

HAMILTON-WENTWORTH CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: October 12, 2021

ITEM 1 PRAYER/WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. via Teams and J. Angiolillo led the committee in the opening prayer. D. Eberts chaired the meeting. A special welcome to J. Angiolillo as Superintendent of Education to this committee.

ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE

PRESENT - COMMITTEE:

D. Eberts, Co-Chair, L. Perini Parkes, Co-Chair  
R. Gambale, T. Hartnett, S. Heenan, A. Mari

BOARD/ADMINISTRATION:

D. Hansen, Director of Education  
P. Daly, Chairperson of the Board  
J. Angiolillo, Superintendent of Education

REGRETS:

L. Fraser

RECORDING SECRETARY: K. Bullard

ITEM 3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 25, 2021 MEETING

MOTION:

THAT THE CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES  
OF MAY 25, 2021 BE APPROVED.

MOVER: L. PERINI PARKES

SECONDER: A. MARI

CARRIED

ITEM 4      REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) D. Eberts/L. Perini Parkes

L. Perini Parkes shared information on various Ontario CPIC committees. She viewed various social media platforms and suggested that the board look at strengthening its social media accounts (Twitter/Instagram) to inform parents and schools of activities and resources available as well as giving parent access for communication.

It was suggested that J. Angiolillo, D. Eberts and L. Perini Parkes discuss with M. Jadon and A. Tarli items to supplement the Board's existing platforms. J. Angiolillo reported that the board website for Catholic School Council was recently updated and that she will speak with M. Jadon regarding linking CPIC to the board website. L. Perini Parkes and S. Heenan offered their assistance.

b) P. Daly

P. Daly thanked committee members for their strong commitment to Catholic Education and for promoting parent engagement. He thanked D. Hansen and J. Angiolillo for their leadership and all staff of the Board for a successful school start-up.

He provided the following updates:

i) COVID-19 Update

The number of positive cases to date is similar to last year as a result of the Delta variant and unvaccinated children under the age of 12. Schools are heading towards resuming full co-curricular activities.

He commended staff on placing priority on the health and safety and well-being of students and their colleagues and on delivering high quality Catholic education to the Board's students.

ii) Anti-Racism in Education Committee

A final report, including committee recommendations, was presented to the Board of Trustees on October 5, 2021. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the report and restated its commitment to do all it can to eradicate racism. He invited committee members to read the full report posted on the Board website.

iii) Mental Health Documents

The following mental health documents were provided to committee members:

- a) Staff Guide to Support Well-being Rooted in our Faith, and
- b) Supporting Student Mental Health.

He commended J. Angiolillo and others for preparing these resources.

iv) Adult Faith Formation

P. Daly quoted an article outlining a study on the factors which are most important in young Catholics sustaining activity in the Church. It was determined that Catholics who learn the basics of the faith, read scripture, discovered a method to prayer, had parents or an adult figure who modelled faith for them and, found a community that supported discipleship, had far better odds remaining active in the Church. The impact of parents and adult figures as role models of active Catholic discipleship is critically important.

At the provincial level, O.C.S.T.A., is beginning a project to seek information from Catholic school boards in the province on effective practices used regarding adult faith formation. This project is expected to take place over the next few months. This document will then be shared with school boards. He indicated a copy will be shared with the committee.

c) D. Hansen

Mr. Hansen reported on the following:

i) Learning Models for 2021-2022

Elementary schools:

- a return to full in-person learning;
- small group instruction i.e., special education, reading recovery, and reading intervention programs have returned and students in small groups can join other cohorts to receive this specialized instruction;
- students, in their cohorts can now use common areas i.e., libraries and computer labs;
- specialized itinerant staff i.e., Arts Integrated teachers, French teachers, and Special Education teachers are now able to join cohorts;
- at recess, students in their cohort are able to be outside without masks if they are able to be socially distant;

- shared materials have returned following Ministry guidelines and direction from local Public Health;
- food and non-instructional food days i.e., pizza days have returned;
- while non-essential visitors are not permitted, essential visitors i.e., food day support, are subject to the requirements of COVID immunization disclosure.

Secondary schools:

- schools have moved from the octomester (one course at a time over 26 days) to a quadmester (two courses each day / four quadmesters a year);
- exams for courses where there are exams;
- period 1 is 8:30 to 11:15, with built in breaks, period 2 is 11:15 to 2:40 (150-minute periods);
- use of shared spaces i.e., cafeteria has returned with staggered lunches by grade;
- outdoor breaks are encouraged to give breaks from wearing the mask and allows socialization and healthy mental breaks;
- school assemblies have not returned as yet; and
- only essential visitors are permitted.

A remote learning option is available to students in both elementary and secondary. Where elementary students are learning in a dedicated virtual school (this year 3% of the board population as compared to 20% of the population last year), secondary students are using hybrid learning where classes may have both in-person and virtual students (8% of the secondary school population are learning virtually) in the same class.

ii) Enhancements

Wi-Fi coverage in school buildings have been improved, HVAC and portable HEPA filters across the system have been purchased to enhance the air quality in classrooms.

iii) Co-Operative Education

In-person co-operative education placements and music instruction, including singing and the use of woodwind instruments in cohorts, have returned.

iv) Field Trips

Field trips are permitted - but not overnight.

v) OSSLT and EQAO

Provincial testing (grades 3, 6 and 9) is resuming. Students graduating this year are not required to write the OSSLT. As the province is behind in this requirement, there will be two windows (Fall and Spring) for grade 10 and 11 and any non-graduating grade 12 students to write the OSSLT.

vi) Christian Service Hours

There is a 40-hour requirement for Christian Service hours. The Ministry has lowered the requirement to 20 hours for graduates of 2021-2022. The Board's Christian Service Animators continue to promote Christian Service opportunities. A large percentage of graduating students will have achieved the 40-hour requirement even though only 20 hours is required.

vii) Inter-school Sports

This Board is one of the few boards that is participating in inter-school sports. Students involved in high-contact athletics are required to provide proof of vaccination. While fans are still limited, schools are streaming live football, basketball, volleyball and field hockey games to bring back school spirit for students and families.

viii) Community Use of Schools

Schools are supporting after school activities.

ix) CYO Sports

CYO Sports i.e., cross country and flag football programs at the elementary level are underway.

A brief discussion took place regarding extracurricular sports. The decision of school participation in extracurricular sports lies with the individual school i.e., availability of coach, etc.

x) Health and Safety Strategies

Local Public Health requires elementary students to complete daily mandatory self-screening. Calendars have been provided to elementary students to assist with daily screening. Secondary students are required to confirm that they have passed the daily self-screening. Masking and social distancing are still required at both levels. Students continue to be trained on appropriate hand hygiene. School busses are back at full capacity.

xi) Vaccination Requirements for Staff

The Board has a high level of compliance in reporting the vaccination requirement or alternatively testing for those that are not vaccinated.

xii) Contact Tracing

The Board currently has had 97 COVID positive student cases and 11 COVID positive staff cases.

Fully vaccinated individuals, if deemed a close contact in a classroom, may return the next day if they are not symptomatic.

xiii) Class Sizes

Class sizes in the elementary panel is consistent to what it was last year and is below mandated requirements. This has been a significant investment by the Board.

xiv) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE continues to be provided for staff.

d) J. Angiolillo

J. Angiolillo reported on the following:

i) Mental Health Documents and PA Day Report

The following documents were shared:

- HWCDSB Cares October 2021 Newsletter to parents (a quarterly newsletter provided through the Mental Health Lead and posted on the board website);
- Back to School Student Mental Health Kit (a student-level resource);
- Supporting Student Mental Health (for educators to support students);
- Staff Guide to Support Well-being Rooted in our Faith (a collaborative prepared resource to assist staff);
- PA Day 1 - Grateful Journal (Faith Day Journal on where we were pre-COVID and where we are now); and
- Student Achievement & Well-being Report – Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together: September 2021 Professional Activity Days (an overview of the first three PA Days). Day 1 included a Faith Day and celebration of Mass. Day 2 included a variety of workshops via myClass. Day 3 included health and safety regulations and preparation for the first day of school.

ii) Catholic School Council Orientation

The virtual Catholic School Council Orientation is scheduled for October 26, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Candles have been sent to the schools to prepare for the commissioning ceremony.

iii) Parent Conference

A meeting took place with the Parent Conference co-chairs. A survey will be circulated within the committee to pole if this virtual event should be held in December or Spring of 2022.

iv) Catholic School Council Breakfast

The Catholic School Council Breakfast is tentatively scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and T. Hartnett has pre-booked Michelangelo Banquet Centre for this event.

v) PRO Grants

Schools and Catholic School Councils will be receiving information on the PRO Grants for 2021-2022 on October 13<sup>th</sup>. Applications are being accepted for an amount up to \$1,000. With committee approval, J. Angiolillo will meet with the CPIC co-chairs to review applications received. A report to the Board of Trustees will be presented as an item of information outlining applications received. A final report will be presented outlining the great work done in schools regarding parent engagement.

e) Other Business

T. Hartnett advised this year marks the Year of the Family, and is the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, Amoris Laetitia, which means "The Joy of love" and explores the beauty and joy found in family life. She suggested that the encyclical would be a great resource to incorporate in the Parent Conference.

ITEM 5      MEETING DATES

Next meeting dates are:

- Tuesday, December 14, 2021 – rescheduled to Wednesday, December 15, 2021
- Tuesday, March 8, 2022
- Tuesday, May 10, 2022.

CPIC-21-3-8

ITEM 6      ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

THAT THE CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
BE ADJOURNED.

MOVER: T. HARTNETT  
SECONDER: S. HEENAN

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.