



Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CATHOLIC PARENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE (CPEC) held on Monday, February 5, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. in the Boardroom at the Catholic Education Centre, 1355 Lansdowne Street West, Peterborough.

Present: Linda Ainsworth, Laura Bassett (Chairperson), Jennifer Ball, Diane Corkery, Diane Mather, Fr. Paul Massel

Absent/Regrets: Lisa Hiltz, Nathalie Ingram, John Leduc, Julie McCarthy, Patrick McNeil

Administration: Michael Nasello, Director of Education

Recorder: Michelle Kennedy, Administrative Assistant

A. Call to Order: Committee Chair, Laura Bassett, called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Laura welcomed everyone and acknowledged the traditional territory of the Mississauga Anishnaabe people.

1. Opening Prayer

Father Paul Massel opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Diane Corkery, seconded by Jennifer Ball that the Agenda be accepted.

Carried.

3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None

4. Approval of the Minutes of the CPEC Meeting held on October 16, 2017.

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Ball, seconded by Diane Corkery that the minutes from the meeting held on October 16, 2017, be approved.

Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

None

B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:

1. General Assembly Planning – Jennifer Kolari Presentation – November 8, 2017 – Debrief

Michael Nasello invited the committee to comment on the November 8, 2017, presentation by Jennifer Kolari. The committee shared their ideas about the evening. The feedback received by the committee members, on that evening and since, has been positive. The speaker's message was well received and she gave a good balance of information with a humorous approach. The structure of the evening was discussed. Perhaps in future more time might be given for mingling and snacks, either before or after the speaker or at an intermission, if appropriate. It was felt that the structure and attendance at the event was satisfactory but could be better. There was discussion about the possibility of online streaming future events, budget permitting, to enable more families to participate from where they are. Travelling to Peterborough could be a barrier for some parents.

2. Financial Update

Michelle Kennedy reported that there is \$8,500 available for projects. This money was budgeted for the OAPCE membership fees and for attendance of 10 parents (5 committee members and 5 from the Catholic School Councils) to attend the OAPCE conference. It was noted that funds for parents to attend the Parents for French Conference may be requested from this budget line, which was previously approved by the Board of Trustees.

There are also sufficient funds budgeted for the Appreciation Dinner. Last year the dinner and gifts cost approximately \$4,700 and the same amount is available this year.

Michael Nasello reported that the Regional PRO Grant application resulted in \$7,500 being awarded for speaking projects. \$3,500 of this grant has gone to payment for Jennifer Kolari. There was discussion about how the balance could be spent.

3. Catholic School Community Profiles

Michael Nasello reported that a memorandum has been sent from the Office of the Director to Catholic School Chairpersons with the procedures on completing the Catholic School Community Profile. This process will inform the Board on needs and specific characteristics of school communities. Catholic School Councils have been instructed to take time in their Catholic School Council Meetings to complete the survey as a group.

4. Policy Update

Michael Nasello spoke to the committee about the process of policy review and reported that there is a new directional policy for student transportation that will be coming to the Board for approval at the end of February. The new policy proposes to adopt revised thresholds of walking distances for primary students to align with our coterminous boards' walking distances. The differences between our board and the other boards have made it difficult for STSCO to navigate customer service. A lot of feedback has been received to date with regard to the changes. Parents are encouraged to review the proposed policy and make comments via the board website if they have not already done so.

5. Catholic School Council Visit Planning

Laura Bassett and Diane Corkery have contacted and will be visiting the St. Mary Secondary Family of Schools to give the presentation at the Catholic School Council meeting.

The presentation that was prepared and reviewed at the last meeting will be shared with all of the committee members. The final version, which will be on the Board template will be shared by Michelle Kennedy.

6. Social and Recognition Evening – Planning for May 16, 2018

The committee engaged in discussion about the Social and Recognition Evening scheduled for May 16, 2018.

Suggestions for guest speakers were discussed. Michael Nasello will approach Greg Rogers, who was an early builder of the Catholic Graduate Expectations.

There was discussion about the format of the agenda for the evening and having the group be interactive rather than coming and sitting for dinner and then awards. The committee would like to see the awards be given out to groups at the end of the evening rather than calling up individual schools. This format will allow more time for presentation/guest speaker. The idea of having finger foods and dessert bar rather than a sit down dinner was discussed. It was felt that this could be more manageable for the culinary students and will provide more opportunity for attendees to interact and network.

There was discussion about the type of gifts to be handed out and how that could be facilitated. Michelle Kennedy will investigate some gift ideas and contact the committee. It was decided that a gift will be given to each council member, whether in attendance or not, to be taken back to the school by the principal. With this in mind, it was suggested that an appropriate gift be purchased within a total budget of \$2,500.

C. Information Items:

1. Update on Ontario Association of Parents for Catholic Education

Michael Nasello reported that the Board would not be renewing its membership to OAPCE for the 2017-18 school year. It was noted that there is now a new president, treasurer and secretary on the Board for OAPCE.

2. Renewing the Promise Update

Michael Nasello reported to the committee that on November 14 and 15, 2017, a team of 14 from PVNC comprised of staff, clergy, parents, trustees, and student trustees attended a symposium in Toronto. The discussions were focused on Catholic Education. The themes of the discussions were summarized and will inform the writing of the next direction-setting pastoral letter entitled 'Renewing the Promise'.

The importance of coming together in faith to express support for Catholic Education in this election year was also discussed. A campaign by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association entitled 'Together in Faith' (<http://www.togetherinfaith.ca>) invites supporters to sign on to the Website to enumerate support for Catholic Education.

3. Faith and Equity Committee – April 26, 2018

Michael Nasello stated that the Faith and Equity Committee terms of reference allow for a parent representative to attend its meetings. The next meeting will take place on April 26, 2018, at the Catholic Education Centre. If there is a committee member interested, please contact Michelle Kennedy.

4. Committee Member Updates

Committee members were invited to share information. The following individuals gave verbal reports:

Diane Corkery– Reported that their school council was pleased with the turnout of 29 people who came to hear guest speaker, Paul Davis in November.

Linda Ainsworth – Reported that this has been a busy year so far as a trustee. Interesting seminar at the OCSTA Conference where the trustees were the first gathering to meet the new Minister of Education. The conference had some very timely sessions and the networking was valuable. Linda announced that at the OCSTA Annual General Meeting Michelle Griepsma will be running for Vice President of the OCSTA.

Jennifer Ball – Reported that St. Joseph, Bowmanville will be having their first Dance-a-thon fundraiser this week. Their school is trying to raise money for more ipads and chromebooks.

Michelle Griepsma – talked about changes that will take place with respect to Municipal Elections this year. There will be an information event hosted by our Board in the spring which will be open to the public for those who are interested in running in the election. More information will be shared when it is available.

Father Paul Massel – is enjoying his role as the connection of the Diocese and School Board. This work is very encouraging and there is lots of work to be proud of. The Rosary program is doing well and flourishing. He reported that he will be travelling to the Philippines on a medical brigade with Peterborough area doctors and nurses.

Diane Mather – reported that the Board is celebrating that Frank Bradica, Principal at St. Mother Teresa in Courtice, will be receiving an Outstanding Principal Award from the Learning Partnership. All of the Principals have taken part in Indigenous Cultural Competency training.

Michael Nasello – reported that he has finished the circle of meetings with all of the indigenous groups in our Board jurisdiction. The Bishop accompanied him at these meetings and remains committed to ongoing communication. Michael also reported that Math Olympics will take place at the board office in the spring. A robotics event that was held earlier this year was very successful. Deeper learning work is expanding to eighteen of our schools in the Board.

It was noted that he will be having more meetings with municipal leaders and will also meet with MPPs about the proximity of the Cannabis dispensaries to schools as marijuana becomes legalized later this year.

D. Next Committee Meeting/Special Events:

1. Next Meeting:

April 19, 2018, at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre, Peterborough.

May 16, 2018 – Catholic School Council Social and Appreciation Evening at 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary Catholic Secondary School.

2. Future Agenda Items

Please contact Michelle Kennedy if you have any future agenda items for discussion.

Diane Mather volunteered to prepare an Opening and Closing Prayer for next meeting.

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer

At the request of the Chairperson, Jennifer Ball concluded the meeting with prayer.

2. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.