

YORK CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
Monday, November 7, 2016
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

PRESENT:

Committee Member(s): Jimmy Au-Yeung, Sonja Da Silva, Januario de Souza, Patrizia Faraone, Meeta Kirkham, Menaka Kulendran, Tony Lorini, Marion Menezes, Sabrina Onorati, Emanuela Polin-De Luca, Donna Psaila, Brenda Psihalos, Maurizio Ruberto, Deven Sandhu, Martina Saverino

Trustee(s): Carol Cotton, Chair of the Board

Administration: Nancy Di Nardo, Superintendent of Education

Parent Guest(s): Nil

Other Guest(s): H. McAvoy, Manager, ShareLife
P. Ritchie, General Commissioner, FNE and team

REGRETS:

Committee Members: Agatha Fallone Cretaro, Mary Giardina, Johnson Irimpan, Meghan Jackson, Maria Komljanec, Nancy Rigato, Andrew Santos, Rosanna Soda, Karen Sortino

Administration: Patricia Preston, Director of Education, Olga Ferro, Principal

Trustee(s); Dino Giuliani, Theresa McNicol

Recording Secretary: Januario de Souza

1.0 WELCOME/PRAYER

Chair Donna Psaila welcomed and thanked everyone for being present. The prayer included in our handouts was said by all after giving members an opportunity to include personal intentions.

2.0 PRESENTATIONS

2.01 ***Federation of North American Explorers - FNE*** - P. Ritchie and his team. Presentation was followed by questions and answer session & information packages were handed out.

2.02 ***ShareLife*** - H. McAvoy
Presentation on Catholic response to the poor.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – NOVEMBER 7, 2016

Motion: Menezes/Ruberto

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

4.0 APPROVAL OF UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING – SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

Unapproved Minutes of Meeting for September 26, 2016, were reviewed by all and one change below was requested:

- Correction of Brenda Psihalos' last name.

Motion: Au-Yeung/Menezes

THAT the Unapproved Minutes of Meeting of September 26, 2016, be approved with the change noted.

MOTION CARRIED

5.0 CHAIR'S REPORT

- The two Connected Parenting Forums and shared feedback from survey results.
- This was followed by Questions and Answers.
- Workshop held at St. Theresa of Lisieux CHS for Chairs, Co-Chairs and Secretaries was attended by 40 plus parents.

6.0 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Nancy Di Nardo, Superintendent of Education: School Leaderships provided the Director's report.

Good evening everyone.

The last time we met was in September. We just started the school year and now here we are less than 50 days away from Christmas! Where did the time go? I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends last month.

So much has been going on in our schools and across the Board since we started the 2016/2017 school year. The last few months have been very busy and I am pleased to once again have this opportunity to share an update with you on some of the things that have been happening at our Board so far this fall.

YCPIC Conference

As many of you already know, YCPIC once again hosted two very successful parent conferences in October. Thanks to Ministry Funding via the Pro Grant, the Committee invited Child and Family Therapist Jennifer Kolari to deliver an excellent presentation on Connected Parenting. The workshops were held at Father Bressani and Sacred Heart, and over 250 parents attended each conference. This was our biggest crowd to date!

I extend my thanks to the YCPIC executive for their coordination of this event and to Trustees Anne Stong and Theresa McNicol for attending the conferences, as well

Associate Director Frances Bagley and Superintendents of Education Nancy Di Nardo, Opiyo Oloya, Ron Crocco and Marianne Fedrigoni, who were also in attendance.

YCPIC - CSC Orientation

I also want congratulate everyone who was involved in organizing the YCPIC Orientation evening on November 1st for the new CSC Chairs, Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs and secretaries at St. Theresa of Lisieux Catholic High School. Over 40 people attended.

Secondary School Open Houses

All of our secondary schools are hosting Open Houses this fall for grade 8 students entering high school next September. Students and their families will have the opportunity to tour school 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.

Faith Day

*October 28th was Faith Day for our Board. Our schools participated in Eucharistic celebrations, charitable activities, and reflected on the theme, **Walking Forward Together**, which is the theme for this year's Catholic Education Week. These activities focused on renewing and strengthening our faith which enhances our ability to model our Catholic beliefs and Gospel values and also nurture the faith development of our students.*

York Region Pastoral Zone Meeting

On November 2nd we welcomed Bishop Wayne Kirkpatrick and our area parish priests for the annual York Region Pastoral Zone Meeting. The role of our parishes in the Catholic education system is vital. The cooperative partnership between the school, home and church form the bedrock of our unique education system.

Members of our Senior Administrative staff and Trustees also attended this yearly gathering. This meeting is an opportunity to reinforce our collective commitment to develop the whole child in mind, body and spirit and to prepare young people to embrace what Pope Francis calls "the fullness of life" with Christ at the centre.

Leadership Links Student Conference

Also on November 2nd, we held our Leadership Links conference at Jean Vanier. The theme of this year's conference was "Walking Forward Together" the same theme for our staff Faith Day. The annual conference brought together our young and promising student leaders from the board's elementary schools with our high school student leaders who lead them through workshops and team building activities.

Take Your Kids to Work Day

November 2nd was a very busy day for our Board. It was also "Take our Kids to Work Day." Our curriculum department organized a great day filled with new learning and experiences for the children of our staff at the CEC. Presentations included: a Resume Writing Workshop, Interview Skills Workshop, Future Careers in York Region Workshop and a 21st Century Learning Activity.

St Teresa of Calcutta

On November 3rd, I attended a special presentation in celebration of St. Teresa of Calcutta at Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School. The presentation featured keynote speaker Father Carlos Martins, Chaplain of York University. The school produced a wonderful video featuring staff and students sharing their thoughts about Mother Teresa and her work. We will be posting the video on our website in the coming days.

Markham African Caribbean Canadian Association Awards

On November 12th, the Markham African Canadian Caribbean Association will be holding its 29th Annual Scholarship Awards Dinner and Ball. This event recognizes the achievements of outstanding young leaders at the secondary level and 11 York Catholic students will be among the recipients. Congratulations in advance to our recipients.

Fundraisers

Recently, our Board partnered with the Archdiocese of Toronto to raise money for people affected by the catastrophic earthquake that took place in Italy last August. Our school communities raised \$22,000 which will be channeled through the Vatican Relief Agency, Caritas Italy.

We are now working to raise money for people affected by recent hurricanes in Haiti. In addition to this, our schools are also running various fundraisers on behalf of ShareLife.

Long Term Accommodation Plan Update

Over the last few months, we have made progress on our Long Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) to address declining enrolment in school communities.

Our Vaughan-Thornhill and South Woodbridge East PARs have recently concluded, and we are now working on two new PARs in Maple and South Markham. You can learn more about these reviews as well as details about changes to the affected school communities by visiting the Pupil Accommodation Review section of our Board's website.

OCSTA Annual General Meeting

Our board is co-hosting the OCSTA AGM April 27-29. We are now in the planning process to outline our duties as co-host which will include planning and executing the liturgical celebrations, silent auction and preparing communication materials. We will also be looking at a way to combine the closing mass for the Ontario Catholic Student Leadership Conference and the OCSTA AGM, which take place on the same days.

Closing

Since our next YCPIC meeting is not until January 16th, 2017, I might as well take this opportunity to wish you all Merry Christmas and a Blessed and Happy New Year!

Thank you, once again, for your participation today, and for all of the work you do with our school communities throughout the year.

Q&A

During a question and answer session, Patrizia Faraone shared that two high schools (Fr. Bressani and St. Jean de Brebeuf) were having open houses on the same day this year which does not work well for parents.

7.0 TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Maurizio Ruberto had no financial updates to provide.

8.0 OAPCE'S REPORT

Maurizio Ruberto who is also President of OAPCE provided an update on OAPCE activities and would like us to elect a second director from YCPIC to represent YCDSB at our next YCPIC meeting in January for the position vacated by Maurizio when he was elected President. Mary Giardina from YCPIC is one of our OAPCE directors.

The following action item was proposed:

Maurizio will send an email to all members prior to next meeting giving an overview of the role. If YCPIC members are interested in submitting their nominations they will then let the chair of YCPIC know prior to our next meeting.

9.0 DISCUSSION

Shared Workspace

Secretary Jan de Souza explained the purpose of the Shared workspace.

The following action item was proposed:

Jan de Souza will send an email to all YCPIC parent members prior to next meeting requesting input on the three options proposed. If YCPIC members need further clarifications we can look at having a presentation at our next meeting.

Engagement Paper

Since Minister of Education is requesting local school councils and parents in our communities to share ideas and provide feedback by January 15, 2017, at:
www.ontario.ca/studentwellbeing.

The following action items were proposed:

1. Nancy Di Nardo: Will request Anna Lima to send the Minister of Education's letter and Engagement Paper to CSC Chairs.
2. Nancy Di Nardo: Will request Sonia Gallo to send the Minister of Education's letter and Engagement Paper to Principals so it gets to the local parents in each school.

10.0 SUB COMMITTEES – WORKING PERIOD

This session could not be held. We will plan a session for February 2017. Date will be communicated at next meeting.

11.0 NEXT MEETING DATE – MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2017

Chair Donna Psaila thanked all present and reminded all that the date for next meeting is after Christmas and New Year.

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Faraone/Ruberto

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

MOTION CARRIED