



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 Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Committee Members:

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

Administration:

Jennifer Angelo, Board Mental Health Lead (online), Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds, Board Psychologist, Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education.

Recorder: Michelle Kennedy, Executive Assistant.

Committee Member Regrets: Jennifer Ball, Jeremy Beggs, Lisa Hiltz.

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by 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 stating 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 Julianne Charette
that the agenda be approved.

Carried.

4. **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

Rachel Logan and Patricia Carmichael declared their employment with the PVNCCDSB.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held April 15, 2024.

MOTION: Moved by Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Julianne Charette that the minutes from the meeting held on April 15, 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: Nurturing Mental Health and Well-being.

Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds and Jennifer Angelo presented a slide show presentation about Mental Health and Well-being initiatives taking place in PVNCCDSB schools which are guided by the four year Mental Health and Well-being Plan.

Each year, following the establishment of the Catholic Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being, a one-year plan is established and posted that identifies a focus for the year.

The presenters reviewed the 2023-2024 plan foci and spoke about the corresponding initiatives and activities that followed the plan this year. There are ongoing tier-one strategies in schools such as Christian meditation, posters, resources, restorative practices, relationship-based education, mental health literacy, professional learning opportunities for staff that remain in place year after year.

Resources for Families were reviewed, such as the School Mental Health web page <https://smho-smso.ca/>, the Being Well portal on the PVNCCDSB Website, and the committee was invited to share information about the upcoming June 12 the Family Mental Health Literacy Night.

2. May 27, 2024, Event – Math at Home with Dr. Christine Suurtamm.

Michelle Kennedy, Executive Assistant and Stephen O’Sullivan, Director of Education gave an overview of the plans for the Parent Engagement Event planned for Monday, May 27, 2024, presentation by Dr. Christine Suurtamm. Two sites will be available for in person attendance, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Elementary in Newcastle, and St. Catherine Catholic Elementary School in Peterborough. Dr. Suurtamm will be in person for her 35 minute keynote at St. Catherine CES and parents will also be able to attend online. The math team will be in both locations to lead activities following the presentation. Julianne Charette will be the Master of Ceremonies from St. Catherine.

Math kits have been ordered and will be distributed to all parents who sign up for the event. A recording will also be available after the event.

There was discussion about the planning for engagement events in the 2024-2025 school year. It was noted that there is a desire to shift the spring event back to an invitation event for Catholic School Council members. There was discussion about hosting both a fall event for all parents, with a focus on mental health, possibly Dr. Jody Carrington, and a spring social evening for Catholic School Councils that would showcase student programs, possibly skilled trades.

The Director's office will investigate the possibility of engaging a guest speaker for the fall, contingent on funding from the Ministry.

C. Information Items:

1. System Updates

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education updated the committee on various aspects of board activities and work taking place this spring:

Transportation opt-in has begun with the goal of improving efficiency and eliminating empty seats on buses. The link for families to use to opt-in or opt-out can be found on the board website.

Directional Policy 900, Safe and Accepting Schools has been approved by the Policy Development Committee.

The Principal and Vice-principal transfers have been announced.

The building project for a new school in Clarington has been approved and announced and we look forward to the school opening in September 2026.

2. Committee Member Updates.

The following committee members shared their updates:

Father Paul Massel: The board chaplaincy leaders met to review their year and plan for the upcoming school year. The Rosary program is seeing some rejuvenation since it was paused during the Covid-19 pandemic. Preparations are underway for the Boardwide Faith Day which will be held in October, 2024.

Christine Haffie: St. Paul Catholic Elementary School in Lakefield held a bottle drive and yard sale and auction.

Patricia Carmichael: Reported on end of year activities, such as movie nights, fun fairs, and transition activities for students entering secondary school in September, Gr 12 trips, and a new Indigenous room has been established at St. Mary Catholic Secondary for students, allies and staff members to gather. Patricia Carmichael also reported that her term on CPEC

will be ending this year and she will not be returning in the fall. The committee thanked Patricia for her time and participation with the committee.

Karen Goodhand: St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary has enjoyed a busy end of school year with many events such as track and field, a week of wellness, and 50 trees planted on the property. Karen noted that the school will be losing principal and vice-principal and will welcome a new team in September.

Margaret Prentice: Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary held a successful night to promote the Trades. She also reported that the school's beehives survived the winter on the roof of the school and they look forward to carrying on the learning associated with the care of the hives. Other anticipated activities at Holy Trinity CSS include graduation, prom, and the athletic banquet where the Catholic School Council serves dinner to the students.

Rachel Logan: The annual Fun Fair took place at St. Joseph Catholic Elementary and Holy Family had a successful production of the 'Joseph' musical. There is great excitement around St. Elizabeth as they anticipate the new school being built. Many activities have taken place at St. Stephen Catholic Secondary including their drama production, spring concert, Relay for Life, spirit days, SHSM trips, the Athletic Banquet, graduation preparations at which the CSC will be handing out some awards. The CSC also has sponsored the Gr 12 retreat and graduation barbecue. There was discussion about rules for uniforms and inconsistencies between secondary schools.

Julianne Charette: Reported on the keynote speaker from the Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario Annual Conference, Dr. Jody Carrington. Her school staff and Catholic School Council are looking ahead and planning for an exciting year in 2024-2025.

3. Dates for Committee Meetings – 2024-2025:

There was discussion about the scheduling of dates for the next school year. Scheduling the meetings on Mondays and Tuesdays is often problematic due to conflicts with Catholic School Council meetings which are traditionally held early in the week.

D. Conclusion:

Presented Margaret -

1. Closing Prayer.

Before the closing prayer, Stephen O' Sullivan, Director of Education presented Margaret Prentice a gift of appreciation for being the Committee Chairperson for the year. Margaret Prentice will not be returning to the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee as her children will all be graduated from PVNC schools at the end of June.

Father Paul led the closing prayer to conclude the meeting.

2. Adjournment.

MOTION: Moved by Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Rachel Logan
that the meeting adjourn at 8:35p.m.

Carried.