

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2023

ITEM 1 PRAYER/WELCOME

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

ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE

PRESENT - COMMITTEE:

D. Eberts, Co-Chair, C. Chorney, R. Gambale, S. Heenan, A. Mari,  
A. Zecconi-Mitchell

BOARD/ADMINISTRATION:

D. Hansen, Director of Education  
P. Daly, Chairperson of the Board  
J. Angiolillo, Superintendent of Education

REGRETS:

T. Hartnett, L. Perini Parkes

RECORDING SECRETARY: K. Bullard

ITEM 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2023 MEETING

MOTION:

THAT THE CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES  
OF JUNE 5, 2023 BE APPROVED.

MOVER: R. GAMBALE

SECONDER: A. MARI

CARRIED

ITEM 4 REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) D. Eberts/L. Perini Parkes

D. Eberts welcomed all members and congratulated new committee members.  
Introductions were made.

K. Bullard was asked to send the CPIC By-Laws to all committee members.

An overview of the term of committee members and co-chairs was given.

b) P. Daly

i) 2023 Distinguished Service Award:

P. Daly advised that His Excellency Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI will receive the 2023 Award for Distinguished Service to Catholic Education. A Eucharistic Celebration, Presentation Ceremony and Reception will be held on November 28, 2023 at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King beginning at 7:00 p.m.

ii) Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (O.C.S.T.A.) Together in Faith – Pastoral Care document:

The OCSTA document on Pastoral Care has been finalized and will be shared with all Catholic School Councils, Principals and committee members.

iii) Capital Projects Update:

- St. James Catholic Elementary School:

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

- Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School:

Approval for tendering has been received. The tendering process will now begin.

2023-2024 submissions for Capital Projects include:

- New School for St. Paul Catholic Elementary
- New School for St. Francis Xavier
- New Catholic Secondary School in Elfrida
- New Catholic Elementary School in Mount Hope
- New School for St. Margaret Mary Catholic Elementary
- New School for Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Elementary

The Board will be submitting the above Capital Project requests next week.

iv) Provincial Bargaining:

The following update was given:

- CUPE (support staff) a provincial and local agreement has been reached;
- OCEW/LIUNA (custodian/maintenance and assistant custodian) a provincial and local agreement has been reached;
- OSSTF (instructors at St. Charles) a local agreement has been reached and a framework for an agreement at the provincial level has been agreed upon; and
- OECTA (teachers) currently in negotiations and bargaining will continue.

c) D. Hansen

i) School Year Opening 2023-2024:

The Board is pleased that this school year opened with full course offerings along with students engaging in co-curricular and co-instructional activities.

The Board welcomed 1,715 new first year Kindergarten students and 2,599 new Grade 9 students.

Changes in Curriculum Areas:

Changes included:

- Social Studies curriculum for students in grades 1-3 – to include an introduction of Indigenous education. It focuses on teaching students traditional Indigenous and treaty territories and, understanding the ways of life of First Nation Métis and Inuit peoples. The curriculum includes the reclamation for those communities of their identity, their language and culture.
- Elementary Language for students in grades 1-8 – new curriculum with a focus on foundational knowledge and skills in both reading and writing, a focus on spelling, vocabulary, reading fluency and comprehension. It also includes digital media literacy.
- There is a change to report cards. One mark will be given as opposed to strands showing a mark in reading, writing, oral communication and media communications.
- Math achievement – there is an expectation for boards to develop and publish a Math Achievement Action Plan. B. Daly has been appointed as Math Lead to assist the Board with this action plan along with Math

Facilitators to assist teachers with professional learning in the area of Mathematics. A report will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval.

- Social Studies for Grade 6 students now includes Holocaust learning.
- Grade 10 Digital Technology Innovation in a Changing World course with a focus on digital technology, computer programming, investigating emerging technologies i.e. cyber security, and artificial intelligence has been introduced.

ii) Bill 98 – The Better Schools and Outcomes Act, 2023

Bill 98 requires boards to create a Student Achievement Plan with three priorities to be adopted into the board multi-year strategic plan, including:

- Achievement of Learning Outcomes in Core Academic Areas;
- Preparation of Students for Future Success; and,
- Student Engagement and Well-being.

For transparency and communication with parents, school boards are expected to publicly provide more detail on PA day topics.

Ministry expectations for PA days include:

- Implementation of the new Grades 1-8 and Grade 9 Language/English curriculum;
- Early reading instruction for Kindergarten-Grade 3 teachers;
- Effective practice for supporting students in the new Grade 9 de-streamed English and Math courses;
- Implementation of the new and revised Indigenous-focused revisions in the Social Studies Grades 1-3 curriculum;
- New Holocaust education in Grade 6 Social Studies curriculum;
- A new Grade 10 Computer Studies course – Digital Technology and Innovations in the Changing World;
- Developing connections to skilled trades and apprenticeship;
- Student mental health and well-being to enhance teacher capacity to support student mental health in one or more of: cybersecurity/online privacy, anti-sex trafficking and/or student safety and violent incident preventions; and,
- Implementation of mandatory mental health literacy modules that have been developed by School Mental Health Ontario for all Grade 7 and 8 students.

Faith continues to be included in Professional Development days.

The transitional certificate enables students enrolled in full-time teacher education programs to work in schools while completing their studies after they have completed 30 credits and 40 practicum days. Professional development supports for candidates holding a transitional certificate may be provided through the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP).

*PPM 168: Reading Instruction and Early Reading Screening* was introduced and mandates protected time for reading instruction and introduces early reading screening for students in Year 2 of Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2.

Full implementation of this screening requirement is scheduled for September 2024 however, teachers may conduct this screening this school year based on the needs of students and professional judgement.

The ministry also introduced *PPM 169: Student Mental Health* which provides guidelines on new initiatives to support the mental health literacy of teachers, school staff, students and their families.

School Mental Health Ontario, in consultation with Sick Kids' Hospital, have developed and released mandatory mental health literacy modules for Grade 7 and 8 students.

Teachers will be trained on these modules and implementation is expected to begin in January 2024. The PPM also mandates school boards to report each year on the implementation of requirements of this PPM.

The ministry updated requirements in the area of Christian service to include annual reporting of service hours on each student's report card.

The Ministry updated *PPM: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition for Mature Students* to allow the recognition of up to 30 credits to earn an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) for individuals with a Certificate of Apprenticeship or equivalent.

OCSTA has informed Catholic school boards of additional regulation amendments posted on Ontario's Regulatory Registry. This outline includes proposed amendments related to the disposition of surplus school board property and the development of new regulations for schools on shared use sites where the site would be shared with a partner other than another school board, municipality or child care centre.

Committee members and families are invited to attend the 2023 HWCDSB Pathways Night being held on November 2, 2023 at LiUNA Station from 5:39-8:00 p.m.

Discussion items included:

- The new Grade 10 Digital Technology course;
- Focus Group/community partnerships; and
- Timetable changes for students that completed course during the summer; D. Hansen and J. Angiolillo will get feedback from Secondary Principals regarding the scheduling of Guidance appointments.

d) J. Angiolillo

i) Catholic School Council Items:

- Catholic School Council Memo/Home, Parish, and School and Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Funds Memo:

A brief outline of the memos was shared with a breakdown of funding available to schools/Catholic School Councils:

- a) \$500 to support Catholic School Council activities; and
  - b) \$500 for Parent Reaching Out (PRO) and \$500 for Home, Parish, School Partnership activities. Applications are due October 20, 2023.
- Catholic School Council Orientation will take place on October 24, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Nicholas Mancini Centre.
  - Parent Conference will take place on October 19, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. at Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School.
  - Catholic School Council Breakfast will take place February 2, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. at Michelangelo Banquet Centre. Fr. Wynen will be the keynote speaker.

A brief discussion took place regarding:

- School By-Laws;
- Speakers for PRO/HPS activities – using Board and Diocesan personnel; and
- Board donation number – J. Angiolillo was asked to speak with P. Pace-Gubekjian regarding the process.

ITEM 5      NEXT MEETING DATES

- December 13, 2023
- March 6, 2024
- May 15, 2024

ITEM 6      ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.