

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: May 25, 2021

ITEM 1 PRAYER/WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. via Teams and C. Ciapanna led the committee in the opening prayer. D. Eberts chaired the meeting.

ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE

PRESENT - COMMITTEE:

D. Eberts, Co-Chair, L. Perini Parkes, Co-Chair
L. Fraser, R. Gambale, S. Heenan, A. Mari

BOARD/ADMINISTRATION:

D. Hansen, Director of Education
P. Daly, Chairperson of the Board
C. Ciapanna, Superintendent of Education

REGRETS:

T. Hartnett

RECORDING SECRETARY: K. Bullard

ITEM 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2021 MEETING

MOTION:

THAT THE CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2021 BE APPROVED.

MOVER: S. HEENAN

SECONDER: C. CIAPANNA

CARRIED

ITEM 4 REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) D. Eberts/L. Perini Parkes

L. Perini Parkes reported that she participated in the OAPCE workshops. She advised that the workshops were informative and that she appreciated the opportunity to participate in them.

D. Eberts reported that she and L. Perini Parkes were contacted by C. D'Elia, Principal at St. John Henry Newman Catholic Secondary School, to provide feedback and input regarding a new Incident/Suspension Tracking form to be implemented board-wide. A review of the form and the process was provided. She reported that it provides good communication on reporting and consistency within the Board. She was thankful for the opportunity to provide feedback.

D. Hansen reported that the form is in the process of being finalized and that a report will be presented to the Board for approval.

b) P. Daly

P. Daly thanked staff, students and parents for their participation in the celebration of Catholic Education Week. He advised that the *Nurturing Hope* theme was an appropriate theme for this year and that the theme for Catholic Education Week 2022 will be released soon.

He commended students, parents and staff in meeting the challenges of this past year.

He provided the following updates:

i) Funding/Grants/Budget

He reported that grants for student needs have been released. The Finance Department is currently analyzing the budget for 2021-2022 and will bring a report to the board for approval. He advised that the funding is stable and that there will be no reductions in any particular area. The government has included funding for half of the next school year to assist with Health and Safety planning. As the year 2021 closes, the requirements for 2022 will be reviewed.

ii) St. Thomas the Apostle Childcare Centre

He reported that the request for additional funding (approximately \$800,000.00) for the St. Thomas the Apostle Childcare Centre was granted by the Ministry of Education. The tender process will begin soon.

iii) Institute for Catholic Education

P. Daly shared with the committee that June, in the church calendar, honours the Sacred Heart of Jesus and that Cardinal Collins released a wonderful pastoral letter.

The Institute for Catholic Education has released a Novena to be prayed during June to honour the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Board will be promoting and sharing it with classrooms and families. A copy is available on the Board website.

iv) Ministry of Education and Health Announcement – Vaccinations for Children Aged 12-17

The Ministry of Education and Health announced that vaccinations have been extended to children aged 12-17. The Ministry of Education has reported that many students have already registered for their vaccination. P. Daly invited the committee to share and promote vaccinations to make the public aware that this opportunity is available

A. Mari requested clarification on capital projects and lead school projects. P. Daly reported that the government has clear cost benchmarks regarding funding and those benchmarks do not provide for lead certified construction. The Board requires architects use the most environmentally friendly products i.e. windows, HVAC and exterior build products.

S. Heenen asked about the timeline/process for building a new school. P. Daly reported that once a capital priority is approved by the Ministry, it takes approximately 8-10 months to design and receive city approval for an elementary school and another 14-16 months to build the school.

c) D. Hansen

Mr. Hansen reported on the following:

i) Learning Models for 2021-2022

D. Hansen reported that a report will be presented to the Board outlining learning models for 2021-2022 at the June 1 Committee of the Whole meeting. Grants for Student Needs have been received and include funding for Special Education, Mental Health and Well-Being for Students, Equity Initiatives and Re-engaging Students. An area of particular importance in the funding is reading and early readers.

The Ministry of Education has directed boards to include remote learning options for both elementary and secondary students for the 2021-2022 school year. Currently the Board is offering a separate virtual school for elementary students and at the secondary level, they are using a hybrid model (where a class consists of in-person learners and remote learners who are being taught virtually at the same time).

Boards have also been directed by the Ministry to continue cohorting students next year. Elementary students will remain in classes with their teachers. In the coming year, specialized teachers (Arts, French, etc.) will join be able to join the class to ensure the full breadth of programming for students. Students that require reading or Special Education assistance may be removed from class and assigned to smaller groups in the 2021-2022 school year. The Ministry has released the intention for students to have two in-person classes in each quarter of the year (also known as quadmestering). There is a chance that select school boards may be designated by the Ministry in the summer. Designated school boards will be required to continue with alternate day attendance similar to this year's model. It is hoped that with the roll-out of vaccines that students will be in school learning full time with their teachers in the coming school year. The Ministry of Education has indicated a strong desire to resume extracurricular activities in the Fall – subject to Ministry and Public Health recommendations.

ii) Christian Service Hours

The Ministry is considering lowering the number of Christian Service Hours for graduates for 2021-2022. A report will be brought to the Board of Trustees for review. It is proposed that the number of hours for 2021-2022 graduates be reduced to 20 hours. The following year, it is expected that the 40-hour requirement will resume.

iii) OSSLT and EQAO

In secondary schools, students are required to pass the OSSLT as a graduation requirement. Completion of the OSSLT has been waived for the past two years and will be waived again for students graduating next year. Students graduating in 2022-2023 will once again need to meet this requirement. The Ministry will allow current grade 9 and grade 10 students to write the OSSLT in the Fall and Spring of the 2021-2022 school year to meet this requirement.

EQAO for Grades 3, 6 (reading, writing and mathematics) and Grade 9 (mathematics) will return next year for those students attending in-person learning. This on-line test needs to be administered in the school. Part of the Grade 9 mathematics EQAO test counts towards the student's final mark.

iv) Co-Operative Education

While working with Public Health, students have been able to continue with in-person Co-operative Education by following health and safety measures.

v) Secondary Final Marks

A course mark is determined by 70% course work and 30% of final work which often involves a final exam. The Ministry has indicated flexibility regarding exams and the make-up of the final 30% but final decisions have not yet been determined.

vi) De-streamed Grade 9 Mathematics Curriculum

De-streaming classes involves the elimination of Applied and Academic courses. Students will have a common Grade 9 de-streamed mathematics course in the 2021-2022 school year. At this time, the curriculum for the Grade 9 de-streamed mathematics course has not been received. It is anticipated that the Ministry of Education will release it soon to allow for staff training.

vii) Summer School and Interest Programs

The Board has many courses available - credit bearing, credit recovery and credit preparation as well as interest programs at the elementary level and for Special Needs students. Planning is underway to prepare for these courses for the summer. It is hoped that some of this learning will take place face-to-face.

S. Heenan asked what is the Board's plan for families to prepare for the return to in-person learning from remote learning. D. Hansen advised that committees are currently reviewing re-engagement and re-entry into school. The Board recognizes that September will not be a normal September as some students have been out of school for more than a year. The Board will be working with teachers to assist with the integration and assessment of students. The 2021-2022 school year will begin with three professional development days to prepare staff and give them additional preparation time for the return of students.

d) C. Ciapanna

C. Ciapanna reported on the following:

i) Parent Reaching Out Grants

The Board is awaiting Ministry direction regarding next year's Parent Reaching Out Grant. It is anticipated that the process put in place this year will continue next year.

P. Daly reported that Provincially the funding was doubled and that the board will be receiving additional funds for PRO Grants next year.

ii) OAPCE

C. Ciapanna thanked L. Perini Parkes for her participation in OAPCE events. These events have provided parents with good ideas and strategies on how to promote parent engagement. Thank you everyone for promoting these events in your schools.

iii) School Year Calendar

The Ministry of Education has provided Boards with a list of topics for mandatory professional development. The deadline for Board submission of school year calendars to the Ministry of Education is this Friday, May 28, 2021. The topics are governed by collective agreements with unions, Board and Ministry direction. PA day topics include: Health and Safety Protocols - Mental Health and Well-being of Students and Staff and Reading Recovery and Intervention Strategies. This includes methods and ways in closing the gaps for students that have been learning virtually as well as those doing in-person learning.

iv) Staffing

The Ministry has provided funding to support the models currently in place. The Board is currently staffing both elementary and secondary schools.

v) Catholic School Council Orientation

The Catholic School Council Orientation is tentatively scheduled for October 26, 2021. More information on events will be shared at the next meeting – October 12, 2021.

C. Ciapanna thanked committee members for their participation on this committee and their support and commitment to their school communities.

A. Mari asked if there has been any discussion with Public Health to have administrators and teachers fully vaccinated prior to school start. P. Daly reported that school boards have expressed support for students and staff to receive their vaccination before the start of school. Schools Boards have advocated to the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Medical Officer. Supply is a major factor for this to be possible. D. Hansen reported the Ministry of Health has indicated that in the second and third week of June, children aged 12-17, will be able to receive their first vaccination. The Ministry of Health is hopeful that a second dose will be received in the middle of August.

ITEM 5 MEETING DATES

Next meeting dates are:

- Tuesday, October 12, 2021
- Tuesday, December 14, 2021
- Tuesday, March 8, 2022
- Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

D. Eberts thanked the committee and her co-chair, L. Perini Parkes, returning committee members, and new committee members for their commitment and contributions this year and to administration for their leadership.

ITEM 6 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

THAT THE CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING BE ADJOURNED.

MOVER: L. FRASER

SECONDER: L. PERINI PARKES

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.