



**York Catholic Parent Involvement Committee**  
**Monday, January 20, 2025, CEC Board Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)**  
**6:30 pm**  
**MINUTES**

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**PRESENT:**

**Committee Member(s)**

**In Person:** Olufisayo Bolarinwa, Robyn De Cicco, Christina Gillison, Martina Saverino, Sarah Tjin-a-joe, Jaclyn Toma  
**Virtual:** Leilani Cabral, Ashley Fruci, Karen Galeano, Binu S. George, Ebay Ijeh, Marcos Paulino, Rachel Sun, Nicole Young, Yan Zhou

**Administration**

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

**Trustee(s)**

**In Person:** Maria Iafrate  
**Virtual:** N/A

**Guest(s):**

**Staff:** Tim Laliberte, Superintendent of Education  
**Trustee:** Angela Saggese

**Recording Secretary:** Robyn De Cicco

**REGRETS**

**Committee Member(s)** Josie Belluomini, Melena Carrassi, Samantha Ferazzoli, Rina George-Alexander, Sahir Jamal, Maria Praveen, Genevieve Simnett, Florence Wang

**Administration(s)** Dishni Kiriella  
**Trustee(s)** Elizabeth Crowe

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**1.0 WELCOME / PRAYER / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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

**2.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion: Chair Martina Saverino put forward the motion to approve the agenda.

First: Maria Praveen

Seconded: Marcos Paulino

**MOTION CARRIED**

**3.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – November 25, 2024**

Chair Martina Saverino put forward the motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from November 25, 2024.

First: Christina Gillison

Seconded: Olufisayo Bolarinwa

**MOTION CARRIED**

**4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES: N/A**

**5.0 DIRECTOR'S REPORT/UPDATE**

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

*Advent Season*

This past December, the elementary and secondary schools embraced the spirit of Advent through food drives, clothing drives and other meaningful activities. The Director commented on how they shared the gospel message in ways that brought light and hope and hope to many and thanked the staff, students and parents of the board for making the season so special within the Catholic schools.

*A Blessed Invitation: Consistory Rome*

In December the Director, alongside four Catholic Trustees represented our Board and attended the Consistory in Rome. Where 21 Bishops, including Rev. Frank Leo, Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto, were elevated to the College of Cardinals. Expenses for this trip were paid out of pocket by the attendees and not by the Board.

*Frost and Fire Games: Celebrating Indigenous Heritage*

Frost and Fire Games will return this year with two planned events. One already took place at Our Lady of the Lake CA in Keswick and the second one will be hosted by St. Brother Andre CHS in Markham on March 3, 2025.

*Exiting X (Formerly Twitter)*

In December 2024, the York Catholic DSB decided to exit the X platform to ensure we are living our faith and protect our students. Due to a change in X's change in "Adult Content Policy," effective January 1, 2025 the York Catholic District School Board will no longer monitor or post on its existing X account. Likewise, all schools, clubs, and departments will cease posting on X.

*Employment Equity Audit Presentation*

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 the York Catholic DSB hosted an Employment Equity Audit presentation led by Turner Consulting to 800 staff members online. Presentation provided findings and insight from an audit conducted Spring of 2024. This bettered the understanding of the workforce and workplace culture and how they can better support equity and inclusion.

*End of Semester One*

Director extended best wishes to YCDSB secondary students in preparing for their upcoming exams and thanked the staff for their continued teaching efforts and shaping young minds. The Director noted that elementary report cards will soon be issued and thanked teachers and administrators, who work tirelessly to ensure the success and growth of students.

In closing, the Director thanked everyone for their continued support and partnership. Reiterated that family, school and church communities, together build a vibrant, inclusive and faith-filled community that prioritizes the well-being and success of every student. Director De Faveri expressed wishes that 2025 bring everyone new opportunities to grow in faith, learning and community.

## **6.0 CHAIR'S REPORT/UPDATE – Chair Saverino**

### *Housekeeping*

Chair Saverino asked those attending virtually to please ensure to use the “hand raised” action and wait to be called upon before speaking.

Chair Saverino requested that presentations/presenters be mindful of approved time allotted.

Chair Saverino also reminded of the importance of RSVP to the YCPIC meeting invitation so that we can confirm if quorum will be achieved.

### *CSC (Catholic School Council) Workshop*

Workshop to take place, virtually, Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025. We have 88 registered and just shy of that in attendance. This workshop was to support and provide aid and training to CSC Executives (Chair, Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer).

### *Winter Social*

Reminder of Winter Social on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, taking place from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

## **7.0 TREASURER'S REPORT – Christina Gillison**

Current account balance \$13,316.00 and no transactions to report.

## **8.0 Presentations – Anti-Human Trafficking (6:45-7:45) – T. Laliberte**

Increased concerns about human trafficking and child exploitation. York Region is one of the highest human trafficking areas due to highway access. Invited to present at the YCPIC meeting was the current human trafficking unit from YRP who has presented at 3 high schools so far. The information was well received. Due to a last minute emergency the presenter from YRP couldn't attend the meeting this evening therefore T. Laliberte spoke high-levelly about the presentations that were open to all parents and students. There was a QR code at the end of the sessions to collect data and provide feedback. Notable feedback that was obtained from the QR code responses is that students are looking for sessions in school, during school hours. The Board is looking at adding other presentations at night and in other areas. T. Laliberte would like to reschedule the presentation with the YCPIC. Chair Saverino asked if the presentations were being recorded? Response: not recorded due to potentially being triggering and traumatizing to the audience; during the live presentations there is a council/therapist on site to support possible reactions or experiences. Parents are asking for these presentations to be brought back to grades 7 and 8, which is still in conversations with the Board equity representative and human rights advisor. We need to determine what that would look like, but for now the night time presentations parents can decide to bring their children. They are currently not looking at

bringing them back into the schools as there are concerns around support for those who may be triggered or experience trauma.

## 9.0 Action Items

NIL

## 10.0 DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS(S):

- a) Review of YCPIC Code of Ethics – Chair Saverino: Reminder to everyone that we have a code of ethics and that the expectation is that we review the code of ethics and bylaws in their entirety to ensure we are following the behaviours and procedures properly.
- b) School Absence Messenger Dropdown-Chair Saverino: Two options provided for review and vote for the amended messenger absence selections (refer to page 11 in the meeting agenda). Recommend that absence selections come with hover texts to provide an explanation/clarity for parents when choosing a reason for child's absence. There were two options presented; one providing illness specifics including respiratory and stomach and the other providing a more generic option for illness where it is all encompassing. Chair Saverino suggested we put a vote on the amended messenger so that once we have confirmation of what we are mandated to provide to York Public Health as well as confirmation from Scott Morrow in IT (John De Faveri stated he would take away this task) we can move forward with implementation of the amendments. YCPIC voted in favour to implement the amendment presented and John De Faveri and Jennifer Sarna committed to taking on the task.

**Motion: Marcos Paulino**

**Seconded: Binu S. George**

**MOTION CARRIED**

- c) Vote for YCPIC Conference Topics – Chair Saverino: Topic Ideas listed on page 12 of the Meeting Agenda. Each YCPIC Member was to vote for one topic. There was a tie between two topics, which included *Mental Health in Our Children* and *Financial Literacy for Families*. It was suggested that since we have the funds available that we offer a conference for each respective topic.

**Motion: Chistina Gillison**

**Seconded: Nicole Young**

**MOTION CARRIED**

- d) School Social Media Accounts (Run By Non-Admin) – Chair Saverino: Martina led by presenting to Trustees that schools are having social media accounts affiliated with the school run by non school employees. The ask was for clarification on the legality and policy on who is permitted to run these accounts and are we going to crack down on those in violation? Jennifer Sarna responded by advising that there is a policy review February 3, 2025 and the final revision for social media account policies will take place. Currently, there are processes in place that must be taken, and approval must be granted by the Ministry for non-administration to run school social media accounts. If there are current concerns, then these need to be addressed with the Principal or

Superintendent. Community based socials reference the school and not claiming affiliation to the school or are not using school name as well as are not posting malicious or slanderous content these are not necessarily in violation however can be brought forward for review.

- e) Request for Resources to Support Parents in Leveraging AI – Y. Zhou led by asking what resources does the YCDSB offer to support parents when it comes to leveraging AI? John De Faveri responded by advising that the focus at this time is on the staff and their comprehension and understanding of AI. Staff at the YCDSB continue to work on this and it is already in the pipeline to determine appropriate resources firstly for staff and students then they can determine what can be done for parents. Cannot provide further details or specifics around this at this time.
- f) Canadian ADHD Awareness (CADDAC) – Sarah Tjin-Joe (refer to pages 13-25 in the meeting agenda). Sarah opened the discussion with review of the who, what and CADDAC is and provided some details about ADHD and offered some additional awareness resources. Sarah shared that she recently discovered unsatisfactory grades from each province and territory and no province was able to confirm that their educators were trained in ADHD and have limited access to information and resources. Sarah explained how ADHD is impacted largely by the environment and asked the question “what is the Board, if anything, doing about the environmental impact and what are they doing to ensure there is enough support and resources in the schools with respect to ADHD?” John De Faveri agreed to follow up with Student Services and will report back findings at the next YCPIC meeting. Sarah provided links and resources that are free and for parent support.

## **11.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Martina Saverino adjourned the meeting at 7:36 PM

Motion: Christina Gillison

Seconded: Rachel Sun

**MOTION CARRIED**

NEXT MEETING: March 31, 2025