

**CATHOLIC PARENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE
PETERBOROUGH REGIONAL MEETING
Tuesday, February 16, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.**

virtually, by Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/ukd-ziqq-yrw>

Please note: If you would like to join by phone, please contact Michelle Kennedy
by email mkennedy@pvnccdsb.on.ca or at 1-800-461-8009 ext. 1247
Arrangements to join by phone must be made prior to 6:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting

CPEC Committee Members who are unable to attend are asked to please notify
Michelle Kennedy, Administrative Assistant, 1-800-461-8009, or 705-748-4861, ext. 1247
or by email: mkennedy@pvnccdsb.on.ca

Chairperson: Jennifer Ball

A. Call to Order: Jennifer Ball, Chairperson, Catholic Parent Engagement Committee

1. Opening Prayer
Father Paul Massel, Board Chaplain/Faith Animator
2. Land Acknowledgement
Jennifer Ball, Chairperson, Catholic Parent Engagement Committee
3. Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks
Jennifer Ball, Chairperson, Catholic Parent Engagement Committee
Joan Carragher, Director of Education
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
6. Approval of the Minutes of the November 2, 2020 meeting.
7. Business Arising from the Minutes

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Continuity of Learning – Update
Joan Carragher, Director of Education
2. Update and plan for CPEC Event – May 19, 2021, Dr. Joti Samra.

C. Information Items:

1. Ministry of Education Parent Involvement Committee Meeting - November 26, Meeting Summary. (attached)
2. Catholic School Council Community Profile Memorandum. (attached)
3. Committee Member Updates.
4. Next Meeting:
Wednesday, March 24, 2021, 6:30 p.m. - Regional Meeting, Clarington – Holy Trinity CSS and St. Stephen CSS and Feeder Schools

D. Roundtable Discussion

1. Guiding Questions:
 - a. What is working well for parent engagement in your school?
 - b. What is one creative adaptation to fostering parent engagement given the current pandemic environment?

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Remarks
2. Closing Prayer
Father Paul Massel, Board Chaplain/Faith Animator
3. Adjournment.



Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC PARENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CPEC) held on Monday, November 2, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre, Peterborough and virtually, by Google Meet.

Committee Members

Present: Jennifer Ball (Chairperson), Julianne Charette, Michelle Flintoff, Lori-Ann Gervais, Christine Haffie, Rachel Logan, Kevin MacKenzie, Fr. Paul Massel, Michael Nasello.

Regrets: Lisa Hiltz, Laura Bassett, and Julie McCarthy.

Recorder: Michelle Kennedy, Executive Assistant.

A. Call to Order

1. Opening Prayer

Chairperson, Jennifer Ball called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and invited Father Paul Massel to lead the committee in prayer.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Following prayer, Jennifer Ball gratefully acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the treaty and traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishinaabe.

3. Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks

Jennifer Ball, Committee Chairperson welcomed the parent guests online and requested that everyone present at the meeting introduce themselves.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Rachel Logan, seconded by Kevin MacKenzie
that the agenda be approved.

Carried.

5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Rachel Logan confirmed that the requirement for her to declare her conflict of interest as an employee of PVNCCDSB was fulfilled at the previous CPEC meeting.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the September 28, 2020 meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Kevin MacKenzie, seconded by Rachel Logan
that the minutes from the meeting held on September 28, 2020, be approved.

Carried.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

Jennifer Ball, Committee Chairperson noted that business arising from the minutes with regard to the May CPEC event would be covered under agenda item B.3, Update and Plan for CPEC Event – May 19, 2021, Dr. Joti Samra.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Director's Report on School Reopening and Virtual School.

The Director of Education, Michael Nasello provided an update to the Board using a slide show presentation. The presentation included information on the planning for students who have requested a transition from virtual school to physical school or vice-versa and the reorganization of classes in both the virtual and the physical schools. There will be a net change of 180 students moving to virtual school. There have been 140 requests for electronic devices to assist with technology needs, which will be able to be accommodated. Further input from families will be sought through a Thought Exchange survey to gain insights to support ongoing professional development.

Schools continue to follow health and safety protocols and to date the board has had relatively few public health concerns related to COVID-19. The Ministry of Labour conducted an inspection at a school site and deemed it 'passed' with no recommendations or action items provided for follow up.

Michael Nasello answered questions from the committee and the parent participants.

2. Review of Draft Administrative Procedure 1004, Catholic Parent Engagement Committee and Appendix A, Catholic Parent Engagement Committee By-Laws.

Michael Nasello, Director of Education, reviewed the draft administrative procedure, AP 1004, Catholic Parent Engagement Committee and its accompanying appendix, Catholic Parent Engagement Committee By-Laws. There was discussion about proposed changes and suggestions from the committee were recorded. Following the review of the draft

administrative procedure by the committee, it will be reviewed and considered for approval at the upcoming Policy Development Committee meeting on November 17, 2020.

MOTION: Moved by Kevin MacKenzie, seconded by Lori-Ann Gervais

that the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee recommends to the Policy Development Committee the Draft Administrative Procedure and By-laws reviewed on November 2, 2020.

Carried.

3. Update and plan for May 2021 CPEC Event

Michael Nasello, Director of Education, updated the committee on the planning developments since the last meeting. He reported that Dr. Joti Samra is available to give a virtual presentation over 'Zoom'. The presentation would be approximately 45 minutes with a 15-minute question and answer period. The cost will be \$1,000 and will be covered by budgeted funds. Should grant money become available, then those funds would be used. Dr. Samra will be asked to speak on the topic of finding and maintaining family-life balance during the pandemic.

There was discussion about the format of the rest of the evening's presentation and it was suggested that there be 15 or 20 minutes scheduled before and after Dr. Samra for prayers, opening and closing remarks. It was also noted that parents are very interested in seeing student achievement showcased. Perhaps video compositions could be compiled to accomplish this.

C. Information Items:

1. Committee Member Updates.

Christine Haffie – reported that their council is investigating online fundraising ideas. There are other Catholic councils who have chosen not to do any fundraising at this time. Their council would like to begin to have hot lunches again and are wondering what protocols/permissions would need to be in place from Public Health.

Karen Goodhand – At. St. Thomas Aquinas, Poinsettia sales are happening with safety protocols in place. They are having payments made by school cash online and contactless pick up will take place at the school. St. Dominic Catholic School Council has chosen not to do any fundraising at this time.

Kristy Chartrand - reported that parents from St. Dominic are organizing an online trivia night to promote community engagement.

Lori Ann Gervais – reported that the Catholic School Council at St. Stephen is recruiting more parents to be involved on council. They continue to meet virtually.

Jennifer Ball – has also joined St. Stephen Catholic School Council.

Kevin MacKenzie – reported on the recent Faith and Equity Advisory Committee meeting and shared some insights from a video that was shared at the meeting. Kevin noted that this is the last meeting for Director, Michael Nasello. He gave tribute to Michael and thanked him for his dedication and focus to students, parent engagement and to the Catholic Parent Engagement Committee.

Julianne Charette – reported that St. Teresa Catholic Elementary in Peterborough is also holding off on fundraising activities this year and also hoping to return to hot lunches. At this time there are too many logistics to work out. They will continue to follow Public Health direction and will wait for any further information from them.

Father Paul Masse – will be putting together a liturgy to remember loved ones who have gone before us. This liturgy will be held in the schools with staff on the upcoming professional activity day.

Michael Nasello – updated the committee on the graduate requirement of community service hours. For students graduating this year the number of hours has been reduced from 40 hours to 20 hours. 10 hours of the service can be course or employment related. In addition, the literacy test/course requirement has been waived.

D. Roundtable Discussion:

1. Guiding Questions:

- a) What is working well for parent engagement in your school?
- b) What is the one creative adaptation to fostering parent engagement given the current pandemic environment?

Chairperson, Jennifer Ball led the round-table discussion. Comments were focused on the well-being of students and parents. It was noted that the increased time for students to be outside has had positive impact. Parents like that students are getting more fresh air; teachers are reporting that daily movement and exercise has enhanced student focus and learning. Parents are missing the ability to visit the school to see their child's classroom and see what is happening in the school.

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Remarks.

CPEC Committee Chairperson, Jennifer Ball thanked everyone for participating in the final meeting of 2020. She invited parents to participate in the next meeting in February.

Michael Nasello expressed his gratitude to the committee for their work and for welcoming him when he began as Director of Education in 2016. He thanked everyone for their participation and for making their time together so enjoyable.

2. Closing Prayer.

Father Paul Massel was invited to close the meeting with prayer.

3. Adjournment.

MOTION: Moved by Rachel Logan, seconded by Lori-Ann Gervais
that the meeting adjourn at 8:49 p.m.

Carried.

Parent Involvement Committees (PIC) Chairs

Virtual Meeting
November 26, 2020

Tips for Microsoft Teams

- Please mute your microphones unless speaking



Kiinwi Dabaadjmowin, 2015- Philip Cote, Rebecca Baird, Tracey Anthony (Gathering Place exhibit, OLA)



Suzanne Gordon (she/her)
Director
Inclusive Education, Priorities &
Engagement



Alyssa Chan (she/her)
Manager
Inclusive Education, Priorities &
Engagement



Django Keita
Senior Policy Advisor
Inclusive Education, Priorities &
Engagement



Penny Patrician
Education Officer
Inclusive Education, Priorities &
Engagement



Saad Khan
Senior Policy Advisor
Inclusive Education, Priorities &
Engagement

Welcome

Agenda

- 10:50 am Microsoft Teams Opens
- 11:00 am Land Acknowledgement
- 11:05 am Purpose and Context
- 11:10 am Discussion Questions
- 11:55 am Closing

Purpose

To provide Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) chairs with an opportunity to share insights and experiences of schooling during the pandemic in Fall 2020 in their roles as PIC members, school council members, and as parents.

Context – Spring 2020

April 2020: We met to learn from you about your perspectives on:

- the challenges and successes on-line learning at home posed for parents and families in your board's communities,
- promising practices of your PIC and school board to support families and support learning at home, and
- how else the Ministry could be helpful during these unprecedented times.

Context – Fall 2020

- The Ministry has provided flexibility and options of both in-class and remote learning.
- The Ministry encourages school councils and PICs to meet and hold elections virtually to ensure a safe return to school as guided by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health in EDU's Guide to reopening Ontario's Schools.
- For the 2020-21 school year the Ministry provided \$1.25M to school boards through Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grants to support parent engagement.

Discussion

1. Please share with us some of the successes of your PIC and school board, and promising practices to support parents and families since we last met in the Spring.
2. Are there new challenges that have arisen for children and families since the start of the new school year?
3. Please share with us what you are hearing from parents in your school community. How have you been able to reach out and connect with parents and families?
4. What else do you suggest would support the work of PICs, school councils and parents during these unprecedented times?

Discussion (1/4)

Please share with us some of the successes of your PIC and school board, and promising practices to support parents and families since we last met in the Spring.

Discussion (2/4)

Are there new challenges that have arisen for children and families since the start of the new school year?

Discussion (3/4)

Please share with us what you are hearing from parents in your school community. How have you been able to reach out and connect with parents and families?

Discussion (4/4)

What else do you suggest would support the work of PICs, school councils and parents during these unprecedented times?

Closing and Next Steps

- Survey will remain open until November 30, 2020
- EDU will capture comments from meeting and share a summary with participants

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

PRO@Ontario.ca

EDU Conversations with Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Chairs November 2020

Introduction

The Ministry of Education (EDU) held a virtual meeting with Parent Involvement Committees (PIC) on November 26th to continue dialogue on the successes, promising practices, and challenges related to supporting parents and students since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

What follows is a high-level summary of what we heard from PIC Chairs, Co-Chair, Board Leads and staff representing English-language and French-language school boards.

While we heard about new successes and best practices, some of the challenges identified by participants during our April 2020 meeting continue to persist. New challenges included pivoting through the changing nature of COVID-19 restrictions and being fully prepared for students to learn from home, supporting newcomer families, privacy and cybersecurity issues, and how to address the learning gaps between students learning from home compared to those in the classroom.

Feedback from the meeting will inform the ministry's ongoing program and policy supports for students and their families.

What we heard

Question asked: Please share with us some of the successes of your PIC and school board, and promising practices to support parents and families since we last met in the Spring.

Many PIC Chairs reflected upon their flexibility and adaptability to continue their work in a virtual environment. While parents are finding some platforms easier to use than others, school boards are simultaneously testing different platforms to determine what enables maximum communication between schools and parents. Although many parents face difficulty accessing and operating virtual platforms, participants mentioned this shift was well received by rural and Northern boards as they regularly use virtual platforms to host meetings with parents, due to geographic considerations.

Participants also noticed that moving into a virtual environment has led to an increase in attendance/participation in workshops and events, as well as opportunities for parents to connect, engage, and share best practices.

Parents identified multiple promising practices that spoke to some of the benefits of moving to an online environment, including:

- The ability to host PIC events more frequently;
- Increased recruitment of new members;
- Webinars to provide training on online platforms;
- Greater participation in online events such as meetings and workshops;
- Ability to reach new parents that were not able to attend in-person events;
- Creating momentum for parents to join different groups and identifying volunteers;
- Parent associations supporting and collaborating more with school councils and boards;
- School boards actively listening to and responding to the needs of parents;
- Availability of mental health services, including social workers in schools;
- School portal used for communication between parents and teachers; and
- Collaborating with provincial parent organizations

Question asked: Are there new challenges that have arisen for children and families in the new school year?

Parents expressed concerns regarding the conflicting decision of changing their children's attendance back and forth between in person to virtual, or vice versa – which reflected the changing realities and modes of learning under COVID-19. Parents noted that abrupt changes in modes of learning can cause confusion, disrupt relationships, and do not allow for enough time to prepare for online learning (e.g. ensuring access to appropriate technology and childcare).

Maintaining student focus and preventing learning gaps in a virtual environment were also identified as key challenges, with specific consideration for the unique experiences and educational outcomes of students from vulnerable groups. French-language PIC Chairs reported challenges with operating devices for newcomer parents facing language and technology barriers, as well as needing to adapt to the Ontario education system in virtual environments.

Other new challenges identified by parents were:

- Maintaining clear communication with families of children learning from home;
- The possibility to shift all students to virtual learning in the event of a snow day;
- Internet connectivity issues, particularly in Northern regions;
- Lacking access to technological devices for learning;
- Lacking information and training to operate technology and virtual platforms;
- Privacy and cybersecurity issues;
- Parents facing physical isolation from the social aspect of their children's schools (e.g. volunteering, fundraising, visiting teachers/classrooms, and participating in assemblies and celebrations);
- Challenges associated with high school students completing their required community service hours;
- Challenges with students spending most of their time in front of a screen;
- Students connecting to the online platform, but not being engaged in learning;

- Lack of parent participation despite online meetings; and
- Students learning from home facing more difficulty acquiring knowledge compared to students learning in the classroom

Question asked: *Please share with us what you are hearing from parents in your community. How have you been able to reach out and connect with parents and families?*

PIC Chairs identified unique concerns experienced by parents in their respective communities. Parents are trying their best to support their children’s learning while facing difficulty understanding the changing nature of restrictions and guidelines (e.g. mandatory self-isolation policies) impacting the education system under COVID-19.

Some students are feeling fatigued and disengaged due increased screen time, leading to poor mental and physical health. Parents are using a variety of methods to communicate with parents and families, including letters, emails, virtual meetings, social media, and website publishing. French-language PICs share that newcomer parents need to be connected with a member of their community. Additionally, PICs do not necessarily have access to the emails of parents, which makes reaching out challenging. Communicating with parents in an efficient, clear and precise manner remains a challenge.

Question asked: *What else do you suggest would support the work of PICs, school councils, and parents during these unprecedented times?*

Participants expressed their desire for more frequent opportunities to meet and connect with PICs, school councils, and parents. Some ideas included participating in more virtual meetings and connecting through social media channels.

Other suggestions included:

- Scheduling meetings in the evening to accommodate parent schedules;
- Ensuring there is enough advance notice when inviting attendees to the meeting;
- Clearer information and direction communicated by the Ministry of Education;
- Academic supports (e.g. tutoring) for students learning from home; and
- Funding and resources for parent education (e.g. mental health resiliency, parenting in uncertain times, cybersecurity)

Best Practices

- Shift to virtual platforms has increased membership and participation in online events and workshops for some boards
- School boards are actively engaging in and responding to the needs and issues being experienced by students and parents

Challenges

- Disruptions in learning and relationships due to changes in COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines
- Achievement gaps between students learning from home compared to those in the classroom
- Parents feeling disconnected and isolated from school environment
- Language and digital barriers experienced by newcomer families

Conclusion

Throughout the changing nature of the education system under the COVID-19 pandemic, PIC Chairs and participants demonstrated their resiliency and adaptability by identifying successes and sharing the challenges they have faced in supporting students and their parents. More families and students from both English and French boards are taking advantage of virtual platforms by participating in events and workshops to connect with each other and enhance their learning. School boards are strengthening their relationships with PICs in order to effectively respond to address the challenging experiences of parents and families.

2020-21: DIR 05

To: Catholic School Council Chairs
From: Joan Carragher
Director of Education/Secretary-Treasurer
Copies: Elementary Principals, Secondary Principals, Senior Administration
Subject: **Catholic School Community Profile**
Date: February 3, 2021

Annually we seek input from Catholic School Councils on the needs of their school communities. This information assists our senior team in monitoring the successes and needs of all schools and to make the best possible decisions when we are assigning administrators.

The consultation form seeks to gather information about the school community, and in particular, what the needs of that community are as we look to the future.

Please take some time to fill in the form as a council, and submit the completed form **prior to Wednesday, March 31, 2021**. Please access the Google Form at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/CKauJX3GGCFvzUte7>

Thank you,



Joan Carragher
Director of Education & Secretary-Treasurer of the Board

JC:mk