



# CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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## PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. Greg McNally Boardroom

### Minutes

**Attendance:** JoAnn DaSilva, Kathryn Ferguson, Aynsley Gabriel-Buchanan, Aimee Vida, Jennifer Cooney, Norma McDonald. **Regrets:** Director Cameron, Jessica Colwell, Keri-Lyn Fletcher, Julie Ann Marshall. **Guest presenters:** Jameson Lee, James Proulx.

1. Prayer – Norma

**Leader:** The Catholic school is at its best when it is a vital part of the parish community, sharing in the Church's work of spreading the Good News. Let us do all that we can to strengthen the links between our parish, our school and our homes. Let us pray that our children will feel at home in the Catholic community and see their Faith as something that gives meaning to their lives.

**All:** Lord Jesus, help us to become builders of bridges

Bridges that will link our parish and our school, our teachers and our parents, our hopes for our children and the realization of these hopes. And, above all, help our children to see the relevance of their Faith, and ours, to their everyday lives.

May our PIC meeting unite us in our vision and strengthen us in our purpose.

Amen.

2. Welcome – Kathryn Ferguson, Co-Chair

- New PIC member, Aimee Vida, Representing Counties of Stormont and Dundas
- Returning PIC member, Jennifer Cooney, Trustee

3. Review Meeting Minutes from November 1, 2018 – Norma

4. Updated PIC Membership List at January 2019 – Kathryn

5. Presentation by Jameson Lee, Technology Enabled Learning and Teaching Consultant

- Parent Resource Bank
  - Please see the slide deck attached to this email for Jameson's presentation.
  - Jameson reviewed the parent page on our CDSBEO website that has incorporated resources from the Council of Ontario Directors of Education.
  - Feedback from members to also include the following:
    - Map of dioceses and link to diocese websites
    - STEO icon link at bottom as well
    - Concussion protocol paperwork
    - Immunization information and links to health units
    - Safe Schools' protocol for Lock Down and Secure Schools.
    - Search possibility with key words

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- Catholic School Councils link to board website
  - Grade 12 parents – post secondary deadlines and graduation items
  - MyBlueprint link to assist parents with course selections
  - IEP process explanation
  - School Cash online information
  - Microsoft 360 software instructions
  - Podcast links to mental health presentations such as Dr. Amy Cheung and Dr. Jean Clinton.
  
- 6. Presentation by James Proulx, Chief Information Officer
  - CDSBEO Website
  - Implementation of new Parent App.
    - James' slide deck has also been included as an attachment to this email
    - School messenger safe arrival app for parents introduced
  
- 7. PIC Suggestions for Supporting Parents in Catholicity/Religion – Norma
  - Norma reviewed information provided by Chaplains regarding areas they feel support may be needed:
    1. How to renew the connection between parish, home and school
    2. How to interact with our multifaith communities
    3. How to support a parent in answering child's question about existence of God.
    4. Supporting teenagers in their faith journey.
    5. Safe and non-threatening way for parents to explore their own faith while supporting connections and avenues of support.
    6. How to respond when a child loses their faith.
  - Suggestion was made to survey our parents through out school to get their feedback on what is needed regionally.
  - Excellent discussion around regional topics for PIC. Suggestions:
    1. **Digital use – cell phone usage among students.** How can we manage our children in our internet world? Could we do something like OCSB around *Samaritans on the Digital Road* by providing awareness information for parents but also have an educational response from our school board with lesson plans on proper use, moral responsibilities, associated risks etc. Felt there needs to be a CDSBEO response and policy on board wide use of cell phones particularly among our grade 7&8 students.
    2. **Mental wellness and the connection to a faith life.** The role of spirituality and faith in supporting youth and young adults in their mental wellness.
  
- 8. Regional Catholic Education Coalition (CEC) Events 2019 – Norma
  - Reviewed the format for this year of regional CEC events.
  - Handout provided for each PIC member outlining partners involved in CEC events, focus on “Renewing the Promise”.
  - Handout also on Renewing the Promise Monograph series
  
- 9. PRO Grant Approval 2018/2019 – Norma
  - Shared that we have \$10,974 awarded in Parents Reaching Out Grants for Catholic School Councils.

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10. Kindergarten Open House Events January 2019 – Norma
  - Reviewed dates for these events and explained the Welcome to Kindergarten events.
  - Explained changes to WTK bags that are given to families.
  - PIC will be covering the fridge magnets that are sent home to parents with our CDSBEO logo on them. \$1500.
11. Budget – Norma
  - We have \$29,000 left in our PIC budget for this school year
12. Next Meeting Date - **Thursday, March 28, 2019**
13. **Action Items:**
  1. Send a short survey out to school principals to be included in their newsletters asking for parent input into PIC regional event.
  2. Establish a PIC event for your region and begin looking into resources needed.