

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: March 8, 2022

ITEM 1 PRAYER/WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. via Zoom and J. Angiolillo led the committee in the opening prayer. L. Perini-Parkes chaired the meeting.

ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE

PRESENT - COMMITTEE:

L. Perini Parkes, Co-Chair

L. Fraser, R. Gambale, T. Hartnett, S. Heenan, A. Mari

BOARD/ADMINISTRATION:

D. Hansen, Director of Education

P. Daly, Chairperson of the Board

J. Angiolillo, Superintendent of Education

GUEST: M. Hayes, Mental Health Lead

REGRETS: D. Eberts, Co-Chair

RECORDING SECRETARY: K. Bullard

ITEM 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2021 MEETING

MOTION:

THAT THE CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2021 BE APPROVED.

MOVER: T. HARTNETT

SECONDER: A. MARI

CARRIED

ITEM 4 REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) M. Hayes

i) HWCDSD Annual Mental Health and Addiction Action Plan 2021-2022

M. Hayes advised the committee that this week is Social Work Week. She thanked all social workers for their continued support to schools, parents and students.

M. Hayes provide a brief overview of the Board's Annual Mental Health and Addiction Action Plan. Items shared included:

- The Plan was inspired by this year's theme for Catholic Education Week - *Catholic Education: Rebuild, Renew, and Restore Together* and the Board's commitment to provide healthy, safe, inclusive, and warm classrooms in schools where students feel connected, valued and empowered.
- Services are planned using the Aligned and Integration Model (AIM) – incorporating three tiers.
- Tier 1 looks at the mental health promotion efforts that are offered in a universal way for all students. Including:
 - the use of the Faith and Wellness Resource, Tools for Life and Restorative Justice practices;
 - Child and Youth Workers working with students in the classroom to assist with the development of social emotional skills;
 - Distribution of Social, Emotional Development posters (created by School Mental Health Ontario) to all board schools. They serve as reminders of stress management, coping strategies and social emotional skills learned in the classroom; and
 - focussing on building capacity through mental health literacy for all aspects of students, parents, staff and the community i.e., student flipbook - containing tools, and the quarterly parent newsletter.
- Tier 2 includes services for students that may be at risk and that may need more targeted interventions. Including:
 - preventative interventions for students at risk;
 - working on professional development for school mental health leadership teams including resources i.e., No Problem Too Big or Too Small and Self-Care 101;
 - providing educators with the HWCDSD Flipbook to support students' mental health;
 - providing direct interventions and supports for students and families that may need additional support i.e., monthly Triple P Discussion Groups;

- Emotion Coaching with board Social Workers (a joint project with Family Health Team and the coterminous board);
- capacity building to support suicide prevention in students with a focus on suicide prevention, intervention and postvention protocol training;
- using School Mental Health Ontario resources to speak to suicide intervention but also focussing on the Safe Talks Start/Living Works Start Program – allowing the board to reach more staff and to train them to notice student mental health issues or when a student may need extra help; and
- Prepare, Prevent and Respond Guide (attached to newsletter) – a focus to help parents and guardians watch their children and to notice any concerns they might have.
- Tier 3 includes more intensive support for students with identified mental health challenges. Including:
 - participation in the Interdisciplinary Community Consultation Process – an internal process where Special Education Resource Teachers, administration or school Social Workers can bring particularly challenging cases and work towards establishing pathways for students that need that extra support in the community. It has been in place for one year and has been very effective;
 - Triple P Service Discussion Groups involving board Child and Youth Workers; and
 - Social Work support that provides additional counselling and support that students needs.
- Due to the continuation of COVID-19, the Mental Health Action Plan includes a prioritized section specifically outlining the foundations for a mentally healthy return to school.
- Ongoing priority areas include:
 - Suicide intervention, prevention and postvention – student safety and ensuring students have the support and resources that they need to flourish;
 - Bullying prevention, intervention and follow-up:
 - launch of Anonymous Bulling Reporting Tool to focus on trying to intervene in a school climate - working towards inclusive, warm, welcoming classrooms in schools;
 - providing professional development for principals;
 - providing information and training for educators and administrators through professional development modules;
 - updating and customizing school bullying prevention plans; and
 - continue working with parent community and students.
 - On April 5th, a Rick Hansen presentation is planned to teach students on how to be champions of diversity in classrooms, being upstanders rather than bystanders and, how to notice positive things

in other people – having a supportive, warm, welcoming and inclusive classroom.

- Questions/discussion included:
 - Student awareness of people they can speak with; and
 - Cyberbullying data.

L. Perini Parkes thanked M. Hayes for her presentation and report.

b) D. Eberts/L. Perini Parkes

i) Annual Parent Conference

L. Perini Parkes reported that the Annual Parent Conference Speaker Series Session 1 took place on February 2, 2022. Paul Davis was the guest speaker and was well received. Approximately 470 individuals registered for the conference and 180 people signed in. The second session speaker is Anne O'Brien and she will be speaking on Catholic Identity. The event is scheduled to be held virtually on April 26, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Registration will open in April.

ii) Staff and Student Demographic and Well Being Survey

L. Perini Parkes reported that the CPIC co-chairs met with Alicia Ralph and the Optimist SBR Group regarding a survey being done on behalf of the board. The goal of this survey is to eliminate discrimination. They provided feedback, shared ideas and participated in the discussion on behalf of the CPIC committee.

iii) School Year Calendar

The co-chairs met with D. DiFrancesco, Superintendent of Education, and provided feedback regarding the school year calendars for 2022-2023.

c) P. Daly

P. Daly provided the following updates:

i) COVID-19

- The Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association has urged the Minister of Education to provide information as soon as possible regarding changes that may take place for the remainder of the school year. He also reported that conversations with the Chief Medical Officer are currently taking place and information regarding graduations, proms and sacramental preparations will be provided when directed.

ii) Ministry of Education 2022-2023 Grants

- On February 17th, the Ministry of Education released information regarding grants for student needs for the school year 2022-2023. This is the main source of funding for school boards.
- The board's Finance Department is currently analyzing and developing a budget to be presented to the Board of Trustees.
- The Grants for Student Needs (GSN) has a focus on learning recovery - including funding for additional resources to support student tutoring.
- The board is currently developing a plan for tutoring and is required to begin additional tutoring programs by April 1st.
- Another focus included funding in support of student mental health.

iii) Capital Priorities

- The Board was requested to submit up to five projects for consideration under the 2022-2023 Capital Priorities program. Projects submitted included:
 - St. Paul Catholic Elementary School replacement school;
 - Bishop Ryan Catholic Secondary School permanent addition;
 - Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Elementary School replacement school;
 - St. Margaret Mary Catholic Elementary School replacement school; and
 - St. Francis Xavier Catholic Elementary School replacement school.
- Announcements are expected in the upcoming months.

iv) O.C.S.T.A. Adult Faith Formation Document

- The document is being developed and will include effective practises.
- Board submissions have been received and data is being gathered.
- The document will be shared with the committee when complete.

d) D. Hansen

D. Hansen provided updates on the following:

i) Student Wellness

- The Social Work department provided data regarding the supports needed for students.
- There has been an increase in:
 - individual student counselling sessions;

- student contacts with the board's Social Work Department; and
- support requests from parents.
- There continues to be concern for student well-being, not surprising given the impact of the pandemic over the past two years.
- The increase in support requests were with students, families and parents seeking supports due to mental health, school attendance and family/personal adjustments.
- A Catholic School Climate Survey was completed by students – and provides feedback on student perception of various experiences at school. The survey is conducted annually (with the schools broken into three cohorts and one cohort responding each year). This year marks the second year this cohort has participated. A comparison of the 2018 findings and the current year's findings was reviewed. The following was reported:
 - there was an increase in students feeling safe in school and not feeling excluded;
 - in both elementary and secondary there was a noted higher level of anxiety and depression - this supports the need to address the well-being of students; and
 - Social Work and Child and Youth Workers support is essential in creating healthy and safe schools.
- The Ontario Physical and Health Education Association offers a Healthy Schools Certification Program. Schools that choose to participate are required to identify areas of needed support i.e., mental health, physical activity, healthy eating, injury prevention, growth and development and substance abuse. A school action plan is developed and put in place and if the school meets certification requirements from OPHEA, the school receives certification. This year 27 schools within the Board received certification – the second highest certification in the province.

ii) Curriculum Update

- The Ministry of Education plans to end the streaming of all courses in Grade 9.
- A de-streamed Grade 9 Mathematics course is currently being taught.
- The Grade 9 Science curriculum for 2022-2023 was released today – the curriculum has not been updated for the elementary panel since 2007 and for the secondary panel since 2008.

- The new Grades 1-8 Science Curriculum focusses on the practical application of Science and Technology including mandatory learning on coding, emerging technologies, engineering design, food literacy, and climate change. There will also be a focus in showing students the various pathways to the skilled trades from Science curriculum. The curriculum is now available to view on the Ministry of Education website.
- The Grade 9 de-streamed Science curriculum has not been released yet and is forthcoming.
- The Ministry has announced the de-streaming of all courses starting in September.
- The Grade 9 English course will be built on the framework of the current academic English Grade 9 course and that curriculum will not be revised at this time but is expected to be adapted to accommodate students studying at both the academic and applied level.
- The same de-streaming of Grade 9 courses applies to all the required courses. As with the English course, the de-streamed curriculum will be based on the academic curriculum for Canadian Geography in Grade 9, and French as a Second Language.
- The Ministry released today addendums to the Grade 10 Mathematics curriculum that recognizes and supports the transition from a de-streamed curriculum to the streamed curriculum in Grade 10.
- Supports and resources for teachers are currently being created.

iii) EQAO

Grades 3 and 6 students will be participating in the EQAO assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics in May and June. The test will be administered to in-school learners on line.

iv) Sports

- Sports have resumed in both elementary and secondary schools.

v) Newly Hired Teachers

- 172 newly hired elementary teachers and 47 newly hired secondary teachers participated in a recent commissioning ceremony.

Brief discussions took place regarding the Gap Closing course and Child and Youth Workers.

e) J. Angiolillo

J. Angiolillo reported on the following:

i) Faith Day: Catholic Identity March 4, 2022

- All staff participated in the Faith Day: Catholic Identity. P. Daly took the lead in encouraging all employee/leadership groups to participate in the collaboration and planning of this event.
- Anne O'Brien, Director of Education for the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association was the virtual guest speaker.
- She will be presenting at the next Annual Parent Conference Speaker Series session on April 26th.
- Mass was celebrated with Bishop Crosby and was live streamed from St. Patrick's church.
- Afternoon sessions including prayer opportunities and reflections in a variety of formats.
- Tim Theriault, Adult Faith Animator, guided staff throughout the day in a virtual setting.
- Feedback received was excellent.
- A Board report will be presented to the Board of Trustees and will be shared with this committee at the May meeting.

ii) Synod 2023

- Pope Francis announced the date of the next Synod – October, 2023.
- All Dioceses were asked for input.
- Communications were sent to Parent Councils, Parents, Trustees, all schools and staff to provide feedback.

iii) Parents Reaching Out Grant

- A Board report was presented to the Board of Trustees highlighting school applications and the distribution of funds.

iv) Indigenous Education Courses

- A Board report was presented to the Board of Trustees outlining the introduction of the NAC 1O (Expressions of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Cultures) reach ahead course for Grade 8 students entering Grade 9 and the NBE3E, NBE3C and NBE3U (Understanding Contemporary First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Voices course – an alternate course to the Grade 11 English course.

P. Daly commended Ms. Angiolillo for her support and understanding of parents as the primary educators of their children, for her and Melissa Button's dedicated work to advance the Board's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation.

f) Other Business

No other business.

ITEM 5 MEETING DATES

Next meeting date is:

- Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

ITEM 6 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

THAT THE CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
BE ADJOURNED.

MOVER: S. HEENAN

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.