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## DURHAM CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

### CHAIR'S REPORT

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**TO:** DCPIC, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SCHOOL CHAIRS, STAFF AND PARENTS  
**FROM:** ROXANNE HORWITZ  
**SUBJECT:** SEPTEMBER 2014 REPORT  
**DATE:** SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

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Welcome back to school!

The DCPIC began this school year with a planning session. On August 26, we spent a day together reviewing on past year's achievements and opportunities, 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 distributed at today's meeting.

We, at the DCPIC, are looking forward to working with all stakeholders in education. 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 another 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 be on Wednesday, October 29.
  - c) This is an opportunity for school chairs and principals to work together and provide a networking session.
- Subcommittees
  - a) At the August planning session, 6 subcommittees were identified. They are:
    - Communications
    - Faith Formation
    - School Council & Parent Outreach
    - Budget
    - PRO Grant
    - Policy (including Bylaws)
    - Nominations (only valid until October 9)

- b) Every DCPIC parent and community member is asked to serve on at least one subcommittee.
  - c) 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 9. It will take place during our regular DCPIC meeting.
  - b) Advertisements for the 11 parent member positions are being posted this week. They will be shared with principals for school websites and distribution. They will be placed on websites, the board and the DCPIC. As well, on parish bulletins.
- OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education)
  - a) OAPCE has a new president in Brian Evoy (who has previously served as president)
  - b) The OAPCE conference will take place on May 24-25. It will be in Pembroke, Ontario
  - c) DCPIC needs to plan ahead for attendance, and how much of budget to commit to this conference for parents and committee members.
  - d) As the Durham Director for OAPCE, I have been appointed to sit on the Student Achievement Division Working Table for 2014-15. It is a great opportunity to have the Catholic parents' voice included to represent Durham and all of Ontario. Please reach out to me should you have suggestions or comments for the Working Table. Here is some information about it:

The Working Table provides advice and recommendations to the Student Achievement Division of the Ministry of Education on a wide range of issues specific to ensuring students remain engaged and on approaches to effective implementation of policies and programs for student learning and achievement, K-12. Meetings of the Student Achievement Division Working Table are in a round-table format. The Chair of the Student Achievement Division Working Table is Mary Jean Gallagher, Chief Student Achievement Officer, and Assistant Deputy Minister.

- Community Representatives
  - a) The DCPIC received three applications for the position of Community Representative. As we have three available positions, all of the candidates were acclaimed in July. They will still need to be formally approved by the committee at the next meeting which is September 11, 2014.
  - b) The three community representatives who have been recommended to the DCPIC are:
    - Kim Beatty
    - Jim McGrorey
    - Stan Karwowski
- PRO Grant 2014-2015
  - a) Our application was successful! The Ministry of Education approved our committee's application for \$22,500. Check our website for event details.
  - b) Thank you to Jim McGrorey and the subcommittee for working tirelessly on the application!
- DCPIC Representative Per School
  - a) The division of schools by committee member will need to be revised with new incoming members, outgoing members and the upcoming election in October.
- Upcoming Conferences
  - a) When Faith Meets Pedagogy – October 23-25 in Mississauga
  - b) Ontario College of Teachers – November 5-7 in Toronto
  - c) People for Education – November 8 in Toronto
  - d) Ministry of Education PIC Symposium – April 2015 in Toronto
  - e) OAPCE – May 24-25, 2015 in Pembroke, Ontario