Byers, Pat Rocca, Josie Candeloro, Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells.

Regrets: Fr. Peter Rowe

1. **Call to order-** Chairperson Laurel Ives-Allison called the meeting to order welcoming everyone back for another exciting year on Regional School Council. Laurel Ives-Allison also took this time to thank all Regional School Council members for the kindness and support that she has received during her two year term as Chairperson.
2. **Opening Prayer-** Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells lead Regional School Council in prayer. Each member participated by reading a part of the prayer “Liturgy for the New School Year”.
3. **Welcome of New Members/Noting of members present, absent, regrets**
Laurel Ives-Allison welcomed new members to Regional School Council: Marion Battersby, Lisa Burland, Teri Venzon and Mary Manella-Byers. Members were presented with a Niagara Catholic Regional School Council pin.

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells introduced and welcomed Yvonne Anderson, Administrative Assistant to Lee Ann Forsyth Sells, Superintendent of Education, to the meeting.

4. **Election of Chairperson, and Recording Secretary**
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells put forth nominations for Chairperson
Michelle Zappitelli nominated Mary-Jo Au
Laurel Ives-Allison nominated Heather Pyke
Self nomination: Shonna Daly.

Mary-Jo Au, Heather Pyke, and Shonna Daly all accepted their nominations. Prior to the election each nominee had the opportunity to address Regional School Council members. An election was held and ballots were handed out. Pat Rocca and Khayyam Syne acted as scrutineers.

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells congratulated Heather Pyke as the new Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic Regional School Council. Heather assumed her role as Chairperson and continued with the meeting.

Position of Recording Secretary: There were no nominations put forth to the floor for the position of recording secretary. Josie Candeloro and Scott Root volunteered for this position on a bi-monthly basis

5. **Approval of Minutes for May 12, 2010 and May 26, 2010:**

Spelling errors and missing information were detected in the previous minutes respectively. Corrections were made and updated minutes were distributed to Regional School Council members. A motion to approve the minutes of May 12th, 2010 meeting was made by Michelle Zappitelli and seconded by Mary-Jo Au. A motion to approve the minutes of May 26th, 2010 meeting was made by Mary-Jo Au and seconded by Laurel Ives-Allison. Motions: Carried

6. **New Business:**

Superintendent's Report: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells read the media release to Regional School Council members announcing the appointment of Bishop Bergie as the new Bishop for the Diocese. Two new schools in Niagara Catholic, Our Lady of Fatima and St. Joseph (Grimsby) are officially opened and will be blessed by Bishop Bergie.

Regional School Council members were provided with the Board Vision 2020 booklet. All schools will receive this booklet.

On September 1, 2010, all staff of NCDSB was at Brock University to launch the Vision 2020 plan. The day consisted of two segments: Monsignor Wayne Kirkpatrick officiated the Mass and was accompanied in the celebration by several priests within the Diocese, and music was provided by the NCDSB staff choir lead by Jayne Evans. Mike Sheehan led the fitness session after the Mass.

Vision 2020 Presentation:

Kathy Burtnik, Chairperson of the Niagara Catholic District School Board, addressed the staff and congratulated all on a job well done. She praised Niagara Catholic and all that we do for our children. She wished all staff the very best for an exciting new school year. Director of Education John Crocco, welcomed back all employees of the Niagara Catholic District School Board and presented the Vision 2020, Strategic Plan to all staff in a dynamic presentation.

Calendar of Events:

Regional School Council members were given a copy of NCDSB calendar of events for the 2010-2011 school year. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells highlighted the events for the month of October including October 30 which marks the canonization celebration of Blessed Brother Andre to be held in Montreal. Members of Niagara Catholic District School Board will be participating in this very special event. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells also gave mention to the Holy Childhood Association and asked Pat Rocca to further comment on this. Pat Rocca informed the Regional School Council that this annual drive raises awareness of third world countries and through prayers and donations collected by students over the years, has been very successful. Parents are encouraged to look in school newsletters to see how children throughout Niagara Catholic participate.

Memo: Ministry of Education

Minister of Education Leona Dombrowsky has stated that two key initiatives will further the government's efforts to support parent engagement in Ontario: Parents in Partnership: A Parent Engagement Policy for Ontario Schools and Regulation 612, O.Reg.330/10: School Councils, and Parent Involvement Committees (PICS). Members are asked to review and provide feedback via email.

Memo: Director's Memorandum-DM036 (2010-2011)

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells read off the highlights of NCDSB expectations of staff, Catholic School Councils, Regional Catholic School Councils/CPIC and SEAC with regards to elections. All NCDSB staff will act in an ethical and politically neutral manner toward all candidates and potential parties seeking office in federal, provincial, and municipal elections including the position of Trustee. No advertisement shall be placed on school property.

Annual Chairpersons and Members' Meeting: The Annual Chairpersons and Members' Meeting will be held at Monsignor Clancy School on Wednesday Oct 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells noted that John Crocco, Director of Education, presented last year. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells asked the Regional School Council if a guest speaker should be arranged for this meeting. It was suggested that perhaps Bishop Bergie could present. A sub-committee was established to plan for this event. Sub-committee members are: Anna Racine, Laurel Ives Allison, Mary-Jo Au, Michelle Zappitelli, Scott Root, Yvonne Wowk, Teri Venzon, Josie Candeloro, Shonna Daly, and Heather Pyke. The sub-committee will meet immediately following this meeting to set up a meeting date.

Faith Formation: Khayyam Syne will once again coordinate this event. The Faith Formation Session will take place on February 17th, 2011 at Notre Dame College School. Khayyam Syne informed Regional School Council that he would stick to the guidelines for Faith Formation as in years past. A sub-committee was established with Laurel Ives-Allison, Josie Candeloro, Vanessa Alexis, Pat Rocca, Scott Root, Mary-Jo Au, Frances Stewart and Khayyam Syne.

Spring Convention: The Annual Spring Convention will take place March 26, 2011. A venue has not been decided upon as of yet. Mary-Jo Au suggested Blessed Trinity Secondary School in Grimsby. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells informed Regional School Council that Blessed Trinity is under construction and perhaps Blessed Trinity can be the venue for the 2012 Convention, but that she would check on whether Blessed Trinity would be available for the 2011 Convention. The guest speaker for this year's convention is Teresa Tomeo. Khayyam Syne will act as liaison for the Regional School Council with Teresa Tomeo.

Future Meeting Dates: Future meeting dates are: November 11, 2010, January 13, 2011, March 10, 2011, and May 12, 2011. Regional School Council agreed upon these dates. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells reinforced the issue of Remembrance Day and that from the Board perspective events will be held during the school day to commemorate the day.

Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells informed Regional School Council that nominations for the Catholic Education Award of Distinction are coming out soon. Heather Pyke asked Laurel Ives-Allison to review the criteria for the award. The award will be presented at the Bishop's Gala in January 2011.

Regional School Council Newsletter: Two years ago this newsletter was established to update parents in Catholic schools on Regional School Council activities and inform them about Regional School Council, John Crocco, Director of Education and Kathy Burtnik, Chairperson of Niagara Catholic District School Board have submitted pieces for the newsletter. The first

newsletter usually goes out with the first report card in December; however, the timelines at the elementary levels have changed. There will be an Elementary Progress Report issued in mid-November and the first report card will be sent out in February. Newsletter submissions are due by the end of October. Anna Racine will once again oversee this project.

PRO Grant Update: Scott Root informed Regional School Council that no confirmation has been received as of yet pertaining to the Regional School Council Pro Grant application for 2010-2011. Once the email has been received Scott Root will inform Heather Pyke.

Policy Update: NCRSC Policies are under review and being updated and have been sent to Catholic School Councils. Feedback is due back by October 15th, 2010. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells distributed the first draft of the revised Catholic School Councils Policy and Guidelines. The policy will be further reviewed by Administrative Council and the Board's Policy Committee. Once ready, it will go out for vetting. Feedback from Regional School Council would be appreciated. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells stated that the guidelines listed in Part B of the document pertain to the Regional School Council where the Niagara Catholic Regional School Council is the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

Committee Reports: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells informed Regional School Council that there are 5 committee reports; OAPCE, SEAC, DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVE, STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE, and COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE.

OAPCE: Mary-Jo Au informed Regional School Council that the next OAPCE Conference will be hosted by the Halton Catholic District School Board.

SEAC: Anna Racine is a member of the SEAC committee: Special Education Advisory Committee. She explained that SEAC advocates for students with special needs throughout Niagara Catholic. The committee is made up of parents, and representatives of agencies. Anna Racine informed the Regional School Council that Pat Rocca is the new Elementary Principal Representative on the SEAC.

Student Representative: Heather Pyke asked if a student representative from the Student Senate had been chosen. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells stated that a Student Representative had not been chosen as of yet and that she would contact the administrators for Student Senate.

Community Representative: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells told Regional School Council that one nomination was submitted for the position of Community Representative. This position was advertised by the NCDSB in the local papers. Christina Willey submitted her name for the nomination. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells will contact Christina and invite her to the next meeting.

Question Period (Time Permitting): A question was put forth regarding the PREMIER'S Award for Teaching and whether a support staff employee can be nominated. All information can be found on the Ministry of Education website: www.edu.gov.on.ca

Good News (Time Permitting): Laurel Ives-Allison informed Regional School Council that Denis Morris Secondary School will be hosting their Alumni Spaghetti dinner. Teri Venzon commented on the status of St. Paul High school having a 40 minute lunch period. It is going well and the parents are pleased with this new time slot.

Adjournment-Next Meeting (November 11, 2010) Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Laurel Ives-Allison and seconded by Shonna Daly.
Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.