
DURHAM CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIR'S REPORT

TO: DCPIC, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SCHOOL CHAIRS AND PARENTS
FROM: ROXANNE HORWITZ
SUBJECT: OCTOBER 2013 REPORT
DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2013

It is that time of year again – elections. This year we have 9 parent member positions that are vacant. The DCPIC can have up to 16 parent members and up to 3 community representatives. The non-voting members of the DCPIC are the director (or designate), a trustee, a principal, a teaching staff and a non-teaching staff.

I would like to introduce (pending approval at today's meeting) our staff representation on the DCPIC for this school year. They are:

- Chris Szent-Ivany, Vice Principal, St. Joseph C.S., Oshawa
- Susie Lee-Fernandes, Vice Principal, Immaculate Conception, Port Perry
- Joni MacLean, Teacher, St. Paul CS, Whitby
- Nikki Spears, Secretary, CUPE President, St. Bernadette CS, Ajax

This month, on October 30, the DCPIC will be hosting the Orientation and Commissioning Mass for principals and school council chairs/members. This yearly tradition allows a rich dialogue between principals and school council chairs (or members) in how we can work together to make our schools that much better. It also serves as an opportunity for school councils to exchange ideas and share best practices.

Also this month, on October 18, I will be attending the Great to Excellent consultation for our region. This is the Ministry of Education's series of talks across the province with all stakeholders that will assist them in determining how we can make our public school system be the best it can be. I will provide feedback on this event at the November meeting.

The subcommittees are busy with planning this month as we prepare to launch the many exciting events for parents and students – all to promote student achievement and well-being.

Here is the update for this month:

October Report

- Orientation and Mass Commissioning
 - a) Subcommittee have met and planning is well underway. It will be on October 30 from 8:30 am to 12 for principals, with school council chairs/members staying until 2 pm.
 - b) Mass will be officiated by Father Keith Wallace with Dominic Pullano. Candle ceremony for all school council chairs/members and DCPIC members. Choir provided by one of our schools.
 - c) Michael Reist will be keynote speaker on parent engagement
 - d) Mental Health Presentation included from board staff lead
 - e) First workshop: Building Partnerships – with principals and school chairs/members. Second workshop: School Councils Sharing Best Practices – with school council chairs/members. Both workshops are facilitated by People for Education
- Upcoming Conferences
 - a) When Faith Meets Pedagogy – October 24-26 in Mississauga
 - b) People for Education – November 2 in Toronto
 - c) Need to confirm which DCPIC members will be attending both events

- OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education)
 - a) OAPCE is celebrating their 75th Anniversary with conference on May 23-24 in Mississauga.
 - b) Regional Updates
 - Niagara
 - Introduced uniform at elementary level and well received
 - October 24 event that gathers administrators and school councils (second part later)
 - Toronto
 - October 2 Orientation for chairs and principals
 - November 18 Commissioning Mass for principals and school councils. They give an award to a principal with big celebration, i.e. using school band
 - Spanish committee received funding to expand tutoring for Spanish speaking students to address the issue of lowest graduation rates (\$35k funding)
 - Waterloo
 - Good feedback from their participants that attended OAPCE conference in May
 - Need improvement in hosting events like other regions
 - Also looking into Dr. Jean Clinton as speaker
 - Dufferin-Peel
 - Josephine Lombardi as faith formation presenter “Together in Faith”
 - Established Youth Faith Ambassadors
 - Renfrew
 - November 2 in Pembroke has Craig Kilburger as keynote for conference (\$8K)
 - York
 - October 23 workshops
 - November 14 Orientation for school chairs and vice chairs
 - November 16 Fall Symposium
 - November 19 EQAO feedback
- Anniversary Celebrations
 - a) Many initiatives are proposed to celebrate our 15th year such as speaker series that continue on mental health, literacy and math fun fairs, faith formation workshops, and more
 - b) We are gathering input from school councils, parents, school administrators and parishes.
- Communications
 - a) Need to enhance website and other forms of communication such as social media
 - b) In process of introducing newsletter and brochure
 - c) Update database list of school council chairs and also parents who signed off on student form that we may contact them by email
 - d) Meeting scheduled with subcommittee to address communication needs
- DCPIC Representative Per School
 - a) The division of schools by committee member will need to be revised after elections.
 - b) Need to do a roundtable update from each DCPIC member regarding their schools. Everyone will have 2-3 minutes to share any events, suggestions, etc.
- Presentations at DCPIC Meeting:
 - a) November 7 – Ontario College of Teachers, Joe Jamison, Deputy Registrar
 - b) January 9 – EQAO, Margaret Fler, Principal, School Support & Outreach