



**REGIONAL CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, May 14, 2018 – 7:00 pm - Boardroom**

- Present:** Lindsay Blasdell, Cathy DeGoey, Michelle Dreyer, Stephanie Egany, Megan Flexman, Stephanie Gagne, Rebecca Johnson, Lori Martissius, Ashley Malo, Melanie Montague, Courtney Montgomery, Colin Phee (Chair), Stéphane Rouleau (Co-Chair), Michelle Shypula (Superintendent of Education), Marie Teskey, Greg Wilson
- Guest(s):** Heidi Pasztor- Principal, St Cecilia's and Principal Lead Safe Schools
- Regrets:** Bonnie McKinnon (Trustee)
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**1. Opening Prayer**

Superintendent Shypula led the group in the opening prayer.

**2. Welcome and Opening Comments**

RCPIC Chair, Colin Phee welcomed the group and led a round of introductions for the benefit of all members and guests in attendance. Colin thanked all parent council members in attendance.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Stéphane Rouleau

Seconded by: Rebecca Johnson

THAT the RCPIC Committee approves the agenda of the May 14, 2018 meeting.

**Carried**

**4. Declaration of Interest- Nil**

**5. Approval of Minutes – February 26, 2018**

Moved by: Courtney Montgomery

Seconded by: Greg Wilson

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

**Carried**

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

**7. Safe and Accepting Schools Update- Heidi Pasztor**

Superintendent Shypula introduced Heidi Pasztor, Principal for St. Cecilia's in Port Dover and Principal Lead – Safe Schools. Heidi outlined she would be discussing the purpose of the District Safe & Accepting Schools Team (DSAST) and the link between district and school teams and DSAST accomplishments over the past year.



The purpose of the district team is to support student and staff safety and comply with PPM 128. DSAST members are represented by various members in the Board including, Elementary and Secondary Principals, Vice-Principals, Teachers, Senior Administration, Special Education, Mental Health and Health and Safety. During this segment discussion ensued regarding the value of parent voice on the DSAST. School teams are present to support the needs of the district goals and PPM 128 such as organizing school teams, creating and sharing school codes of conducts and communicating information to staff, students, parents and the community. Information is shared during staff and parent council meetings, newsletters, tweets and Board and school websites. The group also discussed that Parent Involvement on school teams is invaluable.

DSAST continues to increase Board representation on the team and is creating a consistent District and School Code of Conduct for use in the fall of the 2018-19 school year. Thought exchange survey results will soon be available to all schools in the district and the feedback will be useful information in the creation of individual Safe School action plans. The district is in the process of developing new online training for all Board employees for the 2018-19 school year covering bullying prevention and Safe Schools topics.

Additionally, Superintendent Shypula shared that the Board has developed and is in the final vetting stage of a new protocol - Notification of Risk of Injury and Student Safety Plan. The protocol will be in place for September 2018 and will provide consistency as to how we support our students at risk of injury to themselves and others.

Heidi provided copies of the School Climate Survey – Action Plan (Example from St. Cecilia's School, Port Dover - Appendix A), a Draft of a Safe and Accepting Schools Plan (Appendix B) and a draft of the District and School Code of Conduct (Appendix C) as a reference to members.

#### **8. Renewing the Promise Symposium Update- Michelle Shypula**

Superintendent Shypula provided an update from the Renewing the Promise Symposium, which was attended by our RCPIC Chair, Colin Phee. 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. The 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. Colin shared his experiences in taking part at the symposium and how humbling it was to hear the student voice who spoke to the importance of Catholic Education on their lives. 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. Following the reflections on the past, present and future of Catholic Education, a pastoral letter was just released that will guide our Board in our next spiritual theme and our strategic plan for 2018-2021.

#### **9. BREAK**



**10. Prevalent Medical Conditions, Including Diabetic Management Update – Michelle Shypula**

Members were informed that in February 2018, the Ministry of Education released Policy/Program Memorandum 161 (PPM 161) requiring all school boards in Ontario to develop and maintain a policy/policies to support students in schools who have medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and/or epilepsy and those at risk for anaphylaxis. As stipulated by Sabrina's Law, 2005 and Ryan's Law, 2015, the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board currently has anaphylaxis and asthma policies in place. In order to achieve the mandate of PPM 161, a team consisting of principals, teachers, medical practitioners and senior administration are presently devising a protocol for Diabetic Management. This protocol will be implemented in September 2018.

**11. Regional Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant Discussion - All**

Superintendent Shypula invited members to share their feedback and experiences with their School's *Parent Reaching Out Pro Grant* events.

Cathy DeGoey, Principal for Our Lady of Providence School in Brantford shared that a Family STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Night was held to educate parents on what their children are learning. She described how they had centres set up where both parents and their children could work together and parents learned which fields and types of jobs derive from STEM education.

Marie Teskey, RCPIC representative from Holy Family School in Paris shared that they held a parent night promoting student self-regulation and well-being. Discussions ensued surrounding advertisement and increasing participation from parents in a smaller community.

RCPIC representatives from St. Joseph's School in Simcoe, Ashley Malo and Megan Flexman, informed on their upcoming Wellness Night on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm and extended invitations out to the group. The wellness night included workshops from Board staff and included topics such as Financial Planning, Raising Resilient Children and How to Talk to your Child about Mental Illness. Haldimand-Norfolk Reach, Norfolk Health Unit and Big Brothers, Big Sisters were just a few of the community partners listed in attendance for the evening (see Appendix D for flyer).

Greg Wilson, representative from St. Basil School in Brantford shared that their event, Helping Families Thrive, Yoga classes were offered to parents and childcare was provided. Greg shared that the event was very successful.

Superintendent Shypula shared that a survey would be forthcoming at RCPIC in October for feedback on an application for a District level Parents Reaching Out Grant for the 2019-20 school year.

**12. Closing Remarks/ Adjournments**

Superintendent Shypula thanked attendees for their participation and the meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.