



**REGIONAL CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
Monday, May 16, 2016 ♦ 7:00 p.m.  
Boardroom**

**Present:** See attached list.

---

**1. Welcome**

Edith Heleniak, RCPIC Chair, welcomed those in attendance.

**2. Opening Prayer**

Paul Tratnyek, Faith Animator, led the opening prayer.

**3. Introduction**

Superintendent Shypula invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

**4. Christian Meditation – Update**

Paul Tratnyek, Faith Animator for the Board, provided the members with a brief history of meditation in our Christian tradition including the 14 years of experience of Christian meditation as prayer in the Diocese of Townsville, Australia. Mr. Tratnyek provided scientific research on the positive effects of meditation and a provincial view of Christian meditation in Catholic school environments. Information was presented in the support for Christian meditation from the ACBO (Assembly of Catholic Bishops in Ontario). Bishops Fabbro, Crosby and Bergie support Christian meditation in our Catholic schools and see the benefits of this form of prayer for our children.

Information was shared with the members on the method in which Christian meditation is performed including the benefits of meditation for children. Feedback from children, teachers, principals and parents has been received regarding this prayer experience. Mr. Tratnyek provided the facts about the distinction and similarities between mindfulness and Christian meditation. The Ministry of Education's goal for students' well-being was defined and an explanation was provided as to how Christian meditation can enhance this important goal.

**5. Student Behaviour, Discipline and Safety Policy – Update**

Dale Petruka shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining the revised Student Behaviour, Discipline and Safety Policy 200.09. She provided an overview of how the recent online *Thought Exchange* consultation survey will be used to inform the District's Safe and Accepting Schools Plan. The *Thought Exchange* process surveyed students from kindergarten to Grade 12, all staff, and parents who provided the school with a functioning e-mail address. In the fall of 2016, each school's Safe Schools Team will revise their School's Code of Conduct and use their school-specific data from the *Thought Exchange* process to create a School Safe and Accepting School Plan (which will incorporate the School's Bullying Prevention Plan from previous years).



**6. Management of Students with Asthma – Policy Update**

Superintendent Shypula presented the new Board Policy 200.14 – Management of Students with Asthma. Following the introduction of Bill 20, Ryan’s Law 2015 mandating all school boards to develop a policy to manage students with asthma, a team was established which included school and senior administration, health and safety, parent and public health unit representation. This team began researching and creating the policy and accompanying administrative procedure adhering to expectations outlined in Ryan’s Law. Superintendent Shypula shared causes, symptoms and management of students who experience asthma. The members also learned about parent/guardian and student responsibilities identified in the policy and reviewed the Authorization for Administration of Asthma Medication and Student Asthma Management Plan forms.

**7. Parent Involvement Committee Symposium – Update**

RCPIC member Stephane Rouleau shared a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the key learning experienced during the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Parent Involvement Committee Symposium hosted in London on Saturday, April 16, 2016.

**8. Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) Update**

Chair Heleniak and RCPIC member Stephane Rouleau shared an overview of the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual OAPCE Conference, “Many Gifts, One Voice: Living our Virtues in a Virtual World” that was held on May 6-7, 2016.

**9. Closing Remarks**

Attendees were thanked for their participation by Chair Heleniak and the meeting was adjourned.