

Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

Durham Catholic District School Board

Jan 6, 2022 at 7:30 PM

Virtual Meeting

Agenda

1. Call to Order

- 1.1. Opening Prayer - Christopher Szent-Ivany**
- 1.2. Welcome and Courtesies**

2. Approval of Agenda

3. Announcements

- 3.1. Next Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting: Thursday, February 3, 2022**

4. Actions To Be Taken

- 4.1. Approval and Signing of the Minutes of the Open Session of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of November 4, 2021.**

5. Presentations

- 5.1. Dileep Bhalla, Health, Safety and Wellness Co-ordinator. COVID update on Health and Safety in our schools.**

6. Reports/Information/Items

- 6.1. Chair's Report**
- 6.2. Trustee's Report**
- 6.3. Resource Report**
- 6.4. PRO Grant Subcommittee Report**
- 6.5. Communications Subcommittee Report**
- 6.6. School Council Outreach Subcommittee Report**
- 6.7. Faith Formation Subcommittee Report**
- 6.8. Policy & By-Law Subcommittee Report**
- 6.9. Budget Subcommittee Report**

7. Adjournment

8. Closing Prayer - Christopher Szent-Ivany

Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

Durham Catholic District School Board
Nov 4, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Virtual Meeting

Committee Members Present: (Virtual)

Melissa Bevan (Chair), Rose LoPresti (Vice-Chair), Erin Groat (Secretary), John Rinella (Trustee), Andrea Gagliardi, Angela Kielbowski, Jay Ashwin, Karina Jill Doyle, Josie Mullin, Laka Ford-Williams, Michelle Gillis, Vanessa Assarali, Jihan Ferguson, Marika Shaw, Andrea Onely

Staff Present (Virtual):

Superintendent Jim Wilson, Faeron Pileggi, Lori Jones, Margaret Brimpong

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair LoPresti called the virtual meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and welcomed all committee members to the November 4, 2021 meeting. Vice-Chair LoPresti acknowledged Traditional Lands and Territory.

1.1. Opening Prayer - Christopher Szent-Ivany

Christopher Szent-Ivany led the committee in opening prayer.

1.2. Welcome and Courtesies

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion:

DCPIC3032-11-04-01 - Approval of Agenda

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Agenda of Thursday, November 4, 2021 Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting as provided".

Motion moved by Michelle Gillis and motion seconded by Erin Groat. Carried

3. Announcements

3.1. Next Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting: Thursday, December 9, 2021

4. Actions To Be Taken

- 4.1. Approval and Signing of the Minutes of the Open Session of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of October 7, 2021.

Motion:

DCPIC2021-11-04-02 - Approval of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the October 7, 2021 Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting".

Motion moved by Josie Mullin and motion seconded by Erin Groat. Carried

5. Presentations

- 5.1. Student Census - Margaret Brimpong, Sr. Manager Equity, Racism and Engagement

Margaret Brimpong, Sr. Manager Equity, Racism and Engagement gave a presentation on the Durham Catholic District School Board's Student Census Steering Committee. The Student Census Steering Committee is holding upcoming virtual engagement sessions for parents and guardians of students in Grades 4-12 and community members in November 2021. The consultation sessions will provide the community with an opportunity to review the questions that schools boards across Ontario are required to ask and obtain feedback and ideas into the three additional questions the board will include in the census.

The Stand Up, Be Counted, Be Heard Student Census will collect quality and confidential student demographic data that will enable evidence-based decision making, while helping to remove barriers to student success.

Margaret Brimpong stated that the goal is to:

- Understand and support the diversity of students and families;
- Eliminate barriers to student success; and
- Enrich students' learning by providing the right supports, at the right time, while making schools a safer, more welcoming space to belong.

- 5.2. Review of DCPIC Commissioning Mass

Secretary, Erin Groat gave a report on the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Commissioning Mass. Secretary Groat thanked all parties that contributed to make the event a huge success. The Commissioning Mass was held in two sessions this year to ensure social distancing was enabled. Ajax and Pickering Family of Schools was held in the morning

session and Whitby and Oshawa Family of Schools in the afternoon session. Father Keith Callaghan was able to perform both Masses for the event.

6. Reports/Information/Items

6.1. Chair's Report

Vice-Chair LoPresti gave the Chair's report as Chair Bevan would be arriving to the meeting late. Vice-Chair LoPresti thanked Erin Groat, Josie Mullin, Lori Jones, Andrea Gagliardi, and Faeron Pileggi for their hard work planning the Commissioning Mass and shared what a great success the event was. Vice-Chair LoPresti continued to say how great it was to see administrators and council members collaborating.

Vice-Chair LoPresti continued to share that the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education is offering two live webinars on November 20th at 10 a.m. The first webinar aims to provide fundamental principles and practices that will drive resiliency and rebuild stability in the home. This workshop combines evidence-based studies with faith-based principles. The second webinar will share strategies that are beneficial for parents and students on how to handle emotions before using a keyboard as an emotional outlet that's hurtful instead of helpful. If you are interested in these webinars, please visit oapce.org to register.

Vice-Chair LoPresti also encouraged the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee members to share their talents and volunteer for one of the DCPIC Sub-Committees. Vice-Chair LoPresti reminded the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee to encourage school councils to take advantage of the \$500 pro grant that is to be used to promote parent engagement and to please let us know if you would like assistance concerning funds needed over and above the \$500 for a parent engagement initiative.

6.2. Trustee's Report

Trustee Rinella reported on the October 25th Board Meeting which included 3 presentations and a message from the Chair, Morgan Ste. Marie.

Trustee Rinella explained that the first presentation was on Tulips for Truth. Superintendent of Education, Mariah O'Reilly indicated at the Board meeting that this initiative involved planting 25,000 tulips in honour of the

Indigenous peoples whose lives were lost due to the residential school's system. Durham Catholic District School Board staff, students, and families raised \$11,465 for the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society.

Trustee Rinella continued with an update on the second presentation by Scott Grieve, Superintendent of Business, Finance and Facilities Services. Superintendent Grieve gave an update on Durham Catholic District School Board's EcoSchools and commitment to environmental stewardship. During the 2020-2021 school year, we had 24 schools successfully certify as EcoSchools with 7 additional schools participating. Superintendent Grieve explained the goal is to have 100% of Durham Catholic District School Board schools certified during the 2021-2022 school year.

Trustee Rinella stated the last presentation was an update concerning the Board's Capital Renewal Program provided by our Senior Manager of Planning, Admissions, and Capital, Daniel Carlin. Daniel Carlin highlighted that the Board successfully tendered 43 projects totalling over 21 million dollars. These capital upgrades, such as additions and replacement projects, provided various safety and efficiency benefits throughout Durham Catholic District School Board's facilities.

Trustee Rinella reported that Chair Ste. Marie highlighted he had attended a virtual announcement for the opening of St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic School with the Minister of Education, Mr. Stephen Lecce and Member of Provincial Parliament for Whitby, Lorne Coe.

Trustee Rinella updated the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee that at the October 25th Board Meeting a motion was passed in order to further promote Covid-19 safety at our schools. The motion requires proof of full immunization as defined by Health Canada from all visitors and/or volunteers in schools whose vaccination status is not otherwise monitored by a third-party employer.

Trustee Rinella informed everyone the next Regular Board Meeting will be held on November 22nd at 7:30. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the meeting will be in person for trustees and staff, but will be virtual for parents.

6.3. Resource Report

Superintendent Wilson acknowledged that October has been a busy month for students as they learned about Residential Schools, cyber bullying, Holy Rosary, and waste reduction.

Superintendent Wilson also shared with the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee that October has been a month that students showed gratitude as they celebrated appreciation days for priests, chaplains, early childhood educators, teachers, and principals. Superintendent Wilson expressed how great it is that they are celebrating these individuals as they have made a difference in their lives.

Superintendent Wilson shared that there was an announcement during the month of October by the Minister of Education concerning the distribution of menstrual products in Ontario schools. This was an equity issue and we welcome this announcement. Board personnel are currently working on a plan concerning the distribution of these menstrual products.

Also, Superintendent Wilson mentioned that during the first week of November students are participating in Treaties Recognition Week. During this week, students will learn that treaties are legally binding agreements that set out the rights, responsibilities, and relationships of First Nations and the federal and provincial governments.

Superintendent Wilson informed the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee that in November and December, the Durham Region Health Department is planning for 5 – 11 year old COVID-19 vaccination community clinics throughout the Durham Region. Schedules should be coming out shortly.

6.4. PRO Grant Subcommittee Report

Deferred

6.5. Communications Subcommittee Report

Karina Jill Doyle reported that the Communications sub-committee is currently gathering materials for the next newsletter. Karina Jill Doyle asked Erin Groat to share with the Communications sub-committee her report on the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Commissioning Mass. Karina Jill Doyle encouraged the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee to send her any articles, new resources, feeds, resource for students they think would be appropriate to add to the newsletter.

6.6. School Council Outreach Subcommittee Report

Deferred

6.7. Faith Formation Subcommittee Report

Angela Kielbowski updated that she attended the Durham Catholic District School Board's Pastoral Planning Team meeting. This Pastoral Team will support educators, staff and school communities on how to plan out this years Community of Faith. Angela Kielbowski encouraged anyone interested in joining the Faith sub-committee to email her.

6.8. Policy & By-Law Subcommittee Report

Michelle Gillis encouraged anyone interested in becoming part of the Policy sub-committee to please email her. Erin Groat will send an email out to the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee members detailing what each of the committees are and what they are responsible for.

6.9. Budget Subcommittee Report

Deferred

7. Adjournment

Motion:

DCPIC-11-04-03 - Adjournment

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting on Thursday, November 4, 2021 adjourn at 8:25 p.m."

Motion moved by Melissa Bevan and motion seconded by Josie Mullin. Carried

8. Closing Prayer – Superintendent Jim Wilson

Melissa Bevan
Chair, Durham Catholic Parent
Involvement Committee

Jim Wilson
Superintendent of Education

MB:JW:lj