

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: October 13, 2020

ITEM 1 PRAYER/WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. via Skype and C. Ciapanna led the committee in the opening prayer. N. Centritto chaired the meeting.

ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE

PRESENT - COMMITTEE:

N. Centritto, Co-Chair, D. Eberts, Co-Chair,  
R. Gambale, T. Hartnett, L. Perini Parkes

BOARD/ADMINISTRATION:

D. Hansen, Director of Education  
P. Daly, Chairperson of the Board  
C. Ciapanna, Superintendent of Education

RECORDING SECRETARY: K. Bullard

ITEM 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 MEETING

MOTION:

THAT THE CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2020 BE APPROVED.

MOVER: D. EBERTS

SECONDER: L. PERINI PARKES

CARRIED

ITEM 4 RECOMMENDATION FOR VACANCIES

C. Ciapanna reported that there were eight candidates that responded to the posting for vacancies. A brief overview of applications received was provided. The selection committee, two co-chairs and Superintendent of Education, provided their recommendations. The candidates, Su Heenan from Regina Mundi Catholic Elementary School and Anthony Mari from St. Michael Catholic Elementary School/Bishop Tonnos Catholic Secondary School have had extensive involvement and experience as catholic School Council members and are advocates of parent involvement and student improvement and well-being.

MOTION:

THAT THE CANDIDATES, SU HEENAN AND ANTHONY MARI, BE ACCEPTED AS NEW MEMBERS OF THE CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE.

MOVER: N. CENTRITTO  
SECONDER: R. GAMBALE

CARRIED

ITEM 4

REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) N. Centritto/D. Eberts

D. Eberts provided an update regarding the Roots of Empathy program. The launch of the recovery program will begin tomorrow and will include five lessons to support students' return to school following the pandemic. This program can be delivered virtually. The next program is scheduled to begin in January and can also be delivered virtually if necessary. Many schools and instructors are currently participating in this program.

b) P. Daly

P. Daly recognized and thanked all parents, Board of Trustees, system and school staff and students for the tremendous support received during these unprecedented times.

i) Update – Our Lady of Hope Construction

Progress continues to be made on the construction of Our Lady of Hope Catholic Elementary School. It is anticipated that the school will open in the New Year.

ii) Update on Anti-Racism in Education

He reported that the Board is committed to do all it can to eradicate racism. In June a committee was established, comprised of staff, students and former staff. This committee has met and will bring forward a report with recommendations to the Board.

Interviews for the position of Equity and Human Rights Officer are being arranged and an appointment will hopefully be announced shortly.

iii) Bus Driver Shortage

He reported that bus driver shortages are ongoing. The disruption and inconvenience to students' families and schools regrettably continues. The Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Service (HWSTS) has introduced rotating cancellation of routes to improve the level of service, continues to work with the bus companies and has provided funding to improve service.

c) D. Hanseni) COVID-19 Update:

D. Hansen provided an update highlighting the following:

- On October 9, 2020, a letter was sent to Parents/Guardians sharing the province's revised COVID-19 Screening Guidance for Students in School and Child Care as well as a new COVID-19 school screening tool;
- Parents are requested to do a self screening of their child before going to school;
- Public Health has updated the decision guides to assist parents with how to respond and when a child should stay home as well as how long to stay home;
- The charts were reviewed:
  - Students with one symptom (typical cold/flu symptoms) can return to school more quickly - 24 hours after they are no longer experiencing the symptom;
  - Students with two or more symptoms or who are experiencing signs of COVID-19 are directed to follow the Public Health flow chart and self-isolate until receiving a negative COVID-19 test and 24 hours non-symptomatic or to isolate for 14 days if there is no COVID-19 test taken;
  - Greater flexibility was provided by Public Health for those students experiencing more typical childhood illnesses as opposed to COVID-19;
  - Students awaiting test results, the wait time has changed from 14 days to a minimum of 10 days and Public Health will advise when students can return to school;
- Some positive cases have occurred in schools;
- Some classroom cohorts have been deemed a close contact (a close contact is if there is a positive case of a student in a classroom then all students and the teacher in that classroom are identified as close contacts to a COVID-19 positive situation and they will have to go home for an isolation period);

- Schools are able to get the student/students up and running in a virtual setting;
- Teachers that go into quarantine can continue their classes on-line except if the teacher is sick in which case an occasional teacher would be assigned to the class; and
- An Attestation form was introduced for parents to complete for return to school or child care including:
  - That they are following the Public Health guidelines regarding assessing their child;
  - Working with Public Health if there was a positive test or if seen by a physician;
  - Attesting to the fact that the child is safe and well enough to return to school.

ii) Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting:

The following was noted:

- Students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 will receive a progress report in November.
- The Ministry is adding a comment informing parents that the reporting period reflects learning that has occurred in a modified learning environment and that the child's progress might be a bit different this year, and also instructs schools that one of the things that may be reported is how the child is adapting to the new learning environment.
- The first full report card will be sent at the end of January/beginning of February with Math being reported as a single mark (five strands are being taught but have been condensed to one for the report card) for Grades 1-8.
- For Secondary, exam days have been removed and the final mark will compose of 70% class work and 30% culminating tasks. Final exams will not take place in this Board this year. Individual teachers may do final culminating tests or assignments.
- Many Boards are not doing final exams in this model.
- Reporting schedules in secondary have been changed to the end of each course. Students will receive, within five days of course completion, their mark via myPath.
- After completion of the second course, a report card will be issued which will include the first and second course.
- Likewise, course 3 will be taught and completed and a mark issued, and after completion of course 4 another report will be received including all courses in the semester.
- This process will be repeated for second semester.

- There are changes for students applying for post secondary. The central application service will be looking at not only student marks but also what students are enrolled in as they are beginning to prepare for early acceptance (around December).
- In the area of EQAO:
  - Grade 3 and 6 assessments have been cancelled for this year.
  - In grade 9 Math, a field test in two windows (Fall (in November) and spring) will be provided to students who are taking face-to-face Math. Not every grade 9 student will be participating.
  - The OSSLT Literacy requirement for grade 10 students and those who did not achieve the Literacy test will hold a traditional assessment at the end of March. For students that intend to graduate at the end of February, schools are working with them to either enroll them in a literacy course or participate in an adjudication process with the teacher to prove they have the necessary requirements in the area of Literacy.

N. Centritto advised that she has received concerns from parents regarding protocol and procedures around checking the validity of individuals who claim to have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.

D. Hansen reported that discipline comes in different forms. Rumours received have been shared with Public Health. Malicious mischief is taken seriously at the school level.

d) C. Ciapanna

i) Catholic School Council Items:

Funds:

C. Ciapanna reported that the Ministry of Education is supporting Catholic School Councils to support Parent Involvement through three areas:

- The Board receives a basic amount of \$5,000.00 plus .17 per student;
- Each school is provided with \$500.00 to promote parent engagement; and
- A Reaching Out grant was received in the amount of \$17,651.00.

Events:

Events modified or cancelled are as follows:

- The Catholic School Council Orientation will be held virtually on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The format will be similar as in previous years:

(Words from Director, Chairperson, Chair of the Committee, Superintendent of Education, as well as a commissioning ceremony). Candles will be sent to schools ahead of time so they can participate virtually. Information will be shared regarding funding as well as the application process for the PRO grant.

- The Parent Conference scheduled for November is cancelled. A virtual mini conference will be held at the end of January/beginning of February. This will also replace the Parent Council Breakfast.

Reaching Out Grants:

- The Ministry recognizes the valuable contributions that parent engagement makes to students' learning and well-being and PRO grants supports school boards to identify barriers to prevent engagement in school communities and to help find solutions.
- A process will be implemented, similar as the protocol directed by the Ministry two years ago, wherein each school council will devise an application to request funds up to \$1,000.00. Applications will be submitted to this committee for review.
- Information will be sent to the schools and shared with this committee.

C. Ciapanna reported on hires within the board. He advised that 10 secondary and 40 elementary teachers were hired permanently within the board.

He congratulated T. Hartnett for being nominated and is one of three recipients of the Distinguished Service to Catholic Education in the system.

He thanked N. Centritto for her commitment and input to this committee.

N. Centritto thanked everyone for their kind words.

After this meeting, parents are asked to remain on line to select a new co-chair and to let C. Ciapanna know the outcome.

ITEM 5      MEETING DATES

Next meeting dates are:

- December 8, 2020
- Tuesday, March 9, 2021
- Tuesday, May 11, 2021

ITEM 6      ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.