

**MINUTES** of the **OPEN SESSION** of the **DURHAM CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING** of the Durham Catholic District School Board which was held at Catholic Education Centre, North & South Boardroom, 650 Rossland Road West, Oshawa, on **Wednesday, November 7, 2018.**

**Committee Members**

Trustee Theresa Corless  
Melissa Bevan  
Tom Brennan  
Linda Dodson-Trchala  
Erin Groat  
Rose Lo Presti  
Amanda Roffey  
Candice Belmontes  
Camilla Brown  
Nancy Henry  
Andrea Sullivan  
Madonna Augustus  
Kimberly Chisholm  
Andrea Gagliardi  
Angela Kielbowski  
Christina Melick  
Josie Mullin  
Melanie O'Neill  
Lara Spiers

**Regrets**

Adedoyin Adesemowo  
Maryane Obwaka  
Cynthia Scott  
Chris Szent-Ivany

**Staff Present**

Rosemary Leclair  
Lori Jones

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Item a.1**                    **OPENING PRAYER**

Chair Melissa Bevan opened with the Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory and Lara Spiers offered the Opening Prayer.

**Item a.2**                    **WELCOME AND COURTESIES**

Chair Bevan called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and welcomed all committee members to the November 7, 2018 meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

### **Item b.1**                    **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

#### **Motion No. DCPIC2018-11-07-01**                    **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by E. Groat, seconded by L. Dodson Trchala

“THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the November 7, 2018 Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting Agenda as printed.”

Carried

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Item c.1**                    The next Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2018.

## **ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN**

### **Item d.1**                    **APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SESSION OF THE DURHAM CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING OF October 4, 2018.**

#### **Motion No. DCPIC2018-11-07-02**                    **Approval of Minutes**

Moved by C. Belmontes seconded by C. Melick.

“THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee approve the Minutes of the October 4, 2018 Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Meeting.”

Carried.

## **PRESENTATION**

### **Item e.1**                    **DCPIC Member Affirmation – Director Anne O’Brien**

Director O’Brien presided over an Affirmation Ceremony for new and returning members of the committee. Each member in attendance confirmed their commitment to the Code of Ethical Conduct for DCPIC Members as outlined in the DCPIC By-Laws.

**Item e.2      Overview of The Student Well-Being and Achievement Board Improvement Plan – Presented by Director Anne O’Brien**

Director O’Brien introduced herself to the committee and shared her background and advocacy in the importance of parent engagement in student well-being and achievement. She reviewed the development of the Discovery 2020: Strategic Plan 2014-2019 and highlighted the three guiding principles of Equity, Excellence and New-Evangelization and ten themes outlined in the plan. She explained the significance of each of these themes and how all initiatives and priorities of the board align with these principles and themes. Director O’Brien went on to review the Student Well-Being and Achievement Plan 2018/2019 providing highlights of the strategic goals and actions that are being implemented this year to support student well-being and achievement. She noted that all of the plans are available for review at dcdsb.ca.

**REPORTS/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**F.1            Standing Items**

**Item f.1.1    CHAIR’S REPORT**

Chair Bevan thanked everyone for their support and participation at the DCPIC Commissioning Mass & Orientation Session for Catholic School Council Chairs and Administrators. She noted that this event was a huge success and she has received positive feedback from attendees. She explained that last year each Catholic School Council Chair and Administrator received a newly revised DCPIC Catholic School Council Handbook. This is an invaluable resource to support schools in the effective operation of the parent involvement committees at school level. All new Chairs received a physical copy at this session as well.

Chair Bevan provided an overview of the role and function of each sub-committee within the DCPIC. Chair Bevan encouraged everyone to sign-up for a sub-committee and circulated a sign-up sheet to determine interest. She indicated she would ensure that all members were assigned to a sub-committee this year, as required in the By-Laws.

**Item f.1.2    TRUSTEE REPORT**

Trustee Corless thanked everyone for all their support and commitment to the community during her years of service on the DCPIC both as a Trustee and as parent

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member involved in parent engagement initiatives for twenty-five years. She expressed her gratitude for the relationships that were formed and for the strong sense of

partnership that exists in the Durham Catholic District School Board. She noted that she was very proud to be a member of the Board of Trustees and particularly proud of the wonderful work that has happened to build a vibrant system of Catholic education over the years. She stressed the importance of the gift of Catholic education, and our role in supporting and preserving that gift. She encouraged DCPIC members to become involved with the various celebrations planned for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Durham Catholic District School Board and particularly the Family Picnic scheduled on Sunday, June 2, 2019, beginning with a Mass at 10:00am.

### **Item f.1.3     RESOURCE REPORT**

Superintendent Leclair echoed Chair Bevan's thanks to all who contributed to the success of the Annual Catholic School Council Commissioning Mass and Orientation Session. She noted that she had also received positive feedback, and felt that the promotion of the Math at Home Kits demonstrated the alignment that Director O'Brien spoke about in her presentation. She indicated that despite a pause on PRO-Grant funding from the Ministry of Education, parent engagement outreach activities are continuing at both the system and school level. She noted the recent Pathways to the Future evening organized by Student Services, the keynote presentation by Peter Yellowquill, a residential school survivor, organized by the Indigenous Education Advisory Circle, and the S.E.A.C. presentation entitled "Connection is Key" which took place earlier this fall.

Superintendent Leclair shared that the Student Success department was hosting a "Let's Talk Trades" evening at the Whitby Campus of Durham College from 7:00 to 8:30pm. Families of students from grade 7 to 12 were invited via school messenger email.

The Math Café Series for Parents is moving ahead, with the first in the series taking place on November 13, 2018 at St. Mary C.S.S. in Pickering. The Teaching and Learning Department has been working on assembling the Math at Home Kits for distribution to the schools, and these kits would be introduced in the classrooms before they are sent home for families, similar to the "Borrow-a-Book" program that many parents/guardians would be familiar with.

### **Item f.1.4     PRO GRANT SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

Camilla Brown gave a status update on the Math Cafés. All four of the sessions are full, with session one taking place on November 13th at St. Mary CSS. A waiting list has been created and as registered attendees send in their regrets, the waiting list will be filled.

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Child minding will be available at each location with a DECE from the Board as the room Supervisor. All DCPIC members were welcomed to attend the sessions. The sub-

committee is exploring options for sharing the content from each session for parents/guardians who are unable to attend.

**Item f.1.5      COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

Candice Belmontes-Deonarayan updated committee members on the publication and distribution of the Fall Newsletter. A draft has been prepared and was currently being reviewed and will be completed shortly. She encouraged Committee members to join the Communications Sub-Committee.

**Item f.1.6      SCHOOL COUNCIL OUTREACH SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT**

Deferred

**Item f.1.7      FAITH FORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Deferred

**Item f.1.8      POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Nancy Henry provided an update on the current roster of policies and procedures up for review by the Board. Cynthia Scott attended the Policy Meeting of the Board on Monday, November 5, 2018. Policies under review from this meeting are now posted at dcdb.ca for input. Nancy Henry noted that there are four Policy Meetings of the Board, two have taken place and two are remaining.

The sub-committee will meet to review the newly posted policies from a parent perspective. Nancy Henry noted there were a number of policies that would be of interest to parents, and she encouraged members for the committee to sign-up to join the policy sub-committee.

**Item f.1.9      BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Deferred

**ADJOURNMENT**

The DCPIC meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. C. Melick offered the closing prayer.

**Motion No. DCPIC2018-11-07-03**      **Adjournment**

Moved by C. Brown seconded by C. Belmontes-Deonarayan.

“THAT the Durham Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting of  
Wednesday, November 7, 2018, adjourn.”

Carried

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Melissa Bevan  
Chair, Durham Catholic Parent  
Involvement Committee

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Rosemary Leclair  
Superintendent of Education

Recording Secretary: Lori Jones