



Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee (CPEC) held at the Catholic Education Centre, Peterborough and virtually by Google Meet on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Committee Members:

Julianne Charette (online), Kristen Daize (online), Karen Goodhand (online), Christine Haffie, Rebecca Lagrois (online), Rachel Logan (online), Kathleen Tanguay (online).

Administration:

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education.

Guests:

Trustee Mary Ann Martin (online),

Recorder: Michelle Kennedy, Executive Assistant.

A. Call to Order: Due to the position of chairperson for the committee being vacant, the meeting was called to order by Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education.

The meeting was called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

1. **Opening Prayer**

Stephen O'Sullivan led the committee in prayer to begin the meeting.

2. **Land Acknowledgement**

Following prayer, Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education, gave a land acknowledgement which incorporated teaching and interpretation of a piece of indigenous artwork that depicts an aspect of the ethical standards of the Ontario College of Teachers. It was acknowledged 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 Kathleen Tanguay, seconded by Julianne Charette

that the agenda be approved.

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 November 21, 2024.

MOTION: Moved by Rachel Logan, seconded by Kristen Daize

that the minutes from the meeting held on November 21, 2024,
be approved.

Carried.

6. Business Arising from the Minutes.

There was no business arising from the minutes.

7. Selection of a Committee Chairperson for the 2024-2026

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education, stated that no one has expressed an interest in the position of Chairperson of the committee. Mr. O'Sullivan invited anyone interested to contact him about filling the position for the rest of the year and the 2025-2026 school year.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Student Nutrition Programs in PVNCCDSB Schools.

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education introduced Angela Fuchs, Beth Kolisnyk, and Ana Mazhar, who are Community Development Coordinators who gave a presentation about school student nutrition programs in different regions of PVNCCDSB.

The presentation explained the funding for the programs which flows through the lead agency, Peterborough Child and Family Services. Each of the coordinators work with their local partnership communities, such as Peterborough Food for Kids, Northumberland Food for Thought and Durham's Child Nutrition Program to provide information and resources to have a successful student nutrition program.

It was noted that there are 33 schools in PVNCCDSB that currently have student nutrition programs. Some of the important benefits of the programs were discussed and included the social gathering by bringing children together, a sense of community for students and volunteers and promotion of healthy eating. It was noted that the programs are open to

everyone, regardless of their socio-economic background and it is not a stigmatizing program. All are welcome for whatever reason they choose to participate.

The presenters welcome the support of donations of finances and food and want to thank the schools and the councils for supporting the food nutrition programs. Opportunities to make presentations at Catholic School Council meetings to discuss student nutrition programs would be welcomed and a copy of the slide presentation will be made available to the committee to share with Catholic School Councils.

At the end of the presentation, the committee had an opportunity to ask questions of the presenters, which were answered.

2. Planning for 2024-2025 - CPEC Meetings and Events

Michelle Kennedy updated the committee that Dr. Jody Carrington is available to be a guest speaker on May 21, 2025. The location of the event has not been determined. It was suggested that it be in Clarington, perhaps at Holy Trinity CSS as that school has not yet hosted a CPEC event.

There was further discussion about the advertising and invitations to be sent out for the event to the Catholic School Council members and to all parents in the board.

The cost of the keynote appearance was quoted at \$15,000 plus travel expenses. A recording is allowed provided it is only made available for 30 days post event in a non-downloadable format and under password protection. Dr. Jody Carrington is permitting the event to be live-streamed so a virtual option will be available for parents who are unable to attend.

MOTION: Moved by Christine Haffie, seconded by Rachel Logan
that the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee have Dr. Jody Carrington as the guest speaker at its event on May 21, 2025;
and,
that the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee authorize the use of up to \$17,000 from the available Ministry funding to pay for the guest speaker.

Carried.

C. Information Items:

1. System Updates

Stephen O'Sullivan, Director of Education updated the committee on various aspects of board activities:

- A potential structure problem was discovered at Notre Dame Catholic Elementary School which required students to be moved from their classrooms to other areas of the school. Unfortunately, PVNCCDSB did not receive funding for a new school in Northumberland. The board will investigate options to make the Notre Dame CES building safe for its entire use.
- A Town Hall meeting was held in Clarington at the beginning of January to engage with parents about the proposed boundaries for the new Northglen school. Feedback from parents was considered and the original plan was revised the plan and shared for further consultation. The new boundary plan is now posted on the website.
- The Ministry of Education has now legislated how the Director of Education's Performance Appraisal process is conducted and includes consultation with many stakeholders in the board. Catholic School Council Chairpersons will have a 3rd party reach out to them and Parent Councils will have an opportunity to complete a survey to give feedback on the Director's leadership of the system.
- The board's Multi-year Strategic Plan is coming to the end of its four year life. Engagement will begin early in the spring for a new multi-year strategic plan. After consultations with parents, staff, committees (including CPEC), community members and students, a new plan will be developed. A multi-disciplinary working group has been established who will give overall guidance to the process of collecting and analyzing data to inform the new strategic direction of the board.
- The trustees will be engaged in the process to finalize the plan, and it is expected that the new plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval in October 2025.
- The board has also engaged in a consultation for consideration of a name change. Peterborough Victoria Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board is a cumbersome name which poses some difficulties and is thought to be outdated and not clearly indicative of the geographic regions of our board. Before Christmas, a survey was conducted and resulted in over 1400 responses. The result was a 71% mandate to go forward and further investigate a name change for the board.

At the conclusion of his report, Stephen O'Sullivan answered questions from the Committee.

2. Ministry of Education February Conversation with PIC Chairs/Co-chairs and School Board Leads.

Information about the upcoming online meeting for PIC Chairs was sent to the committee members. It was reported that Rachel Logan expressed an interest in the session and will attend the meeting online on Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

3. Committee Member Updates.

The following committee members shared their updates:

Rachel Logan noted that the new semester will begin next week, and course selections are being considered for the next school year. The students are looking forward to the March break trip going to Greece. Students are already anticipating a trip being planned for March 2027. Throughout the advent season, there were social justice campaigns; Driving School has begun and there have been arts nights, spirit days, one-day ski excursions. Elementary schools have arranged community spirit family nights at the Oshawa Generals hockey games. St. Stephen CSS has offered its spirit wear sales to the incoming Grade 8 students to create excitement and allow them to have clothing in time for September. Graduations and Proms are being planned and anticipated. The Catholic School council has moved its annual uniform sale to June from the regular date of August. There were concerns shared about vaping and the additional cost of the required fire-retardant uniform shop pants.

Christine Haffie reported concerns about the amount of money that can be carried forward from year to year by Catholic School Councils for fundraising.

Rachel Logan shared a Catholic School Council project that was undertaken at St. Joseph CES a few years ago. Families shared recipes which were made by the students and compiled into a book which was then given to every family.

Trustee Mary Ann Martin suggested that the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee meetings take place in different regions of the board to possibly engage more parents.

Trustee Kathleen Tanguay expressed a desire for the committee to engage in a practical activity to have parents drawn in to participate in an event that will benefit their own school.

D. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer.

Christine Haffie was invited to close the meeting with prayer.

2. Adjournment.

MOTION: Moved by Rachel Logan, seconded by Rebecca Lagrois

that the meeting adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

Carried.