



**REGIONAL CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, October 29, 2018 – 7:00 pm - Boardroom**

**Present:** Bonnie McKinnon (Trustee), Nicole Bender, Lindsay Blasdell, Michelle Dreyer, Megan Flexman, Charmaine Hanley (Principal Lead), Rebecca Johnson, Andrea Nijland, Lori Martisius, Ashley Malo, Melanie Montague, Terri-Lynn Ovens, Marcel Perras, Colin Phee (Chair), Diana Ribeiro, Stéphane Rouleau (Co-Chair), Anita Santos, Michelle Shypula (Superintendent of Education), Marie Teskey, Greg Wilson

**Guest(s):** Keri Calvesbert – Student Achievement Consultant: Religion and Family Life, Kerri Chartrand – Student Achievement Lead: School Effectiveness

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**1. Opening Prayer**

Keri Calvesbert – Student Achievement Consultant: Religion and Family Life 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.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Moved by: Terri-Lynn Ovens

Seconded by: Michelle Dreyer

THAT the RCPIC Committee approves the agenda of the October 29, 2018 meeting.

**Carried**

**4. Declaration of Interest- Nil**

**5. Approval of Minutes – May 14, 2018**

Moved by: Rebecca Johnson

Seconded by: Marie Teskey

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

**Carried**

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

**7. Correspondence**

Superintendent Shypula shared to the group that Parent Reaching Out Grants are currently on pause until further notice by the government and communication with Principals would be forthcoming. Parent member, Greg Wilson, enquired to the group if a letter to the government on behalf of the committee should be considered on this matter. Superintendent Shypula will provide additional input at a later date.



**8. Hearts on Fire- Overview of Our Board Three Year Spiritual Theme- Keri Calvesbert**

Keri Calvesbert, Student Achievement Consultant: Religion and Family Life provided members with an overview of the new Board Spiritual Theme, “Hearts on Fire: Journey, Encounter, Transform” rooted in the story of the ***Road to Emmaus*** (Luke 24:32). In year one, we will focus on what it means to accompany one another, to walk alongside each other as we journey together in faith. Keri referred members to “Renewing the Promise: A Pastoral Letter for Catholic Education” highlighting the alignment of the Board theme with the letter and sharing words of encouragement to parents and school councils from our Ontario Catholic Bishops (page 16).

Information was shared to identify concrete plans the Board will take in the 2018-19 year to continue to emphasize the importance of building an interior prayer life, providing a preferential option for the poor and supporting the faith formation of our staff and student leaders. In September 2018, the new Religious Education program, “Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ” was revealed to all Grade 5 Teachers across the district. All Grade 5 Teachers participated in an in-service day and received their print and access to digital classroom resources. In early October, Administrators and Mental Health Champions from each school participated in a day of learning with Dr. Noel Keating and his research findings, which link the benefits and spiritual fruits of Christian Meditation with well-being in children and youth. Pre-departure sessions for all Secondary students and staff departing for the “Guatemala Global South Encounter” (January 25, 2019 – February 3, 2019) have been taking place in order to help prepare for this encounter. On October 24, elementary schools across the district participated in the Ontario Dress Purple Day. On this day, our schools made connections between our Board theme of “Hearts on Fire: Journey” and the importance of caring for children and youth. Keri gave an overview of the 2018-19 Catholic Community Events for staff being offered. This year, events include: “On the Move” assisting St. Vincent de Paul Brantford, an Advent Twilight Retreat, Renewing the Promise: Unpacking the Pastoral Letter, Social Justice Outreach Experience Days, Paint Night on Tap and Trail Blazing. As the year unfolds, the Board will continue to practice Christian Meditation in all of its schools. Elementary and Secondary Social Justice Teams will continue to reach out locally and globally to support various initiatives. We will introduce new forms of prayer including Lectio and Visio Divina and praying the Examen, along with liturgy training, in order to raise the profile of Sacred Scripture and prayer in the lives of our students and staff. Prayer Retreat Days and Catholic Leadership Retreat Days for elementary and secondary students will be offered this year.

**9. EQAO Update: Closing the Gap**

Kerri Chartrand, Student Achievement Lead: School Effectiveness, reviewed the Board’s scores for the EQAO Primary and Junior Assessments, noting that the district scores were at or above in all but one category (i.e. Junior Math). Samples of questions were provided to the group from each of the assessments that students found difficult at the board level, noting both the overall expectation and the category for achievement for each question (see appendix A). Kerri remarked that while many of the questions were technically labelled as belonging to a strand other than Number Sense and Numeration, foundational concepts of number sense were usually needed for students to effectively understand and complete the questions. Finally, Kerri provided an overview of the Board’s plan for closing the gap for numeracy, which included details about the Measurement initiative for current teachers of grades two and five. As well, she shared the Essential Practices K-12 poster that will serve as a district focus for next few years. The Essential Practices highlight research-based, effective practices for Assessment for Learning, Literacy, and Numeracy.



**10. BREAK**

**11. Prevalent Medical Conditions Policy and Administrative Procedure – Michelle Shypula**

Superintendent Shypula informed the RCPIC of recent legislative changes that resulted in the creation of the new Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions (Anaphylaxis, Asthma, Diabetes and/or Epilepsy) policy and administrative procedure 200.05. The policy and Administrative Procedure came into effect on September 1, 2018 and resulting in the rescinding of the Board's previous anaphylaxis and asthma policies. She provided an overview of the goals and essential components of the policy and highlighted the roles and responsibilities of parents, students, principals and staff in the effective and safe implementation of the policy. Parents were informed the complete policy could be located on the board website:

[http://www.bhncdsb.ca/sites/content/files/resources/students\\_with\\_prevalent\\_medical\\_conditions\\_200.05\\_complete\\_0.pdf](http://www.bhncdsb.ca/sites/content/files/resources/students_with_prevalent_medical_conditions_200.05_complete_0.pdf).

**12. School Council Survey results- Charmaine Hanley**

Charmaine Hanley, Principal of Christ the King School and Principal Lead for RCPIC, provided the group with the results of the questionnaires sent out to all Catholic School Advisory Councils (see appendix B). Sixty-five percent (22 schools) had provided feedback to the questionnaire and discussions ensued between the committee regarding the results. Charmaine separated results into 13 notable themes (see appendix C) and the group participated in an exercise where they prioritized what they felt the top three themes were for their school. Charmaine and Superintendent Shypula will be further analyzing the results and feedback will be shared with the RCPIC and Catholic School Advisory Councils in upcoming meetings.

**12. Closing Remarks/ Adjournments**

Co-chair, Stephane Rouleau updated the group on an upcoming summit being held by the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) by following this link: <http://www.oapce.org/convention/>. Superintendent Shypula thanked attendees for their participation and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.