



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

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: April 22, 2024

Subject: **Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC)
Minutes of April 11, 2024**

Origin: Jim Wilson, Superintendent of Education

Please find attached a copy of the Minutes of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Meeting held on April 11, 2024.

TB/JW/lj
Attachment: Minutes of April 11, 2024



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

Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Minutes

Durham Catholic District School Board
April 11, 2024, at 7:30 PM North Boardroom
650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa, ON L1J 7C4

Committee Members Present:

Rose Lo Presti (Chair), Kim Beatty (Trustee), Melissa Bevan, Michelle Gillis, Andrea Gagliardi, Christine Santos, Mike McKenney, Michelina Dos Santos, Lucia Lacorte, Chris Szent-Ivany, Veronica McIntosh

Staff Present:

Mike O'Neill, Lori Jones, Emily McCall

1. Call to Order

Chair Lo Presti called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and welcomed all committee members to the April 11, 2024, meeting. Chair Lo Presti acknowledged Traditional Lands and Territory.

1.1. Opening Prayer

Chris Szent-Ivany recited the opening prayer.

1.2. Welcome and Courtesies

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion:

DCPIC2024-04-11-01 - Approval of Agenda
"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Agenda of Thursday, April 11, 2024, 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, May 9, 2024.

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 March 7, 2024.

Motion:

DCPIC2024-04-11-02 - Approval of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the minutes of the March 7, 2024, Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting".

Motion moved by Michelle Gillis and motion seconded by Andrea Gagliardi.

CARRIED

5. Presentations

5.1 Kindergarten Fair Night

Chair Lo Presti spoke to the Kindergarten Fair Night being held on Tuesday, April 23rd at All Saints C.S.S. Chair Lo Presti confirmed that the DCPIC will set-up a table at the Kindergarten Fair and asked for committee members to help man the table. Rose, Andrea and Oliver confirmed they would help at the event.

Chair Lo Presti would have a DCPIC information card to hand out at the fair along with the DCPIC folders including pens and paper.

5.2 Volunteer Awards Ceremony

Melissa Bevan spoke on behalf of Josie Mullin who was absent from the meeting. Melissa reported that the Balloon Arch has been ordered and will be at the event in the early afternoon for set-up. Lori Jones reported that the caterer has been arranged, chair covers and tablecloths have been ordered. Stars for the back of the chairs have been ordered, delivered and given to Rose to put the names on them. Lori Jones has arranged for the gifts for each of the recipients. Christine Santos and Emily McCall have been working on the power point presentation.

5.3 Parent Survey – Rose Lo Presti

Chair Lo Presti spoke on the Parent Survey that goes out every year. The Survey will be sent out in May, the DCPIC will review results in June and in September those results are the base of the activities planned for Parent Engagement events. Chair Lo Presti asked if any questions should be changed in the Survey or new ones added. Christine Santos shared that the last 3 years of this survey the parents have been consistent with their requests. The top three requests are around Well Being, Mental Health and Numeracy. Discussion was made to change the Survey going out every 2 years, but concern was brought up on the need to use for planning. Decision was made to continue annually with the survey but change the order of the questions.

6. Reports/Information/Items

6.1. Chair's Report

Chair Lo Presti hoped everyone had a great Easter Weekend as we enter a busy time of year for the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee. Plans are well underway for the 11th Annual Distinguished Catholic Volunteer Award Ceremony and Reception. Outstanding parent volunteers from each of our schools will be honoured at the Pope Francis Centre on April 18th. This is an important DCPIC event that recognizes parent volunteers throughout the board and your support determines its success. As always, the support for this event from Lori is much appreciated.

April 14th to April 20th is National Volunteer Week. During that week, please recognize all volunteers in our schools. Their actions create a strong, interconnected and vibrant Catholic learning community.

Chair Lo Presti expressed how much we are looking forward to the Kindergarten Resource Fair as DCPIC is a major sponsor. This event is on Tuesday, April 23rd, at All Saints Catholic Secondary School between 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Parents will be able to learn more about the DCDSB Kindergarten program, meet community partners and engage in hands-on activities.

6.2 Trustee's Report

Trustee Beatty shared information on the Board Meeting that was on March 18th. This included a presentation by Mr. Kayode Akomolafe, DCDSB Human Rights and Equity Advisor. He provided a mid-year assessment of the impact of the initiatives and programs undertaken by the board to address systematic discrimination and barriers, and to make the board a more equitable, inclusive, and welcoming learning and working environment. To view a full report and the presentation, please visit dcdsb.ca.

Mr. Akomolafe also indicated that the board plans to conduct a student demographic survey on April 22nd to 26th. The student demographic survey is designed to invite students (or their parents/guardian for students from Kindergarten – Grade 8) to share information about their identities as related to the protected grounds of the Ontario Rights Code. A webpage, dcdsb.ca/StudentSurvey has been created where more information about the Student Demographic Survey, including a preview of the survey questions and frequently asked questions, can be found.

Trustee Beatty also informed the DCPIC that current Grade 10 students are invited to apply to be a Student Trustee for the upcoming school year. Student Trustees are secondary students who are elected by their peers on the Student Senate to sit on the Board of Trustees as a non-voting member. Student representation on the Board provides opportunities for student interests to be heard and considered in Board decisions. The deadline for applications is Friday, April 12th. Interested students should contact the main office at their school to learn more about the election process.

Trustee Beatty shared with the DCPIC that the Durham Catholic Children's Foundation, in partnership with the Durham Catholic District School Board, is pleased to announce the return of its signature gala event on May 16th. The 10th Annual Catholic Children's Foundation Gala is a wonderful opportunity for the Catholic community and its partners to come together in the spirit of faith, joy and unity. Since its launch in 2014 the Durham Catholic Children's Foundation has raised over \$300,000 through the support of donors to bring hope to students and families in need. Tickets are available on the board's website.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on April 22nd at 7:30. Parents are welcome to attend in-person and can also view the meeting by the live stream.

Trustee Beatty spoke on behalf of the board of trustees, how much she would like to thank the DCPIC for their efforts to enhance parent engagement.

6.3 Resource Report

Superintendent O'Neill shared with the DCPIC upcoming activities with the Durham Catholic District School Board:

- Registration is now open for Continuing Education's Elementary and Secondary Summer School Programs. Also, registration is open for the Summer Stem Camp for Black Students in grades 7-10. Please go to dcdsb.ca for more information.
- Students in grades 9 and 10 are invited to join the Regional Arts and Media Program at All Saints Catholic Secondary School. Apply now for a Grade 10 or

Grade 11 start in September 2024. The application deadline is Monday, April 22, 2024. Visit amp.dcdsb.ca for more information.

- On April 22, the Board will hold a third public meeting concerning Education Development Charges. The meeting will be held at the Board's Education Centre at 7:30 pm.
- The Durham Catholic District School Board invites families and community members to attend an evening with Niigaan Sinclair. This session will be an opportunity to examine four key moments from the Papal Visit to Canada in 2022 and reflect on our work in Catholic Education as we journey toward Truth and Reconciliation. This event will take place on Tuesday, April 23 from 5:30 pm to 7 pm at the Pope Francis Centre (652 Rossland Rd. W.).
- The Mental Health and Well-Being Series has an excellent workshop during the month of April. On Wednesday, May 8th, this virtual workshop will explore some frequently asked questions that will help parents to prepare, prevent, and respond if their child or adolescent is experiencing thoughts of suicide. The workshop is from 6 – 7 p.m. Please refer to the DCDSB April News which is on the Board's website for more information.

Superintendent O'Neill thanked everyone for your collective efforts that make Durham Catholic a better place for each and every one of our students.

6.4 PRO Grant Subcommittee Report

Andrea Gagliardi spoke to the DCPIC on the status of getting Paul Davis to commit to a date for a Parent Engagement event next year. Andrea will update the committee once she hears something back.

Andrea Gagliardi addressed the committee on their input of possibly having a session for parents on Vaping next Fall.

Trustee Beatty shared with the DCPIC that she attended a virtual session on Social Media. The presenters were Laurie McCann a police officer and Margot Denomme, an author and lawyer. Trustee Beatty highly recommended this as a parent engagement event next year.

Superintendent O'Neill shared with the DCPIC that Academic Services includes programs in their teaching on the following topics:

- Physical/Health Wellness
- Cyber Safety
- Artificial Intelligence
- Vaping

6.5 Communications Subcommittee Report

Christine Santos gave a thank you to Emily McCall for all her help and guidance in posting media

6.6 School Council Outreach Subcommittee Report

Deferred

6.7 Faith Formation Subcommittee Report

Deferred.

6.8 Policy & By-Law Subcommittee Report

Michelle Gillis sent drafts of policies to the DCPIC. Michelle is asking for any comments/feedback on these to be emailed to her.

6.9. Budget Subcommittee Report

Chair Lo Presti shared the current budget amount.

7. Adjournment

Motion:

DCPIC2024-04-11-03 - Adjournment

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting on Thursday, April 11, 2024, adjourn at 8:48 p.m.

Motion moved by Melissa Bevan and seconded by Andrea Gagliardi.

CARRIED

8. Closing Prayer – Chris Szent-Ivany

Chris Szent-Ivany recited the closing prayer.

Rose Lo Presti
Chair, Durham Catholic Parent
Involvement Committee

Jim Wilson
Superintendent of Education