



YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE



Supporting Parent Engagement for Student Achievement

Monday, May 26, 2025
6:30 p.m.
Catholic Education Centre
Board Room (1st Floor)

Watch the YCPIC Meeting
STREAM
event on our YCDSB TV Channel:
<http://bit.ly/YCDSB-TV>

- | | | |
|--|--------------|---|
| 1. WELCOME / PRAYER / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT | M. Saverino | |
| 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA | M. Saverino | |
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| f) YCPIC Repository Update | J. Toma | |

11. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: Sept 22

Trustee Membership: E. Crowe

Heavenly Father,
We thank You for giving us the opportunity to be part of the lives of our students.
May they be mindful that their steps make an impact and their words carry power.
Bless this group as we come to You asking for guidance, wisdom and support.
We give thanks to our York Catholic community.
Bless and protect our families and pour out Your love on us all.
Amen

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are gathered on the ancestral lands and waters of all Indigenous Peoples,
who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us.
We respectfully acknowledge, those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now,
and future generations who have yet to walk upon it.
We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom
that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Martina Saverino, Chair
Jaclyn Toma, Vice-Chair
Christina Gillison, Treasurer
Robyn De Cicco, Secretary

3.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – January 20, 2025

YCPIC Chair Martina Saverino put forward to motion the approval of the previous meeting minutes from January 20th, 2025.

First: Christina Gillison
Seconded: Sarah Tjin-a-joe
MOTION CARRIED

4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES - NIL

5.0 DIRECTOR'S REPORT/UPDATE – John De Faveri

Director John De Faveri welcomed YCPIC Committee and thanked those in attendance and remarked as follows:

Reflection: *The Lenten Season prepares us for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, which is at the cornerstone of our faith. In the Catholic tradition, April is the Month of the Holy Eucharist. This is a special time for Catholics to reflect on the gift of Holy Communion, which is the source and summit of our faith. April is a fitting month to honour the Eucharist because it is when Jesus Christ celebrated the Last Supper, which created the sacrament. One of the many things that make Catholic Education unique is our focus on the Eucharist in our schools and workplaces. I am proud that every York Catholic District School Board (YCDSB) school and workplace has regular Eucharistic celebrations.*

Boardwide Lenten Mass - Thursday, March 27, 2025

We held our annual board wide Mass of Reconciliation and Renewal, that took place on Thursday, March 27, 2025. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Boissonneau with students participating from Sacred Heart CHS, Blessed Chiara Badano CES, St. Katharine Drexel CHS and Cardinal Carter CHS.

Black Heritage Month

Throughout the month of February, our schools organized an amazing number of events, liturgies, presentations and other learning opportunities for Black Heritage Month. Members of the Senior Team and Board of Trustees also participated in Black History Month events hosted by community partners throughout York Region. We also held the "Beyond the Horizon" as part of the 2025 Black Leadership Conference.

Budget Consultations

The Finance Department welcomes our community's feedback regarding the YCDSB's budget priorities for the 2025-26 fiscal year. Every year, as part of the budget process, we seek the input of our staff, students, families and community members. We encourage everyone to share their perspective, especially as we work toward eliminating our deficit as mandated by the Ministry of Education. More information is available on the YCDSB website. Submission to the [budget survey](#) closes on April 4, 2025.

ShareLife Week: April 7-11

The YCDSB is a proud supporter of ShareLife, which is the main charitable arm of the Archdiocese of Toronto. Last year, the YCDSB donated more money to ShareLife than any other School Board in the Archdiocese of Toronto and, this year, the artwork of St. Mary's Nobleton student, Madison, is being

used on the official ShareLife poster. During the week of April 7, 2025, every YCDSB school will participate in fundraising efforts to support ShareLife.

6.0 CHAIR'S REPORT/UPDATE – YCPIC Chair Martina Saverino

YCPIC Chair, Martina Saverino remarked as follows:

1. YCPIC Executive is busy organizing Parent Engagement events, most recently the Spring Social which took place March 22nd. There were 30 registered and 15 attended. Ideas regarding fundraising, parent engagement, and hot lunch were shared and brainstormed. The engagement during this social was well received and the feedback was very positive.
2. Upcoming events based on votes at a previous meeting:
 - o April 5th at 10:00am, presentation by Dr. Elena Merenda “Beyond the Worry: Raising Resilient Kids in an Anxious World”
 - o April 26th at 10:00-12:00, presentation by Tanisha Matthews “Raising Financially Savvy Families” 87 registered participants so far for this event
 - o May 10th, at 10:00-12:00, There is a free virtual presentation being offered by the CPA, “How to Teach Your Kid About Money”
 - o May 31st 2nd at 10:00-12:00 there is a 2nd mental health presentation being offered by Kinark (York Hills) “Dismantling Ableism and Celebrating Neurodiversity”

7.0 TREASURER'S REPORT – YCPIC Treasurer Christina Gillison

- After expenses paid and consideration of allocated funds there is approximately \$4,224 remaining
- Jaclyn Toma brought forward the idea to use some of the additional monies still available to buy books that were recommended to compliment Tanisha Matthews presentation (not her book) to complement the information and teachings from the presentation she will be doing. Book is called “Canadian Guide to Personal Finance” by Tony Martin
- cost \$20.00 and the recommendation was that we purchase one for each elementary school (total 85) or alternatively one for each of the folks that attend the session which stands at 87 registered currently.
 - o Approx. cost \$1800 (rounding to 90 total books)
 - o Questions: Use versus costs, what's the expectation of the school to use the book, share it with parents, what does that look like and who is responsible? This could be a challenge, and the book could end up damaged or on a shelf and forgotten and not certain this is the best use of funds.
- Martina motion to vote to determine how the YCPIC would like to spend the money, those in favour of giving a book to the event attendees or providing to the school?
 - o 10 YCPIC members voted in majority (10 hands raised) to give conference attendees one copy of the book versus giving one to each elementary school.

First: Christina Gillison

Second: Jacklyn Toma

MOTION CARRIED

8.0 PRESENTATIONS - NIL

9.0 ACTION ITEMS – NIL

10.0 DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS(S):

a) YCDSB Parent Portal Report Card Retrieval (Olufisayo Bolarinwa)

- a. The most recent distribution of report cards, that were sent electronically, posed some issues for some parents. There were challenges for parents trying to login, and that the portal isn't the most efficient or user friendly.
 - i. *Response from Director De Faveri:* he provided an update from IT and acknowledged that this is an ongoing issue and they are aware of it. IT is working with the platform to work out such glitches (i.e ... multiple children linked to one account causing issues as well) but until those kinks are solved – staff and IT department must manually manipulate it in the back end as a short-term solution. But he requests to continue to have parents bring forward issues via work order/ticket. For the time being they will continue to do some workarounds and are seeking long term solutions.
 - ii. *Question Martina Saverino:* ConnectEd only available when report cards are coming out but not available otherwise, in the future will parents be able to access report cards indefinitely – can the platform hold the data there, for parents to have access to and review at future dates? *Response Director De Faveri:* that is part of what they are looking at as they review the future of the platform/application.

b) YCDSB's Status with OAPCE (Robyn De Cicco)

- Robyn shared details around the mission and purpose of OAPCE and the value her and others in the YCDSB communities see in OAPCE (how it's a voice and advocated for parents, the parent engagement and information and resources it provides and especially the work they do in preserving catholic education in our board/schools. The questions brought forward were "What were the discussion and rationale that contributed to the Board's decision to opt out of being part of OAPCE for the 2024/2025 school year?" "Did the Board connect with OAPCE before making this decision to share their thoughts and potentially come up with a solution (assuming budget was the only consideration)?" "Will the Board revisit this for the coming school year and reconsider opting back in?"
- *Response Director De Faveri:* He has heard of similar feedback and concerns being brought forward and will take the considerations away to discuss with the Board further and get back to us. However, one of the considerations was budget cuts.
- *Comment Martina Saverino:* Concern previously from some YCPIC members was the breakdown of what the funds from the fee is used for
 - o *Response Robyn De Cicco:* OAPCE is a not-for-profit therefore their financials must be public and are posted on their website and can be viewed at any time.

- *Comment Sarah Tjin-a-joe:* advised being regional representative each region provides different parent engagement events that are included in the fee that was previously paid for by the board.

c) YCPIC Tool: *The Compass* (Jaclyn Toma)

- Repository of items shared at the winter and spring socials, a cloud source of collaborative resource that feeds into Google workbook. The Compass is simply a name created for the resource.
- A demonstration of how the YCPIC is collecting the information to be shared/stored was demonstrated. Currently there are 12 submissions.
- The idea of The Compass is to collect and share best practices, experiences, successful initiatives/events and strategies (working well/do differently) mainly for the following three CSC tasks:
 1. Fundraising
 2. Parent engagement
 3. Hot lunch
- *Response Associate Director Jennifer Sarna:* – Anytime you are collecting data or asking for information it must first go through the Research Advisory Committee. There are specific steps that must be taken before the board can support and endorse this
 - o advisory committee meets 4 times a year and has to be reviewed by them
 - o Next steps: Jennifer to advise YCPIC how to have this reviewed by the Advisory before moving it any further. They are in the process of revising this process/policy and she will send YCPIC (Jaclyn and Martina) next steps on what we need to do to proceed.
- *Question Martina:* We do not disseminate this tool yet – park for now until further notice?
 - o *Response Jennifer Sarna:* Advises to shut down the tool currently.
 - o *Comment Trustee Elizabeth Crowe:* Advised that Board, at best, could approve as draft then sent out for consultation – then consider suggestions and changes but the timeline is too tight thus it cannot be approved by next policy review meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Martina Saverino adjourned the meeting at 7:36 PM

First : Sun Rachel

Second: Karen Galeano

MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING: May 26, 2025 at 6:30pm

YCPIC

5/26/2024

2024-25 to date		Amount \$
Budget:		
Parent Engagement Board Amount	5,000	
Parent Engagement Per Pupil Amount:	8,316	
Total Budget:		13,316
Spend:		
Winter Social	464	
Spring Social	256	
Raising Financially Savy Families - Workshop	3,396	
Mental Health - Workshop	1,374	
Total Spend:		5,491
Budget less Spend:		7,825

* An estimated additional \$200 re custodial time is expected at the end of May.



York Catholic District School Board

M E M O

TO: York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee

FROM: Administration

DATE: May 26, 2025

Re: **2025-2026 YCPIC Meeting Dates**

Below is a list of the 2025-2026 meeting dates for the **York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (YCPIC)**.

All YCPIC meetings will be held at the Catholic Education Centre situated at 320 Bloomington Road West, Aurora starting at 6:30 pm. In-person and virtual attendance is available.

All YCPIC meetings will be livestreamed.

Watch the YCPIC Meeting STREAM
event on our YCDSB TV Channel:
<http://bit.ly/YCDSB-TV>

- **Monday, September 22, 2025**
- **Monday, November 24, 2025**
- **Monday, January 19, 2026**
- **Monday, March 23, 2026**
- **Monday, May 25, 2026**

Submitted By: John De Faveri, Director of Education, Foundation Chair and Secretary of the Board



YORK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

BOARD POLICY	
<i>Policy Section</i> Students/Admissions	<i>Policy Number</i> 220
<i>Former Policy #</i>	<i>Page</i> 1 of 5
<i>Original Approved Date</i>	<i>Subsequent Approval Dates</i>
September 1, 2009	November 23, 2010 October 2, 2012 May 26, 2015 June 18, 2019 November 26, 2019 March 6, 2024

POLICY TITLE: GRADUATION EXERCISES IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

SECTION A

1. PURPOSE

The York Catholic District School Board acknowledges that graduation exercises are an important recognition of a student's transition from elementary to secondary school, and upon leaving secondary school. Graduation exercises celebrate the human journey of each student. The student throughout his/her years in the Catholic school system has experienced an education that fosters learning as a lifelong spiritual and academic quest. This learning is defined not only in terms of knowledge and skills, but also in terms of values, attitudes, actions and faith experiences as these are core elements that distinguish us as an English Catholic school system.

2. OBJECTIVE

It is the policy of the York Catholic District School Board that Elementary and Secondary Graduations shall be acknowledged by appropriate exercises that celebrate our Faith, the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations, and recognize those partners who have contributed to this milestone in each student's life journey.

3. PARAMETERS

- 3.1 All Graduations shall reflect our distinctiveness as a Catholic school system.
- 3.2 All Graduation celebrations shall include a Mass with the graduates, their teachers, and where possible, their families.
- 3.3 All local Pastors shall be invited to participate in Elementary and Secondary school Graduations.
- 3.4 Graduation exercises shall respect:
 - 3.4.1 Protocols, as identified in the guidelines;
 - 3.4.2 The inclusion of a prayer or liturgical reflection;

- 3.4.3 Time constraints;
 - 3.4.4 Cost and financial stress on families to participate;
 - 3.4.5 Appropriate language and subject matter in speeches and addresses;
 - 3.4.6 That the event is for the students, therefore inclusion of guest speakers and presenters shall be kept to a minimum.
- 3.5 Schools may collect fees for graduation celebrations. Principals should take particular note to ensure that no family suffers undue hardship as a result of a graduation celebration.
- 3.6 The format of the graduation celebration must be vetted annually with the community, through the Catholic School Council to ensure that costs are reasonable.
- 3.7 The order of the graduation ceremony shall follow the greetings outline as indicated in the program guidelines.
- 3.8 The *York Catholic District School Board Faith Leadership Award* shall be conferred by a School Trustee (if present) on one female and one male graduating secondary school student who has demonstrated a commitment to the Religious Education program of the school and to the Board's vision as a recognized leader in Catholic education committed to inclusion, excellence and innovation that develops socially responsible global citizens.
- 3.9 Award presentations shall be carefully structured to ensure that:
- 3.9.1 The student receiving the award most closely embodies the intent of the award; and,
 - 3.9.2 The purpose and application of the award is clearly understood by the community;
- 3.10 The guest list for Graduation exercises should reflect a balance between the necessity of the guest's presence, their role at the event, and a respect for their personal time.
- 3.11 Special guests shall be acknowledged but not necessarily invited to address the audience or make presentations.
- 3.12 Secondary schools, shall hold Graduations in June of the graduating year and will inform their elementary feeder schools of the date as soon as possible, no later than December 31st of the prior year.
- 3.13 Elementary schools shall make every effort to hold Graduations no sooner than the Wednesday prior to the last week of school, and ensure that the Graduation is not held on the same night as the Secondary school graduation.
- 3.13.1 It is recommended that elementary school Graduations be held in the evening.
- 3.14 The number of awards in an Elementary School Graduation is expected to be proportionate to the number of graduates.
- 3.14.1 In circumstances in which more than half of the students are receiving an award, then all students are to be recognized.
- 3.15 Each school shall adhere to the parameters and guidelines of this policy when designing its Graduation ceremony that will be reflective of the community in which it is located and respectful of the traditions that have been established.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Board of Trustees

- 4.1.1 To bring greetings to the Graduates and to the assembly on behalf of the York Catholic District School Board.
- 4.1.2 To participate in the Graduation celebrations as requested by the organizing body.

4.2 Director of Education

- 4.2.1 To oversee compliance with the Graduation Exercises in Elementary and Secondary Schools policy and related guidelines.

4.3 Superintendents of Education

- 4.3.1 To support the implementation of the Graduation Exercises in Elementary and Secondary Schools policy and related guidelines.
- 4.3.2 To gather, review and authorize the graduation ceremony program prior to publication.

4.4 Schools (Administration and Staff)

- 4.4.1 To provide leadership in organizing Graduation exercises that honour the Catholic education which the graduates have received and acknowledge the individual success of each graduating student.
- 4.4.2 To ensure that procedures and protocols outlined in the Graduation Exercises in Elementary and Secondary Schools policy and related guidelines are strictly adhered to.

5. CROSS REFERENCES

YCDSB Policy 218 [Code of Conduct](#)

YCDSB Document Graduation Liturgies

Approval by Board	<u>March 6, 2024</u> Date
Effective Date	<u>March 7, 2024</u> Date
Revision Dates	<u>March 6, 2024</u> Date
Review Date	<u>March 2028</u> Date

POLICY TITLE: GRADUATION EXERCISES IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

SECTION B: GUIDELINES

It is the policy of the York Catholic District School Board that Elementary and Secondary Graduations shall be acknowledged by appropriate exercises that celebrate our Faith, the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations, and recognize those partners who have contributed to this milestone in each student's life journey.

The following guidelines are intended to support Policy 220 and provide a framework for Elementary and Secondary Graduation celebrations.

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 School traditions and community preferences need to be considered when planning the occasion; however, the complexity of the event must not place an undue burden on staff or families.
- 1.2 Graduation celebrations held off school property and/or after school hours shall be planned in consultation with administration, school staff and parents.
- 1.3 Staff members who **specifically supervise** a Graduation dinner and/or dance shall not incur the cost of the Graduation dinner and/or dance.
- 1.4 Valedictorian addresses shall be reviewed in advance by the Principal or designate to ensure appropriate language, content and style in order to respect the dignity of the occasion.
- 1.5 The following template shall be used for both Elementary and Secondary Graduation exercises. A form of printed program shall be prepared for families as a memento. A Graduation printed program shall include the following:
 - A page listing the names and titles of the School's Administration, the Chair of the Board, the Vice Chair of the Board, the local Trustee/s, the Director of Education, the Associate Director of Education and the school's Superintendent of Education: School Leadership (provided centrally on an annual basis)
 - The Board's Mission and Vision statements
 - A congratulatory message from the local Trustee/s (provided centrally on an annual basis)
 - A list of graduates
- 1.5.1 Graduation agendas, shall include in the following order:
 - Welcome
 - O Canada
 - Opening Prayer/Reflection (Pastor*, Chaplain or designate)
 - Land Acknowledgement
 - Introduction of Guests (Guests not presenting awards and VIPs only at this time)

- Greetings:
 - Chair of the Board/Local Trustee(s) (there shall only be one Trustee message delivered)
 - Director of Education (if present)
 - Superintendent of Education: School Leadership or designate
 - Catholic School Council Chair
 - Principal
 - Address to Graduates (Teacher/Guest Speaker) – (optional)
 - Conferral of Diplomas/ Certificates of Promotion
 - Elementary school students shall be presented with a standardized York Catholic District School Board Certificate of Promotion (Appendix 1).
 - Secondary school graduates shall be presented with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).
 - Students achieving Honour Roll status shall be recognized during the ceremony. The format of the recognition shall be at the Principal's discretion.
 - The school Principal shall confer all diplomas.
 - Others, such as Vice-Principal(s), Superintendent, Director or Trustee may be asked to accompany the Principal, with due consideration being given to limiting the number of persons on stage at any one time.
 - Awards – School and Community
 - All Trustees in attendance shall be asked to present an award;
 - Faith Leadership Awards shall be conferred by a School Trustee (if present);
 - The Trustee Micheal Carnovale Award is to be presented by a member of the Carnovale family (if able to attend) or a School Trustee (if present);
 - The Susan LaRosa "Learning for All" Award is to be presented by S. LaRosa (if able to attend) or the attending Superintendent of Education: School Leadership
 - Governor General's Award to be presented by Provincial or Federal Member of Parliament, if present or by the Director/ Superintendent;
 - Principal's award to be presented by Principal;
 - Curriculum awards to be presented by teachers;
 - No speeches/remarks by the presenter of the award beyond the description of the award; and,
 - Only where a person, organization or municipality has donated an award should they or their representative be invited to present the award and congratulate the student.
 - Valedictory Address (five to seven minutes' maximum)
 - Final Prayer/Blessing (Pastor* or Principal at the Elementary level; Pastor*, Chaplain or designate at the Secondary level)
 - Closing Remarks
- * If the Pastor of the local Parish is in attendance, he will be asked to lead **either** the Opening Prayer/Reflection **or** the Final Prayer/Blessing
 If more than one Pastor is in attendance, they will be asked to **share** in the lead of **either** the Opening Prayer/Reflection **or** the Final Prayer/Blessing

1.6 Procession/Recession – Secondary Schools

The order for the Graduates procession will be the Principal, followed by the Chair of the Board, Area Trustee/Trustees, Director of Education, Superintendent of Education, Vice-Principal, School Council Chair, Municipal dignitaries, i.e. Mayor, any other VIP's.



CERTIFICATE OF PROMOTION

The York Catholic District School Board congratulates

on the completion of the Catholic Elementary School Curriculum at

Date

Principal