



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

## **Memorandum**

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: February 27, 2023

Subject: **Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC)  
Minutes of February 16, 2023**

Origin: Jim Wilson, Superintendent of Education

Please find attached a copy of the Minutes of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Meeting held on February 16, 2023.

TB/JW/lj  
Attachment: Minutes of February 16, 2023



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

**Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Minutes**

Durham Catholic District School Board  
February 16, 2023 at 7:30 PM North Boardroom  
650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa, ON L1J 7C4

**Committee Members Present:**

Rose Lo Presti (Chair), Morgan Ste. Marie (Trustee), Melissa Bevan, Jihan Ferguson, Pius Francis, Andrea Gagliardi, Michelle Gillis, John Rinella, Christine Santos, Michelina Dos Santos, Leny Veliyathuparambil

**Staff Present:**

Jim Wilson, Lori Jones

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Lo Presti called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and welcomed all committee members to the February 16, 2023, meeting. Chair Lo Presti acknowledged Traditional Lands and Territory.

- 1.1. Opening Prayer – Superintendent Wilson  
Superintendent Wilson recited the opening prayer.
- 1.2. Welcome and Courtesies

**2. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:**

DCPIC2023 - 02-16-01 - Approval of Agenda  
"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Agenda of Thursday, February 16, 2023, Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting as provided".

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

CARRIED

**3. Announcements**

- 3.1. Next Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 9, 2023

#### **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 January 12, 2023.

DCPIC2023-02-16-02 - Approval of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Minutes of January 12, 2023, meeting."

Motion Moved by Andrea Gagliardi and seconded by John Rinella.  
CARRIED

#### **5. Presentations**

- 5.1. Karen Wall, Region of Durham, Alison Serrao, Pathways Coordinator, Christine Congrady, Lead for Project SEARCH

Christine Congrady, Alison Serrao and Karen Wall presented to the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee the Project SEARCH program. The following is a description of the Program:

- 10-month transition-to-work program in an authentic work environment

Student must be:

- in their final year of high school
- diagnosed with an intellectual and/or developmental disability.
- working toward any certificate or diploma
- seeking employment immediately after high school
  
- 3 internship rotations in host business site for career exploration/employability skills acquisition with continual reflection and feed back
  
- One year post graduation: students supported in finding quality employment in the community.

5.2. Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee – Catholic Volunteer Awards

Rose Lo Presti addressed the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee regarding the annual Catholic Volunteer Awards Ceremony. The Committee discussed various event planning ideas and will continue to work on them. Lori Jones to review Pope Francis Centre dates to see availability and get back to the Committee.

**6. Reports/Information/Items**

6.1. Chair's Report

Chair Lo Presti encouraged parents to explore the Lenten activities on the DCPIC website. There will be printable coloring pages and an Easter word search. Each week during Lent, videos of Lenten family craft activities will be posted.

Chair Lo Presti addressed the committee and how exciting it is to get plans underway for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Distinguished Catholic Volunteer Award Ceremony and Reception. This event is to honor the outstanding parent volunteers from each of our schools. This is always a great event that DCPIC hosts each year. Traditionally, this event is held during National Volunteer Week which is April 16<sup>th</sup> to April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Chair Lo Presti also mentioned the second Pro Parent Engagement Meeting for DCPIC Chairs will be held on Wednesday, February 22, 2023. School Mental Health Ontario will be at this session. At that time, this organization will share strategies to help parents support their children's mental health, as well as supports provided to schools. Chair Lo Presti told the committee she would be happy to share the information at our next meeting.

Chair Lo Presti addressed the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee about having a volunteer from the committee to join the DCDSB Mental Health Steering Committee. Meetings are held quarterly.

The next DCPIC meeting is on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

**6.2. Trustee's Report**

Trustee Ste. Marie shared some successes and highlighted the presentations from the January 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting.

- Congratulations to All Saints Catholic Secondary School. On January 20<sup>th</sup> they were recognized by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association for placing third in the secondary school short-video contest.

We had a Board Meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup> that involved two presentations which contained a lot of information of interest for the DCPIC.

- The first presentation gave an update on Indigenous Education at DCDSB. As part of the presentation, staff identified 5 goals within Indigenous Education to guide learning. For example, the first goal is to ensure a better understanding and provide learning about days/seasons of significance to Indigenous peoples.
- The second presentation focused on the DCDSB's 2021-2022 EQAO results. Superintendent O'Neill indicated that DCDSB continues to be above the provincial average in the areas of Reading and Writing. He further indicated that the EQAO data will be used to determine actions and areas of focus, such as gender gaps and identifying priorities and supports.

Feel free to view the highlights of the January 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting, which is located under the "Our Board" area on the DCDSB website, if you would like more information concerning the presentations. There could be ways in which DCPIC could support DCDSB's goals concerning Indigenous Education and EQAO.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30. Parents are welcome to attend and can also view the meeting on the live stream. Board meeting agendas are available on the DCDSB website 96 hours before the meeting.

I would like to thank you for your efforts to enhance parent engagement.

### **6.3. Resource Report**

Superintendent Wilson mentioned that during the month of February, the DCDSB, is celebrating Black History Month. This provides an opportunity for our students and staff to learn more about the contributions that Black individuals and communities have made to Canadian society, history, and heritage. Superintendent Wilson explained the focus is to move beyond Black History Month, and to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions, culture, history, and achievements of Black students, staff, families, and communities every day.

Superintendent Wilson encourages nominations for the Distinguished Catholic Alumni Awards. This award recognizes former students of the DCDSB who have achieved significant success in their chosen pathway. Winners will be recognized during Catholic Education Week, April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 5<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to nominate a former student, the nomination form is on the DCDSB website.

Superintendent Wilson also explained to the committee that nominations are now being accepted for the Reverend John Markle Home-School Communications Award. This award is for one elementary and one secondary school that you believe has done an outstanding job in communicating with students and families over the 2022-2023 school year. Nomination instructions are on the DCDSB website and nominations will be accepted until Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Superintendent Wilson reminded the committee how our schools will be entering into the season of Lent with the observance of Ash Wednesday on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We continue to pray for our staff, students and families as they spend the next 6 weeks in a period of self-reflection and renewal that is meant to bring us closer to God through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Superintendent Wilson asked we all support all our schools as they embrace our faith tradition through acts of service, liturgies, daily prayer and classroom learning across the system.

#### **6.4. PRO Grant Subcommittee Report**

The Pro Grant committee met to discuss various initiatives they would like to administer this year. They presented these ideas to the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee and the "Parent Convention" event was the best received. Lori Jones to try and recover information from the last Parent Convention that was held many years ago and bring forward to the committee.

#### **6.5. Communications Subcommittee Report**

The Communications subcommittee reported that the Winter Newsletter would be going out this month. Christine Santos will work with Faeron Pileggi on any updates.

#### **6.6. School Council Outreach Subcommittee Report**

Deferred

#### **6.7. Faith Formation Subcommittee Report**

Lenny Veliyathuparambil gave the committee an update on the Faith Formation planning meeting. Some suggestions the Faith Formation subcommittee brought forward are the following:

- Is there a possibility of bringing back the ownership of First Communion and Confirmation to the classroom. DCPIC discussed ways of enhancing the Parish/School relationships and responsibilities when working with the Sacraments.
- Lenten Calendar – To be posted on the DCPIC website.

**6.8.** The committee would like to support Schools as they celebrate the feast day of their Patron Saint.

**6.9. Policy & By-Law Subcommittee Report**

Michelle Gillis updated the Committee on the four policy changes that were submitted for the March 6, 2023, Board Policy Meeting. Michelle Gillis expressed her concern that the DCDSB's Policies seem to be very sparse. The Policy Subcommittee finds it very difficult to review policies with very little information and they all seem to refer to Administrative Procedures. Trustee Ste. Marie addressed this concern and explained the process. Trustee Ste. Marie offered to attend the next Policy Subcommittee meeting. Going forward the Policy Subcommittee minutes will be sent to Lori Jones to be added to the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting minutes.

By-Laws will be sent to Faeron Pileggi by Lori Jones to post on the DCPIC website.

**6.10. Budget Subcommittee Report**

Deferred

**7. Adjournment**

Motion:

DCPIC2023-02-16-03 - Adjournment

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2023, adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Motion moved by Michelle Gillis and seconded by Andrea Gagliardi

CARRIED

**8. Closing Prayer**

Jim Wilson

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Rose Lo Presti  
Chair, Durham Catholic Parent  
Involvement Committee

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Jim Wilson  
Superintendent of Education

RLP:JW:lj