



Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee (CPEC) held at the Catholic Education Centre, Peterborough and virtually by Google Meet on Monday, October 2, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Committee Members:

Present: Patricia Carmichael, Joshua Glover (Trustee), Karen Goodhand, Christine Haffie, Margaret Prentice, Father Paul Massel, Kevin MacKenzie (ex-officio).

Regrets: Jeremy Beggs, Jennifer Ball, Julianne Charette, Lisa Hiltz, Rachel Logan.

Catholic School Council, Parent Guests:

Michelle Bakracevski, Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, Morin R., Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School, and Heather Donahee, St. Peter Catholic Secondary School.

Administration: Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education.

Recorder: Michelle Kennedy, Executive Assistant.

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by the Director of Education, Stephen O'Sullivan.

1. Opening Prayer

Father Paul Massel led the committee in prayer to begin the meeting.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Following prayer, Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education, gave a land acknowledgement and stated that the meeting was taking place on the treaty lands and the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishnaabeg.

3. Approval of Agenda

Prior to proceeding with the agenda, Stephen O'Sullivan invited everyone in the room and online to introduce themselves as there were participants and guests at the meeting for the first time.

MOTION: Moved by Patricia Carmichael, seconded by Christine Haffie

that the agenda be approved.

Carried.

4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Patricia Carmichael, who is a committee member declared that she is an employee of PVNCCDSB.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held June 5, 2023.

MOTION: Moved by Margaret Prentice, seconded by Father Paul Massel

that the minutes from the meeting held on June 5, 2023, be approved.

Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Selection of a Chairperson for the 2024-2026 term.

Stephen O'Sullivan called for nominations for the position of chairperson of the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee for the 2024-2026 term.

Nominees:

Karen Goodhand - declined

Margaret Prentice – accepted

Stephen O'Sullivan declared Margaret Prentice acclaimed to the position of Chairperson and invited her to chair the remainder of the meeting.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Math Plan.

Superintendent Jeannie Armstrong introduced the math Coaching Team consisting of teachers Jennifer Minnie, Nancy McCarthy, Adelle Cronin, Amanda Walchuk, and learning consultant Sandra Connolly, The team presented the Math Achievement Action Plan for PVNCCDSB to the committee.

In the presentation, three foci of the plan were explained, and the team reviewed the key resources and practices being implemented at the twelve priority schools which were chosen based on EQAO results.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the team answered questions from the committee and guests. The team discussed preliminary plans for hosting math parent nights during the school year. The committee responded positively to the idea.

2. Funding – Parents Reaching Out

Michelle Kennedy reported on the funding that is directed to parent engagement from the Ministry of Education. Each year there is funding from the Ministry that is given directly to the schools to support parent engagement. This year each school has been allocated \$500 to use in their school for events or projects that enhance parent engagement. (36 x \$500=\$18,000)

The board has also been funded \$7,245 to improve student achievement and well-being through parent engagement at the board level. This money is used to support CPEC and its initiatives from a system-wide perspective.

In addition, there has been \$19,500 allocated from the Ministry for the Parents Reaching Out Component. This funding is to support initiatives that identify and address local parent needs and/or remove barriers that prevent parents from participating and engaging fully in their children's learning and education progress, using tools/processes that are accessible and inclusive.

3. 2023-2024 Special Event Planning.

Stephen O'Sullivan spoke to the committee about planning for the traditional special event held each year by the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee.

There was discussion, considering the Math Team's presentation heard earlier in the meeting, that parent math evenings could be helpful for improving understanding and engagement in student learning in that subject.

To further enhance participation, it was felt that a few Math presentation nights staged in each region of the board would alleviate parents travelling outside of their region and promote attendance. Distribution of resources and demonstrations of learning resources was felt to be an important aspect of the presentations.

Motion: Moved by Joshua Glover, seconded by Father Paul Massel

that funding and planning for the 2023-2024 parent engagement event be "Math centric" and held regionally.

Carried.

C. Information Items:

1. System Updates

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education updated the committee on system events and initiatives from the start of the 2023-2024 school year which included the following points:

- Expressed thanks to the trustees for placing their trust and faith in appointing him to the position of Director of Education.
- The board's staff and administration welcomed close to 15,000 students back to its 36 schools to begin another school year.
- The board welcomed John Connolly as the new trustee of Peterborough County on September 12 replacing Mike Ayotte who resigned in June, 2023.
- The board also welcomed Claire Heitzner, Junior Student Trustee from St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School who represents the student voice of the board with Madelyn Gaskell, Senior Student Trustee.
- A great deal of professional development for educators and support staff has taken place and is being planned for the year. The Catholic Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being and the School Improvement Plans for Student Achievement and Well-being, which guide and shape the direction of the board and our schools, are being developed.
- Professional Activity Day agendas will now be made available to parents online to provide information on the activities and workshops in which the teachers and support staff engage.
- This year the board is offering a new adult faith formation program for employees to participate in. The program will be made up of several sessions offered at the end of the workday throughout the year, rooted in study of the sacraments, scripture and various types of prayer.
- Thanked the parents attending the CPEC meeting and the members of the committee for their interest in Catholic education and dedication to all children in all school communities.

At the conclusion, Stephen O'Sullivan invited and answered questions from the committee members.

2. Committee Member Updates.

Committee members shared updates from their schools:

Patricia Carmichael reported that most Catholic School Councils are just starting up and getting their councils in place. At St. Mary Catholic Elementary School in Grafton, an open house was held to welcome families back to see classrooms and meet the teachers. Some

other events happening at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School include “Thunder Fights Hunger”, the Terry Fox fundraising drive, and the recent Truth and Reconciliation Day held at the end of September.

Stephen O’Sullivan reported on behalf of Principal Julianne Charette that a presentation about Human Trafficking with guest speaker Kate Moore will be held on Wednesday, October 25th at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary School, Newcastle. The event will also be live-streamed.

Joshua Glover, Board Trustee, reported on the trustee matters that have been considered at the recent Board meeting and the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting. He noted that capital project applications have been sent to the Ministry regarding pupil accommodation in Bowmanville and Cobourg. The process of adding an Indigenous Trustee to PVNCCDSB is being explored. Trustee Glover encouraged parents to be involved and engaged.

Karen Goodhand reported that sports teams at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary are in action and the Welcome to Gr 9 event was held. The Catholic School Council will be supporting presentations on the dangers of vaping, and human trafficking awareness as well as the student run food drive, the week of wellness, and the poinsettias fundraiser.

Christine Haffie reported that the Catholic School Council hosted a Walk and Stroll with Snack instead of an opening barbecue. Christine surveyed the group to ask about breakfast program and hot lunches and inquired about nutritional guidelines.

Father Paul Massel reported that the board is entering into the second year of the Board Pastoral Plan and there are lots of activities initiated in relation to it. On November 3rd the Board will participate in a board-wide Faith Day with guest speakers Niigaan Sinclair and Father Dias. On October 25th a meeting was held at the board office with parish priests and school principals to deepen the school-parish relationships.

Margaret Prentice reported that Catholic School Councils in her region are just having their first meetings and she will be actively reaching out to them. Grade 9 parent orientation nights have been a great success. The CSC at Holy Trinity CSS will be fundraising to assist with the purchase of software to assist with parent interview sign up which will help to improve engagement of parents.

3. Next Committee Meeting:

The next CPEC meeting will be held on Monday, January 29, 2024, 2023, 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre, Peterborough.

D. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer.

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education, led the closing prayer to conclude the meeting.

2. Adjournment.

MOTION: Moved by Christine Haffie, seconded by Patricia Carmichael
that the meeting adjourn at 8:54 p.m.

Carried.