



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: December 19, 2022

Subject: **Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC)
Minutes of November 10, 2022**

Origin: Jim Wilson, Superintendent of Education

Please find attached a copy of the Minutes of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Meeting held on November 10, 2022.

TB/JW/lk
Attachment: Minutes of November 10, 2022



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Minutes

Durham Catholic District School Board

November 10, 2022 at 7:30 p.m., North Boardroom

Committee Members Present:

Josie Mullin (Vice-Chair), Vanessa Asgarali (Secretary/Treasurer), Melissa Bevan (Past Chair), Ronald Amurao, Jihan Ferguson, Andrea Gagliardi, Mervis Mythily Andrew George, Michelle Gillis, Lucia Lacorte, John Rinella, Christine Santos, Marika Shaw, Leny Veliyathuparambil, Richard Damianopoulos (Trustee); Marjorie Poliquin

Staff Present:

Jim Wilson, Amanda Roffey, Christine Pineau.

Regrets: Rose Lo Presti (Chair), Chris Szent-Ivany (Principal Representative), Laura Spiers (Vice-Principal Representative), Michelina Dos Santos, Pius Sundarjith Vasanth Francis, Andrea Onley

Call To Order

Vice-Chair Mullin called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. and welcomed all committee members to the November 10, 2022 meeting. Vice-Chair Mullin acknowledged Traditional Lands and Territory.

1.1 Opening Prayer – Jim Wilson

Special intentions please keep in your heart.

1.2. Welcome and Courtesies

1. Approval of Agenda

Amendment to G.6. School Council Outreach Subcommittee Report – Erin Groat (STEM) & Secondary Event. This needs to be changed, as previous agenda was used and Erin Groat should not be noted on this evening's agenda.

Motion:

DCPIC2022-11-10-01 - Approval of Amended Agenda.

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Agenda of Thursday, November 10, 2022 Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting as amended above".

Motion moved by Michelle Gillis and motion seconded by Andrea Gigliardi.
Carried.

2. Announcements

2.1. Next Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting: Thursday, December 8, 2022, which is a social Advent meeting. More details to come.

3. Actions To Be Taken

3.1. Approval and Signing of the Minutes of the Open Session of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Elections Meeting of October 6, 2022 was deferred due to confusion resulting from changes in Executive Administrative Assistants. Minutes will be emailed out to all members. If any amendments are required, please advise via email. Motion for approval will follow. We welcome Christine Pineau who is now filling in for Lori Jones.

Motion:

DCPIC2022-11-10-02 - Approval of Minutes – Deferred

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee defer the Minutes of the October 6, 2022 meeting."

Moved by V. Asgarali and seconded by M. Bevin

4. Presentation

4.1. Susie Lee-Fernandes, Superintendent of Education, Student Services and Equity and Inclusive Education provided a Special Education Review. The DCDSB Philosophy of Inclusion was reviewed. The majority of our elementary students are placed in age appropriate placements; all students including those with special needs are supported in our classrooms. In secondary, students take special modified K courses with alternative programming goals for students who are not working for credit, supporting all Special Education student needs.

A visual of our inclusive model was reviewed and currently undergoing edits. A question was asked about the process of getting students learning disabilities tested – currently only 2 students per year are allowed to be tested – this is not adequate, can more support be provided for this testing process? Why is the

testing process being started with Gr. 7 and 8 students, and not in the earlier years, ie: Gr. 1 and 2? Response: We are looking at this issue through this review. Currently, there is a challenge of staffing for psychometrists and psychologists services staff - currently 2.5 staff members short. This is a problem across many school boards. We have tried to staff these positions several times. It is very competitive at this time for these positions. Also, the service delivery model is changing: trying to look at early intervention processes. Assessments are made, consultations are done based on student needs, and psych referrals are then made to Grandview Kids for actual intervention. We are definitely looking into this issue.

Special Education Review: Looking through an equity lens, with culturally relevant pedagogy, the three primary components of Culturally Relevant Pedagogy were discussed. This year's spiritual theme is "Listening With the Ear of the Heart" through discernment; humility; listening with the heart; and patience.

Full inclusion: supports and challenges; IPRC process - remove systemic barriers to service; accountability; working to build capacity in special education knowledge and consistency in the implementation through staff capacity.

Reference Documents, publicly available:

- 1) Ontario Human Rights Commission -province-wide inquiry - list of recommendations;
- 2) Special Education in Ontario, K-12 (2017) Web link: Special Education in Ontario - one resource, linking 5 previous resources.

LEAD stands for: Leading Equitable and Accessible Delivery at The Abilities Centre, Whitby – therapeutic in Secondary schools. The challenge: viewed as a destination, one thing, but we know that this is a journey. It's different for different students, it is continuous work that is required. LEAD is a system–integrated approach to accessibility and inclusion.

LEAD Themes – Organizational Management; Organizational Resources; Organizational Delivery.

Special Education Review Team consists of approximately 50 staff and community members; and parents - all employee groups; unions and affiliations; Board departments; Senior Administration and Senior Managers.

Parent/Guardian Engagement Session - was held on Nov. 2, 2022, where 91 parents/guardians registered and 31 attended. Lots of notes were taken and will be shared with the Special Education Review Team.

Parent/Guardian Feedback Survey for Special Education Review is still live:

Here is the link: [Complete the Special Education Review survey here.](#)

The implementation plan in progress to date:

Dec. 13th - Initial Improvement Plan Meeting - small group

Dec. 15th - Self-Assessment Follow-Up Meeting

January 2023 - Finalize goals and strategic actions in alignment with Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP)

Classroom teachers are advised of capacity building and operational items to build consistency. Behavioural Resource teams provide 2 full days of needs to support special needs in their classroom.

Accessibility/AODA is tied into this meeting expectations and requirements. We currently meet all accessibility building requirements throughout our schools and buildings. Our websites throughout our board are AODA compliant.

When a request for accommodations is received, we look at this and try to meet the requirements. Accessibility Committee – documents are now being created accessible on our websites.

If any DCPIC member(s) are interested to be a DCPIC Representative in joining our Mental Health Steering Committee, led by Yulan Fisher-Brown, our Mental Health Leader, Senior Manager, contact Susie Lee-Fernandes. This committee meets 3 to 4 times a year. We are missing our parent voices and perspectives. This committee updates on mental health strategic actions, what's happening, the events we are planning, and developing a three-year Mental Health Strategy, which is a requirement from the Ministry of Education.

5. Discussion

5.1. Commissioning Mass:

Vice-Chair Mullin thanked Christine and Amanda for all their hard work so far with emails, ordering, etc., for our upcoming Commissioning Mass and Orientation. To date, our candles are done, bookmarks have been ordered and received, many RSVP's are still pending for Catholic School Council Chairs or the Vice-Chairs Representative RSVP's, and a few Principals/Vice Principals are still outstanding.

Our DCPIC Committee Members attend our Commissioning Mass to assist at this event. The purpose of our Commissioning Mass is to welcome our new Catholic School Council Members, amp up Parent Council engagement and provide best practices. The agenda was reviewed:

**DCPIC Annual Commissioning Mass
Catholic School Councils
Friday, November 18, 2022**

DCDSB's Pope Francis Centre
652 Rossland Road, West, Oshawa
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

AGENDA

8:30 a.m. - Welcome and Greetings from Melissa Bevan, Past Chair of DCPIC and Tracy Barill, Director of Education, DCDSB

9:00 a.m. - Commissioning Mass with Rev. Father Keith Callaghan

9:45 a.m. - Break

10:00 a.m. - Presentation of DCPIC Survey Results – Rose LoPresti, Chair, DCPIC

10:25 a.m. - Introduction of Guest Speaker – Jim Wilson, Superintendent of Education

10:30 a.m. - Presentation by Michael Way Skinner and Question & Answers period

11:25 a.m. - Closing Remarks - Rose LoPresti, Chair

11:30 a.m. - Light Lunch Served

Superintendent Wilson spoke about guest speaker Michael Way Skinner, who was a consultant for York Catholic Board and is very entertaining. Has a speaking series. He will present to us: “Being Catholic Parents in Challenging Times”, a 1-hour talk. We may have him come back and do a regional presentation in the evening.

Past Chair Bevan advised our new members that the Commissioning Mass is a way for us to welcome all the Chairs into the Parent Council role at their schools, and to show them our voice and that we are there for them. After the Mass, members can review the DCPIC handbook, share best practices and support each other. Different regions will discuss with each other.

Three trustees have confirmed and will be coming: Trustee Kim Beatty; Trustee Monique Forster; and Trustee Marisa Hall.

5.2. Bullying Prevention Week:

Marjorie Poliquin reported that in February schools have “Stand Up to Bullying Week” programs to educate our children about bullying and what to do if this happens. She felt this should be happening earlier in the school year.

Superintendent Wilson reported that during the week of November 21 – 25, Bullying Prevention and Intervention Week occurs yearly. During this week, staff and administrators have access to resources and curriculum, it is also in our Religion program. Superintendent Paula Sorhaitz, Safe Schools Superintendent sent out a numbered memo that went out in early November to all staff for the system to promote a safe and caring environment throughout our board. Please note that not all school calendars may have this updated information. A survey is also coming out about school bullying prevention for both students and parents/guardians to respond to. The survey goes out every two years.

Superintendent Wilson advised that at the start of each school year, a Risk Assessment is completed by each school at the start of each school year, ie: reporting any safety risks, trip hazards, lighting in parking lot, pavement coming apart, inspections on play ground equipment. For any safety issues, please reach out to your school Principal.

Cyber bullying and media literacy is part of the school curriculum informing the parents in resource materials. Ideally, bullying should be introduced in October – hopefully with this being done in November may minimize bullying issues in our schools. It would be good if information can be provided to Parents about bullying so they can identify bullying issues - schools could utilize Pro Grant funds for parent engagement, for this topic.

5.3. Increasing School Safety

Marjorie Poliquin discussed that many school sites are open and have easy access with lots of portables and young children are in these portables. We need to increase school safety, ie: fences around school yards; camera surveillance outside our schools; better lighting in school yards and parking lots.

Superintendent Wilson noted that these are viable concerns: our mandate on this committee, we can make suggestions to the board; we could have a session; our safe school's superintendent could come and meet with us to get a better idea for school safety; suggested this be done for our January DCPIC meeting. Currently no security cameras in our elementary school, only secondary schools. Suggest to the board to have schools upgraded with cameras. It was suggested by John

Rinella that we provide a DCPIC delegate for the next board meeting for budget process. Superintendent Wilson suggested that Superintendent Sorhaitz, Safe Schools and Superintendent Grieve, Facilities, present a safe school security buzzer presentation. If there are school concerns, please talk to your school principals. As far as us as a system-wide committee, we can have presentations and provide input as a collective whole

6. Reports/Information/Discussion Items

6.1 Chairs Report -Vice-Chair Josie Mullin for Chair Rose Lo Presti

Vice-Chair Mullin officially welcomed all members of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, and is looking forward to working with all as we serve as an advisory body at the school board level by supporting, encouraging and enhancing meaningful parent engagement at the board level; improving student achievement and well-being; providing information and advice to the board on parent engagement; communicating with and supporting local Catholic school councils in the DCDSB; and undertaking activities to help parents support their children's learning at home and at school. If you are looking for additional information about school councils, please visit Ontario.ca website. The publications "School Councils: A Guide for Members" and "Parent Involvement Committees" are great resources.

The Ministry of Education will be holding a parent engagement meeting later in November for PIC chairs and parent engagement leads. They have proposed the meeting to be held on November 24th. Chair Lo Presti will report at our next meeting any information of interest from that meeting.

The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) is another great resource for DCPIC. Their website has excellent webinars, parent resources, and news from the MOE. Each DCPIC is invited to have a representative at their regional meetings. Check out their website and let Chair Lo Presti know if you would like to be a representative.

DCPIC Sub-Committees: please advise and share your talents and volunteer for one of the DCPIC Sub-Committees. Please respond to the email that was sent out by Christine a few weeks ago.

Encourage catholic school councils to take advantage of the \$500 pro grant that is to be used to promote parent engagement in schools.

Our next DCPIC meeting will be on December 8th and we will be meeting in-person – an Advent theme. More details to follow. Sincere apologies from Chair Lo Presti that she could not be here tonight.

7.2 **Trustee's Report**

Trustee Damianopoulos acknowledged this committee's great discussions tonight and input for feedback to the board about Bullying Prevention week and school safety.

Trustee Damianopoulos advised that there was a board meeting on October 25th that recognized various individuals and groups. Julian, a grade 5 student from Good Shepherd CS was recognized for winning the "Fire Chief for the Day" contest for the Township of Scugog. Also, Chair Ste. Marie congratulated Gabriel from St. Paul Catholic School for winning the "Police Chief for the Day" contest for the Durham Regional Police Service. Trustee Damianopoulos noted that it is great to see our students being celebrated with our community partners and in the community.

Trustee Damianopoulos shared that Director Barill recognized the Senior Administrative Team as she reviewed the 2022-2023 Strategic Goals and Actions. This plan builds on the strategic priorities as outlined in the Discovery 2023 – Renewing the Vision Strategic Plan. Trustee Damianopoulos encourages DCPIC members to go to the DCDSB website and have a look at the 2022-2023 Strategic Goals and Actions Plan. As a committee, we could explore ways we can incorporate the plan and promote parent engagement.

Trustee Damianopoulos noted that Director Barill also recognized the trustees for their service over the past four years. Trustee Damianopoulos echoed her kind words as he knows that his colleagues work hard to support students, and families, and are an unwavering voice for Catholic education. Trustee Damianopoulos looks forward to his continued service as a Catholic trustee. As far as DCPIC is concerned, he would be honoured to continue his role as the Chair's designate on DCPIC.

Trustee Damianopoulos advised that on November 21st at 7 pm there will be the Inaugural Board Meeting. The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on December 19th at 7:30. We are pleased that these meetings are now held in-person at the Catholic Education Centre. Also, parents can view board meetings online by going to the DCDSB website and under the "Our Board" section there is the "Board Agenda and Highlights" section that has the link attached to the agenda.

Trustee Damianopoulos thanked all DCPIC members for their efforts to enhance parent engagement and wished the 2022 – 2023 DCPIC Committee all the best as we work together to enhance Catholic education in the Durham Region.

7.3 Resouce Report

Superintendent Wilson provided a big welcome to everyone as a DCPIC Member, including our new members and noted that this DCPIC Committee is the most important committee we have to provide support to parents on a regional level and school level and we support achievement, equity and wellbeing.

November Key Events: This week is Treaties Recognition week and in our schools we look at the importance of honouring treaties, involving the relationships with our First Nation peoples and the lands. Tomorrow we will be honouring those on Remembrance Day, and students will be remembering all those involved in any conflict. November 21st – 25th we already discussed Bullying Prevention and Intervention Week – learning about creating safe and caring communities. We are looking forward to our DCPIC Commissioning event on November 18th. We will come as a community to celebrate mass with Fr. Keith; and the great opportunity of sharing of best practices; also Michael Way Skinner will be our guest speaker who is both interesting and entertaining at the same time. November 27th, we start the season of Advent. Superintendent Wilson wished all committee members an excellent Advent season, as we await the coming of Christ.

7.4. PRO Grant Subcommittee Report

Superintendent Wilson spoke about the PRO Grant funding. The Ministry Pro Grant information is forthcoming and changes are coming. New guidelines will be received. Transfer payment agreements are not going to happen; money we get per pupil will be incorporated with the PRO Grant funding. Activities for the year and how funds were spent will be required. School Council level reports and regional school reports are to be done by each school at the end of the school year. Vice-Chair Mullin noted that a Chair is required for our PRO Grant Subcommittee and members are required for our PRO Grant Subcommittee.

For all Sub-Committees, Chair and members, please respond to either Rose Lo Presti or Christine's email about all sub-committees you wish to work with, either as a Chair or member.

7.5 Communications Subcommittee Report

Amanda Roffey helps with this subcommittee, but we still need a Chair and some members for this Subcommittee to assist Amanda with the Communications Report.

Amanda Roffey advised that there is a newsletter to parents of Durham Catholic which is published three (3) times a year from the board. Amanda is currently in the midst of preparing the Fall Newsletter. There is a Chairs report, an article about the Commissioning Mass will be submitted. With Advent coming, an article on Advent or Advent Calendar and Faith Formation Committee will be included. We are a little behind, but we are hoping to get this out the week of November 21st. Another one will be sent out in early winter; and April/May.

7.6. School Council Outreach Subcommittee Report – Deferred

This is the Commissioning Mass – currently Vice-Chair Mullin Chairs this subcommittee and if anyone is interested in joining please let Josie Mullin know.

7.7. Faith Formation Subcommittee Report – Deferred

This subcommittee needs a Chair and members or Co-Chairs.

7.8. Policy & By-Law Subcommittee Report

Michelle Gillis advised that the Policy & By-Law Subcommittee met last week and we were a little late for the input deadline on policies and reviews were tabled to January 17, 2023. Every 3 years we review our by-laws. Most recent versions were to be posted to our DCPIC website. LEAD circle meeting, anyone can comment on our subcommittees but Michelle submits as a committee.

7.9. Budget Subcommittee Report

Superintendent Wilson advised that Chair Lo Presti received our budget total. Past Chair Bevan advised that she is awaiting an itemized list of budget from last year. We previously received a break-down, itemizing all our starting and ending budget. Superintendent Wilson will look into this. Starting and ending budget was requested by Past Chair Bevan.

7. Adjournment

Motion:

DCPIC2022-11-10-03 - Adjournment

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting on Thursday, November 10, 2022 adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

Motion moved by Melissa Bevan and motion seconded by Michelle Gillis. Carried

8. Closing Prayer – Superintendent Wilson

Rose LoPresti
Chair, Durham Catholic Parent
Involvement Committee

Jim Wilson
Superintendent of Education

RL/JW:cp