

YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, March 27, 2017
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

PRESENT:

Committee Members:

Jimmy Au-Yeung, Sonja Da Silva, Januario de Souza,
Mary Giardina, Meghan Jackson, Tony Lorini,
Emanuela Polin-De Luca, Donna Psaila, Brenda Psihalos,
Martina Saverino

Administration:

Patricia Preston, Director of Education,
Olga Ferro, Principal

Parent Guest:

None

Other Guests:

SEAC Representatives - Harold Adams, Kathy Amenta,
Kathy Bryden, Diane Legris,

REGRETS:

Committee Members:

Agatha Fallone Cretaro, Patrizia Faraone, Johnson Irimpan,
Meeta Kirkham, Maria Komljanec, Menaka Kulendran,
Marion Menezes, Sabrina Onorati, Nancy Rigato,
Maurizio Ruberto, Deven Sandhu, Rosanna Soda,
Karen Sortino

Community Representative(s):

Andrew Santos

Administration:

Nancy Di Nardo, Superintendent of Education

Trustees:

Teresa Ciaravella, Carol Cotton, Dino Giuliani

Recording Secretary:

Januario de Souza

1.0 WELCOME/PRAYER

Chair Donna Psaila welcomed and thanked everyone for being present. Requested those present for intentions. Nancy Di Nardo was wished a quick recovery after her surgery. The prayer included in our handouts was said by all after giving members an opportunity to include personal intentions.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MARCH 27, 2017

MOTION: DE SOUZA/DA SILVA

THAT the agenda be approved with the request from Chair Psaila to move the order of the Director's Report before the Chair's Report as listed on the unapproved agenda.

MOTION CARRIED

3.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – JANUARY 16, 2017–

MOTION: AU-YEUNG/POLIN-DE LUCA

THAT the Minutes of Meeting of the January 16, 2017, be approved with one change on the last page with the adjourned time from 9:5 p.m. to 9:05 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

4.0 DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Good evening.

It’s been a couple of months since we last gathered and I hope that you all had an enjoyable March Break with your families. We are now just over three weeks into the Lenten season, and a week into spring. It is a time for renewal and new beginnings. In his Lenten message this year, Pope Francis said that, “*The Word is a gift. Other persons are a gift.*” As we enter the final stretch of this school year, may we renew our encounter with Christ and work to serve those around us.

Annual Report

I have shared with you a copy of my Director’s Annual Report for 2015-2016. This report is a Ministry requirement, but we also use this as a communication tool to help promote the excellent work at York Catholic. Please take a moment to look through the report as many of our schools are featured. Copies of the Annual Report have been shared with various members of the YCDSB Community including: Mayors, Members of Provincial Parliament, and all of our parishes and schools.

14th Annual Catholic School Council Conference

Plans are well underway for the YCDSB/ YCPIC Conference at St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS on Saturday. As you know, our keynote speaker for the conference will once again be Jennifer Kolari, who always delivers an insightful, informative and engaging presentation. This time, she will share ways that we can help children deal with worry and anxiety.

Following her presentation, she will join a panel of experts, which include our Chief Psychologist, Dr. Soula Homatidis and Dr. Mila Buset in a Q & A discussion on “Creating a Culture of Wellness in our Schools.”

Registration for this Conference was open to all Catholic School Council Members, and I am pleased to report that we have 132 people registered to attend.

Mental Health Symposiums

YCDSB will host three “Be Empowered,” Mental Health Symposiums for students in early April. On April 3rd, we will host the Symposium for secondary school students, and on April 7th and 10th, we will host two similar symposiums for our elementary school students.

The Board’s Mental Health Steering Committee has been working on these events for the last several months. The goal of the event is to increase mental health literacy and promote healthy coping skills for our students. The keynote speaker for the secondary symposium will be Kendra Fisher and the keynote speaker for the elementary symposiums will be Sarah Westbrook. Students will have an opportunity to participate in two breakout sessions, and hear personal accounts from a youth who have experienced mental health challenges.

World Autism Day

Our Board will recognize **World Autism Awareness Day**, which will take place on April 2nd. Many of our schools will be **Raising the Flag for Autism** around April 2nd, to help mark this occasion. There is also a heartwarming story that was recently added to our Board website that I encourage you to read. The story is about the *Best Buddies Semi-Formal* that was held at St. Maximilian Kolbe, and featured students from six of our high schools who participate in the Best Buddies Program. The Best Buddies Program helps to connect students with intellectual and developmental disabilities with their peers at their school with the goal of promoting inclusion. We share several good news stories like this one on our Board's homepage, under "Spotlight on Schools," and I encourage you to browse through them when you have a chance.

Budget Development

The Board is in the process of developing the Budget for the 2017-2018 School Year. As in previous years, information on this process will be posted to our website. We also invite stakeholder consultation each year. This consultation takes place on two separate occasions, at our public board meetings. Please visit our website in the coming weeks for the dates for these consultations. Our Board of Trustees will be approving the final budget at a Special Meeting of the Board at the end of June.

Milestones for York Catholic

April, May and June will be wonderfully busy for our Board as we celebrate a number of milestone school anniversaries, and the Solemn School Blessing and Official Opening of Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School in Kleinburg.

- Bishop Kirkpatrick will officially bless our newest school, Pope Francis CES on Wednesday, April 19th. It will be a formal event with the entire school community, as well as local politicians and senior officials from the Board.
- On Thursday, April 6th San Lorenzo Ruiz CES will celebrate its 10th Anniversary.
- On Wednesday, May 3rd Christ the King CES will celebrate its 25th Anniversary.
- On Thursday, May 11th St. Clare CES will celebrate its 25th Anniversary.
- On Thursday, June 1st Light of Christ CES will celebrate its 25th Anniversary.
- And on, Thursday, June 8th St. Veronica will celebrate its 10th Anniversary.
- In addition, St. Joseph CES in Markham recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary last Tuesday, with a beautiful mass at St. Patrick's Parish, which was followed by an Open House at the school.
- And Father Michael McGivney celebrated its 25th Anniversary in December with a special mass at the school officiate by Cardinal Collins, and a luncheon.

On behalf of the York Catholic District School Board, I congratulate all of these school communities on these milestones, and for the many ways that they have become an integral part of their communities over the years. The legacy of Catholic Education is strong in York Region!

Catholic Education Week

During the first week of May, we will join Catholic school boards across the province in celebrating Catholic Education Week. This is always a beautiful and busy time for our schools communities as many special events and activities are held that showcase the great things that are happening in our schools.

The theme for Catholic Education Week this year is ***Walking Forward Together***. On Tuesday, May 2nd our York Catholic students will join with thousands of Catholic students across the province in simultaneous prayer that morning in celebrating Ontario Catholic Student Youth Day.

Catholic Education Week is also the time that our Board will announce our 2017 YCDSB Distinguished Alumni. The alumni selected are chosen because they are making valuable and unique contributions in their respective careers and communities, and they serve to inspire our current students. This February, we received nominations for 40 candidates through our online nomination process. From these candidates, 15 were shortlisted to be voted on, and six alumni will be selected and interviewed for this honour.

Closing

I would like to take this time to wish you and your families a very blessed Easter. I look forward to sharing with you some of the highlights from Holy Week at our next meeting.

Thank you.

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT/UPDATE

YCPIC Membership Renewal Forms

- Deadline – April 1, 2017 to Anna Lima.

Ministry of Education's PIC Symposium in Barrie

- Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Liberty North, 100 Caplan Avenue, Barrie.
- Two (2) parent members of our PIC are invited to attend along with five (5) parent members from school councils in our school board, for a total of seven (7) parent participants. PIC and school council team members are encouraged to represent the diversity of the district school board.
- If anyone is interested in attending or knows of parent members from school councils who can attend, let Donna know.
- Donna to send details of this symposium to all members via email post meeting via Anna Lima.

PRO Grant Applications for Schools for school year 2017/18

- Shared information on 2016/17 school year where we had 26 elementary schools who did not get PRO Grants & 3 secondary schools that did not get PRO Grants.
- Focus will be on helping these schools. We will share the information on these schools via email to all members so that we can reach out to these schools to see how we can help them write the PRO grant application before May 25th, 2017, for next school year 2017/18. Help can be received via Olga Ferro and our PRO Grant sub-committee members.
- Mr. de Souza to send details to all members via email post meeting via Anna Lima.
- Regional PRO Grant will be submitted for YCPIC/YCDSB by our sub-committee prior to deadline date of May 25th, 2017.

6.0 OAPCE'S REPORT

Mr. Lorini and Ms. Giardina provided an update on six symposiums being held across Ontario by OAPCE.

7.0 ACTION ITEM(S)

Approval of Terms of Reference was differed due to lack of quorum.

SEAC GUESTS

Chair welcomed and gave SEAC guests the opportunity to introduce and inform everyone what SEAC does.

8.0 14TH ANNUAL CSC CONFERENCE

Chair provided update on conference being held on April 1st Saturday at St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS in Richmond Hill. It was followed up with a discussion on which YCPIC members would be available to assist. Tasks and roles were assigned to members who confirmed attendance. All YCPIC members are requested to be present.

9.0 NEXT REGULAR YCPIC MEETING DATE – MONDAY JUNE 5, 2017

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

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: SAVERINO/JACKSON

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED