

Catholic Parent Engagement Committee Meeting
Monday, October 2, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.
online by Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/ryu-gqzi-gkh>

Members/Trustees who are unable to attend are asked to please notify Michelle Kennedy, Administrative Assistant 1-800-461-8009, or 705-748-4861, ext. 1247 or by email: mkennedy@pvnccdsb.on.ca

Chairperson:

The meeting will be chaired by Stephen O’Sullivan, Director of Education until the election of a chairperson.

A. Call to Order:

1. Opening Prayer – Father Paul Massel
2. Land Acknowledgement – Stephen O’Sullivan
3. Approval of Agenda.
4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest.
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee meeting held June 5, 2023.
6. Business Arising from the Minutes.
7. Selection of a Chairperson for the balance of the 2022-2024 term.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Strategic Priority - Providing Excellence in Teaching and Learning: Math Achievement Action Plan.
Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent of Learning and the Math Achievement Team.
2. Funding – Parents Reaching Out
3. 2024 Special Event Planning.
Stephen O’Sullivan, Director of Education.

C. Information Items:

1. System Updates.
Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education.

2. Committee Member Updates:
Jennifer Ball
Jeremiah Beggs
Patricia Carmichael
Julianne Charette
Joshua Glover
Karen Goodhand
Christine Haffie
Lisa Hiltz
Rachel Logan
Margaret Prentice
Jane Pryde

3. Next Committee Meeting:
 - a. Monday, January 29, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

D. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer – Stephen O'Sullivan

2. Adjournment



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, June 5, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Committee Members:

Present: Jeremiah Beggs, Patricia Carmichael, Julianne Charette, Joshua Glover (Trustee), Karen Goodhand (Chairperson), Christine Haffie, Rachel Logan, Margaret Prentice.

Regrets: Jennifer Ball, Lisa Hiltz, Father Paul Massel, Jane Pryde.

Trustees: Mary Ann Martin.

Catholic School Council, Parent Guests:

Administration: Joan Carragher, Director of Education.

Recorder: Michelle Kennedy, Executive Assistant.

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by the committee chairperson, Karen Goodhand.

1. Opening Prayer

Joan Carragher led the committee in prayer to begin the meeting.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Following prayer, Joan Carragher gave a land acknowledgement noting 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 Rachel Logan, seconded by Margaret Prentice

that the agenda be approved.

Carried.

4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Committee members Rachel Logan and Patricia Carmichael declared themselves as employees of PVNCCDSB.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held April 17, 2023.

MOTION: Moved by Rachel Hogan, seconded by Julianne Charette
that the minutes from the meeting held on April 17, 2023, be approved
as corrected.

Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

Joan Carragher, Director of Education reported that the Diocesan Pastoral Plan was launched at the end of May. The Diocesan Pastoral Plan, is a six year outlook that resulted from consultations and conversations among various groups, including Deanery gatherings, Parishes and synodal processes in PVNC Catholic schools, and extensive online surveys over the past two years.

The plan can be found on the Diocese website and included is information about the process that was engaged to develop the plan.

<http://www.peterboroughdiocese.org/plan>

2. St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Virtual School, Elementary and Secondary

Joan Carragher, Director of Education, reported that the St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Virtual School would not be operating during the 2023-2024 school year. The virtual school had approximately 2,600 students enrolled in its first year of operation in 2020-2021, approximately 500 students in 2021-2022, and was down to 160 students in the 2023-2023 school year. After 2021-2022, Ministry funding was no longer received to operate a virtual school. Joan Carragher reported that all 160 students and their families have been contacted to determine placement and social work supports have been offered to support the transition back to bricks and mortar schools.

3. Dress Code – Administrative Procedure 312

Joan Carragher, Director of Education, explained the relation of Administrative Procedure 312, Dress Code as it relates to Administrative Procedure 702, Religious Accommodation with particular attention to the reference of headdress.

AP 312 - Dress Code

<https://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/312-AP-Dress-Code-Students-2.pdf>

AP 702 - Religious Accommodation:

<https://www.pvnccdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/702-AP-Religious-Accommodation.pdf>

4. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee – Special Event, Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

The upcoming special event planned for Tuesday, June 13, 2023, was discussed and the list of roles for the evening was reviewed and volunteers were assigned to tasks:

Greeters - Christine Haffie, Trish Carmichael, Rachel Logan
 Master of Ceremonies - Julianne Charette
 Land Acknowledgement - Rachel Logan
 Opening Prayer - Father Paul
 Greetings from Board Chairperson - Kevin MacKenzie
 Greetings from Director - Joan Carragher
 Introduction of Trustees - Joan Carragher
 Welcome on behalf of CPEC - Karen Goodhand
 Introduction of CPEC Committee - Karen Goodhand
 Introduction of Speaker - Jen Ball
 Thank you to Speaker - Joshua Glover
 Closing Prayer - Father Paul

Joan Carragher reported that Kevin Cameron has unexpectedly become unavailable for the event. His close colleague, Patrick Rivard, will be delivering the presentation in his place. Mr. Rivard is a highly respected presenter who is also an expert in the field of traumatic stress. It was requested that the session be recorded. Michelle Kennedy will investigate this possibility.

C. Information Items:

1. System Updates

Joan Carragher, Director of Education updated the committee on system events and initiatives from the start of the 2022-2023 school year which included the following points:

- Catholic education Week was celebrated, highlighted by the Catholic Student Leadership Awards.

- The board sent a team to the Institute for Catholic Education's symposium entitled "On the Way". Board teams from all Catholic boards were present and the topic was adult faith formation.
- PVNC Catholic celebrated Asian Heritage Month with activities throughout the board
- Indigenous Month will be celebrated throughout the month of June, with special recognition of June 21 as National Indigenous Peoples Day.

As it was her final meeting as Director of Education, Joan Carragher ended her remarks by noting that she has been out in the schools to visit and feels positive that they are in good hands. She thanked the committee for their engagement during her time with the committee and for their contributions to Catholic Education. At the conclusion, Joan Carragher invited and answered questions from the committee members.

2. Committee Member Updates.

Committee members shared updates from their schools:

Jeremiah Beggs reported that the council at St. Mary Catholic Elementary School, Lindsay is planning the end of year fun fair/reptile demonstrations.

Patricia Carmichael reported on activities in the Northumberland area: There are fun fairs planned at St. Mary Catholic Elementary School, Grafton and at St. Anthony Catholic Elementary School, Cobourg. A movie night has been planned as a fundraiser for St. Mary Catholic Secondary School at the Rainbow Cinema in addition to other "celebrity server" events at local restaurants. Read to the Dogs programs have also begun at some schools.

Julianne Charette reported that in alignment with the strategic priority of 'Ensuring Equity', twenty principals have participated in a book club to gain greater knowledge about racial equity. Principals are endeavouring to get to know their students and understand and support families from all backgrounds.

Joshua Glover, Board Trustee, reported that he attended the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association Annual General Meeting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and reported on the issues facing Catholic education for which the national and the provincial associations are advocating. Trustee Glover reported that the board is working towards recruiting a new director of education as a result of Joan Carragher's retirement announcement and also noted highlights from recent board and committee of the whole meetings.

Karen Goodhand reported that the St. Thomas Aquinas CSS is hosting a coffee house on June 9th and will have some "Fun in the Sun" activities in advance of exams to celebrate the end of the year. The school held a Family Cuisine evening in honour of Asian Heritage Month that was well attended. The senior students look forward to prom on June 16 and Graduation on June 28.

Christine Haffie reported that she is working to help councils provide information and is working to connect with parent councils with appropriate information. There was discussion about fundraising accounts and the consideration of timelines with respect to grants awarded and the renewal of playgrounds. She is also gathering information with how various schools operate their lunches with respect to nutrition guidelines.

Rachel Logan reported about the activities at Clarington area schools including Grade 8 nights at St. Stephen, a Math night at St. Joseph CES with PVNC Catholic learning consultant, Sandra Connolly, athletic activities, hot lunches, a “no-bake bake sale” held at St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School, Prom, theatre production of Anne of Green Gables, Link leaders, Bee-keeping club.

There continues to be frustration amongst parents about bus driver shortages in the Clarington area. It is hoped that the recruitment campaign will help to alleviate the situation.

The discussions of the new-build at St. Elizabeth is a continued focus for parents as the Grade 7 students will be give space at St. Stephen CSS next year as the St. Elizabeth Annex.

The planned St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School international excursion was opened for online sign-up prior to the trip info night which resulted in the trip being sold out prior to parents being able to make an informed decision and was the cause of frustration.

Presentations by Marshall Hohmann were given at Holy Family Catholic Elementary School, St. Joseph Catholic Elementary, Bowmanville and St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School. Mr. Marshall’s presentation is about his lived experience in equity and is highly recommended.

Margaret Prentice reported that the Catholic School Council at Holy Trinity has supported the drama production and the athletic banquet this year. She also noted that their school’s international excursion has sold out as well.

The committee extended gratitude and blessings to Joan Carragher, Director of Education for her work with the committee over the last few years.

3. Next Committee Meeting:

The next CPEC meeting will be held on Monday, October 2, 2023, 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre, Peterborough.

D. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer.

Joan Carragher led the closing prayer to conclude the meeting.

2. Adjournment.

MOTION: Moved by Rachel Logan, seconded by Jeremiah Beggs
that the meeting adjourn at 7:47 p.m.

Carried.

DRAFT