
DURHAM CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIR'S REPORT

TO: DCPIC, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SCHOOL CHAIRS AND PARENTS
FROM: ROXANNE HORWITZ
SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 2013 REPORT
DATE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2013

Welcome back to school! This school year, 2013-2014, we will be marking a special milestone -- the 15th anniversary of the DCPIC (initially formed as the Regional Council in 1998)! We have plenty of exciting and meaningful celebrations planned throughout the year. Stay tuned for details.

The DCPIC returns from a much needed team retreat in Pickering. In August, we spent a day together reflecting on past year's achievements, building team rapport and planning for the busy year ahead. There is a report that summarizes our ideas and plans that will be made available on our website, as well as an appendix to the minutes for today's meeting.

I would like to welcome Superintendent Gerry O'Reilly to the DCPIC as the Director's Designate and Resource to the committee. Gerry comes from Monsignor Philip Coffey as its principal. He has held numerous principal and vice-principal roles with DCDSB since 1994. He has four children in the Durham Catholic school system.

In addition, we welcome Anne O'Brien as the new director of the school board. An educator for 26 years, she has led a distinguished career in Catholic education and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position of Director of Education. Since 2007, she has held the role of Superintendent of Education, leading several portfolio assignments, including Special Education, Student Services, Student Success, Safe Schools, Student Mental Health, and Alternative and Continuing Education

We, at the DCPIC, are looking forward to working with Superintendent O'Reilly and Director O'Brien (as well as other board staff). Together, we can ensure that the mandate of the DCPIC is fulfilled. Our goals remain the same, as they are outlined in Section 3 of our bylaws:

- to support, encourage, and enhance meaningful parent engagement at the board level
- to improve student achievement and well-being;
- to determine, in consultation with the director of education, how ministry funding, if any, for parent engagement initiatives is to be allocated
- to share effective practices to help engage parents in their children's learning, identify and reduce barriers to parent engagement, and help ensure that schools are welcoming to parents;
- to support initiatives that help build knowledge and skills that will assist the PIC and school councils of the board with their work.

Here's to a great year! Thank you everyone for your commitment, your patience, your suggestions, your ideas and always, for your support of the DCPIC.

Here is the update for this month:

September Report

- Orientation and Mass Commissioning
 - a) Plans are underway to host this annual event with school council chairs and principals
 - b) The date will either be on October 30 or November 8. It will be decided after today's meeting.
 - c) For this year as we mark a special milestone, our 15th anniversary, we are planning a bigger celebration that highlights the past and future of the DCPIC.

- Subcommittees
 - a) At the August retreat, 6 subcommittees were identified. They are:
 - Communications
 - Parent Engagement
 - Faith Formation
 - Anniversary
 - Budget
 - PRO Grant
 - b) The first meeting this year for the subcommittees will be at 6 pm today (an hour before the regular meeting).
 - c) Every DCPIC parent and community member is asked to serve on at least one subcommittee.
 - d) We are able to invite other parents or community members to join our subcommittees. It is a great option for those wishing to focus on a particular area, and who may not be able to do the level of commitment as DCPIC members.

- Elections
 - a) Election date is on October 10. It will take place during our regular DCPIC meeting.
 - b) Advertisements for the 7 vacancies are being posted this week. They will be shared with principals for school websites and distribution. They will be put on both websites, the board and the DCPIC. As well, on parish bulletins.

- OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education)
 - a) OAPCE is celebrating their 75th Anniversary this year!
 - b) The OAPCE conference will take place on May 23-24. It will be in Mississauga.
 - c) DCPIC needs to plan ahead for attendance, and how much of budget to commit to this conference for parents and committee members.

- Community Representatives
 - a) The DCPIC executive/officers have finished interviews with the applicants and have selected the three community representatives. They will still need to be formally approved by the committee .
 - b) The three community representatives who have been recommended to the DCPIC are:
 - Kim Beatty
 - Monique Forster
 - Connie Samson

- PRO Grant 2013-2014
 - a) We are still waiting to hear back from the Ministry of Education regarding our application. The regional pro grants have not yet been released.

- DCPIC Representative Per School
 - a) The division of schools by committee member will need to be revised as Tina Henry has resigned, as well as we need to include the three community representatives. But it might be better wait until elections on October 10 as we could see further member changes.
 - 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.