



CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, January 25th, 2022

6pm

Minutes

Attendance: Chair Julie Marshall, Trustee Jennifer Cooney, Ashley Walker (PRO Committee Chair), Ellie Fuller, Katy Ferguson, Superintendent Norma McDonald

1. **Land Acknowledgement, Prayer & Welcome** – Norma

Land Acknowledgement

Many Canadian winter activities are passed down to us from the traditions of Indigenous peoples. A form of ice hockey, played by the (Migma)Mi'kmaq people hundreds of years ago, was witnessed by European settlers on the East coast of Canada. Legends say that early pucks were made of frozen apples or carved out of wood. Animal bone was tied to the feet to move quickly across the ice. Snowshoes were a necessity to First Nations people who used either bear paws or beavertail shaped snowshoes depending on the terrain. Toboggans were used to travel and transport things across deep snow. We thank Indigenous peoples for sharing their tools of survival that have also been adapted for recreation and enjoyment.

While we meet on a virtual platform today, we acknowledge that the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario gathers on the unceded, traditional Algonquin territory of the Anishinaabe people and the land of the Mohawk territory of the Haudenosaunee/Rotinonhsho'n:ni people. Acknowledging the people who came before us is an important and meaningful step on our path to reconciliation.

Prayer for PIC January 25th, 2022

Today the church remembers the conversion of St. Paul. It's the story of a man named Saul who was a great persecutor of the early Christians. After an encounter with God, he realized that he needed to change. Saul became Paul and he ended up building many Christian communities.

It's never too late for us to change our hearts. Our God, full of mercy and second chances, always gives us the opportunity to start anew.

God our Father,

Through the apostle Paul

You brought the Gospel all over the world.

May we who celebrate his conversion today always be reminded

that we are called to change our hearts and be always

willing to share the Gospel in the way we live our lives.

AMEN

Learning and Growing Together in Christ

2. **October provincial PIC meeting** – Summary of minutes and slide deck provided in January email – Julie reviewed the highlights.
- Provincial PIC feedback/priorities:
 - **Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action** – how do we support parent learning? In schools mandatory Indigenous focused learning in curriculum, Indigenous partners, role of school board Indigenous Education Leads and Indigenous Education Council.
 - **Anxiety and mental health** – ways to support another school year of uncertainty with COVID. Importance of outdoor activities and school extracurricular activities Importance of Mental Health Leads and SMHO resources.
 - **Learning Gap** – foundational concepts that may have been missed in the past two years.
 - **Better internet structure** – supporting parents with WiFi sticks.
 - **French Language supports**
 - **Parent Participation** – now a sense of distance between home and school, fewer parent volunteers, and health guidelines.
 - **Support for marginalized families** – disproportionate effect on families.
 - **How to better serve under-represented communities**
 - Examples of PIC activities using **PRO Grants** shared:
 1. Fundraising for families in need
 2. Collaboration with SEAC and Equity and Inclusion Committee to review projects
 3. Coffee chats
 4. Parent events on mental health, equity, Grade 9 de-streaming, Indigenous speakers, literacy, Right to Read.
3. **Summary of PIC survey to parents in December** – Julie reviewed the survey answers that were provided to everyone through the January email. The feedback asking for more on mental health did guide our choice of presentation for parents. These surveys are worthwhile. Response numbers from 8 to 49 parents. Julie happy to continue to do them as getting some input is always beneficial. Ashley feels it is better to have it, check in periodically to guide our path. Consider digging deeper into the suggestions listed from the December survey.
4. **PRO Grant Applications** – Julie
- Process – collaborate with SEAC, Catholic School Councils and Indigenous Advisory Council to organize parent projects.
 - Topics must fall under:

- Addressing social inclusion and racism specifically anti-Asian, anti-Black and anti-Indigenous
 - Creating a safe and welcoming environment
 - Respect for parents as valued partners
 - Enhancing communication with teachers
 - Informing parents of the Ontario Curriculum and providing supporting resources.
- **Need a PRO Grant Committee Chair.** Must be a parent volunteer.
 - **Ashley Walker has volunteered for this position. Thank you, Ashley!**
- **Indigenous Panel** - Decided to provide parents with an opportunity to hear Indigenous Speakers for our next parent presentation. Choose a date the first week of May to tie in with Catholic Education Week.
5. **Possible Indigenous Guest Speakers** – Trustee Cooney
- OCSTA AGM featured Indigenous Education Panel featuring Trustee Judy Wawia and Trustee Judy Manitowabi. Very powerful presentation possibility for parents. Trustee Cooney explained their virtual AGM and powerful presentations. Trustees for 12-18 years. Very involved in education in their communities. Very involved in First Nations Panel at the provincial level. Shared their own family stories and histories – how they were impacted by residential schools. Very moving stories. Brought to life a focus on the history of the Residential Schools and how these ladies and their families have dealt with it, the impact on them and how they have remained Catholics. Focus on Truth and Reconciliation in curriculum – hearing how it is present in someone’s life is meaningful. Ellie suggested using someone close to the area, a local perspective is always appreciated. Julie supported the Indigenous focus as this has not been done in the past 5-6 years. This would be something new for our parent community. Trustee Cooney suggested that we also have a local person. Spoke about the Indian Act and things it impacted and how it continues to impact our First Nations today.
6. **PIC Representatives Regional Sharing** –
- Questions/concerns/discussion
 - Ashley had a question from a parent who wanted to join the Catholic School Council in Ashley’s catchment. Ashley suggested having the emails of the school principals sent to each PIC member for their area. Ashley shared her school community’s Christmas fundraiser. Ashley is now on SEAC as well.
 - Ellie had difficulty getting the names of the Catholic School Council Chairs so the CSC Chair email information will be sent out to each PIC member for their region as well.
 - Katy shared hope of things opening soon and fun fairs returning.

Learning and Growing Together in Christ

7. **Next Meeting Date** – Tuesday, April 5th and Tuesday, June 7th.
8. **Invite new Director** – for our April meeting