



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, January 29, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Committee Members:

Jennifer Ball (online), Julianne Charette (online), Karen Goodhand (online), Christine Haffie, Rachel Logan (online), Margaret Prentice (Chairperson), Father Paul Massel, Kathleen Tanguay (Trustee),

Committee Member Regrets: Jeremy Beggs, Patricia Carmichael, Lisa Hiltz.

Trustee Guests:

Mary Ann Martin

Administration:

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education, Benjamin Tenesia, Board Equity Advisor, Jennifer Eaton-Koch, Learning Consultant.

Recorder: Michelle Kennedy, Executive Assistant.

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by the Margaret Prentice, Committee Chairperson.

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**

MOTION: Moved by Father Paul Massel, seconded by Kathleen Tanguay
that the agenda be approved.

Carried.

4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

There were no new conflicts of interest declared. Rachel Logan and Patricia Carmichael have previously declared they are employees of the PVNC Catholic District School Board.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held October 2, 2023.

MOTION: Moved by Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Karen Goodhand
that the minutes from the meeting held on October 2, 2023, be approved.

Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Pastoral Plan, Adult Faith Formation, and Equity Action Plan – A Vision of Transformative Change, 2023-2028.

Stephen O’Sullivan, Director of Education introduced Jennifer Eaton-Koch, Religious Education Consultant and Father Paul Massel, Board Chaplain and Faith Animator. A presentation was given about the Board’s Pastoral Plan and the Adult Faith Formation program that is available for staff to take part in which are closely aligned with the board’s strategic priorities. The presenters discussed the goals of the plan and the progression to year two that has the theme “Hope”. The corresponding initiatives that animate the plan were explained.

The Board Equity Advisor, Benjamin Tenesia was introduced and presented information to the committee about the development of the Equity Action Pan. The plan has been created with the board’s strategic priorities in mind and follows the seven guiding principles of the Ontario Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy. The plan is rooted in the board’s directional policy, DP 700, Equity and Inclusive Education and is embedded in Catholic School Improvement Plans for Student Achievement and Well-being as well as the Catholic Board Improvement Plans for Student Achievement and Well-being. Parent consultation is being sought through a platform on the board website and the plan will be finalized in 2024.

At the end of the presentations there was an opportunity for questions and discussion with the presenters.

2. 2023-2024 Engagement Events.

There was discussion about the types of engagement events that have been hosted by various schools and departments. The committee discussed possible further events that could be held, possibly regionally during the year.

The Math Achievement Team has parent engagement events planned in the second half of the school year. Plans will continue about a regional event with Math as a topic.

C. Information Items:

1. System Updates

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education updated the committee on system events and initiatives which included the following points:

- Christmas was a time for renewal for our staff and they are ready for the second half of the year. Secondary students have begun exams; Grade 8 students are turning their minds to high school and the secondary schools are hosting information nights.
- The trustees took part in a provincial symposium with workshops to enhance their understanding and governance of public education in Ontario.
- The celebration of Black Excellence Day on January 19, 2024 and the upcoming Black History Month activities demonstrates the board's commitment to honouring diversity and equity and building more inclusive school communities.
- The board is saddened by the passing of Helen McCarthy, former board trustee. Mrs. McCarthy served as a trustee for eight years and advocated for love and tolerance within the Catholic community demonstrated by her commitment to peace and diversity.

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:

Christine Haffie – reported that St. Peter Catholic Secondary School now include the posting of the morning announcements on the school website. This step has improved school communication with parents and is helpful for students as well. There was discussion about other best practices that could enhance student and parent experiences.

Karen Goodhand – reported that the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School poinsettia sales campaign resulted in a \$2,000 profit for the council. Grade 8 students from the City of Kawartha Lakes were invited to the welcome to Grade 9 information night. The council supported the “Week of Wellness” held at the school and the students held a “Be an Angel” Campaign at Christmas.

Margaret Prentice – reported that the Catholic School Council at Holy Trinity CSS does not engage in a large fundraiser, however, the school is hosting a Domino’s Pizza event where the franchise gives proceeds from each Holy Trinity family pizza order on a particular day. The council will be supporting the SHSM program and promotion. The school has held an intentional kindness week and before Remembrance Day, ceramic poppies were sold. The school has begun having video announcements that are produced by the students which has been well received.

Jennifer Ball – reported that volunteer engagement has been challenging St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School. The council is working toward the purchase of outdoor seating. The Grade 8 orientation evening was successful. The ‘Royal Review’ is a posting of the weekly activities at St. Stephen CSS. At St. Joseph Catholic Elementary in Bowmanville, the council supported the annual Christmas luncheon and Pancake Tuesday and a spring Fun Fair is being planned. St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School posts a ‘week at a glance’ noting activities and events parents and students should be aware of.

Julianne Charette – reported that the Annual Youth Violence Prevention Symposium will take place online from February 26 to March 8. This event is for students in Grades 7, 8, and 9 and consists of six module that include videos and in-class activities on topics such as human trafficking, online safety, healthy relationships, teen dating violence, gang violence, and empowerment and self-care.

Father Paul Massel reported that he attends Deanery meetings and continues to build relationships between the school and parish with respect to sacrament preparation and the meetings when principals and parish priests gather as one group to discuss timely matters. At the board, a book study is taking place an on-line prayer space happens every Wednesday, at 8:15 am.

3. Next Committee Meeting:

The next CPEC meeting will be held on Monday, April 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre, Peterborough and virtually by Google Meet.

D. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer.

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

2. Adjournment.

MOTION: Moved by Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Christine Haffie
that the meeting adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

Carried.