
DURHAM CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIR'S REPORT

TO: DCPIC, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SCHOOL CHAIRS AND PARENTS
FROM: ROXANNE HORWITZ
SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 2013 REPORT
DATE: FEBRUARY 20, 2013

As the newly elected chair for the DCPIC (as of January 10, 2013), it is my hope that we continue to follow the mandate and responsibilities of our committee as set in our bylaws. Some examples outlined in Section 3:

- 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.

It is important that we are accountable and transparent to our school community, and that we share information in a timely manner. We achieve this by seeking input, providing meeting and financial reports, and being available to our local schools and our parents at large. I look forward to working with such a committed group of people!

February Report

- Financial Records
 - a) Superintendent LePage will be providing the financial update in his Resource report today. Depending on the balance of the DCPIC funds and the deadlines, we as a group need to determine what we can spend it on to support our parents/schools.
 - b) Need to determine how many schools have spent the \$500 given to each school council – we need to contact schools who have not yet submitted any claims to the board office
 - c) Need to determine how many schools have received PRO Grant funds, and if all of it was spent – if there are extra funds, we need to determine what to we can allocate it towards...
 - d) Some ideas with funds: welcome folders for all school councils, establish newsletters (quarterly), training courses for parents to help them with their children's learning, DCPIC technology equipment, aiding schools in need for breakfast programs/ coats, other necessities.....
 - e) Mileage Reimbursement for DCPIC members – remind all members that all regular and subcommittee meetings and conferences are approved to be reimbursed. Please submit claims to Lorrie indicating dates, to and from location, number of km – with name, signature and date on document. I will send an email to every parent member that shows a sample document of what I send in to Lorrie.

- OAPCE

- a) Thank you to Orlanda for the presentation on OAPCE today. Let's please continue to share with all parents what OAPCE does, and also to invite them to the upcoming conference.
 - b) I have reserved 10 rooms at the Holiday Inn in Peterborough for the May 24-25 OAPCE Conference. We need to determine how many DCPIC members are attending. If we need more rooms, we need to book soon as availability is limited.
 - c) Need to vote on conference funding for DCPIC, with hotel and mileage reimbursement included. Need to get numbers of attendees from our DCPIC.
 - d) OAPCE rebate --. I have applied for rebate which is approximately \$900 given to us by OAPCE. It is 30% of the fees paid by our board.
- Community Representatives
 - a) The nominations committee is currently working on the process. Currently, we are determining all formats of advertising the available positions – such as local newspaper ads, parish bulletins, board and school websites, social media, mass announcement
 - b) Durham region newspaper ad --- The cost for a one-time classified ad ¼ page, black/white would be \$2917.20+HST. For a 1/6 page (which could be tight for space depending on how detailed the ad would be) the cost would be \$1989.00+HST. We need to vote on this.
 - c) The nominations committee is also developing criteria and application form before it can be advertised.
 - d) The selection process will take place in March, and we hope to formally approve the community representatives in the April 4 DCPIC meeting.
- DCPIC Representative Per School
 - a) As a committee with currently 14 parent members, we have divided up the 47 schools in our board, to personally look after, and be their primary contact. It works out to be about 3 schools for each DCPIC parent member. Once, the community representatives are selected, they will be given schools to represent.
 - b) There is a spreadsheet that shows which members and schools are together. This information will also be posted on our website. All school councils have been approached by the DCPIC member about this more personal partnership.
 - c) By committing to this approach, we hope to make it easier for our schools to reach out to the DCPIC, and for our committee members to make it simpler to foster relationships (when we can concentrate on 3-4 schools)
- DCPIC website
 - a) Our website is almost finished. It is in fact, available to view at www.dcpic.ca . But please note that all information is not updated or complete yet. We hope to finish in the next few weeks.
 - b) The communications subcommittee is also working on a logo for the DCPIC.
 - c) The cost for annual subscription for this website is \$15.
 - d) The DCPIC website will be linked at each school's website and also at the board's website.
- Meeting Dates
 - a) Our last meeting date this year is for May. However, we have typically had meetings in June. There is a need for this additional meeting due to the many projects and work we are doing.
 - b) Need to add motion for a meeting in June for either June 6 or 13.
- Term Limits
 - a) Reminder for everyone to submit their preference for term limits for either 1 year or 2 years.
 - b) These are 2 year term limits so far for: Roxanne, Tina N., Rose and Jim
 - c) These are 1 year term limits so far for: Margaret, Tricia
 - d) We need to have 7 members for 2 year terms and 7 members for 1 year terms