

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Monday, June 5, 2023

ITEM 1 PRAYER/WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. via Teams. J. Angiolillo led the committee in prayer. D. Eberts chaired the meeting.

ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE

PRESENT - COMMITTEE:

D. Eberts, Co-Chair, R. Gambale, T. Hartnett, A. Mari

BOARD/ADMINISTRATION:

D. Hansen, Director of Education

P. Daly, Chairperson of the Board

J. Angiolillo, Superintendent of Education

REGRETS:

L. Fraser, L. Perini Parkes

RECORDING SECRETARY: K. Bullard

ITEM 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 28, 2023 MEETING

MOTION:

THAT THE CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MARCH 28, 2023 BE APPROVED.

MOVER: T. HARTNETT

SECONDER: A. MARI

CARRIED

ITEM 4 REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) D. Eberts/L. Perini Parkes

Ms. Eberts provided a brief report on the following:

i) Virtual Parent Conference:

The Virtual Parent Conference was held on May 11, 2023 and the theme was “Inspiring a Love of Reading at Home”. The guest speakers were Natalie Crisante – Elementary School Consultant and Dean Younger – Principal at Annunciation of Our Lord Catholic Elementary School. Excellent information was shared and well received. Thank you to Stephanie Macdonald and Beth Dittel – the new co-chairs of the committee for taking the lead on this event.

ii) ICE Symposium:

D. Eberts reported that she attended the ICE Symposium - held May 9 and 10, 2023. Guest speakers included Dr. Jill Gowdie and Dr. Ann Walsh. It was a great opportunity to listen, learn and discuss. One great takeaway shared by Dr. Gowdie was: “The language that God speaks is mercy and our task is to become a fluid speaker of mercy. To see the dignity and worth in every human being. It takes trial and error, a lot of humility, a sense of humor, grace and a lot of practice.”

Resources are available on the ICE website.

iii) Fresh from the Farm: Healthy Fundraising for Ontario Schools 2023:

A Memorandum from the Minister of Education distributed to Catholic School Councils, was shared with the committee. It is a fundraising opportunity to support Ontario’s farmers. Schools keep 40%, 50% is returned to Ontario farmers and 10% is retained to support the program’s operational costs.

b) P. Daly

i) ICE Symposium:

P. Daly thanked D. Eberts for her attendance at the ICE Symposium and reported that follow-up materials are being prepared.

ii) Catholic Education Week:

Many celebrations were planned and attended to celebrate Catholic Education Week - both locally and provincially, including:

- Provincial-wide Mass celebrated by Archbishop Francis Leo; and
- Catholic Student Youth Day.

iii) Building Updates:

- St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School:

The new building for St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School was recently opened and is a beautiful facility for the community.

- St. James Catholic Elementary School:

Construction continues on this building and is expected to open in the Fall.

- Childcare Centre at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Elementary School:

This facility will be opened in the near future.

iv) Provincial Bargaining:

Provincial collective agreements have been reached with CUPE and OCEW. Bargaining continues with OECTA and other Education Worker Unions.

v) Celebrating Excellence in Catholic Education Award Evening:

The Awards Evening will take place on June 6, 2023 at Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School.

c) D. Hansen

i) eLearning Update:

The Ministry of Education released Policy Program Memorandum (PPM) 167, mandating that online learning become a graduation requirement. Students must earn a minimum of two eLearning credits as part of the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). A parent/guardian can request an eLearning exemption for a child by completing the Opt-Out Letter. Also, in certain circumstances, a school can exempt a student from the requirement. Approximately 30% of students opted out of eLearning.

For students currently in Grade 11, the Ministry reduced the mandatory requirement to one credit.

The difference between eLearning and On-line Learning is that eLearning is asynchronous (posted work) and On-line Learning is synchronous (taught in real time).

ii) Experiential Learning Update – Elementary:

Experiential Learning assists students to see different pathways and highlights hands-on learning. Programs include:

- The Cultivating Our Faith Experience is offered in collaboration with the De Mazenod Door Outreach Program to Grades 7 and 8 students at St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School;
- Motive Power Cross-panel Experience introduces students in Grades 7 and 8 to Motive Power technology i.e., Automotive Technology brings students to explore small engines; and
- Aviation Cross-panel Experience provides students in Grade 6 with the awareness of aviation related career pathways.

iii) Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) Update:

- The Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) was introduced by the Board in 2001;
- The program allows students to take a two or four credit co-op placement in an apprenticeable trade in Grades 11 or 12;
- Students may become OYAP registered apprentices where an employer may sponsor the student and apprenticeship during the co-op placement; and
- There is a strong emphasis to encourage girls/females to enter skilled trades.

iv) Updates:

- The Board has returned to in-person Elementary Director's Awards;
- The Board will be receiving a report on Leadership Placements this week; and,
- The Board will be running an Elementary and Secondary School virtual option as mandated by the Ministry of Education.

Discussions included:

- Virtual School enrolment;
- Closing the Gap for Post-secondary Education;
- Initiatives to assist male students to encourage post-secondary education;
- EQAO scores and gap closing; and
- Student Council Elections.

d) J. Angiolillo

i) HWCD SB Child Care and Early Years Programming Update:

The following items were highlighted:

- Toddler and Preschool Programs; and
- Before and After School Programs.

ii) School Fundraising Activities 2023-2024:

A list of approved charities and Fundraising Activities was provided for the committee's information and will be included in the Catholic School Council Guidelines for 2023-2024.

iii) Pilgrimage 2023:

The 17th Annual Pilgrimage Walk took place on April 30, 2023. Mass was celebrated by His Excellency Bishop Douglas Crosby O.M.I., D.D. followed by students walking the Pilgrimage to St. Anthony Daniel Catholic Elementary School.

iv) Catholic Education Week 2023:

J. Angiolillo acknowledged the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association for the resources received for Catholic Education Week.

The Catholic Education Week plaque was designed by a student from St. Mark Catholic Elementary School and were distributed to all schools and sites of the Board.

Other events that took place during Catholic Education Week included the Province-Wide Mass celebrated on May 3, Annual Food Drive and the Intermediate Scripture Reading Event.

The theme for 2023-2024 is "We are Called to Love." The sub-themes are:

Monday:	As people of hope
Tuesday:	As people of faith
Wednesday:	As people of mercy
Thursday:	As people of justice
Friday:	As people of joy.

ITEM 5

MEETING DATES

Meeting dates for 2023-2024 will be shared in the near future.

CPIC-23-2-6

ITEM 6 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

THAT THE CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
BE ADJOURNED.

MOVER: S. HEENAN

SECONDER: A. MARI

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.