

YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, November 2, 2015
7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Committee Members: Jeremy D'Souza, Januario de Souza, Mary Giardina, Meeta Kirkham, Yolanda Lobo, Marion Menezes, Emanuela Polin-De Luca, Donna Psaila, Maurizio Ruberto, Danny Scenna

Trustees: Teresa Ciaravella

Administration: Patricia Preston, Director of Education, Nancy Di Nardo, Superintendent of Education, Olga Ferro, Principal

Parent Guest: None

REGRETS:
Committee Members: Teresa Ambroz, Jimmy Au-Yeung, Diane Corsi, Ida Di Tacchio, Agatha Fallone Cretaro, Rosa Micieli, Diane Scaini, Maria Siciliano, Marisa Snider, Rosanna Soda, Jennifer Wigston

Trustees: Carol Cotton and Maria Marchese

Recording Secretary: Yolanda Lobo (filling in for Agatha Fallone Cretaro)

1. **PRAYER SERVICE**

November 2nd, was ***All Souls Day***; therefore, a Prayer service was held in the chapel and the celebrant was Fr. Felix Linatoc.

2. **WELCOME/PRAYER**

Chair de Souza, thanked everyone for being present and reminded everyone about the contents of the package, i.e. agenda, prayer and meeting minutes. And, a prayer was said by all.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA – NOVEMBER 2, 2015**

Motion by Menezes and seconded by de Souza

THAT the agenda of the YCPIC Meeting held on November 2, 2015, be approved.

MOTION CARRIED

4. **APPROVAL OF UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING – OCTOBER 5, 2015**

Motion by Ruberto and seconded by Polin-De Luca

THAT the unapproved minutes of meeting of October 5, 2015, be approved.

All in favor and unapproved minutes of meeting minutes approved.

MOTION CARRIED

5. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT/UPDATE**

Good evening everyone. Last week, we lost a wonderful member of our YCDSB family – our Chief Psychologist, Dr. Schrine Persad, passed away after a brief illness. I ask that you please keep the family and friends of Dr. Schrine Persad in your prayers. Schrine worked closely with YCPIC's former president, Paula Bandi on the Board's Mental Health Steering Committee. Schrine was a passionate advocate for our students and their families and a brilliant leader of our Mental Health Initiative. Schrine was a very spiritual person who considered her work at York Catholic a vocation and a blessing. She took immense pride in our Board and was an ambassador for us in the province. She leaves a legacy of love, care, compassion and a great example of how one person can make a difference.

New Chairs and Vice-Chairs Orientation

I would like to thank our YCPIC executive and committee members for hosting the New Chairs and Vice-Chairs workshop at St. Theresa of Lisieux last week. I hear the evening was a great success with approximately 50 participants. Thank you for your mentorship and dedication. This was a great opportunity for new chairs and vice-chairs to learn about their roles and best practices – and I am sure they will be bringing back fresh ideas to share with their school councils.

YCPIC Conference

Plans for this year's **13th annual Catholic School Council Conference** are well underway. We have shared the Conference Flyer with all School Principals and have asked them to share the information with their school councils. We have 30 registrants to date. We have posted the information to our school website as well as twitter.

As you know the conference will take place at St Joan of Arc CHS, on Saturday, November 21st. The event will feature Keynote Speaker Dr. Kenneth Fung. He is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto and a Staff Psychiatrist & Clinical Director at Toronto Western Hospital. The theme for this year's conference is *Raising Healthy and Resilient Children and Youth*. We are looking forward to a great turnout.

TAMI Summit

The York Region Talking about Addiction and Mental Illness Coalition will host its **9th annual TAMI Summit** on November 12th, here at the Catholic Education Centre from 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Participants will learn how to organize activities in their respective high schools and communities to eliminate stigma and discrimination around mental

illness and addictions. We look forward to welcoming over 200 secondary students from our board and the York Region District School Board for this event.

Secondary School Open Houses

Secondary school open houses began in October and will continue throughout November and December. Grade 8 students who are entering high school next year are invited to attend with their families. Students and their families will have the opportunity to tour schools facilities and learn about the various high school programs and options available to them. We wish all of our secondary schools much success with their Open Houses.

French Immersion Open Houses

As you know, our Board continues to expand its French Immersion Program. We now have 15 elementary schools offering the program beginning in Grade 1. Information nights are being held throughout November and December. A list of dates is available on the French Immersion section of our website. Other important dates and details to note: Online applications open the day following each school's parent information night:

February 3, 2016

Online application closes:

February 11, 2016

If required, lottery will be held at each of the French Immersion sites at 5 pm. Parents are welcome to be present:

February 16 - 19, 2016

Parents will begin to be notified on status of application:

February 26, 2016

Acceptance deadline: successful applicants are required to formally register by February 26, 2016 in order to hold placement.

OSSLT Results

EQAO published its secondary school results recently, and we are very pleased to announce that 89 percent of our students, who are enrolled in Grade 9 Academic Math, achieved the provincial standard. This is an increase from last year, where we were at 86 percent. Math instruction continues to be a focus for our board, and it is wonderful to see improvement in our scores. Further details about the 2015 EQAO results, as well as individual school results, are available on the Board website.

6. CHAIR'S UPDATE/REPORT

Chair de Souza thanked Fr. Felix for the service prior to the meeting in the Chapel on *All Souls Day*.

2015 Orientation Workshop for Newly Elected CSC Chair/Co-Chairs/Secretary

- Workshop for Catholic School Council Chair/Co-Chairs/Secretary was held on Wednesday October 22, 2014, at St. Theresa of Lisieux Catholic High School in Richmond Hill.
- More than 50 parents from 25 schools in our board took advantage of the workshop. Every year it improves with more attendance.

- 82 schools did not have any CSC members attending, and we need to target these schools by offering the workshop either in the morning, or on a non-Tuesday.
- Great work by Anna & her team at the board for getting the workshop organized with the high school and all the work that goes behind the scenes. Also, to Olga Ferro for being there to help us and for all the YCPIC members who could come and could not come for their excellent support.

13th Annual Catholic School Council Conference

- Conference theme - ***Raising Healthy and Resilient Children and Youth.***
- Keynote Speaker and agenda shared.
- Location: St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School.
- Date & Time: Saturday November 21, 2015 - 8:15 a.m. to 12 noon.
- Encouraged members to get CSC members to register.
- 30 registrations as of 12 noon today.
- Feedback form shared with those present and feedback received.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Scenna reported that there were no changes to the financial report.

8. OAPCE'S REPORT

- Adding more funding for special needs.
- The Ministry requires OAPCE to write a paper on suggestions as to where the province should spend their money.
- OAPCE Conference dates are May 6 and 7, 2016, and will be held in Toronto.
- Program will consist of all-day conference/workshops. Networking on Friday and the main conference on Saturday with keynote speakers etc.
- OAPCE is looking for a replacement for Christine Melick's Director Position. If anyone is interested they can contact Maurizio.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

Monday January 18, 2016.

10. ADJORNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.