
DURHAM CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIR'S REPORT

TO: DCPIC, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SCHOOL CHAIRS, STAFF AND PARENTS
FROM: ROXANNE HORWITZ
SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 2015 REPORT
DATE: NOVEMBER 12, 2015

In the past month, our committee has been busy with building partnerships and building skills. Our Annual Commissioning Mass took place on October 28 with the school council chairs/members and principals from all of our schools. This yearly tradition allows for our school councils to form relationships and build necessary skills to have effective school councils. It was a great half day together. Thank you to the School Council Outreach Subcommittee for all of their work and the rest of the DCPIC team. We appreciate the support of Director O'Brien, Chair McCafferty, Board of Trustees and the rest of the staff.

One of the mandates of this committee is to build skills and partnerships (in order to strengthen the parent voice in our public education system.) There were four conferences and partner events that we were in attendance. We were at the When Faith Meets Pedagogy conference, Canadian Parent for French conference, the Cardinal's Dinner and the People for Education conference. All of these events will be reported and shared back to the larger parent community in our school board.

This committee will also be undergoing a change within the executive (officers) team effective at this meeting. As the chair of this dynamic group, I am sad to announce my resignation. (I no longer have a child enrolled in our school board as my son moves to the French Catholic school board). I am incredibly honoured to have been given the opportunity to lead this committee as its chair since January 2013. I joined this committee in September 2010 as my child entered junior kindergarten. From that first day to today, it is a group that works diligently to foster parent engagement in our board. The efforts and work of this committee has made a difference in supporting student achievement and well-being.

The success of this committee would be impossible without the support of our parents, our administrators, in particular our Director of Education, our Board of Trustees, the Ministry of Education, our provincial partners and our community. I would like to acknowledge the support of Chair Jim McCafferty and Vice Chair Theresa Corless as the trustee members in the DCPIC. Thank you for working with this parent-led committee. Thank you to Director Anne O'Brien for giving us the resources and tools to be able to reach out to our parent community. Thank you to the Superintendents of Education that I have worked with over the years: former Superintendent Mitch LePage, Superintendent Gerry O'Reilly and Superintendent Bob Camozzi. I have learned from each of you and thank you for your encouragement of the parent voice in our public education system. Lastly, thank you to all the committee members, past and present that I have had the good fortune to work with – your ideas, efforts and humour makes this team, the team that it is.

I will miss this committee immensely! I am proud to have been part of such a committed and dedicated group of people. God bless you all, and I have faith that the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee will only get better and better over the years. Thank you, so long.

All the best,
Roxanne

Here is the update for this month:

November Report

- Annual Commissioning Mass & Bootcamp for School Councils
 - a) On October 28, the Annual Commissioning Mass for school chairs and principals occurred and was a successful event.
 - b) Bootcamp for School Councils is in the evening of Nov.25 at St. Bernadette.

- OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education)
 - a) Each school council is asked to have an OAPCE representative as per legislation.
 - b) Next meeting for OAPCE is on January 8-9, 2016 in Toronto.
 - c) The 2016 OAPCE Conference will take place on May 6 & 7. It will be in Toronto. Mass celebrated by Cardinal Collins.

- PRO Grant 2015-2016
 - a) We have received approval for \$15k for our initiative on webinars this year. Planned for January-February 2016. Focus on Literacy and Numeracy.

- Conferences/ Professional Development
 - a) October 22-24 – When Faith Meets Pedagogy (attended by Kim, Amanda & Richard)
 - b) October 24 – CPF Ontario (attended by Linda & Christina)
 - c) November 5 – Cardinal’s Dinner (attended by Linda and Roxanne)
 - d) November 7, 8 – People for Education (Nov 8 for PIC chairs/networkers –attended by Linda & Roxanne)
 - e) April 2016 – Ministry of Education PIC Symposium
 - f) May 6-7 – OAPCE