



**REGIONAL CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, February 26, 2018 – 7:00 pm - Boardroom**

**Present:** Bonnie McKinnon (Trustee), Lidia Bellington, Lindsay Blasdell, Edith Heleniak, Rebecca Johnson, Courtney Montgomery, Colin Phee, Stéphane Rouleau, Michelle Shypula, Marie Teskey, Greg Wilson

**Guest(s):** Dianne Wdowczyk – Mental Health Lead

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**1. Opening Prayer**

Superintendent Shypula led the group in the opening prayer.

**2. Welcome and Opening Comments**

Superintendent Shypula welcomed the group and led a round of introductions for the benefit of all members and guests in attendance.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Stéphane Rouleau

Seconded by: Colin Phee

THAT the RCPIC Committee approves the agenda of the February 26, 2018 meeting.

**Carried**

**4. Declaration of Interest- Nil**

**5. Approval of Minutes – October 23, 2017**

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Rebecca Johnson

THAT the RCPIC Committee approves the minutes of the October 23, 2017 meeting.

**Carried**

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes- Nil**

**7. Correspondence- Nil**

**8. Mental Health Strategy Update- Dianne Wdowczyk – Mental Health Lead**

Superintendent Shypula introduced Dianne Wdowczyk, Mental Health Lead and Dianne updated the group with a hand out on the Board Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy 2017-20. Dianne indicated the strategy continues to be rooted in the three pillars of Mental Health Literacy, Mental Health Promotion, and Vulnerable Student Support. Dianne shared a video produced by The Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH) that can be found in the Mental Health and Well-Being section of our board website under the tab Programs & Services. The video provided an overview of the difference between mental health and mental illness and provides an opportunity for consistent language and talking points for staff, students and their families. <http://www.bhncdsb.ca/page/mental-health-and-well-being>



Dianne indicated the importance of student and parent voice in order to inform the Mental Health and Well-Being Strategy and yearly action plans. She indicated at the school level, each school should either have or be in the process of forming School Well-Being teams, which should include staff, student and parent representation. Dianne encouraged the members to ask their administrators about these teams and if interested, offer to join.

Dianne discussed the many things happening in the Board to improve the well-being of our students and staff such as:

- Professional development days focused on mental health and well-being,
- Christian meditation,
- Social-emotional programming like *Mind Up* being available in elementary schools,
- Evidence based health promotion opportunities for secondary students through *Jack Talks* ([www.jack.org](http://www.jack.org)); and
- Whole school approaches to restorative practices through partnership with the John Howard Society in an effort to build community.

From a provincial standpoint, curriculum links provide opportunity to promote mental health and well-being i.e. Health and Physical Education, English, etc.

Dianne noted the Ministry of Education has released a recent document called ‘*Yes, I Can!*’ which discusses the importance of mindset concerning mathematics. This resource was forwarded to all School Council Chairs to share with their communities.

<http://find.gov.on.ca/?owner=edu&lang=en&q=yes+i+can+math>

**9. BREAK**

**10. Renewing the Promise Symposium Update - Colin Phee- RCPIC Chair**

RCPIC Chair, Colin Phee shared his experience attending the “Renewing the Promise” symposium in November 2017. *Renewing the Promise* is a follow up to the document “The Moment of Promise” published by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario in 1988 that established a clear and compelling mission and vision for Catholic schools. A later pastoral letter “Fulfilling the Promise” was released in 1993 and focused on nurturing and sustaining our Catholic schools. In order to support our students in being witnesses to their faith in an ever-complex secular society, in the spring of 2017, Catholic school stakeholders were again invited to share their understandings and challenges related to Catholic education in Ontario using the *Thoughtexchange* process. Information that was gleaned from the *Thoughtexchange* survey was then shared at a province-wide symposium in November 2017. This symposium was hosted by the Institute for Catholic Education (ICE) and the Office Provincial de l'Éducation de la foi Catholique de l'Ontario (OPECO) and attendees included clergy, school board personnel, students and parents from our district. Input from both the surveys and symposium will be used to inform a pastoral letter by the Bishops of Ontario and will reflect on the challenges and opportunities that present in this time of Catholic education.

**11. Ontario Association for Parents of Catholic Education (OAPCE) Update - Stéphane Rouleau – RCPIC Vice- Chair**

Stéphane shared that the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) is the voice for parents and guardians of students enrolled in a publicly funded English Catholic System of Education in the Province of Ontario. Stéphane updated parents on the new Executive Board elected in January 2018 and current Regional Directors for the association. OAPCE is currently planning for their Fall Symposium and 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, which will be taking place in 2019. There are



currently over 4,000 people registered to the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (OCSTA) - Together in Faith campaign, 2018 Annual General Meeting and 'Stewards of the Promise' Conference that will be held April 26 to 28, 2018. The Ontario English Catholic Teacher's Association (OECTA) is currently accepting nominations for 2018 Teaching Awards until March 31, 2018 and individuals can visit <https://teachingawards.ca/home/> for additional information. OAPCE will be holding their next Board of Directors meeting in April 2018.

**12. Safe and Accepting Schools Update - Michelle Shypula- Superintendent of Education**

Superintendent Shypula provided the RCPIC with a Safe and Accepting Schools update. The District Safe and Accepting Schools Team (DSAST) has met three times this year. The focus of these meetings has been to create school conditions whereby all staff, students, parents and community members feel welcomed, accepted and safe when they are in our facilities. Recent initiatives that the team has been addressing and will be sharing with school community stakeholders are:

- Preparation for the creation of School Climate surveys and School Climate Action Plans using *Thoughtexchange*;
- Creation of a school code of conduct template that all school communities can utilize that provides for consistent messaging but can be individualized to reflect each school community's unique qualities;
- Investigation and determination of a system-wide staff online training program to address bullying and bullying prevention in our schools; and
- Development of a district administrative procedure to support students who demonstrate risk of injury to themselves and/or others.

A progress update of the above initiatives will be shared at the May RCPIC meeting.

**13. Closing Remarks/ Adjournments**

Superintendent Shypula presented Edith Heleniak with a 'Homeless Jesus' bronze sculpture, also known as Jesus the Homeless, by Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz that depicts Jesus as a homeless person, sleeping on a park bench. The gift was a token of the Boards appreciation for her 10 years (plus) service to RCPIC and her dedication to Catholic Education. Attendees were thanked for their participation and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.