

YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, January 16, 2017
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

PRESENT:

Committee Members:

Jimmy Au-Yeung, Sonja Da Silva, Emanuela Polin De Luca, Januario de Souza, Mary Giardina, Meghan Jackson, Meeta Kirkham, Tony Lorini, Marion Menezes, Donna Psaila, Brenda Psihalos, Nancy Rigato, Maurizio Ruberto, Martina Saverino, Rosanna Soda

Administration:

Nancy Di Nardo, Superintendent of Education,
Olga Ferro, Principal

Guest(s):

None

REGRETS:

Committee Member(s):

Agatha Fallone Cretaro, Patrizia Faraone, Johnson Irimpan, Maria Komljanec, Menaka Kulendran, Sabrina Onorati, Deven Sandhu, Andrew Santos, Karen Sortino

Administration:

Patricia Preston, Director of Education

Trustee(s):

Carol Cotton, Dino Giuliani, Theresa McNicol

Recording Secretary:

Januario de Souza

1.0 WELCOME/PRAYER

Chair Donna Psaila welcomed and thanked everyone for being present. A prayer was said by all after. Members were given an opportunity to include their personal intentions.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – JANUARY 16, 2017

Motion: Au-Yeung/Menezes

THAT the agenda be approved with the following change:
The Director's Report is moved before the Chair's Report.

MOTION CARRIED

3.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – NOVEMBER 7, 2016

Motion: Kirkham/Ruberto

THAT the unapproved Minutes of Meeting of November 7, 2016, be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

4.0 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Superintendent of Education Di Nardo delivered the Director's Report on behalf of the Director Preston.

Good evening everyone. Our Director had a previous commitment this evening and she sends her regrets and has asked me to share a few words on her behalf.

Welcome and Happy New Year! I hope that you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and time to relax with family and friends.

Parent Concerns regarding Icy School Yard Conditions

We know that the last week was a bit of a challenge across the system with icy conditions in our school playgrounds and I wanted to address this with you, as we are aware of parent concerns regarding the icy conditions in school playgrounds.

As you know, the Board has revised its Winter Maintenance Practice with respect to plowing the playground area. This new procedure aligns with the long-standing winter maintenance practices at many other school boards across the province. The YRDSB has maintained this practice since 2004.

Last week, the fluctuating temperatures and the timing of precipitation created challenging conditions. Over the weekend, contractors for the York Catholic District School Board applied salt to all playgrounds to relieve the icy conditions.

The safety and well-being of all students are our top priority, and when it is deemed to be safe, children will be allowed to play out on the school yard. We follow the Board's Inclement Weather Procedures for indoor routine. We recognize that children need an opportunity to get exercise and free play time outdoors, however, weather conditions sometimes warrant indoor routines or a reduced activity level outdoors. Conditions requiring changes in normal practice are: rain, freezing rain, thunderstorms, lightning, hail, ice, and extreme winds - these conditions require indoor routines.

Board Inaugural

I would like to take a moment to congratulate our new Chair and Vice Chair of the Board. The Board held its Board Inaugural Meeting on December 1st, 2016. His Excellency, Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick celebrated a beautiful mass to start the evening. Our Trustees took the Oath of Office and we elected our Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board. I would like to congratulate Carol Cotton who was re-elected Chair of the Board and Elizabeth Crowe who was re-elected as our Vice-Chair. Carol, Elizabeth, and all of our trustees are committed to putting the needs of our students and families first. An election by ballot was not held as both Trustees Cotton and Crowe were acclaimed to their positions. The unanimous decision is a testament to the Board of Trustees' unified vision for Catholic Education in York Region.

Funds Raised

Our schools have raised \$45,112.80 for earthquake victims in Italy this year. This amount has been donated to the Archdiocese of Toronto's Vatican Relief Agency, Caritas Canada. Throughout the months of November and December, our schools also collected funds for humanitarian relief in Haiti following the damage caused by Hurricane Matthew; another \$16,655 was raised Board-wide. These donations are being channeled

through the Archdiocese to Caritas Canada. This is just a snapshot of some of our larger, system-wide fundraising efforts, and I thank you, our parents, for your contributions to these worthy causes.

Events and School Visits

One of the many joys in the role as Director of Education is visiting our schools. This is a wonderful opportunity to see the excellent work taking place by our students and staff, and to speak with our dedicated administrators. Some of the photos from her recent school visits have been shared on my Twitter feed: at ycdsb_ppreston (ycdsb underscore P Preston).

Pastoral Zone Meeting

On November 2nd, the Board welcomed all of our Parish Priests for our annual Pastoral Zone Meeting at the CEC. The feedback received from our parish priests was very positive. A presentation was shared by our Religious Education Coordinator and Consultants on the Elementary Religion Education Program and the Secondary Religious Education policy document. If you would like to receive this information, please let the Director know and we can make it available to you.

Mental Health

Mental Health and well-being continues to be a top priority for our Board. Our Mental Health Team is planning our annual Student Mental Health Symposium for the spring. All elementary and secondary schools are invited to participate and the events will be held here at the CEC. The theme for this conference is “Be Empowered.”

The conference goals are to:

- Promote and heighten awareness and understanding of mental health in the school and the community;
- Increase mental health literacy and provide the skills and knowledge to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health and appropriate resources;
- Increase the student skills to promote coping skills for a healthy lifestyle;
- Decrease the stigma associated with mental health.

Kindergarten Registration

Finally, Kindergarten registration has begun for September 2017. Families can register at their local Catholic school. All of our schools now offer the Full-Day Kindergarten Program. We encourage you to share the news about our Kindergarten Registration with parents in your community. We are looking forward to welcoming new families in September.

Thank you.

5.0 CHAIR’S REPORT/UPDATE

Chair Psaila provided updates on the following:

- Progress on the YCPIC newsletters
- Will connect with the Chair of our Communications Sub-Committee, Ms. Polin-De Luca;
- Ms. Saverino and Ms. Jackson members of the above mentioned sub-committee have offered to help;
- The 14th Annual Catholic School Council Conference is in its planning stage;

- Chair Psaila and Secretary de Souza held an initial meeting with the Director, on December 2016, to discuss the conference date, location, and focus area;
- The date for the annual conference is on Saturday, April 1, 2017;
- The conference will be held at Theresa of Lisieux CHS in Richmond Hill;
- Focus area targeted Mental Well-being (coping with stress, and worrying);
- Keynote speaker Jennifer Kolari (to build on the 3 prior successful conferences we held for our parents);
- Opened up for discussion and input;
- Great feedback was received from all present;
- Overall consensus was that we need to have a keynote speaker, Jennifer Kolari, as a main draw;
- We need to give participating CSC members and Principals a chance to network and share ideas & best practices;
- Invite vendors as we did in the past to have booths which benefit CSCs;
- Provide fewer sweets, but provide sandwiches instead at the conference;
- Schedule a working session meeting to plan the conference and any updates from the sub-committees.

6.0 OAPCE'S REPORT

Maurizio Ruberto, President of OAPCE, provided an update on OAPCE activities and focus areas.

7.0 ELECTION – OAPCE DIRECTOR

Tony Lorini was acclaimed as our second OAPCE Director. He and Mary Giardina will be representing our school board.

8.0 MEETING OF NEXT SUB COMMITTEES – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2017

The YCPIC parent members will be holding a working session on Monday, February 6th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in meeting room 100.

9.0 NEXT REGULAR YCPIC MEETING DATE – MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017

Chair Psaila thanked all present and reminded all the dates for next meetings.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Giardina/Rigato

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED