



# Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee (CPEC) held virtually by Google Meet on Monday, January 30, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.

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**Present:**

**Committee Members:**

Present: Jennifer Ball, Karen Goodhand, Christine Haffie, Rachel Logan, Father Paul Massel, Margaret Prentice.

Regrets: Julianne Charette, Jane Pryde.

**Parent/Catholic School Council Guests:**

Jeremiah Beggs, Calvin Ferreira.

**Trustees:** Mary Ann Martin.

**Administration:** Joan Carragher, Director of Education, Jennifer Angelo, Mental Health Lead, Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent of Special Education, Benjamin Tenesia, Board Equity Advisor, Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds, Board Psychologist, and Chidinma Igboanugo, Learning Consultant.

**Recorder:** Michelle Kennedy, Executive Assistant.

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**A. Call to Order:** The meeting was chaired by Joan Carragher, Director of Education.

1. Opening Prayer

Rachel Logan led the committee in prayer to begin the meeting.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Following prayer, Joan Carragher gave a land acknowledgement noting that the meeting was taking place on the treaty lands and the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishnaabeg.

3. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION:** Moved by Jennifer Ball, seconded by Christine Haffie

that the agenda be approved with the addition of item A.7, Introductions and A.8, Nomination of Chair of the committee.

Carried.

4. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Rachel Logan declared that she is an employee of PVNCCDSB.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held October 17, 2022.

**MOTION:** Moved by Jennifer Ball, seconded by Rachel Logan  
that the minutes from the meeting held on October 17, 2022, be approved.

Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Introductions.

Joan Carragher, Director of Education, welcomed Trustee Joshua Glover, who was elected as representative for the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee. Joan Carragher also invited all who were present at the meeting, both in the room and online, to introduce themselves.

8. Nomination for Chairperson of Catholic Parent Engagement Committee.

Joan Carragher, Director of Education noted that the committee was still without a chairperson and called for nominations from the committee. Jennifer Ball put forth the nomination of Karen Goodhand, parent representative from St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School (City of Kawartha Lakes.)

**Motion:** Moved by Jennifer Ball, seconded by Christine Haffie  
that Karen Goodhand be acclaimed as Chairperson of the CPEC for 2022-2023 school year.

Carried.

**B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:**

1. Strategic Priority Focus – Nurturing Mental Health and Well Being.

Jeannie Armstrong introduced two of the members of the Mental Health and Well Being team, Jennifer Angelo, Mental Health Lead, and Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds, Board Psychologist, who delivered a presentation about the Board's approach to Mental Health and Well-being and the ongoing strategies and initiatives taking place including, the Being Well Portal, the Connecting the Dots Strategies, resources from School Mental Health Ontario, the Exam Stress Resource, and the Third Path, by Dr. David Trantor.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the presenters answered questions.

2. Strategic Priority Focus – Ensuring Equity.

Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent of Special Education, introduced Benjamin, Board Equity Advisor and Chidinma Igboanugo, Learning Consultant, who gave a presentation about the Equity Initiatives being undertaken at PVNC Catholic in efforts to eliminate Black disparities. The presentation was framed with statistical information including that fact that segregated schools existed in Ontario as recent as 1965.

Groups such as the Black Student Association, the Black Employee Network and Ally Committee, and the Network for Parents/Guardians of students of Black African and Caribbean Descent will provide safe spaces to express their lived experiences and encourage all to take part to better support their well-being and help the board to provide a better experience for students.

3. Catholic Parent Engagement Committee – Special Event.

Director of Education, Joan Carragher announced that Kevin Cameron, Executive Director for the North American Center for Threat Assessment & Trauma Response, has worked with the PVNC Catholic in the past and has conducted training sessions with administrators on trauma response and threat assessment. Mr. Cameron is available to be the guest speaker for this year's parent engagement event if held on the evening of June 13<sup>th</sup>.

Joan Carragher reviewed Kevin Cameron's biography with the committee. Kevin Cameron's work includes supporting families who are recovering from trauma and the suggested topic of the keynote address would be strategies for families as they deal with the outcomes of the pandemic. The committee agreed that the topic is very timely and relevant and that the information would be valuable to parents.

**C. Information Items:**

1. System Updates

Joan Carragher, Director of Education updated the committee on system events and initiatives from the start of the 2022-2023 school year which included the following points:

- Julianne Charette, Principal representative for this committee sends her regrets for her absence.
- Review of the [Board Administrative Procedure 1004, Catholic Parent Engagement Committee](#) and specifically pointed out the purpose of the committee and highlighted the relationship of the committee and how they will work with Board employees and Catholic School Councils to share effective practices to engage parents, identify and reduce barriers to parent engagement, ensure that schools create welcoming environments for parents, and develop skills and knowledge to assist the Committee and the Catholic School Councils in their work.
- The ways in which these goals are reached are by sharing the Board's Strategic Priorities and goals of Catholic Education in our board and highlighting the work being done in the schools, through committee member updates, and through parent engagement events that share knowledge and skills.
- Prayers were requested for the school community of St. Joseph, Bowmanville, and the Blanchard family, who lost their 7-year-old child, Gemma.
- Continue to have meetings public health officials who collaborate to ensure the continued health and safety of students and staff.
- Trustees have visits scheduled to each of the schools between now and the end of the school year.
- Prayers were requested for students who are finishing the semester with culminating tasks and some will have exams for the very first time this week.
- The launch of Black History month will take place on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at the Catholic Education Centre.

Joan Carragher invited and answered questions from the committee members.

## 2. Committee Member Updates.

Committee members shared updates from their schools:

Joshua Glover – gave an update on the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association conference that he recently attended and shared some of the workshop topics that were presented.

Father Paul Massel – noted that January soon will be over and that February will bring us Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent, which will prepare us for the Feast of Easter. He noted the retreats that have taken place for administrators. In the spring, Archbishop Donald Boland will be leading board staff in a system-wide Faith Day. Recently, Indigenous Educator, Niigaan Sinclair and Father Daniel Dias held a professional development session about the Papal Visit and their views on the visit as a step toward reconciliation.

Jennifer Ball – excited to see normal programs back in full swing for students in the schools. School communities were able to celebrate with their annual Christmas luncheon once again and they look forward to serving pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Student safety is always a concern but the constant communications about safety reminders are welcome. There was discussion about the last week of the secondary semester for students in grades 9 and 10 in comparison with students in upper grades who were writing exams. Joan Carragher noted that she would take the feedback heard to the other members of senior administration.

Karen Goodhand – reported on the success of the Christmas Poinsettia fundraiser that was conducted at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School in Lindsay.

Rachel Logan – reported on the success of the St. Joseph, Bowmanville recent dance-a-thon, which raised \$12,500. Some of the proceeds will be used to purchase technology for the school. She noted the discussions of possible boundary changes are a stressful topic for some parents at this time.

Jeremiah Biggs – reported on the sale of planters at St. Mary, Lindsay, which resulted in \$600 being raised. Mr. Biggs congratulated the other schools on their reported fundraising efforts and successes.

Calvin Ferreira – noted that St. Mary Catholic Secondary School, Cobourg has a very strong student council this year and have done very well to engage students in activities. He also reported that their open house and parent-teacher night were both successful.

### 3. Next Committee Meeting:

The next CPEC meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 17, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

## **D. Conclusion:**

### 1. Closing Prayer.

Joan Carragher invited Joshua Glover to close the meeting with prayer. Father Paul Massel also led a special prayer with special intention for Gemma, student of St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School, Bowmanville who recently passed away.

### 2. Adjournment.

MOTION: Moved by Christine Haffie, seconded by Jennifer Ball

that the meeting adjourn at 9:07 p.m.

Carried.