



NIAGARA CATHOLIC REGIONAL SCHOOL COUNCIL
THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2011
FATHER KENNETH BURNS BOARD ROOM
CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE
7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

**Minutes of the Niagara Catholic Regional School Council Meeting
of January 13, 2011**

Members in attendance: Mary-Jo Au, Heather Pyke, Marion Battersby, Luke Brazeau, Lisa Burland, Kathy Burtnik, Mary Mannella-Byers, Josie Candeloro, Shonna Daly, Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells, Laurel Ives-Allison, Emily Purcha, Anna Racine, Pat Rocca, Scott Root, Fr. Peter Rowe, Frances Stewart, Khayyam Syne, Yvonne Wowk and Michelle Zappitelli.

Regrets: Vanessa Alexis, Moe Charbonneau, Teri Venzon and Christina Willey.

1. **Call to order:** Chairperson Heather Pyke called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. **Opening Prayer:** Fr. Peter Rowe led the Niagara Catholic Regional School Council members in prayer, remembering St. Marguerite and the contributions she made to Catholic Education.
3. **Welcome of New Members/Noting of members present, absent and regrets**
4. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - September 16, 2010-approved
 - November 11, 2010 minutes did not have to be approved as quorum was not present at the meeting.
5. **New Business:** Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells

Symposium: Deepening the Understanding...Widening the Response

Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells informed the NCRSC members of an upcoming symposium which will be held January 26 and 27, 2011 at the Toronto Sheraton Centre Hotel. The symposium will bring together school board members, senior board staff, community leaders, parent group representatives and students to hear speakers and participate in workshops. The symposium is intended to promote the flow of ideas, share good practice and make new connections to assist in the implementation of the Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy and the supporting policy and procedures required to be in place in all publicly funded boards in Ontario.

Ministry of Education: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells informed the NCRSC members of an invitation for Parent Involvement Committee Chairpersons and Co-Chairpersons. Two members from each Parent Involvement Committee are invited to attend the second annual PIC Symposium to be held in Toronto on the evening of Friday, April 8, 2011 and all day on Saturday, April 9, 2011. There will be a variety of workshops and sessions on topics of interest to the PIC's and opportunities to discuss challenges and to share good ideas with each other and ministry staff. Heather Pyke and Shonna Daly will represent

the NCPIC at the Symposium; Frances Stewart made a request for materials to be brought back from the Symposium to share with the NCRSC members.

2011-2012 School Year Calendar Consultation Process: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells presented the proposed school year calendar for 2011-2012. There was some discussion with regards to the necessity of a Board holiday scheduled for Friday, March 9, 2011. A vote was taken, 7 voted for and 9 voted against the date. No recommendation for a preferred date was suggested.

Premier's Awards for Teaching Excellence: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells informed the NCRSC members the deadline for the accepting nomination forms is January 31, 2011 and nomination materials were available for anyone interested.

Bishop's Gala: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells informed the NCRSC members of the upcoming Bishop's Gala, held January 28, 2011 at Club Italia. The Award of Distinction will be presented to Fr. Stan Puchniak, along with the Felician Sisters, the founders of the first Catholic school in Welland, Saint Peter and Paul School.

B) Policies for Vetting: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells informed the NCRSC members that several policies were being vetted: the Niagara Catholic School Councils Policy, the Nutrition Policy, Purchasing/Supply Chain Management Policy and Education-Based Research Policy. These policies had been e-mailed to the NCRSC members for their feedback. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells requested that any feedback be submitted by Tuesday, January 25, 2011.

C) Policy Review: Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells informed the NCRSC members that the revised Catholic School Councils Policy is in the final draft. There will be two separate policies: Catholic School Councils Policy and the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy.

6. **Faith Formation:** Khayyam Syne informed the NCRSC members that the Faith Formation preparations are on schedule. Terri Pauco will present "Beatitudes-Virtue Model" on February 17, 2011 at Notre Dame College School at 7:00 p.m. for all Catholic School Council members and parents/guardian. A Memo and Invitation will be sent out on Tuesday, January 17, 2011. Khayyam also stated there would be a series of presentations addressing the fulfillment of Catholic Values.
7. **Convention Update:** Heather Pyke informed the NCRSC that the Guest Speaker for the March 26, 2011 Convention is Teresa Tomeo. Khayyam Syne stated he would be providing transportation for Teresa Tomeo and that she would also be the guest speaker for "Girl's Night Out" designed for mothers and daughters on March 25, 2011, with Terri Pauco.
8. **2010-2011 Goals-**Heather Pyke asked for members to break up into groups and brainstorm ideas for enhancing parent engagement. Members came up with many ideas, however, Kathy Burtnik suggested that the members define parent engagement before they set any goals. Discussions will continue at the next meeting.

Time Permitting-Heather Pyke asked the members if they wanted to continue the meeting as they still had quite a bit to discuss and it was already 8:45 p.m. or did they want to adjourn. Members agreed to continue with the meeting.

9. Committee Reports:

- a) **Community Representative**-Christina Willey sent her regrets.
- b) **Special Needs Representative**-Anna Racine reported that:
- Saint Paul had a Cosmo Hockey Tournament for all special education classes.
 - Blessed Trinity had special advent celebrations and adopted a needy family. Two students from Blessed Trinity participated in a swim meet at Brock University. Blessed Trinity had a mock literacy test, and students on IEPs were given appropriate accommodations and assistive technology.
 - Lakeshore Catholic teachers from the Special Education classes are using structured teaching techniques for room setup and organization and visual schedules. ERTs are attending monthly assistive technology workshops.
 - Path Stone Mental Health formally known as NCYS has come on board with SEAC
 - SEAC Logo competition will be put out to secondary students at the beginning of Semester 2.
 - SEAC recently completed a survey for the Ministry on best practices, orientations and resources.
- c) **OAPCE**-Mary-Jo Au informed the NCRSC members that OAPCE has a new director from Dufferin-Peel and they are looking to fill positions in PVNC (Peterborough area) and Thunder Bay. Mary-Jo Au also stated that they are preparing regional reports for the Board meeting on January 14-15, 2011.
- d) **Bishop/Diocesan Representative**-Fr. Peter Rowe shared with the NCRSC members that Bishop Bergie looks forward to the year ahead and has already begun to participate in school and Board masses and celebrations. Fr. Peter Rowe also shared with the NCRSC members that our schools are promoting Biblical Literacy in the classrooms.
- e) **Student Representative**-Emily Purcha informed the NCRSC members that the Student Senate will be participating in a three day Youth Conference where representatives from each secondary school will represent their school. Plans are underway for a student symposium, “Celebrating Catholic Community: Honouring Diversity” for students from all across Ontario. Schools will be invited to participate by sending three students from each elementary school and five students from each secondary school to this symposium.

10. Updates:

- a) **Elementary Principal**-Pat Rocca shared with the NCRSC members that February brings Public Speaking, the “Kids Helping Kids” Campaign and the beginning of Lenten Celebrations.

Secondary Principal-Khayyam Syne shared with the NCRSC members that Semester one is coming to a close and secondary students are preparing for exams. The secondary graduates are looking forward to their last semester and celebrating their achievements.

- b) **Trustee-Kathy Burtnik** informed the NCRSC members that Maurice Charbonneau was re-elected as Trustee and elected as the Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Maurice Charbonneau will also be a Trustee representative on the Niagara Catholic Regional School Council. Kathy Burtnik also shared that Niagara Catholic is looking forward to JK/SK Registration coming up in February and that Niagara Catholic has placed signs and banners outside each elementary school to promote JK/SK registration. Both elementary and secondary schools were preparing for their Open Houses. Kathy Burtnik shared that Rob Ciarlo, Superintendent of Education, announced his retirement and that Rob had contributed 35 years to Catholic Education. Kathy Burtnik mentioned the Bishop's Gala and that Fr. Stan Puchniak is the worthy recipient of the 2010 Award of Distinction. Fr. Stan Puchniak, along with the Felician Sisters founded the first Catholic School in Welland. Kathy Burtnik wished all members of the Niagara Catholic Regional School Council a Happy New Year and stated that she is looking forward to the assistance and energy brought to the Board by the NCRSC members.
- c) **Pro Grant**-Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells stated, in consultation with John Crocco she would like to make a proposal to the NCRSC members that the PRO GRANT project would be to update the content of "Student Learning a Parent Focus Handbook" with the \$8800.00 of unused Ministry funding or return the money to the Ministry. Mary-Jo Au suggested that the money be returned. A motion was made by Laurel Allison for Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells to submit a letter on behalf of the NCRSC members to the Ministry to use the \$8800.00 to update Phase One of 2009-2010 Pro Grant, and if the Ministry does not approve the project the funds would be returned. The motion was seconded by Shonna Daly. A vote was taken, thirteen were in favour of updating the handbook and one was opposed. Lee Ann Forsyth-Sells will submit a letter to the Ministry of Education on behalf of the NCRSC.
- d) **Christmas Social**-Heather Pyke stated to the NCRSC members due to the timing and scheduling, the NCRSC was unable to commit to a social. Heather Pyke then asked if the NCRSC members would like to have a Social. Mary-Jo Au volunteered to coordinate the event.
- e) **Feedback-Annual Chairpersons and Members Meeting**-Heather Pyke informed the NCRSC that feedback forms from Catholic School Councils were attached for members to review.
- f) **Feedback-Parent Engagement Goals 2010-2011**-Heather Pyke informed the NCRSC members that feedback forms for the Parent Engagement Goals 2010-2011 were also attached for the members to review and discuss.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

Thursday, February 3, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.-Annual Spring Convention Sub-Committee

Thursday, February 10, 2011-Proposed Social at Lina Linguini's at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 17, 2011-Faith Formation at Notre Dame College School at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 10, 2011- NCRSC Regular Meeting