

YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, June 8, 2015
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

PRESENT:

Committee member(s): Januario de Souza, Ida Di Tacchio, Agatha Fallone Cretaro, Emanuela Polin-De Luca, Mary Giardino, Yolanda Lobo, Christina Melick, Donna Psaila, Maurizio Ruberto, Danny Scenna, Rosanna Soda

New Committee member(s): Teresa Ambroz, Jimmy Au-Yeung, Jennifer Wigston

Trustee(s): Teresa Ciaravella, Carol Cotton

Administration: Nancy Di Nardo, Superintendent of Education, Olga Ferro, Principal, Sonia Gallo, Manager of Strategic Communication Managers, Patricia Preston, Director of Education

Non-returning Committee member(s): Gail Cheung, Veronica Reis

REGRETS:

Committee Member(s): Diana Corsi, Jeremy D'Souza, Meeta Kirkham, Marion Menezes, Rosa Micieli, Maria Siciliano, Diane Scaini, Marissa Snider

Trustee(s): Marlene Mogado

Non-returning Committee members: Gary Chan, Paula Irwin, Maria Le, Rose Scaccia

Recording Secretary: Yolanda Lobo

1. WELCOME/PRAYER

Jan de Souza, YCPIC Chair, welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. Chair de Souza reminded all present about the contents of the package i.e. Agenda, Prayer and Meeting minutes. A prayer was said by all.

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEWLY APPOINTED MEMBERS

The five newly appointed members were welcomed to the YCPIC committee for the school year 2015-2016. The following newly appointed members were present at the meeting, Jimmy Au-Yeung, Teresa Ambroz and Jennifer Wingston. Brief introductions were made all around. Newly appointed members Marion Menezes and Jeremy D'Souza send their regrets.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion by Danny Scenna and seconded by Veronica Reis

THAT the minutes of the YCPIC Meeting held on March 19th, 2015, be approved.

-MOTION CARRIED-

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Christina Melick and seconded by Gail Cheung

THAT the agenda of the YCPIC Meeting held on June 9, 2015 be approved.

-MOTION CARRIED-

5. **CHAIR'S REPORT/UPDATES**

Welcome to our newly appointed 2015-2016 YCPIC members

Teresa Ambroz (Present)

Jimmy Au-Yeung (Present)

Jennifer Wingston (Present)

Jeremy D'Souza (Regrets)

Marion Menezes (Regrets)

2015-2016 PRO Grant Applications & YCPIC Workshop

Last day to apply was Tuesday, May 19th, 2015;

Grants for Catholic school councils (Max. \$1,000);

Tuesday, April 21st, 2015, YCPIC with the help of YCDSB conducted a Pro Grant Workshop

Workshop was held at 7 p.m. in the Learning Centre of the Catholic Education Centre; Invitations were sent out to all schools, 18 parents from 12 schools registered, Principal Ferro, Chair de Souza and YCPIC member Agatha Fallone Cretaro conducted the workshop;

Next year we will have to focus on schools that do not apply for PRO Grants or are not successful.

Findings for current school year 2014-2015:

Schools	PRO grants	Percentage
Elementary = 89	69	78%
Secondary = 18	13	72%

Pro Grant for regional/provincial projects (Max. \$30,000);

Motion via email dated May 13th, 2015, by Agatha Fallone Cretaro, YCPIC member, and seconded by Jan de Souza, YCPIC Chair:

THAT YCPIC in partnership with our York Catholic District School Board apply for the 2015-16 Regional Parents Reaching Out (PRO Grant).

Our project submission will support multiple Ministry initiatives and engagement strategies that support involving all parents in our board, enhancing communication between school and parents and supporting skill-building opportunities for parents via workshops.

-MOTION CARRIED-

YES = 19
Abstain = 3
NO = 0

For the school year 2015-2016 YCPIC with the support of YCDSB has submitted an application for a Regional PRO Grant. All of us, who voted on this the motion to approve it, thank you Principal Ferro, YCPIC member Fallone Cretaro and Director Preston for your support in making this a reality.

Our project title is ***Supporting Enhanced Parent Engagement***.

Goals and objectives of our project:

- i. The YCPIC in partnership with YCDSB and local CSC's will hold conference and regional forums to support and enhance Parent Engagement in the areas of Mental Health and 21st Century Learning;
- ii. Budget requested \$27,700.

Ministry of Education 6th Annual PIC Symposium

Was held in Toronto on April 24th, - 25th, 2015 - ***INSPIRE, ENGAGE, CONNECT! – Achieving Excellence;***

YCPIC members Mary Giardina and Chair De Souza attended the Symposium; Minister of Education, The Honorable Liz Sandals, reminded all participants of Ontario's vision for education - ***Achieving Excellence: A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario*** which sets ambitious goals.

These goals include an education system that:

- i. Support children from birth to adulthood;
- ii. Recognizes health and well-being as instrumental factors in students' academic success;
- iii. Promotes greater equity to ensure that all students can reach new heights.

Update on the Symposium (Chair De Souza to send email to all with Symposium details).

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT/UPDATES

The end of another school year is a few weeks away and I am sure you are looking forward to spending some time with family and friends this summer. This is a joyful and busy time as our schools prepare for exams, graduation ceremonies, end of the year barbeques, excursions, concerts, and report cards -- to name a few.

We have much to celebrate this year and I would like to highlight some of our recent accomplishments at the board office and in our schools.

Multi-Year Strategic Planning

As you know, we launched our Multi-Year Strategic Plan in October with a new mission and vision statement, as well as, core values and strategic commitments for the next three years. Our strategic commitments are the: ***Integration of Catholic Faith, Continuous Improvement of Student Achievement, Effective Use of Our Resources and Engaging***

Our Communities. We have established action teams who are busy working on developing goals and initiatives for these commitments; and we will be rolling out our goals in the fall.

Our Multi-Year Strategic Plan is built upon our past and reflects what we have heard from our stakeholders. The largest stakeholder respondent group was parents, with a response rate of 42%. I thank our parent community for their input, as it was very instrumental in shaping our Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

Long Term Accommodation Plan

In March, the Board of Trustees approved the Board's Long Term Accommodation Plan for 2015-2020, which focuses on addressing changing demographics in our school communities. Recent provincial announcements have highlighted the need for school boards across the province to reduce surplus capacity through the implementation of a Long Term Accommodation Plan. This planning report looks at the current and future student accommodation needs. Implementation of the plan will begin in the fall 2015.

Each accommodation review will include opportunities for community and parent participation, and we will keep all stakeholders informed throughout the process.

If you have not seen the plan, and wish to view it, you can do so on our website, under ***Board New.***

Admissions: Summer Registration for Elementary School

Last year, our Board's Admissions Office accepted new student registrations throughout the summer and this was very successful. This year, we will be taking elementary school registrations for the 2015-2016 school year between July 2nd, and August 27th. I invite you to share this information with your Catholic School Councils, neighbours, friends and families. Parents are asked to visit the Admissions Office at the Catholic Education Centre, Monday to Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. More information regarding new student registration is available on our website.

Labour Disruption: Work to Rule/Strike

I know that many of you are hearing the news in the media about possible labour disruption and strike action in the fall. York Catholic supports the efforts of the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association, which is our central bargaining agent. I will continue to provide updates via the Board website this summer, to keep our parents and staff up-to-date should there be any developments affecting our schools.

Yes, I Can Awards Ceremony

On May 21st, the ***Council for Exceptional Children*** hosted its annual ***Yes, I Can Awards*** at Richmond Green Secondary School. The awards acknowledge the achievements of students with exceptionalities in the areas of community service, self-advocacy, technology, transition, arts, athletics and academics. The ***Yes, I Can Awards*** also recognize parents and staff who have raised awareness and advocated on behalf of students with exceptionalities.

Congratulations:

Laura Fruci, from the St. Padre Pio Catholic school community. Ms. Fruci won the **Parent of Year Award**;

Carol Gear, YCDSB's Special Programs Teacher (Vision Orientation and

Mobility Instructor), received the **Educational Leader of the Year Award**;
Josie Addorisio, Core Resource Teacher at St. Julia Billiard won the **Teacher of the Year Award**;
Louise Sartor, Educational Assistant, at St Matthew Catholic School won the **Paraprofessional of the Year Award**;
Cathy Leger, Coordinator of Special Education, won the **President's Award**.

In addition, two York Catholic student winners will represent the **York Chapter at the Canadian Council of Exceptional Children** award ceremony in Niagara Falls this summer.

Over 100 students and adults were recognized at the ceremony, with over 700 family members and educators cheering them on from the audience.

Distinguished Alumni 2015

During Catholic Education Week, we announced the winners of our **Annual Distinguished Alumni Campaign**. As in previous years, six York Catholic alumni are featured on the campaign poster; and once again, we have a wonderful group of York Catholic graduates who have gone on to exciting and rewarding careers.

This year's Distinguished Alumni are:

Father Neiman D'Souza: Parish Priest at St. Patrick Church, a graduate of St. Vincent de Paul CES and Father Michael McGivney Academy;
Caroline Balogh: a graduate of Cardinal Carter CHS and is now a member of the Canadian Armed Forces' Royal Hamilton Light Infantry Unit;
Anna Caravaggio: a graduate of Father Bressani CHS and is now Senior Global Marketing Director at Johnson and Johnson Incorporation;
Evan Cinq-Mars: is a graduate of St. Augustine CHS and is now a Research Analyst with the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect in New York City. Evan;
Caroline Keenan: is a graduate of Sacred Heart CHS and she is working abroad in developing countries as an Education Specialist with UNICEF;
Christopher Morris: a graduate of St. Brother Andre CHS and is now the Artistic Director and founder of a theatre company called, **Human Cargo**.

I sat on the selection committee, and I must say that selecting six candidates was not easy!

Social Justice/Charity Initiatives: Nepal Fundraiser/ShareLife

Our YCDSB schools have been busy with fundraising collections for ShareLife and the Nepal Humanitarian Relief. I am very pleased to report that to date, our schools have collected \$35,469.11 (thirty-five thousand, four hundred and sixty nine dollars) for ShareLife.

Equally as impressive, our schools collected a total of \$67,685.94 (sixty-seven thousand, six hundred and eighty five dollars) for the Nepal Humanitarian Relief efforts. These funds are being sent to the Archdiocese of Toronto, and they will be sending the funds through the official global Catholic relief agency, Caritas.

The Catholic Social Teachings of Justice and Charity are alive in our school communities! I thank all of our parents, for their support in making this an exceptional year.

Catholic Education Week

May 3rd to 8th was Catholic Education Week across the province, and all of our schools organized wonderful events and activities. School Superintendents and trustees shared great feedback with me after attending special liturgies, spring concerts, theatrical productions, and more. Some of our schools celebrated milestone anniversaries during Catholic Education Week and I wish to congratulate those schools – St. Padre Pio CES (10th Anniversary), St. John Bosco CES (25th Anniversary) and St. Marguerite d'Youville CES (10th Anniversary). St. Joseph Markham celebrated its official opening and blessing as well during Catholic Education Week. Father John Kelly CES celebrated its 25th Anniversary just a few weeks ago, and we celebrated the solemn blessing and official opening of Guardian Angels CES on May 27th.

As part of our ***Catholic Education Week*** celebrations, the ***2nd Annual Province-Wide Student Mass*** was held across all Catholic high schools on Thursday, May 7th.

I have prepared a video to highlight some of the wonderful events that took place during ***Catholic Education Week*** for you tonight. Enjoy.

Recognitions

Finally, I would like to recognize YCPIC's out-going members and thank them for their service and dedication to YCPIC.

Gary Chan, Our Lady of Hope

Gail Cheung, All Saints

Paula Irwin, Holy Jubilee

Maria Le, St. Joseph, Markham and St. Brother Andre

Christina Melick, St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Veronica Reis, St. Raphael the Archangel

Rose Scaccia, St. Maximilian Kolbe

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Chair Jan DeSouza as well. Jan, thank you for your dedication and leadership this year as the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Chair. You truly are, a great ambassador for parents in our Board and your commitment and work on the St. Charles Garnier Catholic School Council is also commendable.

Thank you for all of your support and the great work this year organizing our Parent Conference this past November.

To all our members here, thank you! I wish you a restful and happy summer.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

A general over-view of the budget was presented and a report of the financials to-date was handed out and will form part of these minutes.

OAPCE UPDATE

OAPCE will have their ***76th Annual Conference*** in Penbrooke, Ottawa in May 22-23.

Register directly onto OAPCE's website to receive latest updates and newsletters via email.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday, October 5, 2015 - 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.