



Summary Report

DURHAM CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING

SCHOOL YEAR 2014 - 2015

Royal Ashburn Golf Club
Ashburn, Ontario
August 26, 2014

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Executive Summary

The Durham Catholic District School Board's Parent Involvement Committee held its kick-off meeting for the upcoming 2014-15 academic year on August 26th, 2014 at the Royal Ashburn Golf Club in Ashburn, Ontario. The all-day event comprised of a planning session and team building activity.

The parent-led advisory committee working within the Durham Catholic District School Board whose purpose is to encourage, support and enhance meaningful parent involvement to improve student academic achievement and well-being.

The retreat provided a forum for the 14 participants including Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC) Executive, Parent Members, Director of Education and Director's Designate, Community Representatives, School Board Trustees, Principals' and Teachers' representatives to establish the plans and priorities for 2014-2015.

Participants worked from three documents:

1. Planning Report of 2013-14
2. Year End Report 2013-2014
3. Parent Survey Report 2013-2014

By reviewing these documents, the committee was able to see the past year's accomplishments, determine what needs to continue, the areas to be focused on and develop a plan and create the working sub-committees that will implement the plans.

The purpose of this session, for this committee, is to develop strategies in how to continue to engage parents in their children's education. The report will show the upcoming initiatives and events for the school year.

Call to Order of Strategic Planning Discussion

The Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC) Members assembled at 1:15 PM. The Chair, Roxanne Horwitz, welcomed those present to DCPIC's strategic planning session – no introduction was necessary.

This meeting of the DCPIC members was not an official board meeting but rather a strategic planning session where the outcomes from the planning discussions are to be brought to the upcoming September committee meeting.

At the start of the meeting, reference was made to the:

- DCPIC 2013-2014 Year End Report
- DCPIC Parent Survey 2013-2014
- DCPIC Planning Discussion Summary Report 2013-2014

The finalized annual report will be sent to the Ministry of Education, to the Director of Education, Chair of the Board, and school council chairs. It will include financial reporting.

DCPIC Meetings Dates for 2014-2015

The following dates were announced in April as DCPIC meeting dates for the 2014-2015 school year:

September 11, 2014	January 8, 2015
October 9, 2014	February 5, 2015
November 13, 2014	March 5, 2015
	April 9, 2015
	May 7, 2015
	June 11, 2015

2013-2014 Year-End Annual Report Review – Refer to Appendix 1

The year-end 2013-2014 report content was reviewed. Specifically,

- Meeting dates
- Membership
- Financial Statement

Highlights from the report

DCPIC continues to work from a strategic plan that focuses on three areas:

(1) Communications

- Website www.dcpic.ca (significant additions made)
- DCPIC Newsletter (launched and hardcopy distributed to every family in DCDSB's schools)
- Emails
- Social media
- Face to face encounters
- Twitter (launched @DCPIC)
- Director O'Brien added a dedicated IT & Communications board staff on committee

(2) Faith Formation

- Events
- Workshops

(3) School Council and Parent Outreach

- Surveys
- Emails
- Annual Orientation & Commissioning Mass
- Development of School Council Handbook

- Assigning each DCPIC parent and community member to a group of 3-4 schools for more personal contact
- Sharing board information
- Presentations from education partners to help better inform parents (Ontario College of Teachers and EQAO)

The school year 2013-14 marked the 15th anniversary of DCPIC with a full complement of events:

- Annual Orientation & Commissioning Mass for school chairs, members and principals
- Advent retreat with Patrick Sullivan
- Speaker Dr. Jean Clinton
- Family Literacy Fair
- Speaker Michael Reist
- Speaker Dr. Kevin Cameron
- Faith formation film screening of “Son of God” for parents and secondary students
- Speaker Barbara Coloroso
- Volunteer Recognition Gala “Distinguished Catholic Volunteer Award”
Anniversary Celebration

The following pedagogy was provided to the Committee as part of Professional Development:

- Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) Conference: Parental Influence on Student Well-Being and Catholic Education *[May 23 – 24, 2014]*
- Ministry of Education’s Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Symposium *[April 25 – 26, 2014]*
- People for Education: Making Connections Conference *[November 2, 2013]*
- The Catholic Curriculum Corporation: When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference “Opening Doors of Faith” *[October 24 – 26, 2013]*

Strategic Plan 2013-2014 Review

Accomplishments and Action Items

1. **Tool Kit:** Contact with Catholic School Council (CSC) and personal contact was further improved and turned into a “rock” using the Tool Kit as a basis of conversation and building community. It was distributed on the first day during Orientation as this was the time when the new elected Chairs were forming their council and setting their goals. After Orientation, it was found that e-mails were not answered or their council e-mail was not set up. The plan for this year is to send a letter though schools and get their information as well face-to-face meetings will be necessary.
2. **Marketing Materials:** This year the DCPIC focused on branding heavily. As a result of wanting to increase visibility with school councils and parents. The committee ordered several items such as notepads, pens, totes, and developed a brochure(rack card) to hand out at events and meetings. As well, table signage such as banners and table covers with the DCPIC logo allowed the committee to present themselves better and professionally. It was used at the Ministry symposium, DCPIC events and meetings.
3. **Website:** The DCPIC website is considered a huge “rock” in terms of communications. The website was updated with all the current chairs. All school chairs were provided with e-mail addresses and is listed in the DCPIC website and their school website.
4. **School Councils:** School Councils were emphasized because parents are engaged as a result of these councils. Generating support for the CSC and informing parents of what they can do within the council was achieved. The plan is to approach schools that don't have DCPIC members on their councils. Going into the new school year, Council meetings will be on the school website. School Councils will be informed about the DCPIC's attendance to their meetings. The DCPIC member attending will contact the school chair and principal to ask to be included in the agenda. The DCPIC member will

provide the content for inclusion into the agenda as well as materials, which will be sent in courier bags.

It was agreed that for this year's goal, the Committee members should select one school in each region that doesn't have a representative attending school council meetings. The following is a proposed list of schools to visit in November:

- Pickering (St. Isaac Jogues)
- Ajax (St. Catherine of Siena)
- Whitby (St. Theresa & St. Marguerite D'Youville)
- Oshawa (Father Joseph Venini & John XXIII)
- North (Holy Family)

The schools listed above were selected as an outcome of the Parent Survey results. The DCPIC member(s) who will be attending the above school council meetings in November will be determined at the DCPIC September 11, 2014 meeting.

5. New Parent Member Recruitment:

Paulette Palumbo, Eileen Bright & Anita Colacicco have joined DCPIC this past school year.

It was pointed out that some parents are not aware of Regional Council as opposed to School Councils. Awareness of the existence of the regional council (DCPIC) continues to be a priority in the next couple of years. Parents' awareness could be boosted by the following methods:

- Open houses in September with banner, poster or brochure to hand out. Create a flyer stating, "Welcome Back! Here's the itinerary of our next meeting and topic of discussion." And post it on their fridge.

- E-mailing and inviting schools to join as was done with the chairs of St. Joseph (Oshawa) and St. Francis (Ajax) last year. A general agenda for the purpose of providing further clarity of the monthly meetings and to make parents more aware of what the DCPIC is doing will allow others to join the conversation would even encourage more to join. A reciprocal approach works by having a school council member come to DCPIC & vice versa.
- The use of Phone Trees is like face-to-face to reach parents. Whatever week the meeting was happening, parents are contacted. It's that personal touch that will get parents to attend.
- Make the formal meeting more inviting for the parents to be comfortable to participate and have input. Currently, it is still very formal with minutes, agenda and making motions. However, it was also noted that the structure of the meetings are necessary due to the DCPIC being a statutory committee of the Board.

Parent engagement is not just about attending meetings –it's about input. For example, at St. Patrick's meeting was well attended and that level of participation is required for all meetings. Parents and the committee to be informed via Twitter, website, meetings, and reaching a mass audience in the form of a newsletter.

6. Board Representation

The DCPIC needs to hear and know what is going on with the Board, and one way to do so is by attending public meetings. The goal is for a committee member to attend at least one meeting from each of the Board committees.

Trustee Stack will confirm if Audit Committee is open to the public. Regular board meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month (10 were held):

The committees of the Board that host public meetings are:

- Policy – Next board policy meeting – October 7th
- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) – Jim McGrorey is on this committee
- Finance – December 10th
- Audit – September 17th
- Regular Board Meeting – September 30th

7. **Input to the Board** – There are different committees that DCPIC is represented on. The board has performed well in addressing topics as a group. For example, if something is pressing, like provincial white papers, or recommendations needed to send off to the Ministry it could be handled by any parent. The committee cannot actually delegate to the board while sitting on board committees. Gerry is the resource and mechanism for the board.
8. **Presentations instead of delegation** - Committee should provide to the board a presentation instead of delegation. For example, presentation on the Parent Survey – to get on their schedule for October/November (ask Director O’Brien to be placed on agenda for 10 minutes)
9. **Communications** - Means of communications used were newsletter, updated website, Twitter, branding tools such as pens to banners. There were quite a few things accomplished and done well (turning issues into a “rock”) Facebook is the next step. More parent contact has become a rock.

Group Team Building Activity

The DCPIC Committee members participated in a group activity led by Tricia Dwyer-Kuntz, Coordinator of Assistive Technology with the Durham Catholic District School Board and K-12 Educator working in the area of technology and special education.

The group team building activity *Barnaga* was a good interlude in the day's strategic planning discussion. It is a simulation activity about inter-cultural awareness that made participants realize that despite many similarities, people of different cultures perceive and communicate things differently or play by different rules. In playing the simple card game and moving from group to group the Committee members had to understand and reconcile their communication differences to function effectively in a cross-cultural group. The activity raised awareness of the necessity to adapt behaviours and adopt strategies to overcome these differences.

The simulation activity encouraged not only communication but also understanding while enhancing collaboration for the purpose of increasing the Committee's capacity to work effectively together.

Highlights from the Director of Education's Presentation

Director of Education Anne O'Brien informed the Committee that the Board has hired 27 new teachers of which half are for French Immersion programme.

The Durham Catholic School Board prepared a 5-year strategic plan for 2014-19 and has identified ten (10) strategic areas each with its priorities. Refer to the document located at the following link: http://dcdsb.ca/DCDSB/DCDSB_Discovery_2020_Strategic_Plan_Final.pdf

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| ▪ Witnessing Faith | ● Serving in Partnership |
| ▪ Teaching and Learning | ● Emerging Technology |
| ▪ Expanding Pathways | ● Advancing Communications |
| ▪ Inspiring Leadership | ● Managing Resources |
| ▪ Celebrating Inclusion | ● Continuing Education |

The Ministry of Education has three (3) priorities:

1. Building high levels of public confidence,
2. Taking care of children’s emotional development - they must feel safe, good about themselves to thrive, and
3. Equity and inclusive education.

Review of DCPIC Parent Survey 2014 Results – Refer to Appendix 2

Parents are the key ingredient to student success.

The Parent Engagement Survey is part of the Durham Catholic Parents Involvement Committee parent engagement initiative which is supported by the Durham Catholic District School Board.

The following documents the survey results from the Durham Catholic District School Board parents’ responses to parent engagement questions, which explored issues related to parent engagement in their children’s education.

The survey was provided online through Survey Monkey. It opened on April 29, 2014 and closed on August 19, 2014. A total of 143 surveys are included in the analysis – seen as a good representation of responses.

Nine (9) questions were presented in the following areas: communications with the DCPIC, involvement in school-based activities and events, parent involvement in volunteering for the school as well as topics of interest.

Note: Survey was free for the first 100 responses. Subscription is \$29/month.

Question 1: Which school(s) does your child attend?

All schools were represented across the board, except for the following:

- St. Leo (Brooklin, Whitby)
- Holy Family (Beaverton)
- Fr. Joseph Venini (Oshawa)
- John XXIII (Oshawa)
- Notre Dame (Ajax)
- St. Patrick (Ajax)
- St. Isaac Jogues (Pickering)
- St. Luke the Evangelist (Whitby)
- St. Marguerite D'Youville (Whitby)
- St. Theresa (Whitby)
- St. Paul (Whitby)

They are examples of those schools that need to be targeted. The primary schools which were the main target were mainly reached. These schools were informed to get in touch with a trustee.

The objective is to visit five schools. The following are selected for a Committee member to attend the November Council meeting. The School Council chair and principal will be notified in advance.

- John XXIII (Oshawa)
- Father Joseph Venini C.S. (Oshawa)
- Holy Family C.S. (Beaverton, Brock Township)
- St. Theresa C.S. (Whitby)
- St. Catherine of Siena C.S. (Ajax)
- St. Isaac Jogues C.S. (Pickering)
- St. Marguerite D'Youville (Whitby)

Question 2: What grade is your child or children in?

72% of parent of children in Kindergarten to Grade 3 responded. It is clear that a strategy is needed to reach the parents of older children.

Question 3: Are you aware of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC) and what we do?

Although 51% are aware, a significant 33% do not know what the committee does.

DCPIC visibility will help in improving parent engagement. Discussions have been held on how to reach out to parents more as parent engagement is considered by the board as being a “rock”.

DCPIC has used a number of methods:

- email
- orientation sessions
- DCPIC website
- school website
- social media
- Twitter

The goal is to reduce the 33% figure by half. The agreed upon plan outlined to reach over 20,000 students in 44 elementary and 7 high schools and to reach the 14% that are completely unaware of DCPIC involves:

- Having the DCPIC website link on every school’s website because it is observed that usually parents will go on the teachers’ section of the school website;
- Having a DCPIC member attend one of region’s meetings;

- Send 2-sided Rap cards/post cards - put DCPIC's meetings, event dates and a prayer (hoping it will be placed on the front of the fridge);
- A welcome postcard for the beginning September 2015 which must be developed by June 2014
- Focus on the events as the venue for parents to get to know DCPIC better. Events to be heavily promoted – for example, in school newsletters;
- Have more targeted events to younger audiences, JK to 2;
- Have online webinar broadcasts and invite parents;
- Partner with the chairs of local councils as was done at an event at St. John's Catholic School in Whitby (DCPIC brought a banner & tablecloth);
- Have a banner for each of the boards. Whenever there's a regional event, they are to be used. *Cost of table top banner \$15 and that of a retractable banner is \$100.* Decision for Kim Beatty to look into pricing and size. These smaller ones will then be placed into each school.

Question 4: How would you most like to receive information from the DCPIC?

Since an overwhelming 71% preferred to be contacted by email, the plan is to start with the email addresses that were included in survey followed by the list of emails from all those that have registered for an event in the last year on Eventbrite database. As well, need to use the DCPIC website subscriber list.

Combine all emails into a central distribution list that is to be updated continually and use for all communication.

A **newsletter** was also preferred; as was receiving information via the **School Council**. The objective is to have a quarterly newsletter. Two newsletters have been done and for the next

school year, will be doing a Welcome newsletter – bringing the number to three: September, Christmas, Easter. Preference is more towards having a newsletter versus a rack card.

Question 5: In the past year, which events hosted by the DCPIC did you attend?

Nearly 68% stated that they did not attend any event.

Some responses indicated that they could not get a sitter for their child. Child care must be highlighted that it is provided – therefore, for all upcoming events child care services will be better advertised. (Parents really like Early Childhood Educators to be present because they come with materials for play. The rate is \$25 per hour).

For those that did attend, feedback regarding the event needs to be collected. The use of a standard exit card with 4 questions such as “Would you come again?” was proposed. Since the committee does not favour the use of paper materials (due to lack of resource for collection and reporting), it was agreed to follow-up with an email immediately afterwards.

Events such as the **Orientation & Commissioning Mass**, for school chairs and principals is being held on October 29th this year (*last Wednesday of the month*) are annual events. Other events proposed and planned are:

- **Dr. Jean Clinton – “The Developing Brain: Why Kids Do the Things They Do”** (October 14, 2014) Registration for this event is online and can be found on the DCPIC website.
- A **Christmas event** held during the Advent season is planned for this year. On November 21st, **Dr. Robert Wicks** - a charming, funny and phenomenal speaker and author who writes about faith will be speaking. It presents an opportunity for DCPIC to ask that he speak to parents about faith-based education.
- The **Distinguished Catholic Volunteer Award** night will be held on April 15th as part of National Volunteer Week is also an annual event. This celebration of volunteers is being held the week of April 12-18, 2015. This will be the second year that the DCPIC hosts this

award ceremony that honours the service of one parent volunteer from each of the schools within our school board. This year and going forward all the recipients are able to bring their guests to the ceremony. The format for the ceremony will not be a sit-down dinner as was the case for the inaugural award ceremony. As well, part of the plan for the event includes obtaining the parent volunteers photos and posting them on the website in a new section. The request for a photo will be placed on the application. Schools will be encouraged to re-publicize the winners.

- **Catholic Education Week** is also an annual event celebrated by school boards and schools across the province, where students, teachers and parents celebrate teaching excellence and student achievement. This year's Catholic Education Week is being held from May 3 – May 8th 2015. The theme is 'Exploring Paths of Joy'. On the Friday, the school board will be holding mass including parents and hosting a Catholic education dinner.
- **PRO-Grant Events** – if proposal is approved, there is a potential of 7 events to be added as the request was for each high school to put on this special event. Details to follow at the upcoming meeting.

In total, 4 events are confirmed; and 7 are potential events.

Question 6: What are the barriers for attending events, meetings, workshops, or volunteering in the school?

50% of the parents stated that they are too busy. It is hoped that with improvements made in advertising the complimentary childcare service, that barrier can be reduced. Some concrete steps can be done to greatly reduce the response rate of 30% for lack of information.

The newsletter and twitter are relatively new and DCPIC members will continue to build on that. More personal contact will also be a key factor in reducing the barrier as a result of lack of information.

To reduce the barrier of scheduling conflict, it was proposed to change the dates and times of the events and workshops – do morning, evenings and weekends.

Many respondents cited “Lack of notice” as a barrier – this was a result of technical issues experienced with the timing of posting and advertising. One solution offered is to send information on the year’s events on the first day of school – this is planned for September 2015.

Question 7: How involved have you been with the school council at your child’s school?

Half of the respondents are members of the school council and clearly the ones making the effort to respond to the survey.

Of concern are the 25% who do not know about the school council or are not sure how to get involved with school council.

Schedules are all online. Some councils have as few as five people on them. The majority of council members are women. Some cannot sit on two school councils when they have one child in elementary school and the other in high school. To get a greater turnout, it is proposed to communicate that they can attend every other meeting and send a spouse or a friend to alternate meetings they cannot attend.

Question 8: In the past year, how often have you discussed your child’s school with other parents from the school?

38% have a weekly dialogue about the school. Of concern is negative dialogue concerning amalgamations and new boundaries forcing some students to change schools.

Question 9: Which of the following topics would you most like to learn about?

Math, Literacy and Social Media for Kids are the most popular topics.

The plan is to determine how we need to help parents do math, literacy and social media using a consultant. For example, a math coach. Math nights were very well attended last year by the younger children. The suggestion for this year is to have math nights for the older children.

Other topics on the list such as safe and accepting schools, healthy schools, mental health, navigating the school system also received a high response rate. The recommendation made is to pick one of these topics for each meeting and bring in a consultant. Agreement made to schedule the top 5 topics, and advertise much earlier. The presentation will be 20 minutes with 10 minutes added for questions. Following are the topics to be presented at DCPIC meetings beginning in October:

- Math – Mike Shad
- Social Media & Kids – Stacey Howe
- Literacy
- Homework Help
- Healthy Schools

DCPIC's Next Steps

1. DCPIC Chair to present the results of the parent survey as well as the results of the strategic plan by October or November to the Durham Catholic District School Board.
2. Enlist DCPIC members for Sub-committees (*sub-committees to meet and hold efficient meetings, have a specific agenda and be well managed*). Sub-committee tasks to be completed include:
 - selection of a Sub-committee Chairs
 - *review task lists and prioritize the undertakings*
 - *set future sub-committee meeting dates*
 - *sub-committees are to present to the entire DCPIC at the meeting.*

The September 11th meeting will determine who is on the subcommittees for 2014-15. The following subcommittees have been identified:

- Communications
- Faith Formation
- School Council & Parent Outreach
- Budget
- Policy (including Bylaws)
- PRO Grant
- Nominations – members already selected (*Chair: Eileen Bright, Anita Colacicco and Nancy Carpenter. This committee will dissolve once elections are done on October 9*)

3. The process to review DCPIC's Working Bylaws (considered a "rock") is carried out biannually. Specifically, Section 5 needs close review.

Summary Thoughts

The Committee had a very stimulating and productive strategic planning meeting to kick off the 2013-14 school year.

Dyan Cato, a Parent Member of DCPIC, stated that the surveys should be done more frequently – a sentiment also echoed by another participant, Monique Forster.

Roxanne Horwitz, Chair of DCPIC, thanked everyone for their participation. The outline for the upcoming school year is shaping up well, which means the DCPIC is well prepared to start another successful year for parent engagement. She invited to move the planning session to the team building activity for a much needed time to get to know members in a relaxed and fun setting. Trustee Stack closed the meeting with a prayer.

The annual strategic planning session adjourned at 5:50 PM. The group moved into their team building activity.

APPENDIX 1

DCPIC 2013-2014 Year-End Report



DURHAM CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

2013-2014 YEAR END REPORT

Region Location	Durham Region includes Ajax, Pickering, Oshawa, Whitby, Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock Township
Number of Students	22,218 (plus 1,447 for Continuing Education)
Number of Schools	47 schools (40 elementary and 7 secondary) plus Fr. Don MacLellan C.S.S. Alternative Education Sites & Arch. Anthony Meagher Catholic Continuing Education Centres
Meeting Dates	September 12, 2013 October 10, 2013 November 7, 2013 January 9, 2014 February 13, 2014 March 27, 2014 May 8, 2014 June 12, 2014
Membership	Roxanne Horwitz, Chair Tina Newth, Vice Chair Rose LoPresti, Secretary Jim McGrorey, Past Chair <i>Parent Members</i> Trevor Aitcheson Eileen Bright

	<p>Nancy Sgro (Carpenter) Dyan Cato Tricia Chapman Anita Colacicco Sharmaine Doyle Beth Hawkins Liz Lyew Paulette Palumbo</p> <p><i>Community Representatives</i> Kim Beatty Monique Forster Connie Samson</p> <p><i>Trustee & DCDSB Staff</i> Gerry O'Reilly, Director's Designate Margaret Stack, Trustee Janice Oldman, Trustee Susie Lee-Fernandes, Principal Representative Joni MacLean, Teacher Representative Chris Szent-Ivany, Principal Representative Karen Ulrich, CUPE Representative</p>
<p>Regional Council Name/Format</p>	<p>Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC) formerly known as the Durham Regional Catholic School Council was formed in 1998 and maintains its primary purpose to promote effective parent involvement - enabling parents to play a stronger role in supporting student achievement and well-being.</p>
<p>Financial Statement</p>	<p>The DCPIC receives annual funding from the Ministry of Education which is \$5,000 plus \$0.17 per student (\$3769) to a total of \$8769.</p> <p>The DCPIC added monies to this year's budget due to previous year's carryovers in the amount of \$73,055.49. The total budget</p>

	<p>was \$81,824.49 for 2013-2014. Included in this amount was \$11,500.00 for PRO Grant funding received from Ministry of Education.</p> <p>The DCPIC spent \$61,152.64 in the 2013-2014 school year, and this brings the DCPIC total carry forward amount of \$24,999.22 to the 2014-2015 school year budget.</p> <p>Please contact the DCPIC for more details.</p>
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Parent involvement in our region is led by the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC). This committee is composed of up to 16 parent members, up to 3 community members, trustees, the director (or designate), a principal, teaching staff and non-teaching staff - whose mandate is to promote parent engagement in our school board.

In particular this committee continues to work from a strategic plan that focuses on three areas: communication, faith formation and school council outreach (parent engagement). We are exploring the many different forms of communication to reach parents such as a website, newsletter, emails, social media and face to face encounters. We host events and workshops to build on our faith formation. We seek our school councils' and parents' input for ways to address barriers to parent involvement and how we can help them do the work they do— and this is done through surveys, emails and through discussions from events such as the Annual Orientation & Commissioning Mass.

For more information on the DCPIC, please visit our website at www.dcpic.ca. As well, please follow us on Twitter @DCPIC

This school year, 2013-2014, we marked a special milestone -- the 15th anniversary of the DCPIC (initially formed as the Regional Council in 1998)! We had plenty of exciting and meaningful celebrations planned throughout the year. These events continued to assist parents in our community to keep being involved in their children's education. They are:

- Annual Orientation & Commissioning Mass
- Advent Retreat with Patrick Sullivan
- Dr. Jean Clinton

- Family Literacy Fair
- Michael Reist
- Dr. Kevin Cameron
- Faith Formation Film Screening “Son of God”
- Barbara Coloroso
- Volunteer Recognition Gala “Distinguished Catholic Volunteer Award”
- Anniversary Celebration

Beyond the many events that the DCPIC has hosted this year, we look for other ways to fulfill our mandate. Our strategic plan is divided into three areas of focus which are communications, faith formation and school council and parent outreach. The achievements this year for these areas are:

Communications:

- Introduced the DCPIC Newsletter and distributed a hardcopy to every family in our schools
- Launched a Twitter account
- Developed many marketing materials such as banners, brochures, table displays, notepads and pens – all branded with our logo to help parents recognize the committee
- Made significant additions to our website
- Increased communication with school chairs and sharing of information
- Dedicated IT & Communications board staff on our committee

Faith Formation:

- Commissioning mass for school chairs/members and principals
- Advent retreat with Patrick Sullivan
- Sponsoring film for parents like “Son of God”
- Invited feedback from school community

School Council and Parent Outreach:

- Annual Orientation & Commissioning for School Chairs & Principals
- Developing a school council handbook
- Regularly asking for input
- Assigning each DCPIC parent and community member to a group of 3-4 schools for more personal contact
- Sharing board information such as policy and meetings
- Presentations from education partners to help better inform parents (such as Ontario College of Teachers and EQAO)

As part of our mandate, the DCPIC continually seeks to build the skills of its members through various networking and professional development opportunities. Our members attended events such as:

- Ministry of Education's Annual PIC Symposium in April 2014
- Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education Conference in May 2014
- When Faith Meets Pedagogy Conference in October 2013
- People for Education Conference in November 2013

It has truly been a busy year! I want to particularly thank all the DCPIC members for their tireless commitment to parent engagement. All of the team's collective efforts have only served to better public education in our region. Thank you!

We give thanks to everyone who has supported parent involvement in Durham region. With special thanks to the Board of Trustees, the Director of Education and all the board staff. We look forward to continuing our work for parents and making it a meaningful experience for all.

APPENDIX 2

DCPIC Parent Survey 2014

DCPIC Parent Survey 2014

1. Which school (s) does your child or children attend?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
All Saints	2.8%	4
Archbishop Denis O'Connor	8.4%	12
Blessed Pope John Paul II	1.4%	2
Brother Andre	0.7%	1
Father Fenelon	3.5%	5
Father Joseph Venini	0.7%	1
Father Leo Austin	4.9%	7
Good Shepherd	0.7%	1
Holy Family	0.0%	0
Immaculate Conception	0.7%	1
John XXIII Mother	0.0%	0
Teresa Msgr. Philip	0.7%	1
Coffey Msgr. Paul	1.4%	2
Dwyer	2.8%	4
Msgr. John Pereyma	0.0%	0
Notre Dame	0.0%	0
Sir Albert Love	0.7%	1
St. Bernadette	18.2%	26
St. Bernard	2.8%	4
St. Bridget	1.4%	2
St. Catherine of Siena	1.4%	2
St. Christopher	1.4%	2
St. Elizabeth Seton	9.1%	13
St. Francis de Sales	14.7%	21
St. Hedwig	0.7%	1
St. Isaac Jogues	0.0%	0
St. James	11.2%	16
St. John Bosco	2.1%	3
St. John the Evangelist	4.9%	7
St. Joseph, Oshawa	0.7%	1
St. Joseph, Uxbridge	0.0%	0
St. Josephine Bakhita	0.7%	1
St. Jude	1.4%	2
St. Leo	0.0%	0
St. Luke the Evangelist	0.0%	0
St. Marguerite d'Youville	0.0%	0
St. Mark the Evangelist	2.8%	4
St. Mary	4.2%	6
St. Matthew the Evangelist	1.4%	2
St. Monica	0.7%	1
St. Patrick	5.6%	8
St. Paul	4.9%	7
St. Theresa	0.0%	0
St. Thomas Aquinas	0.7%	1
St. Wilfrid	0.0%	0

answered question	143
skipped question	0

2. What grade(s) is your child or children in?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Kindergarten	28.7%	41
Grade 1 -3	44.1%	63
Grade 4 -6	35.7%	51
Grade 7- 8	24.5%	35
High School	21.7%	31
answered question		143
skipped question		0

3. Are you aware of the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (DCPIC) and what we do?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, I am aware and know what the DCPIC does for	51.7%	74
Yes, I am aware but do not know what the DCPIC does	33.6%	48
No, I am not aware of the DCPIC	14.7%	21
If you would like to be added to our communication distribution list, please		28
answered question		143
skipped question		0

4. How would you most like to receive information from the DCPIC?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
E-mail	71.3%	102
Phone	0.7%	1
Flyer	8.4%	12
Newsletter	18.2%	26
DCPIC Website	11.9%	17
Board Website	16.8%	24
Twitter	7.7%	11
Facebook	6.3%	9
School Council	20.3%	29
SynerVoice	4.2%	6
Comments		3
answered question		143
skipped question		0

Number	Response Date	Comments	Categories
1	Jun 23, 2014 6:45 PM	I prefer not to receive anything.	
2	Jun 21, 2014 12:33 PM	My school website	

6. What are the barriers for attending events, meetings, workshops, or volunteering in the school?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
child care	28.0%	40
lack of information	28.7%	41
language	0.0%	0
too busy	50.3%	72
transportation	2.1%	3
location is inconvenient	6.3%	9
time is inconvenient	30.8%	44
do not feel welcome	4.2%	6
Comments		30
	answered question	143
	skipped question	0

Number	Comments	Categories
1	Jul 6, 2014 1:54 AM	It would be helpful to have a list of the events that are confirmed at the beginning of the school year so that family planning and baby sitting can be easily arranged
2	Jul 4, 2014 12:18 PM	What events?
3	Jul 3, 2014 9:11 PM	Work schedule conflict
4	Jul 3, 2014 9:09 PM	I think notice of events, meetings, and workshops should be placed on the school he parent bulleti boards and also in tSchool east Newsletters as well as online. At lthen ntil I I wasn't aware of this committee read it
5	Jul 3, 2014 6:54 PM	in the local paper.
6	Jun 27, 2014 3:39 PM	work schedules - was able to volunteer this past year, due to a lighter workload
7	Jun 24, 2014 4:24 PM	see above
8	Jun 23, 2014 6:45 PM	I am self employed.
9	Jun 23, 2014 6:00 PM	DOES NOT APPLY--should not have to check a box--would not let me submit unless I checked a box (I volunteer in the school and attend school meetings and events)
10	Jun 23, 2014 5:59 PM	Topics are not of interest to me
11	Jun 23, 2014 2:46 PM	schedule conflicts
12	Jun 20, 2014 11:08 PM	I work and sometimes that has am impact. There are times when family issues are an issue.
13	Jun 20, 2014 10:55 PM	I can't volunteer in the school because I work for the Board and we only get 1 personal day.

14	Jun 20, 2014 9:21 PM	I volunteer in the school weekly. I enjoy attending the events and workshops in the evening but it depends on my children's dance/sports schedule. Alternating the day of the week these events are held would be great for some families.
15	Jun 20, 2014 8:45 PM	But I do plan to make the time to attend more events
16	Jun 20, 2014 8:10 PM	Sometimes not enough notice to plan to attend
17	Jun 20, 2014 5:24 PM	Find out too late / conflict with schedules Timing was off for me, with my work schedule. The times you planned the events were suitable, but career is one that demands long hours and unpredictability.
18	Jun 20, 2014 4:04 PM	I had to answer with something. I would have picked "none" if it was provided as an answer.
19	Jun 20, 2014 3:14 PM	will the event be worth the time?
20	Jun 19, 2014 8:57 PM	Did it for many years still do it at high school used uniform sales coffee for parent nights etc.
21	Jun 19, 2014 7:00 PM	That is the million dollar questions. So many great things offered not sure why more parents would not attend.
22	Jun 19, 2014 6:00 PM	My husband & I work shifts
23	Jun 19, 2014 3:54 PM	dependent on the information regarding events/etc to be distributed by the school and brought home by child (which does not always happen)
24	Jun 19, 2014 1:54 PM	Saw the Barbara Coloroso presentation at DO'C, so didn't need to attend a second presentation. My youngest is graduating this year and I did not feel the need to attend any of the other presentations.
25	Jun 19, 2014 1:28 PM	lack of notice - flyers coming home too late to make plans, not receiving notice of all events
26	Jun 19, 2014 1:07 PM	I have none I do volunteer all the time at the school. As for workshops etc....time.
27	Jun 19, 2014 11:54 AM	I think something needs to be sent home in the first of school to inform parents on the group.
28	May 29, 2014 3:28 PM	I often forget or something come up at the last minute
29	May 20, 2014 5:44 PM	Conflict in schedule at times.
30	May 13, 2014 3:35 PM	

7. How involved have you been with the school council at your child's school?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I'm a member of the school council	54.5%	78
I attend one or more school council meetings but I'm not	16.1%	23
I don't know about the school council	5.6%	8
I'm not sure how to get involved with school council	10.5%	15
I'm unable to be involved with the school council	13.3%	19
Comments		16
answered question		143
skipped question		0

Number	Response Date	Comments	Categories
1	Aug 5, 2014 3:15 PM	I'd be interested in starting out on the St. Francis De Sales parent council.	
2	Jul 6, 2014 1:54 AM	Is the parent council required to submit an outline of the school fundraising finances	
3	Jul 3, 2014 9:11 PM	Held vice chair, treasurer, and secretary positions in previous years of council Being on the school council opened my eyes and I understood what the council does. I to think it is important for all parents know and what they are, who they represent how they work. I also think that an information meeting should be held at the end of September in each school to inform parents, should they attend.	
4	Jul 3, 2014 9:09 PM	Volunteer when I can with events.	
5	Jun 28, 2014 12:56 PM	Available time could be a factor	
6	Jun 27, 2014 3:39 PM		
7	Jun 24, 2014 12:59 AM	I was on the council for two years but the meeting date is no longer convenient for me.	
8	Jun 23, 2014 6:53 PM	Currently not involved Wanted to attend meetings but didn't find out about them until after the fact or was unable to attend the ones I knew about.	
9	Jun 23, 2014 6:28 PM	I keep in touch with our Chair	
10	Jun 21, 2014 12:33 PM	Have been a member and attended school council or the past 12 years	
11	Jun 19, 2014 7:56 PM		
12	Jun 19, 2014 7:00 PM	I attend every St Mary's meeting but the Elizabeth Seton was is held on a night of the week I cannot attend. At SMB before it closed I was a council member for ten years and we alternated nights that I was held to accommodate as many families as possible I do not attend because I do not feel	
13	Jun 19, 2014 12:42 PM	welcome	
14	Jun 19, 2014 12:30 PM	Parent rep	
15	May 29, 2014 3:28 PM	I am looking to get involved.	
16	May 12, 2014 8:35 PM	no child care	

8. In the past year, how often have you discussed your child's school with other parents from the school?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Almost never	5.6%	8
Once or twice	11.2%	16
Every few months	16.1%	23
Monthly	29.4%	42
Weekly or more	37.8%	54
Comments		5
answered question		143
skipped question		0

Number	Response Date	Comments	Categories
1	Jul 3, 2014 9:09 PM	I am always discussing what goes on in my child's school with other parents. Some on the board and others not.	
2	Jun 20, 2014 9:21 PM	I am home most days so I see a lot of parents each day. A lot of great feedback from the school community regarding the school and staff.	
3	Jun 20, 2014 6:14 PM	Especially since the boundary change and how I'm being forced to leave my school !	
4	Jun 19, 2014 7:56 PM	Lots to discuss due to recent amalgamation with SMB	
5	Jun 19, 2014 11:58 AM	All positive	

9. Which of the following topics would you most like to learn about?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Faith Formation	16.8%	24
Early Learning	16.8%	24
Math	40.6%	58
Literacy	35.0%	50
School Council 101	20.3%	29
Communication	21.7%	31
Navigating the School System	25.9%	37
Mental Health	24.5%	35
Special Education	17.5%	25
Healthy Schools	30.8%	44
Safe and Accepting Schools	26.6%	38
French Immersion	23.1%	33
Post Secondary Transition	23.8%	34
Social Media & Kids	39.2%	56
Fundraising	20.3%	29
EQAO	13.3%	19
Homework Help	33.6%	48

Music/ Art	29.4%	42
School Board Administration	14.7%	21
Outdoor Education	23.8%	34
Comments		14
answered question		143
skipped question		0

Number	Response Date	Comments	Categories
1	Jul 13, 2014 9:55 PM	bullying prevention It would be great to have Michael Reist and Barbara Coloroso again. A session by Stacey How would be great on media and kids:}Thank-youo for all your coondation efforts.	
2	Jul 6, 2014 1:54 AM	Pretty much everything. I have special needs children. I am interested in anything that would help us to help them and how to get that help and information into the schools.	
3	Jul 3, 2014 9:09 PM	Gifted Program	
4	Jun 23, 2014 6:53 PM	None of the above.	
5	Jun 23, 2014 6:45 PM	How teachers deal with bullying, teasing, and mean kids in their classrooms	
6	Jun 21, 2014 12:33 PM	It has been a wonderful year! Thank-you for everything you do for the Durham Catholic School Board. The communication has been great! Have a safe and fun summer!	
7	Jun 20, 2014 9:21 PM	COMING FROM PRIVATE SCHOOL TO CATHOLIC VERY LITTLE INFORMATION IS GIVEN TO PARENT AS PER GUIDELINE FOR THE YEAR THEY ARE IN & HOW THE PARENTS CAN REALLY HELP THEIR CHILDREN - PRIVATE SCHOOL THEY TAKE THE TIME AT BEG OF SCHOOL YEAR WHAT IS EXPECTED OF THEM THRU THE YEAR OF THAT GRADE THEY ARE	
8	Jun 20, 2014 5:11 PM	When are school uniforms coming to the grade schools????? Hurry up with them!	
9	Jun 20, 2014 5:05 PM	WSES website not as updated as could be. St Mary's call out phone calls have never come to my house even after many times reporting difficulty to school,. This problem occurs with many parents Suggestion that St Mary's posts info from phone call outs on web site.	
10	Jun 19, 2014 7:00 PM	Curriculum expectations - expectations at Board level as the expectations vary some much by teacher	
11	Jun 19, 2014 1:07 PM		

12	May 26, 2014 12:09 PM	Please address each topic checked above when you call me. You might wish to email me material or links to them in advance of calling me.
13	May 15, 2014 2:46 AM	Navigating the cyber world with kids A literacy event, but later in the day. Building future leaders ... Character development in children
14	May 14, 2014 7:37 PM	Is there a place for a "Gifted Program" in our school board similar to the program they have in Toronto?