



Peterborough Victoria
Northumberland and Clarington
Catholic District School Board



Catholic Parent
Engagement Committee

Agenda

CATHOLIC PARENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 31, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.

By Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/hff-bwbn-aov>

Members/Trustees 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:

1. Opening Prayer – Father Paul Massel
2. Land Acknowledgement – Jennifer Ball.
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
5. Approval of the Minutes of the April 19, 2021 meeting. (Attached)
6. Business Arising from the Minutes

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. Summer Programs.
Laurie Corrigan, Superintendent of Special Education.
2. Director's Report.
 - Strategic Priorities Planning
 - Vaccination
 - Return to schoolJoan Carragher, Director of Education.
3. May 2021 CPEC Event Debrief.

C. Information Items:

1. Provincial Parent Engagement Summary, April 2021. (Attached)
2. Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022. (Attached)
3. Committee Member Updates.

D. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer – Father Paul Massel.
2. Adjournment.



DRAFT

Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC PARENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CPEC) held virtually by Google Meet on Wednesday, April 19, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.

Present:

Committee Members:

Jennifer Ball (Chairperson), David Bernier (ex-officio), Lori Ann Gervais, Christine Haffie, Lisa Hiltz, Rachel Logan, Kevin MacKenzie, and Father Paul Massel.

Catholic School Council Members/Parents/Guests:

Karen Goodhand

Administration:

Joan Carragher, Director of Education, and Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent of Learning. Sandra Connolly, Learning Consultant.

Recorder:

Michelle Kennedy, Executive Assistant.

Regrets:

Michelle Flintoff, Julianne Charette

A. Call to Order

1. Opening Prayer

Chairperson, Jennifer Ball called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and invited Father Paul Massel to lead everyone in prayer to begin the meeting.

2. Land Acknowledgement

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

3. Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks

Jennifer Ball, Committee Chairperson welcomed parent guests online and invited the attendees one by one to introduce themselves.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Kevin MacKenzie, seconded by Lori Ann Gervais
that the agenda be approved.

Carried.

5. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Committee members Rachel Logan and Lisa Hiltz confirmed their conflict of interest as employees of PVNCCDSB.

6. Approval of the Minutes of the March 24, 2021 meeting.

MOTION: Moved by Father Paul Massel, seconded by Kevin MacKenzie that the minutes from the meeting held on March 24, 2021, be approved.

Carried.

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. De-Streaming Mathematics.

Superintendent of Learning Jeannie Armstrong and Learning Consultant Sandra Connolly gave a presentation on the Ministry's initiative of de-streaming Grade Nine Mathematics by eliminating applied and academic levelled courses, beginning in September, 2021. The presentation explained the Ministry's rationale to address inequities and goals of creating a cultural shift and expanding educator capacity for effective, culturally responsive instruction.

The communication and implementation timeline was shared that showed the plan from February 2021 through to August 2021 and included the planning of professional development for teachers.

Following the presentation, Jeannie Armstrong and Sandra Connolly answered questions from the committee.

2. Update and plan for CPEC Event – May 19, 2021, Dr. Joti Samra.

Michelle Kennedy gave an update on the planning of the Dr. Samra presentation. It was reported that Sean Heuchert, Manager of Information Technology, has confirmed that the software platform 'Big Marker' will be used. It was requested that the ability for parents to join last minute be available and the ability for parents to automatically add the date to their electronic calendar from the link on the poster/communication.

The electronic poster will be developed and distributed to Catholic School Councils and to Principal/Vice-principals for distribution in school newsletters and on social media. A call-out on school messenger will be arranged to all PVNCCDSB families with a reminder immediately prior to the event. The information will also be posted on the board website's home page.

The roles of committee members were reviewed: Julianne Charette will MC, Father Paul Massel – opening and closing prayer, Jennifer Ball, Dave Bernier and Joan Carragher – will bring greetings, Lisa Hiltz – introduce guest speaker, Kevin MacKenzie – thank guest speaker.

The timing of the evening was discussed and it was decided that the event would begin at 6:45 pm, with Dr. Samra beginning her presentation at approximately 7:00 pm. The event will be recorded for our use following the event.

C. Roundtable Discussion/Committee Member Updates:

1. Discussion:

Joan Carragher, Director of Education gave an update on the latest shift to remote learning. She noted that special education students who are not able to engage in learning online are attending school in person. At this time no date has been indicated on when students will return to in-person learning. Virtual learning has been supported by the Information Technology department, which has a technology helpdesk set up. A communication to parents about the available resources, including the parent guide and helpdesk phone number was sent out by a school messenger on April 19.

There was discussion about parent engagement and Catholic school council experiences during the 2020-2021 school year. Some Catholic school councils were able to conduct successful fundraisers such as a Poinsettia sale with contact-less pick up. St. Anne Catholic Elementary School was able to hold a Dance-a-thon prior to the school closure that raised \$8,400 in donations that were all collected online. The students were able dance within their classrooms or in the gymnasium within their cohorts.

Many Catholic School Councils have concerns about exhausting their existing funds and will have to get creative with future events with the movement back to online.

D. Information Items:

1. Next Meeting

CPEC Event – Dr. Joti Samra, Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 6:45 p.m.

Monday, May 31, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Remarks.

CPEC Committee Chairperson, Jennifer Ball thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and noted that the next meeting will be the May 19 online event.

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 8:43 p.m.

Carried.



Ministry of Education

**Spring Conversation with School Board Leads &
Parent Involvement Committee Chairs**

April 20, 2021

**Inclusive Education, Priorities
and Engagement Branch**

Introduction

On April 20, 2021, the Ministry of Education (EDU) held the fourth in a series of virtual meetings with Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) chairs and co-chairs and school board parent engagement leads since the start of the pandemic. For each session, a summary of participant discussion has been summarized and shared with participants.

Throughout the series, participants have shared their local challenges, successes, and promising practices related to supporting parents and students as pandemic conditions evolve. Additionally, in recent sessions there have been presentations about Government of Ontario priorities or programs and participants have been invited to provide feedback.

Thirty-three PIC representatives and 27 school board leads took part in the English-language session; and the French-language session was attended by 8 PIC representatives and 5 school board leads.

What we Heard

Part 1: PIC/Board Lead Discussion

The discussion was framed as follows:

- Please tell us about the challenges that this pandemic year has posed for parents and families
- Please tell us about promising practices of your PIC and board to support families and learning
- Using the lessons learned from this year, what is your PIC planning for next year?
- How else can the ministry be helpful as you prepare for next year?

Challenges

Although in some cases the response has been positive and school board progress in providing support appreciated, challenges and inequities remain.

- Many parents are feeling physically and emotionally tired and overwhelmed by remote learning (although it was noted the children seem to be handling the transitions between remote and in-class instruction with more resilience).
- Implementation of remote learning for parents with several primary grade children at home needing assistance, with different recess times, or whose teachers use different platforms.
- Virtual learning inequities are still apparent due to lack of hardware (although progress was noted), and the lack of connectivity in the North.
- New challenges included:
 - Balancing on and off-screen activities to overcome screen fatigue resulting poor attendance.
 - Learning loss and students left behind despite boards' support for student success.
 - Lack of learning opportunities for children in day cares
 - AODA compliance for posting recorded events
 - Engaging new parents in large virtual schools and keeping connections with home schools.
 - Parental concern that staff are overtaxed and expressions of fear for staff mental health.
 - There was general agreement that positive PIC/school board relationships are needed for the PIC to meet its mandate

O. Reg. 612.00 describes a PIC's purpose as support, encouragement and enhancement of parent involvement at the board level in support of improved student achievement and well-being.

Success and Effective Practice

- Continued and innovative meetings with school boards (i.e. virtual coffee chats with school council chairs or lunch chats available to parents of local schools).
- Strategic planning for PICs (i.e. planning for the year ahead or making a three-year plan).
- Seeking thoughtful feedback from parents (e.g., a short 4-question survey administered monthly, longer surveys administered less frequently)
- Ensuring opportunities for discussion as part of virtual events (e.g., conversation series on specific topics).
- PICs reported an increase in parent participation in virtual events compared to previous years' in-person events (i.e. virtual engagements have reached new and more diverse attendees; recorded sessions allow flexibility in time of attendance and have been used by Settlement Workers to support multi-lingual families through interpretation and translation).
- Mental health and well-being offerings (i.e. virtual workshops with child psychology specialists or mental health workers presenting; family yoga, gardening, bingo, cooking and dance sessions).
- Variety in learning opportunities (i.e. virtual science workshops using equipment found in the home, on-line learning portals, cyber security, managing screen time, and navigation of the mathematics curriculum).

Planning Ahead

Participants spoke of what they had learned through navigating the pandemic, and how the learning may be applied in the future through feedback of parent communities, PICs and school boards.

- Participants reported planning to build on their success of increased engagement through continued virtual sessions. Where geography allows, some are considering offering events both in-person and on-line to suit the needs of more families.
- Recording virtual sessions was a practice to maintain, as the recordings could be accessed by those unable to attend and have been used by settlement workers to engage diverse families.
- Increased communication capacity in school boards is leading to plans for greater communication among school councils and with the PIC (i.e. school council networks, expansion of communication platform, etc.)

Consideration requested

- Parents and staff expressed appreciation of the opportunity to share with the ministry and take part in consultation.
- Parents asked for the re-establishment of the annual PIC Symposium to support their work with consideration of a virtual option.
- Participants asked for more funding for PICs to allow them to respond to the needs of their parent communities and earlier information about PRO grant funding and reporting requirements.

- Participants requested earlier announcement school operations in September. If virtual learning is to continue, expectations of parents should be reviewed.
- Board staff requested increase in funding to support translation of resources, attributing the need to increased engagement of multilingual/newcomer communities.
- Parents expressed concern about learning loss as a result of conditions during the pandemic, asking for increased funding as well as sharing of the ministry's plans to address the issue.
- French-language participants again asked for live announcements to be delivered in French.

PART 2: De-streaming Discussion

The discussion was framed as follows:

- What classroom-level and individualized student supports are necessary in de-streamed classes to ensure students are successful?
- How can the ministry/school boards inform and engage parents and students about pathway choices in secondary school so students can pursue the postsecondary pathway of their choice?
- What processes can boards engage in to ensure equitable access to current communication of resources and information?

Concerns

Parents expressed mixed support for de-streaming, some supportive of its potential to address systemic inequities and to remove barriers and others wanting reassurance that lessons have been learned from the previous de-streaming implementation in the 1990s.

- Questioning if de-streaming in grade 9 alone can solve inequities; a holistic approach is needed to address a systemic problem.
- Work needs to take place “upstream” for students as streaming culture can begin in kindergarten (i.e. French Immersion programs can be considered as a form of streaming).
- Seeking to understand if there is causality in attendance issues in applied courses
- For combined classes, perception that teachers are teaching to a lower common denominator
- Participants asked why consultation is taking place so late in the year before planned implementation in September
- De-streaming may lead to increased enrolment in locally developed courses

Consideration requested

- Timely release of the de-streamed grade 9 mathematics curriculum to allow for preparation
- Training for teachers, guidance counsellors and system leaders; that working with parents and families be part of the implementation and cultural perspectives be respected
- That boards be provided with messaging for parents in multiple languages
- Sufficient funding for smaller class sizes to support students in de-streamed classes
- Suggesting that the over-representation in applied courses goes beyond de-streaming and requires knowing how to support the success of all students
- EDU to work with community organizations to ensure equity-informed approach; that student attendance and success be monitored; that there be demographic data collected

Conclusion

Throughout the evolving conditions of the pandemic, PIC chairs/co-chairs and school board leads continue to demonstrate their commitment to enhancing parent engagement and supporting parents and families of their boards. Although many of the challenges expressed in the May 2020 engagement, are still present, participants in this virtual engagement held in April 2021 spoke of the positive effects of innovations developed as the year progressed, and successful practices that will be carried forward to future years. Some participants suggested that new, virtual means of involvement have resulted in greater parent participation in their school districts. Once again parents expressed appreciation of the opportunity to meet with each other and with the ministry; it was requested that consideration be given to re-establishing the PIC Symposium, perhaps through virtual means.

As well, parents shared their understandings, questions and concerns in the de-streaming consultation - feedback that will be used to strengthen the Fall implementation of grade nine de-streamed mathematics.

We are grateful to all participants for your willingness to share challenges, innovations and effective practices that support parents and families as we move through the changing conditions of the pandemic. Thank you for your continued commitment to work with your school boards to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement in support of student achievement and well-being.



Catholic Parent
Engagement Committee

~ **Tentative Meeting Dates for 2021-2022** ~

Monday, October 4, 2021	Catholic Education Centre, Peterborough	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Monday, November 1, 2021	Regional Meeting, Clarington – Holy Trinity CSS and St. Stephen CSS and Feeder Schools	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Monday, February 28, 2022	Regional Meeting, City of Kawartha Lakes – St. Thomas Aquinas CSS and Feeder Schools	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Monday, March 28, 2022	Regional Meeting, Northumberland – St. Mary CSS and Feeder Schools	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Tuesday, April 19, 2022	Regional Meeting, Peterborough – Holy Cross CSS and St. Peter CSS and Feeder Schools	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Wednesday, May 18, 2022	Event	6:30pm – 8:30pm
Monday, May 30, 2022	Catholic Education Centre, Peterborough	6:30pm – 8:30pm