



The Niagara Catholic District School Board through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.

Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 2011

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

**Father Kenneth Burns Board Room
CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE, WELLAND, ONTARIO**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, held on Thursday, May 12, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Father Burns csc Board Room, at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer was in celebration of Mother's Day and was led by Fr. Peter Rowe "In Celebration of Mother's Day Daughters of Faith".

2. Roll Call

Members	Present	Excused	Absent
Marion Battersby	✓		
Lisa Burland		✓	
Mary Byers	✓		
Teri Venzon		✓	
Mary-Jo Au	✓		
Shonna Daly	✓		
Yvonne Wowk	✓		
Luke Brazeau		✓	
Frances Stewart	✓		
Heather Pyke	✓		
Vanessa Alexis			✓
Laurel Ives-Allison	✓		
Michelle Zappitelli	✓		
Anna Racine	✓		
Father Peter Rowe	✓		
Scott Root	✓		
Josie Candeloro		✓	
Pasty Rocca		✓	
Khayyam Syne		✓	
Emily Purcha	✓		
Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells	✓		
Kathy Burtnik		✓	
Maurice Charbonneau	✓		

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Shonna Daly
Seconded by: Anna Racine

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of May 12, 2011.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

5. Approval of Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of March 10, 2011.

Amendment before approval: **Committee Reports:**

- OAPCE-OAPCE Conference May 13 and 14, 2011 Ministry of Education
Delete: Ministry of Education
- Bishop/Diocesan Representative-Fr. Peter Rowe: Bishop Bergie and Fr. Peter Rowe are working on updating the Teaching Mass-reword-Bishop Bergie and Fr. Peter Rowe are working on introducing the new texts of the Mass.

Moved by: Laurel Ives-Allison
Seconded by: Frances Steward

THAT the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of March 10, 2011 as presented.

CARRIED

B. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2011

- 1. Update on PRO GRANT**-Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells stated that the process for updating "A Parent Focus" has begun. Kevin Gibson of Electric Dreams has been filming and taking photos of the recent Niagara Catholic District School Board events. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells requested that the NCPIC members participate in the filming and updating of "A Parent Focus". Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells also informed the NCPIC members that Principals and Vice-Principals will be interviewed and filmed to update "A Parent Focus".
- 2. Discussion-Recognizing a member or other parent that has shown exemplary service to the Committee**-Heather Pyke stated that the Ad Hoc Committee had met and decided to defer this request and that it will be reviewed next year.
- 3. Presentation-Blended learning with in-class instruction and on-line learning**-Scott Root presented the Blended Learning Model which is currently a pilot at Mary Ward Catholic and Holy Name Catholic Elementary Schools. Blended learning involves "Blending" in-class instruction with an online learning platform. The Blended Learning Model has been very successful in the classroom by improving achievement through increased student engagement as well as increasing efficiencies for the classroom teacher. The various elements of the Learning Platform were reviewed, as well as examples of student work which showed increased levels of thought and achievement over the several months of the pilot.

- 4. Update on 2nd Annual PIC Symposium-**The 2nd Annual PIC Symposium was held in Toronto on April 8 to April 9, 2011. Shonna Daly and Marion Battersby represented the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee for the Niagara Catholic District School Board. Shonna Daly shared that she and Marion Battersby were proud when PIC members from across Ontario acknowledged the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and the work they had done on “A Parent Focus”. Shonna Daly informed the NCPIC members the symposium was informative and guest speakers were from all across Ontario. PIC members shared how they engage parental involvement. Shonna Daly inquired about funds that had been allocated from the Ministry of Education. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells stated that the funds were intended for implementation of Safe Schools and that the Safe Schools portfolio was under Frank Iannantuono, Superintendent of Education. Frank Iannantuono had implemented Safe Schools in all of the Niagara Catholic District School Board schools.

C. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- 1. 2011-2012 PRO Grant application Process-**Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells informed the NCPIC members that the deadline for the PRO GRANT application for 2011-2012 is this Friday, May 13, 2011 for submission electronically and May 27, 2011 for the signed Declaration. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells also told the NCPIC members that this information had been sent to all Principals and Vice-Principals to share with their Catholic School Councils. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells asked if the NCPIC members had planned on submitting an application for the PRO Grant 2011-2012. Laurel Ives-Allison suggested waiting until the following year to submit an application as the deadline could not be met. Heather Pyke stated that the deadline could be met if a member was able to commit the time and prepare the application. Yvonne Wowk was going to try to prepare an application and meet the deadline. The topic was not confirmed.
- 2. Spotlight on Niagara-**Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells informed the NCPIC that the March edition of Spotlight on Niagara Catholic featured the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Annual Spring Convention 2011, and that the Spotlight on Niagara Catholic was available on the Board website.
- 3. Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy and Guidelines-**Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells informed the NCPIC members that the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy and Guidelines had been approved by the Committee of the Whole and would now be presented to the Board for final approval. Members of the NCPIC requested two revisions before it was presented to the Board. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells said that the requested changes would be presented at the Senior Administrative Council.

Requested changes: ELECTIONS

- 4.10.1-Elections of parent representatives to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement committee are to be held before November 15 and before the first meeting of the Committee in the school year.
 - 4.10.2-Election Forms will be sent to individual Catholic School Councils at least one month prior to the Election. Self-nominations will also be accepted
- 4. Financial Report-** A financial report was submitted to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee to review. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells stated the expenditures for the Annual Spring Convention. Shonna Daly stated that expenses paid by the NCPIC for the 2nd Annual PIC Symposium will be reimbursed by the Ministry of Education.
 - 5. Invitation to Partners in Catholic Education-**Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells extended a verbal invitation to the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee members to attend the Partners in Catholic Education held on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at the Quality Parkway Inn and Conference Centre, Ontario St., St. Catharines. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. The keynote speaker is

Geoff Greene, Founder and Executive Director, Students on Ice Expeditions. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells requested that if the NCPIC members had not already sent a R.S.V.P., to please let Yvonne Anderson know before the end of the evening. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells and Maurice Charbonneau presented the NCPIC members with a Certificate of Appreciation for being part of the NCPIC 2010-2011.

D. Chairperson's Report: Heather Pyke

1. Annual Spring Convention 2011-March 26, 2011-feedback

Heather Pyke stated there was positive feedback from parents. The venue worked well and the guest speaker Teresa Tomeo was well received. The vendors look forward to participating in the future. It was suggested that the Ad Hoc Committee review dates, times, and venues for next year. Maurice Charbonneau suggested to the NCPIC members that they needed an incentive to engage parents and suggested using a sign-in sheet process at the school with the most parent representation receiving a prize such as i.e. laptop.

2. June Social Proposal-Heather Pyke suggested a Faith Formation evening. The evening would begin with Mass at St. Alexander Church celebrated by Fr. Peter Rowe followed by a dinner in the parish hall. Fr. Peter Rowe will consult his calendar for availability and an e-mail would be sent to all members from Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells once confirmation has been received.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Community Representative

- **Nil Report**

2. Special Needs Representative-Anna Racine

- Anna Racine reported to the NCPIC that a motion was brought to the Board to forward a letter on behalf of the SEAC. It was endorsed by Kathy Burtnik and sent to the Ministry of Education and to the Ontario College of Teachers, with copies to all Ontario SEAC's and local MPs and MPPs, stating that Special Education Part I should be a requirement for all graduating students from the Faculty of Education. The Board approved the motion and the letter will be sent out in May 2011.
- The Annual Community Service Agencies will be hosting an information night at the Niagara Catholic District School Board on Tuesday, May 17, 2011. Parents with students on an IEP or who have special supports at school would be invited by the ERT to attend this information night. Presentations from community agencies will highlight supports available to families outside the school community. The community agencies that sit on SEAC will participate.
- Submissions for the SEAC logo have been received and one will be selected at the June meeting.

3. OAPCE-Mary-Jo Au

- Mary-Jo Au informed the NCPIC members that there was still availability to attend the OAPCE Conference May 13 and 14, 2011. Guest speakers: Bishop Collie from Thunder Bay, Leona Dombrowsky, Ministry of Education, and Aimee Gerdevich, OAPCE President.
- Marion Battersby will be representing the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee at the conference.

4. Bishop/Diocesan Representative-Fr. Peter Rowe

- Fr. Peter Rowe told the NCPIC members that Teresa Tomeo was engaging at the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Annual Spring Convention 2011.
- Fr. Peter Rowe shared with the NCPIC members that he has requested that the schools refer parents back to the church when there are questions regarding the sacraments. The sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist are almost complete.
- Fr. Peter Rowe told the NCPIC members that Deacon Rico Fasaro from the Fonthill community will be celebrating his Ordination to the Priesthood.
- Fr. Peter Rowe shared his view on the Grade 11 Textbook-World Religions, stating it is a great resource. Students of the Niagara Catholic District School Board will benefit from the publication.
- Fr. Peter Rowe congratulated and welcomed Shonna Daly to the Catholic Faith as she completed the RCIA program and has been received into the Church at the Easter Vigil.

5. Student Representative-Emily Purcha:

- Emily Purcha reported on the Ontario Student Catholic Leadership Conference (OSCLC) “Lighting the Way” held on March 31, April 1 and April 2. It was educational, as well as spiritual and all feedback was positive.
- Emily Purcha shared with the NCPIC members that the Student Forum on April 11, 2011 “Celebrating Catholic Community: Honouring Diversity” was exciting and educational. Students from all elementary and secondary schools of the Niagara Catholic District School Board came together to discuss diversity and share their thoughts and ideas. Several workshops were planned for this event. The Student Senate’s workshop was on “isms” eg. such as ableism, ageism, racism, focusing on how we can unlearn these words and come up with a plan of action to implement at their school.
- Emily Purcha stated that the Student Senate is presently working on the Graduation Mass for all Niagara Catholic Grads. The Mass will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre.

6. Ad Hoc Committee Report:

1. **By-Laws**-Heather Pyke informed the NCPIC members that the By-Laws are in progress and that the committee hopes to have a final draft for the next meeting.
2. **Goals**-Yvonne Wowk shared with the NCPIC members that the committee came up with four goals for the 2011-2012 school year which will be presented to the NCPIC members and one will be voted on.

Recommendations for 2011-2012:

1. **Visit each Catholic School Council throughout the Board once during the school year:**
 - a) that the NCPIC member would visit their feeder school to educate Catholic School Council members on their roles as members of the Catholic School Council.
 - b) that the NCPIC would educate Catholic School Councils on the purpose of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee.

2. Family Night Out-This activity could replace the Spring Convention:

Due to the overwhelming response to “Girl’s Night Out”, parents will attend an event if their children are involved. We hope to engage parents by hosting a “Family Night Out”, “Boy’s Night Out” or “Girls’ Night Out”. Friday night seems to be a preferred evening for such events.

3. Create a blog on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee website: This will allow parents to view any questions or concerns they may have related to Catholic School Councils. They will also be able to share their ideas and/or give feedback.

4. Annual Social: The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee could host a social every year for all past and present Catholic School Council members from all the NCDSB schools. This would include a Mass with a social to follow. Dinner could be provided by the NCDSB culinary arts students.

F. STAFF REPORTS:

1. Elementary Principal- Pat Rocca

- Regrets sent-NIL Report

2. Secondary Principal-Khayyam Syne

- Regrets sent-NIL Report

3. Teacher-Scott Root

- Scott Root informed the NCPIC members that on May 5, 2011 the Niagara Catholic District School celebrated “Staff Excellence”. The guest speaker was Ariana Gillis who is a Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School graduate and is now pursuing a career in music. Ariana spoke on the importance of her Catholic education and thanked the teachers, staff and students who supported her through her journey.

4. Support Staff-Josie Candeloro

- Congratulations are extended to Donna Saunders, Educational Assistant from Blessed Trinity High School who was recognized in the category of Excellent Support staff and was a recipient of the Premier’s Award for teaching excellence.
- CUPE local 1317, who represents nearly 900 staff at Niagara Catholic District School Board will be having their next membership meeting May 18th, 2011 at Holy Rosary Church Hall, in Thorold. Nominations and Election of one (1) trustee will take place at this meeting.
- Catholic Education week was celebrated across Niagara Catholic District School Board. At St. Alfred School a highlight of the week was their Multicultural Day, where students of various ethnic backgrounds dressed in traditional clothing, took part in various workshops in the mornings by such organizations as ten thousand villages, branches, and various guest speakers. The afternoon showcased the talents of our students, who performed ethnic dances, sang songs and poems written by students in their native tongue at language club held at lunch time throughout the year.
- Heritage Fair: Students from across Niagara Catholic elementary schools showcased their projects celebrating Canada’s History and Heritage and was also a celebration of

Niagara Catholic student achievement and strive for excellence. The fair took place April 27th, 2011 at Brock University: Pond Inlet.

G. TRUSTEE REPORTS

Kathy Burtnik:

- Regrets sent-NIL Report

Maurice Charbonneau:

- Maurice Charbonneau congratulated Emily Purcha and the Student Senate for the excellent job they did at the OSCLC student conference. You could feel the energy, enthusiasm and faith in Catholic education.
- Maurice Charbonneau also extended congratulations to the Niagara Catholic District School Board for hosting the OSCLC Conference "Lighting the Way" held on March 31, April 1 and April 2. Niagara Catholic is being spoken about all around the province and the difference we have made in Catholic education.
- Maurice Charbonneau asked the NCPIC members to take a good look at the request made by the Ministry of Education with regards to feedback pertaining to the Fundraising and Learning Fees policies as it will affect student activities in the future.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Ministry of Education-Ministry Consultations (Fundraising and Learning Fees):

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells informed the NCPIC that the Ministry of Education was asking for feedback from the Parent Involvement Committees with regards to the Fundraising and Learning Fees policies. The information had been sent to all NCPIC members via e-mail and the deadline for feedback to the Ministry of Education is August 31, 2011.

2. Annual Catholic School Council Chairperson and Members' Meeting: Leonard Sax MD PhD

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells reported to the NCPIC she had received a suggestion from a Catholic School Council Chairperson with regards to a possible guest speaker for the Annual Catholic School Council Chairperson and Members' Meeting. Leonard Sax MD PhD speaks on "Girls on the Edge", "Boys Adrift" and "Why Gender Matters".

I. CORRESPONDENCE

- No correspondence

J. QUESTION PERIOD

K. NEXT MEETING: September 8, 2011

L. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Shonna Daly

Seconded by: Laurel Ives-Allison

THAT the May 12, 2011 meeting of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.