



**DURHAM CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**
Learning and Living in Faith

Minutes of the **Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting** of the Durham Catholic District School Board which was held in the North Board Room of the Catholic Education Centre, 650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa, on Thursday, November 7, 2019.

Present

Melissa Bevan
Rose Lo Presti
Candice Belmontes
Andrea Gagliardi
Angela Kielbowski
Josie Mullin
Cynthia Scott
Amanda Roffey
Kimberly Chisholm
Sherri-Ann Mohammed
Kimberly Chisholm
Camilla Brown
Lara Spiers
Michelle Gillis
Linda Dodson Trchala

Regrets

Madonna Augustus
Erin Groat
Angela Mastrangelo-Da Silva

Staff Present

Jim Wilson

A. Call to Order

Chair Bevan called the meeting to order at 7:44 p.m. and welcomed all committee members to the November 7, 2019 meeting.

a.1 Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

Chair Bevan opened with the Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory.

a.2 Memorials and Prayer

Tish Sheppard offered the opening prayer and autumn reflection.

B. Approval of Agenda

b.1 Approval of Agenda

Motion No. DCPIC2019-11-07-01
Approval of Agenda

Moved by Josie Mullin, seconded by Kimberly Chisholm

“THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the agenda of the Thursday, November 7, 2019 Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting as printed.”

CARRIED

C. Announcements

c.1 The next meeting is a Christmas social for the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee is schedule for December 5, 2019.

D. Amendments to the Minutes

- d.1** Edits to the minutes of Oct. 10, 2019
- Add Lara Spiers as regrets to the October 10, 2019 minutes.

E. Actions to be Taken

e.1 Approval and Signing of Minutes of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of October 10, 2019.

Motion No. DCPIC2019-11-07-2
Approval of October 10, 2019 Minutes

Moved by Cynthia Scott, seconded by Josie Mullin

“THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Minutes of the October 10, 2019 DCPIC Meeting.

CARRIED

F. Reports/Information/Discussion Items

The committee took time to recap the information from the Commissioning Mass and shared ideas on what they wanted to focus on for the 2019-2020 school year as a committee.

Michelle Gillis noted that Math is still an important area of the survey results for parents and wondered if the committee would consider offering webinars to help parents with Math homework. Chair Bevan noted that the committee held the Math Cafes for Parents last year. Videos of the Math Cafes for Parents are available on the DCPIC website and YouTube page. There was discussion that perhaps the committee held too many Math Cafes last year and that the cafes should be shorten this year. The committee felt that they should still offer something to do with Math. It was suggested that SO Wilson talk to the DCDSB Math Consultants and offer 5-minute Math videos such as EQAO for Grade 3 students, Importance of showing your work in Math, How to do word problems, etc. The videos can then be posted to DCDSB's YouTube page and shared on social media. It was also suggested that Catholic Schools' Councils offer Math Cafes for Parents at the school level which is easier for parents and guardians to attend.

The committee also discussed creating a DCPIC chat board within Facebook or a group/chat page within Edsby to engage DCDSB parents on Math help, post links to videos, etc. The committee also suggested creating a podcast and webinar for a Math Café for Parents? Trustee Chapman suggested archiving the Math content/information shared with parents, so other parents can access in the future and read.

The committee would like a future presentation on Edsby and how parents and the committee can better use the tool for communication and engagement.

Chair Beavan reviewed some options regarding Mental Health events that the committee could offer during the 2019-2020 school year. Mental Health was the number one thing parents want more information on this year. Some ideas for Mental Health included:

- Sharing the board resources with school council chairs and DCDSB families. If we offer the Mental Health First Aid Course - only 25 parents can attend. There is concern offering a course that only 25 parents can attend. It's also a two full day event. The cost for a booklet is \$40 per person and then lunches.
- SafeTalk is only a three-hour training session that focusses on knowing the warning signs. Up to 30 parents attend and could offer two sessions. Could SafeTalk be offered as a podcast or webinar to engage more parents?
- Offering a Mental Health Conference at a DCDSB secondary school on a Saturday morning (1/2 session) or an evening event with community partners and workshops.

It was suggested that a conference be offered early in the year, so that schools' parent councils could still build on themes. Workshops could focus on vaping and cannabis, social media, anxiety and helping students, gaming and gambling, internet safety, teaching parents how to mediate, etc.

A Saturday event would give parents an opportunity to attend 2 or 3 workshops, listen to a keynote speaker and visit community partners with tables. Ideas for keynote speaker included Teaching parents about guided mediation.

Chair Bevan reminded the committee to pick a location that is central vs. in one specific area to encourage more parents and guardians to attend. Superintendent Wilson noted that we have DCDSB staff who could talk at some of the workshops and would work with Diane Mullane to organize.

Cynthia Scott and Josie Mullin agreed to lead on behalf of DCPIC and Tish Sheppard will be a staff resource. It was suggested that parents pay \$5.00 to attend the conference, then donate the money to the Durham Catholic Children's Foundation. Cynthia Scott, Josie Mullin and Tish Sheppard will work with Amanda Roffey to create a flyer to promote the event.

Chair Bevan noted that the committee will also look at creating 5-minute Math videos and how to utilize Edsby to engage more DCDSB parents and guardians.

Superintendent Wilson added that Michael Cain, Teaching and Learning Consultant is offering Coffee and Learn sessions on Edsby for parent to learn how to use Edsby at the schools. It's up to the Principals to book Michael Cain to arrange training sessions.

f.1 Chair's Report

Chair Bevan welcomed everyone to the meeting. Thank you to everyone for their help on planning and organizing the Commissioning Mass. Congratulations and thank you to all the organizers.

Melissa Bevan thanked everyone for their support and participation at the DCPIC Commissioning Mass and Orientation Session for the Catholic School Council Chairs and Administrators. Melissa Bevan indicated that this event was a huge success and that she received a lot of positive feedback from attendees.

Melissa Bevan commented that the sub-committees are another area that people do a great job as DCPIC Members. She encouraged everyone to sign-up for a sub-committee. Melissa Bevan circulated a sign-up sheet to determine interest. Her goal is to ensure that all members are assigned to a sub-committee this year, as required in the By-Laws.

Melisa Bevan indicated that the President of the Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education has contacted her and is looking for a representative from the Durham Region. Melissa Bevan would like members to let her know if they are interested. She further indicated that it would be great to have a representative from DCPIC at this association's meetings because it is an excellent voice for parents that support Catholic Education.

f.1.2 Trustee Report

Trustee Chapman congratulated the committee members who organized the Commissioning Mass on October 30.

Trustee Chapman indicated that the last Board Meeting was on October 28th. She stated that Director O'Brien presented the 2019-2020 Student Well-being and Achievement Board Improvement Plan. This plan will assist staff in developing school improvement plans over the next few weeks. Trustee Chapman was pleased that Director O'Brien indicated that the Commissioning Mass and Orientation was a great event. Trustee Chapman commented that it was a pleasure to hear from Michael Penafiel, ShareLife Representative, at our Board Meeting. He provided an update on DCDSB's fundraising success for the charity to date, reporting that Durham Catholic Schools contributed over \$88K in support of ShareLife with 100% participation for the 13th consecutive year.

Trustee Chapman indicated that the next Board Meeting is on November 25th at 7:30 pm. She remarked that this will be the last Board Meeting before we enter the Season of Advent which begins December 1st.

f 1.3 Resource Report

Superintendent Wilson echoed Chair Bevan's thanks to all who contributed to the success of the Annual Catholic School Council Commissioning Mass and Orientation Session. He emphasized that spiritually we were enlightened by Father Bob O'Brien and Deacon Dominic. Superintendent Wilson indicated that Amanda Roffey and Diane Mullane provided some great insights on parent engagement data and mental health supports that exist for our Catholic School Communities. He was thankful that our Catholic Community Partners took time out of their busy day to set –up a storefront for our councils to consider in order enrich the lives of their communities. Superintendent Wilson stressed that all of this would have not of been possible without their hard work and dedication towards this event.

Superintendent Wilson indicated that Durham Catholic has had some excellent events and accolades recently. He referred to last Tuesday's annual Pathways to the Future

event. At this event, Miska Jones from Autism Ontario spoke to attendees about the changes to the Ontario Autism Program. Superintendent Wilson spoke about the Student Voice Forum which was led by the student senators from each of the high schools. They had a guest speaker, Mr. Folly. His message was about being kindness warriors and that everyone has special talents and that everyone matters.

Superintendent Wilson congratulated Diane Mullane and the TAMI Coalition on receiving a national award from the Mood Disorders Association of Canada. Lastly, Superintendent Wilson praised the Teaching and Learning Department as they continue to implement the ESBY Communication Plan. He is glad that there are a growing number of parents signing in.

f. 1.4 Pro Grant Subcommittee Report

Deferred

f. 1.5 Communications Sub-Committee Report

Candice Belmontes advised the committee that the newsletter would be written next week and would include information on the Commissioning Mass and community partner resource. Candice also noted that the Communications Sub-committee would like to move the newsletter from the PDF format its current available in to an online newsletter that meets accessibility standards (AODA). Amanda Roffey added that the online newsletter stills gives the committee an option of printing a PDF newsletter which could then be printed and a few copies distributed to the schools for any families who don't have access to a computer.

f.1.6 School Council Outreach Sub-Committee Report

Deferred

f.1.7 Faith Formation Sub-Committee Report

Andrea Gagliardi told the committee that the community partners really enjoyed attending the Commissioning Mass. She also added that the Durham Catholic Children's Foundation are happy to provide a presentation or information during a Schools' Council meeting.

f. 1.8 Policy Sub-Committee Report

Cynthia Scott thanked the members who participated in the October 15 Policy and By-law Sub-Committee. Policy and Administrative Procedure comments were emailed to

the Board Policy Input group on October 19. The comments will then be reviewed at the November 11 DCDSB Policy meeting.

The next two DCDSB Policy meetings will be held on February 10 and May 11, 2020. Cynthia will canvass the subcommittee members in mid January and mid April for dates of the next meeting. We are always accepting new members to the Policy Subcommittee please speak to Cynthia following the meeting.

f. 1.9 Budget Sub-Committee Report

Deferred

G. Adjournment

g.1 Meeting Adjourned

Motion No. DCPIC2019-11-07-03
Adjournment

Moved by Josie Mullin, seconded by Angela Kielbowski

“THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting of Thursday, November 7, 2019, adjourn at 9:05 p.m.”

CARRIED