



# 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, April 15, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

---

## Present:

### **Committee Members:**

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

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

### **Guests:**

Sarah Collins, parent from St. Paul, Lakefield, Nicole Thomas, parent from St. Paul, Lakefield.

### **Administration:**

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education, Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent of Learning, Sandra Connolly, Learning Consultant, Adelle Cronin, Math Coach, Nancy McCarthy, Learning Consultant, and Amanda Walchuk, Math Coach.

**Recorder:** Michelle Kennedy, Executive Assistant.

---

**A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by the Margaret Prentice, Committee Chairperson.

1. **Opening Prayer**

Trustee Kathleen Tanguay 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 Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Father Paul Massel  
that the agenda be approved.

Carried.

4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Rachel Logan has previously declared she is an employee of the Board.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held January 29, 2024.

**MOTION:** Moved by Christine Haffie, seconded by Kathleen Tanguay  
that the minutes from the meeting held on January 29, 2024, be  
approved.

Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:**

1. Strategic Priority: Excellence in Teaching and Learning – Math Achievement Action Plan.

Superintendent of Learning, Jeannie Armstrong introduced members of the Math Team: Sandra Connolly, Learning Consultant, Adelle Cronin, Math Coach, Nancy McCarthy, Learning Consultant, and Amanda Walchuk, Math Coach. A presentation about the ongoing Math initiatives that are taking place throughout the board was given.

The Math team continues to focus on the understanding of the curriculum and the continuum of learning across the grades in all schools, and particularly the schools targeted for Math improvement. Evidence of the impact of the work that is being conducted in the schools was shared and there continues to be an improvement in the number of teachers who they report an improvement in their confidence and competence in the use of the programs. Fourteen schools have engaged in activities for parents and students to help improve Math skills.

At the end of the presentation, the committee had the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters.

2. 2023-2024 Engagement Events.

Mental Health Parent Engagement – An email was sent to all the committee members from Jennifer Angelo, Board Mental Health Lead. Jennifer was looking to gain some feedback on topics for a future presentation that would interest parents. There was a discussion about student mental health and the following list of topics was developed:

- absenteeism - impediments to good attendance and how to overcome them.
- managing social media
- resilience in children

- building communication skills in children (especially face-to-face communication post-covid and in an age of texting and social media)
- overcoming barriers to getting the tools needed to attend school
- dealing with big feelings at school (getting over not wanting to come to school)

The list will be shared with Jennifer Angelo.

Math Engagement Night – The date for the Parent Engagement event was changed to May 27, 2024, due to conflicts with the original date in June. It was decided that the event would take place regionally in two locations with an option for parents to join from home. Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent of Learning confirmed that the guest speaker would be Dr. Christine Suurtamm. Dr. Suurtamm will present a half hour keynote and the Math team will be available to engage with parents who are in person to teach them ways to engage with their students.

The funds for the project will allow for the purchase of kits of resources that will be available for the parents who register to take home.

### **C. Information Items:**

#### 1. System Updates

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education updated the committee on the new engagement platform being used to collect information and opinions. Access to the platform [engagepvnc.ca](http://engagepvnc.ca), which can be reached through the board website was demonstrated.

The software will allow participants to engage directly regarding a topic, such as a draft policy or administrative procedure. Communication about topics posted for engagement will be sent through school messenger and the committee was encouraged to participate and have their voice heard.

#### 2. Committee Member Updates.

Committee members shared updates:

Father Paul Massel reported that the Board's pastoral plan which is in the theme year "hope" will extend that theme for a second year to coincide with the Pastoral year of hope. Father Paul reported that plans are underway for the board-wide Faith Day in the fall of 2024 at which Michael Higgins will be the guest speaker. James Grainger is the new assistant to Bishop Miehm as Deirdre Thomas retired from the position recently.

Jennifer Ball – reported that the St. Stephen Catholic School Council purchased outdoor seating in a patio area at the school. The St. Stephen theatre production will be staged in May. At St. Joseph Catholic Elementary, the choir has recently sang the anthem at Osh Generals and Toronto Marlies hockey games. The CSC continues to support Hot lunches and a fun fair.

Parents have become concerned with Graduation trips cost which are becoming prohibitive Jennifer Ball inquired about possibly joining with other schools to better pricing. Bussing communications about delays and cancellations continues to be a frustration.

Christine Haffie – reported that St. Teresa Catholic Elementary recently celebrated Mass at the Cathedral, there have been class trips, and students look forward to the math Olympics. St. Paul, Lakefield will be hosting a community yard sale. At St. Joseph Catholic Elementary in Douro they have a fundraising challenge to be able to get a new playground. The cost will be \$100,000 and will have a lifespan of approximately 10 years. There was a discussion about the use of play yards and how to make them more cost effective.

St. Anne Catholic Elementary continues to have hot lunches which are popular and successful. St. Paul Catholic Elementary, Lakefield also has competing interests for the school's fundraising dollars between a playground (which they have not had for three years), an FM system to enhance hearing, and Chromebooks. There was discussion about the use of funds and the challenges of fundraising with a wide spectrum of demographics in the school community.

3. Next Committee Meeting:

The next CPEC meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre, Peterborough and virtually by Google Meet.

**D. Conclusion:**

1. Closing Prayer.

Trustee Kathleen Tanguay led the closing prayer to conclude the meeting.

2. Adjournment.

MOTION: Moved by Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Christine Haffie  
that the meeting adjourn at 8:42 p.m.

Carried.