



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

Memorandum

To: Board of Trustees

From: Tracy Barill, Director of Education

Date: March 27, 2023

Subject: **Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC)
Minutes of March 9, 2023**

Origin: Jim Wilson, Superintendent of Education

Please find attached a copy of the Minutes of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Meeting held on March 9, 2023.

TB/JW/lj
Attachment: Minutes of March 9, 2023



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

Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Minutes

Durham Catholic District School Board
March 9, 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)(Virtual), Vanessa Asgarali (Secretary/Treasurer), Josie Mullin (Vice-Chair), Melissa Bevan, Jihan Ferguson, Andrea Gagliardi, Michelle Gillis, John Rinella, Christine Santos, Michelina Dos Santos, Marjorie Poliquin

Staff Present:

Jim Wilson, Lori Jones, Faeron Pilleggi

1. Call to Order

Chair Lo Presti called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m. and welcomed all committee members to the March 9, 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:

DCPIC2023-09-01 - Approval of Agenda
"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Agenda of Thursday, March 9, 2023, Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting as provided".

Motion moved by Melissa Bevan and motion seconded by Josie Mullin

CARRIED

3. Announcements

- 3.1. Next Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting: Thursday, April 13, 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 February 16, 2023.

DCPIC2023-03-09-02 - Approval of Minutes

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Minutes of February 16, 2023, meeting."

Motion Moved by Michelle Gillis and seconded by Andrea Gagliardi.

CARRIED

5. Presentations

- 5.1 Jim Wilson, Superintendent of Education, 2023-2024 School Year Calendar Presentation

Superintendent Wilson presented to the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee the process of developing the Durham Catholic District School Board's School Year Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year.

Superintendent Wilson explained when developing a school year calendar, the Board must adhere to Ministry guidelines regarding the number of instructional days, the start and end dates, the number of Professional Activity days, etc. This year an important decision making point involves the timing of the March Break. Option 1 is to have 6 days at March Break and a PA Day on August 31st OR Option 2 is to have 5 days at March Break and a PA Day on September 5th.

Superintendent Wilson explained how all the shareholders are being presented this proposed modified calendar and a parent survey will be going out to all families. All input will be taken into account as we work with our stakeholder groups to finalize our calendar for the coming year.

Superintendent Wilson explained how recommendations will be brought to the Board of Trustees at the Regular Board Meeting of Monday, March 27, 2023. Once approved by the Board of Trustees, the calendar will be submitted to the Ministry of Education for final approval before it is published.

5.1. 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. Lori Jones updated the Committee on the following details: date of event, Tuesday, April 18, 2023, location of event, Pope Francis Centre, staff Numbered Memo sent out to all Principals/Vice-Principals and letter for School Council Chairs sent to Principals/Vice-Principals to share, catering arranged, gifts ordered.

Sub-committee will get together to discuss details such as decorations, Agenda of the evening, etc.

6. Reports/Information/Items

6.1. Chair's Report

As we continue to journey into Lent, Chair Lo Presti welcomed families to continue to explore the Lenten activities on the DCPIC website. There you will find printable colouring pages and an Easter word search. Each week during Lent there are videos of Lenten family craft activities.

Chair Lo Presti spoke to the 2022-2023 Distinguished Catholic Volunteer Awards that will be on April 18th at the Pope Francis Centre. This important evening of recognition will begin with a reception at 6:30 p.m. and the ceremony at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Lo Presti informed the Committee that the second Pro Parent Engagement Meeting for DCPIC Chairs was held on Wednesday, February 22nd. During the meeting, School Mental Health Ontario gave a session that was led by the Co-Director, Theresa Kennedy. She described how School Mental Health Ontario provides service model support for school boards. Ms. Kennedy made us aware that they can help parents know what is available to them and how they can navigate to get supports. Then they share strategies to help parents support their children's mental health, as well as supports provided to schools. You are welcome to visit their website at smho-smsso.ca.

Chair Lo Presti shared that the DCPIC Spring Newsletter was published today. Thank you to Christine and Faeron for your work on this excellent publication that promotes parent engagement throughout all DCDSB schools.

Chair Lo Presti also explained that nominations are now being accepted for the Reverend John Markle Home-School Communications Award. A selection

committee is accepting nominations from parents, guardians and students who believe their school has done an outstanding job communicating with students and families over the 2022-2023 school year. One elementary and one secondary school will be selected to receive the award at the May 23rd board meeting. Nominations are accepted until March 13th and the nomination form can be found on the DCDSB website.

Chair Lo Presti announced the next Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting is on April 13th at 7:30 p.m.

6.2 Trustee's Report

Trustee Ste. Marie informed the DCPIC about the February 27th Board Meeting and how they viewed presentations on Black History Month, the Long-Term Accommodation Plan, and the results of the Student Climate Survey.

Trustee Ste. Marie also spoke about the decisions made around International Student tuition rates, and a request for a report on the state of bussing and driver shortages, as well as an update on the Memorandum of Understanding between Durham Region Transit and DSTS, the bussing consortium for DDSB and DCDSB. This project is exploring the use of city buses for high school students in areas served by Durham Region Transit.

There was a policy meeting that introduced policies for first reading. These are revisions of existing policies on Student Trustees, Playground equipment, Healthy Food and Beverages, Student Discipline and Student Attendance. These policies are now open to feedback.

Trustee Ste. Marie also explained to the DCPIC that he shared the DCPIC's request to make more Administrative Procedures available with the Policies. In an effort towards greater transparency, Staff have committed to making more Administrative Procedures publicly available as they come up for review.

Trustee Ste. Marie also shared information to the DCPIC that the Board is currently accepting nominations for the Board Award of Merit. Selection is based on the following:

- Those who may bring honour to the school community and/or the Board through the outstanding performance of their duties deserve acknowledgement.
- Extraordinary contribution for the cause of Catholic Education that is consistent with the Board's Mission Statement should be recognized.
- Special recognition should be given to those who demonstrate exemplary service in promoting and affirming Catholic Education.

- A person eligible for nomination may be a Priest, employee, parent, ratepayer, student, or Trustee who is currently, or was formerly, within the Board's jurisdiction.
Nominations are due March 20th at 4:30.

The next Regular Board Meeting will be held on March 27th at 7:30. Everyone is welcome to attend in-person and can also view the meeting by live stream.

Trustee Ste. Marie thanked the DCPIC for their efforts to enhance parent engagement and provide input to the Board's policies.

6.3 Resource Report

Superintendent Wilson greeted the DCPIC and wished all the DCDSB families an excellent March Break.

Superintendent Wilson explained what the Distinguished Catholic Alumni Award is and how it recognizes former students at the Durham Catholic District School Board who have achieved significant success in their chosen pathway. Through their pursuit of personal excellence, they have made a positive contribution to their communities and represent the image of the Catholic learner as outlined in the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations. Nominations are being accepted until April 13th at 4:30 p.m. and the nomination form can be found on the DCDSB website.

Superintendent Wilson informed the DCPIC that the DCDSB is currently completing the Oshawa Program and Boundary Study and input is appreciated through a series of public meetings. Board staff will compile considerations and recommendations to bring to the June 19th Board Meeting. There was already a meeting at Sir Albert Love Catholic School on Tuesday, March 7th. The next meeting is at St. Christopher Catholic School on Tuesday, March 21st. There is also a meeting at St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic School on March 23rd.

Superintendent Wilson thanked the DCPIC for allowing him to present the proposed 2023-2024 School Year Calendar Consultation this evening. Superintendent Wilson expressed its importance and appreciates the parent voice when making these decisions. Superintendent Wilson asked the DCPIC to feel free to submit their preference by using the survey link in the DCDSB website. The survey will close at 5:00 p.m. tomorrow. The finalized 2023-2024 school year calendars will be shared with families once they have been approved by the Ministry of Education.

Superintendent Wilson shared this is the second week of Lent which is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and he hopes families have time together and an opportunity for reflection and spiritual renewal as we head to Easter.

6.4 PRO Grant Subcommittee Report

The Pro Grant committee had asked Lori Jones to check on the availability at our Secondary School's to host the "Parent Convention". Lori Jones reported two dates had availability at Arch. Denis O'Connor C.H.S. May 6th and June 3rd both had these dates available. DCPIC voted and May 6th was the date selected. The sub-committee will now go forward and try and secure a guest speaker and other agenda items for the day. The PRO Grant Subcommittee will give a report at the next meeting on progress.

6.5 Communications Subcommittee Report

Christine Santos informed DCPIC that the DCPIC Newsletter went out today to all families. Christine thanked Faeron Pileggi for all her assistance. The next newsletter will be sent out in June. Christine mentioned how important communication is and how the sub-committee will be looking at revamping the Facebook page and trying to entice new members.

6.6 School Council Outreach Subcommittee Report

Marjorie Poliquin addressed the DCPIC concerning cameras to enhance student's safety in portables. Superintendent Wilson recommended Scott Grieve attend the next meeting to address.

6.6 Faith Formation Subcommittee Report

Deferred

6.7 Policy & By-Law Subcommittee Report

Michelle Gillis thanked Trustee Ste. Marie for advocating for the policy sub-committee. Michelle mentioned the Board's Policy page has not been updated yet, but once it has been she will update the sub-committee and they will reconvene.

6.8 Budget Subcommittee Report

Deferred

7. Adjournment

Motion:

DCPIC2023-03-09-03 - Adjournment

"THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2023, adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

Motion moved by Michelle Gillis and seconded by Melissa Bevan.

CARRIED

8. Closing Prayer

Jim Wilson

Rose Lo Presti
Chair, Durham Catholic Parent
Involvement Committee

Jim Wilson
Superintendent of Education

RLP:JW:lj