

**HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**Catholic Parent Involvement Committee  
Minutes**

Date: March 5, 2012

ITEM 1      PRAYER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. in the First Floor Committee Room of the Catholic Education Centre. L. Rao led those present in prayer.

ITEM 2      ATTENDANCE

Present:                      A. Vecchiola; L. Rao, Co-Chair;  
L. Conti; L. Lech; E. Pecyna

Trustee:                      P. Daly, Chairperson of the Board.

Administration:          P. Amos, Director of Education  
C. Ciapanna, Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Mrs. S. Giacinti

Regrets:                      T. Hartnett; H. MacLeod; D. Taylor.

ITEM 3      OLD BUSINESS

Mr. C Ciapanna, Superintendent of Education, discussed the following:

- a) Ministry Guidelines: the Ministry stipulates that the committee have an up-to-date website. In order to comply with this requirement, Mr. C. Ciapanna posted the minutes of meetings, membership, by-laws, etc. on the website. It was agreed that minutes will be posted as “draft” until the committee meets again to approve them.
  
- b) Meeting Schedule: the Ministry requires that the committee have at least four meetings per school year. Since the December meeting was cancelled, another meeting needs to be scheduled. The following dates were scheduled for the next two meetings: April 25<sup>th</sup>-6:30-First Floor Committee Room of Catholic Education Centre and May 29<sup>th</sup>-6:30-First Floor Committee Room of Catholic Education Centre.

ITEM 4      REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Corrado Ciapanna:

- a) EQAO Regional Parent Forum-Saturday, March 31, 2012

Mr. C. Ciapanna indicated that Ms. H. MacLeod will attend this event.

- b) Parent Involvement Committee Symposium-Friday, April 20/Saturday April 21, 2012

Mr. C. Ciapanna will register Ms. A. Vecchiola and Ms. L. Rao for the symposium.

- c) Parent Conference-October 29, 2011

Mr. C. Ciapanna indicated that this year's conference held at Cathedral High School was very successful. He said that there were approximately 150 participants. Next year's conference is set for November 3, 2012.

- d) Catholic School Council Breakfast-February 3, 2012

Mr. C. Ciapanna stated that the breakfast took place at the Nicholas Mancini Centre and 130 people attended. He said that Father Jim Petrie was the keynote speaker. Ms. L. Rao suggested that the co-chairs of CPIC receive invitations to next year's breakfast.

Pat Daly

- a) ICE update

Mr. P. Daly handed out information regarding the symposium for members to read. He informed the committee that the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board deals with these types of issues at the local level. He stated that it's been the Board's practice to look to local existing groups for support. For example, Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, JEPAG, etc.

He stressed the importance of parents to be active in their support of Catholic education.

b) Enrolment; boundary changes update

Mr. P. Daly indicated that there are no immediate plans for any school closures or boundary changes. He informed the committee that property has been purchased in Winona in hopes that the Ministry of Education will see the need to alleviate overcrowding at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Elementary School.

He also informed the committee that the Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School community will be housed in the new St. Ann, Hamilton, Catholic Elementary School.

c) Update on new schools

Mr. P. Daly updated the committee on the following schools:

- Holy Name of Jesus and Annunciation of Our Lord Catholic Elementary Schools opened their new facilities.

-St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Elementary School-restructuring should be completed by next fall

-the new Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School's tender has been awarded to the contractor and construction will begin soon. The target date for opening is Fall 2013. He indicated that boundaries will be the same as they are now.

-St. Ann Catholic Elementary School, Hamilton, is currently under design and should be under construction by the end of the summer. The students will move to Holy Family after the March Break so the existing St. Ann's building can be demolished.

-St. Thomas More Catholic Secondary School-funding was received for 15 classrooms. It is currently in the design phase and construction should begin this summer.

Pat Amos

a) School names

Mrs. P. Amos, Director of Education, reviewed the way school names are written and said. For elementary schools, the name of the school and then Catholic Elementary School. For secondary schools, the name of the school and then Catholic Secondary School, with the exception of Cathedral High School. She also reviewed the St. Charles Centres and their locations.

Mrs. P. Amos highlighted the following schools which have had name changes:

- Mother Teresa is now Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Elementary School
- Pope John Paul II is now Blessed John Paul II Catholic Elementary School
- Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha will be known as St. Kateri Tekakwitha Catholic Elementary School
- Cardinal Newman Catholic Secondary School will still be known as Cardinal Newman for now even though he is now Blessed John Henry Newman.

Mrs. P. Amos indicated that the Board is going through a process so that the name of the school is clearly visible in all of the Board's schools.

b) Food and beverage update

Mrs. P. Amos stated that the policy is fully implemented in all of our schools. The schools are allowed exemption days which includes the cafeteria food as well. She informed the committee that Mr. M. Hucal, Assistant Superintendent, works closely with the school vendors.

She also reported that since the implementation of the food and beverage policy there has been a decrease in cafeteria sales. The decrease ranges from 12-30%. There is also a significant decrease in vending machine sales, from 40-60%. The milk vending machines are doing well.

Mrs. P. Amos reported that in a survey of students results showed that students would like to see more pitas and wraps in the cafeteria.

She also informed the committee that a meeting will be held April 12<sup>th</sup> with Public Health officials, 7 secondary school representatives and Ministry representatives. The meeting will look at focusing on wellness, and also marketing plans. Each of the seven secondary schools will be invited to send 1-2 students to the afternoon session of the workshop. She indicated that Chartwells did offer a \$1.00 off coupon to grade nine students in the fall. She also stressed the need to speak with the vendors about price point as well.

At this time, Mrs. P. Amos handed out the Director's Annual Report to the members for them to read. She also indicated that the report is available on the Board's website. She also handed out a book titled, "Baptism Day". The book will be given to parents baptizing their children from their parish.

She also showed them a copy of the DVD entitled, "The Enduring Gift". This DVD follows the extraordinary journey of Catholic Education in the Province of Ontario and the incredible climb to achieve equitable school funding. She gave each member a study guide which accompanies the DVD.

Mrs. P. Amos also shared some good news regarding awards that students and staff have won. For example, Mrs. G. Centritto, teacher at Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School, won the Margot Stern Strom Award. Mr. B. Dowling, teacher-librarian at St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic Secondary School, won the Teacher-Librarian of the Year Award for 2012. Mrs. L. Hucal, teacher at St. Michael Catholic Elementary School, won the Teach Nutrition Award.

Corrado Ciapanna

a) Uniform policy update

Mr. C. Ciapanna said that every school has approximately 200 crests available.

b) French Immersion update

Mr. C. Ciapanna reported that there are 112 Senior Kindergarten students registered for 2012/2013 and that the French Immersion Program is doing quite well.

c) School Year Calendar 2012/2013

Mr. C. Ciapanna will bring this report to the Committee of the Whole Meeting on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. He said that next year's calendar is very similar to this year's.

Helen MacLeod (in her absence Ms. L. Rao gave a brief report)

a) OAPCE

Ms. L. Rao informed the committee that the OAPCE conference will be held on May 5<sup>th</sup> in Whitby at All Saints Catholic Secondary School.

Ms. L. Rao told the committee that registration is open for the Healthy School Program.

CPIC-12-1-6

Angel Vecchiola

a) JEPAG

Ms. A. Vecchiola informed the committee that JEPAG has had two meetings this year. The January 19, 2012 meeting focused on Connect-Ed-Staying Safe in a Wired World. For example, cyber-bullying. The February 27<sup>th</sup> meeting was their Annual Lenten Retreat where Mrs. T. Hartnett was the speaker. She indicated that there are two more meetings planned and the tentative dates are: April 19 and one in May. She also noted that attendance at JEPAG meetings has declined.

ITEM 4      OTHER

There was no other business.

ITEM 5      NEXT MEETING DATES

Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>.

ITEM 6      ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.