



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

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: June 19, 2023

Subject: **Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC)
Minutes of May 18, 2023**

Origin: Jim Wilson, Superintendent of Education

Please find attached a copy of the Minutes of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Meeting held on May 18, 2023.

TB/JW/lj
Attachment: Minutes of May 18, 2023



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

Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Minutes

Durham Catholic District School Board
May 18, 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), Josie Mullin (Vice-Chair), Melissa Bevan, Andrea Gagliardi, Michelle Gillis, John Rinella, Christine Santos, Michelina Dos Santos, Marjorie Poliquin, Chris Szent-Ivany, Lucia Lacorte, Lara Spiers, Jihan Ferguson

Staff Present:

Jim Wilson, Lori Jones

1. Call to Order

Chair Lo Presti called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. and welcomed all committee members to the May 18, 2023, meeting. Chair Lo Presti acknowledged Traditional Lands and Territory.

1.1. Opening Prayer – Christ Szent-Ivany

Chris Szent-Ivany recited the opening prayer.

1.2. Welcome and Courtesies

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion:

DCPIC2023-05-18-01 - Approval of Agenda

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Agenda of Thursday, May 18, 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, June 8, 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 April 13, 2023.

DCPIC2023-05-18-02 - Approval of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Minutes of April 13, 2023, meeting."

Motion Moved by Michelle Gillis and seconded by Josie Mullin.

CARRIED

5. Presentations

- 5.1 Jim Wilson, Planning for Next Year

Superintendent Wilson addressed the committee with the suggestion of brainstorming ideas based on the Ministry of Education's Parent Engagement directives. Chart paper was placed among the room with the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee breaking out into groups to discuss the following directives:

- Provide information and advice to the board on parent engagement
- Support and encourage, and enhance meaningful parent engagement at the board level.
- Communicate with and support local Catholic school councils in the Durham Catholic District School Board
- To improve student achievement and well being
- Undertake activities to help parent support their children's learning at home and at school

Great ideas were shared with the premise of bringing these forward to September's meeting for planning of the 2023-2024 DCPIC event calendar.

6. Reports/Information/Items

6.1. Chair's Report

Chair LoPresti welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chair LoPresti gave congratulations to DCPIC for the amazing Annual Distinguished Catholic Volunteer Award Ceremony and Reception. This was a top-notch celebration with a multitude of balloons, food, and even a red carpet. There was quite a jubilant buzz in the air as we honored the outstanding parent volunteers from each of our schools. Thank you to the committee and Lori Jones for all your hard work.

Chair LoPresti reminded everyone concerning the DCPIC Parent/Guardian Survey and how important the input from parents, guardians and caregivers is. The survey consists of seven questions and will take approximately five minutes to complete. Please go to the website and you will find the survey as one of the banners. The survey will remain open until May 26th.

June 8th is our last DCPIC meeting. At that time, we will be able to continue our conversations concerning the upcoming year and celebrate our past year together.

All the best as we journey through the final stretch of the school year and continue to promote parent engagement.

6.2 Trustee's Report

Trustee Ste. Marie informed the DCPIC that there was a Board Meeting on April 24th that involved some interesting presentations. The first presentation was an update from the Archbishop Anthony Meagher Catholic Continuing Education Centre. It is impressive that they supported a total of 10,056 students in the 2021-2022 school year. The second presentation was an update from Student Services that focused on special education and mental health. It was evident that the input that parents provided for the Special Education review was appreciated and will be used for the 2023-2024 special education planning. The third presentation, by Superintendent Stevenson, provided an update on the 2022-2023 Goals and Actions associated with the Witnessing Faith Strategic Priority. One of the goals is to foster a relationship between home, school, and parish. This would be a great goal for the DCPIC to consider how to support.

Trustee Ste. Marie expressed how the Volunteer Awards Night was a glitzy event with the red carpet, the elegant chair covers, the shiny decorations, the scrumptious food, and the paparazzi photo corner. Thank you, Josie, for being the MC and keeping a good pace through the long list of winners. I heard from a few attendees who were surprised by the pomp and classiness of the evening.

They were impressed and some were overwhelmed by the recognition. Congrats to all of you for doing an overwhelmingly great job at celebrating our volunteers.

Trustee Ste. Marie also let everyone know The Durham Catholic District School Board is seeking two community members with financial expertise and business knowledge to serve on the Audit Committee for a 3-year term effective immediately. The audit committee is comprised of 3 Trustees and 2 independent members drawn from the community at large. The primary role of the audit committee is to assist the board of trustees in fulfilling its duties related to governance and oversight. More information can be found on one of our website banners.

Thank you for attending the 9th Annual Durham Catholic Children's Foundation Gala honoring the Most Reverend Vincent Nguyen and our Distinguished Catholic Alumni. The event raised approximately \$10,000 to bring hope to DCDSB students in need. The next event for the Durham Catholic Children's Foundation is the 8th Annual #ForeTheKids Golf Classic on Tuesday, August 22nd. Maybe we could have a foursome from DCPIC?

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on May 23rd at 7:30. Parents are welcome to attend in-person and can also view the meeting by the live stream.

On behalf of myself and the board of trustees, I would like to thank you for your efforts to enhance parent engagement.

6.3 Resource Report

Superintendent Wilson expressed how Parents will probably agree that this is one of the busiest times of year for our students. From now to the end of the year there are various exciting activities for students, staff, and families.

- During the month of May, schools are celebrating Asian and South Asian Heritage Month. This is a time to reflect on and learn more about the many achievements and contributions of Canadians of Asian heritage.
- We are pleased to offer the Tutor in the Classroom Program again this year. A post-secondary student is placed in every school from May 8th to June 28th. The tutors will provide targeted intervention in one to one or small group instruction with a focus on literacy or numeracy.
- The Oshawa Boundary Review has completed the 5 committee meetings and 3 public meetings. The input received from parents was appreciated. The Trustees will have a special board meeting on June 15 to review and discuss the final options. Then the final options will be presented to Trustees for approval on June 19th. At that time there can be delegations to provide additional parental input.
- There is an opportunity to reconnect with friends and teachers at the 60th anniversary of Dwyer Catholic High School. More information is available on one of our website's banners.

Superintendent Wilson hoped that all our DCPIC mothers had a great Mother's Day and may we be reminded to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives.

6.4 PRO Grant Subcommittee Report

Deferred

6.5 Communications Subcommittee Report

Christine Santos informed DCPIC that the Communications Subcommittee will have the newsletter ready to be published next week, but wondered if it should wait to include survey results. Chair LoPresti recommended holding off on sending Newsletter out until Survey results have been reviewed by committee at the next meeting in June.

6.6 School Council Outreach Subcommittee Report

Josie Mullin's thanked everyone for their work on the Catholic Volunteer Awards. The evening was a huge success. Josie also thanked the vendors that helped make the evening a success.

6.7 Faith Formation Subcommittee Report

Marjorie Poulin shared with the committee her experience in attending the ICE Symposium. One of the obstacles that is faced today is how to keep the spiritual part going in the schools. Different Boards shared different initiatives they have done to keep the Spiritual faith in schools. Marjorie shared that one Board lets one school every month lead the Sunday Mass in the parish church. This engages all the students to have a role in the Mass and brings families back into the church. Marjorie was gracious to have the opportunity to attend the ICE Symposium this year.

6.8 Policy & By-Law Subcommittee Report

Michelle shared the next date is August 14, 2023, for the Policy Input. Michelle will send an email to the Policy Subcommittee to suggest next meeting date.

6.9 Budget Subcommittee Report

Chair LoPresti gave an update on where the budget stands and the parent engagement funds.

7. Adjournment

Motion:

DCPIC2023-05-18-03 - Adjournment

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting on Thursday, May 18, 2023, adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Motion moved by Melissa Bevan and seconded by Josie Mullin.

CARRIED

8. Closing Prayer

Christ Szent-Ivany

Rose Lo Presti
Chair, Durham Catholic Parent
Involvement Committee

Jim Wilson
Superintendent of Education

RLP:JW:ljl