



York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
Monday, September 22, 2025, CEC Board Room (1st Floor)
6:30 pm
MINUTES

A meeting of the York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (YCPIC) was held at the Catholic Education Centre commencing at 6:35 p.m. on Monday, September 22, 2025.

PRESENT:

Committee Member(s): **In Person:** Olufisayo Bolarinwa, Robyn De Cicco,
Christina Gillison, Maria Praveen, Martina Saverino,
Jaclyn Toma
 Virtual: Ashley Fruci, Karen Galeano, Binu S. George,
Sahir Jamal, Genevieve Simnett, Nicole Young,
Yan Zhou

Administration: **In Person:** John De Faveri, Jennifer Sarna, Dishni Kiriella
 Virtual: Helena DiPanfilo

Trustee(s): **In Person:** Elizabeth Crowe
 Virtual: N/A

Guest(s): **Staff:** N/A
 Trustee: Maria Iafrate, Angela Saggese

Recording Secretary: Robyn De Cicco

REGRETS:

Committee Member(s): Josie Belluomini, Leilani Cabral, Melena Carrassi, Samantha Ferazzoli,
Rina George-Alexander, Eby Ijeh, Marcos Paulino, Rachel Sun,
Sarah Tjin-a-joe, Florence Wang

Administration(s): N/A

Trustee(s): N/A

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Martina Saverino called the meeting to order at 6:35p.m.

1.0 WELCOME / PRAYER / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Martina Saverino

YCPIC Chair Martina Saverino welcomed everyone and thanked Trustees for attending. Martina asked for intentions and led the opening prayer followed by the Land Acknowledgement.

2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Martina Saverino

Motion: Christina Gillison

Seconded: Maria Praveen

MOTION CARRIED

3.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: May 26, 2025 – Martina Saverino

Motioned: Olufisayo Bolarinwa

Second: Binu George

MOTION CARRIED

4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES - NIL

5.0 DIRECTOR'S REPORT/UPDATE – John De Faveri

5.1 Welcome Back YCPIC

We hope you had a wonderful summer! The first few weeks of school have been very busy and full of energy as we've kicked off another exciting year of learning and growth.

5.2 Class Reorganization

There is always the challenge of not knowing how many students will show up on the first day of school. If you are one of those schools where numbers have fluctuated, please be prepared as there may be a need for some class reorganization.

5.3 Continuing Education

Thank you to all the students, parents and staff who made summer school a success this July. Roughly 19,000 elementary and secondary students participated in summer school programming. Information about the 25-26 elementary and secondary offerings can be found on our board's website.

5.4 ShareLife School Fundraising Update

YCDSB raised over \$132,000 for ShareLife during the 2024-25 school year. We remain the only school board in the Archdiocese of Toronto with every school participating in ShareLife fundraising, and we are still the top fundraising school board for this vital cause. Thank you to all the parents for supporting this great cause.

5.5 Top Scholars

In July, we released our 2025 Top Scholars, and I was overwhelmed by the incredible achievements of our YCDSB graduating students. Seven of our students graduated with a 100 per cent average, and seven more earned a 99 per cent average. Top Scholars are the students who graduated with the highest average in their secondary school based on their best six Grade 12 courses. A list of the Top Scholars can be found on our website.

5.6 Curriculum Night / Open Houses

Thank you to all the parents who attended our school's Curriculum Night and Open Houses. These events are a wonderful opportunity for families to hear about the exciting learning happening in our classrooms and to connect with our dedicated staff. The energy and engagement made the evenings a lively and inspiring hub of activity!

5.7 Faith Day

All staff will be celebrating Faith Day on Friday, September 26, 2025 for half a day. During the other half of the day, all staff will complete Human Resources modules focused on protecting our students and serving our community.

5.8 Thank You

Thank you to the YCPIC members who have joined us for one year. This evening marks the close of the 2024–2025 school year, and we want to express our sincere appreciation for your commitment and dedication. Your support of our school administrators and staff has made a meaningful difference. Working together always benefits our students, and we're grateful for your partnership.

5.9 YCPIC Applications

*The YCPIC application will be shared with school principals, who will distribute them to their respective Catholic School Councils. Applications must be submitted by **October 7, 2025**. Once received, the selection process will ensure parent representation from each geographical area. As well, we will be seeking two Community Members and information will be posted on our website.*

6.0 CHAIR'S REPORT/UPDATE – NIL

7.0 TREASURER'S REPORT – Christina Gillison

- A copy of the latest Treasurer's Report was provided in the agenda.
- Current YCPIC Funds \$13,316.00
 - Parent Engagement Board Amount \$5,000.00
 - Parent Engagement Per Pupil Amount \$8,316.00

8.0 PRESENTATIONS:

- a) Human Rights & Equity Office - Amanda Driscoll
- New Human Rights & Equity Advisor who is an arms length role in the board and sits as a member of the Senior team and ensures human rights are embedded in all their systems.
 - Oversees and manages all human rights complaints and elevations
 - Human Rights & Equity Advisor Liaison was created as a resource and voice for the schools and will continue this project going forward and work with staff development
 - Focus this year to develop training of understanding policy and procedures as they are under the human rights code and work on resolutions
 - High level review of complaint process which can be found on the board website.

Question: "What is an example of a Human Rights violation?"

Answer: Amanda Driscoll - Common issue across Ontario is disability and accommodation. For instance, accessible washrooms.

Question: "Many children would not self advocate, so how do we go about mitigating where child goes to parents; can parents help, or does it have to be child bringing forth the complaint?"

Answer: Amanda Driscoll - No especially for younger children it would be parent, and we would be speaking to parents either way

Question: "How do parents have knowledge of this?"

Answer: Amanda Driscoll - There should have been past communications, and we will do communication outreach, so community is aware

Question: "If there is a complaint who should they speak to, teacher, principal or depending on the circumstance would they may go to the Superintendent next or Human Rights & Equity Advisor directly?"

Answer: Amanda Driscoll – We prefer to resolve informally, if possible, first. Depending on the circumstance we may have to elevate it more formally. So, if it can be resolved at the school (Teacher/Principal level directly) first then that's the direction we would go.

Question: "How many complaints in a year?"

Answer: Amanda Driscoll - 63 in 2024/2025 and complaints may not only come from students and parents it may also include the staff.

Question: "Will the communication going to family be detailed and explain who they are and what they do?"

Answer: Amanda Driscoll- There is a multistage communication plan for the community that they are working on and phasing out

- b) Religious Education at YCDSB (15min) – David Pimentel

- Shared some ways the Religious and Family Life department supports students, staff and parents as York Catholic.
- Reiterated the Bishop's words that "God has gifted you with children and you are their first and most important educators..."

- Shared GIFGIC (Growing in Faith Growing in Christ) resources for grades K-8 that are in use both in print and digital form.
- Religious and Family Life Education at York Catholic: Family Life Program
 - i. Fully Alive and Blessed & Beloved are the two Bishop approved Family Life education programs used in the YCDSB.
 - ii. These programs aim to support parents and do not replace their role as primary educators when it comes to teaching about human growth and development in a Catholic Faith context.
 - iii. Teacher provides parents informational letters in advance, so parents are aware of what is being taught.
 - iv. Fully Alive will gradually be replaced by Blessed and Beloved, for now however, only grades 1-3 are moving to the new program.
- Introduction of "Faith on the Fridge" which is a take-home page that shows parents what children learned and how to continue the learning at home.
- REAC (Religious Education, Family Life & Adult Faith) is an advisory committee with a broad range of representation of roles from YCDSB, including Bishop Boissonneau, as well as parents, parish members, Trustees and school administrators, chaplaincy team members, religion teachers and teachers from other elementary school divisions.
- Shared special events that the schools celebrate, including milestone anniversaries during Catholic Education Week.
- Ordinandi Youth Event – great way for young people to learn about vocations and connect with peers across the GTA.
- "Pilgrims of Hope Bulletin" a resource that is for teachers, families, and parishes that can help reflect and celebrate the catholic faith all year long. It provides special prayers, event ideas, and additional resources. You can download monthly bulletins off the OCSTA website.
- YCDSB continues to support ShareLife, the official charitable arm of the Archdiocese of Toronto (raising funds to support more than 40 Catholic agencies and grant recipients). YCDSB reached 100% participation and raised the most amount of money among all the boards across the Archdioceses of Toronto.

9.0 ACTION ITEMS – NIL

10.0 DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS(S):

a) CSC Connect Hub – Jaclyn Toma

The CSC Connect Hub is a repository of CSC fundraising, parent engagement and hot lunch ideas. YCPIC needs to determine how to share this with the school councils.

- One suggestion was to have the YCPIC reps send to the CSC Chair and present in CSC meetings. The challenge there is that not all councils have a YCPIC Member. It is recommended to share with all the principals to cascade to their CSC as well.
- Trustee lafrate inquired about sharing the YCPIC Agenda to the schools as well to increase awareness of the YCPIC. John De Faveri recommends that Principals remind their school communities that YCPIC live stream their meetings.
- Jaclyn Toma agreed to draft something YCPIC can send to their councils. Martina Saverino reminded us that we shouldn't send mass emails to all schools so be mindful of that when sharing communications.
- Christina Gillison requested that there be an inquiry to determine if YCPIC is able to send an email reminder, once all CSC details have been collected, send a reminder to the Chair and Co-Chairs.
- Jaclyn Toma also suggested we share the CSC Connect Hub and YCPIC meetings at the CSC Orientation sessions and the social meetings.

b) 2024-2025 YCPIC Annual Report – Martina Saverino

Noted that there is a correction on the 2nd last paragraph, as it should also thank Trustee Maria lafrate. Martina thanked those for their YCPIC support this year and for those not returning thank you for participation.

c) October 15th CSC Orientation – Martina Saverino

Virtual Meeting to be held October 15th

- Encourage all YCPIC members to attend.
- Communication will be shared with all schools via flyer being sent to the Principals.
- Recommended that all CSC executive members attend regardless of how long they have been in their roles as it is a benefit as policies and procedures are changing.
- Suggested that all CSC members sign up so that they may stay informed and receive important updates, handouts and links going forward.

d) October 18th YCPIC Fall Social – Martina Saverino

Early fall Social this year so that CSC may benefit from idea sharing and conversation. Each YCPIC member was asked to attend and spread the word with their school community and neighbouring schools as well.

In closing, YCPIC Chair Martina Saverino, thanked those YCPIC members who completed one term and wished them all the best.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

First: Robyn De Cicco

Second: Nicole Young

MOTION CARRIED

NEXT MEETING: November 24th, 2025 at 6:30pm