



**REGIONAL CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, October 24, 2016 ♦ 7:00 p.m.
Boardroom**

Present: See attached list.

1. Welcome

Superintendent Shypula and Edith Heleniak, RCPIC Chair, welcomed those in attendance.

2. Opening Prayer

Keri Calvesbert, Religion and Family Life Consultant, led the opening prayer.

3. Introduction

Superintendent Shypula invited all attendees to introduce themselves.

4. Overview Year Two of Board's Spiritual Theme: Love Tenderly

Keri Calvesbert, Religion and Family Life Consultant, highlighted the Board's Year 2 focus drawn from the three-year Board theme "Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly with Your God" (Micah 6:8). She explained this year's theme "Love Tenderly" reflects Agape love, the unconditional, self-sacrificing love that Jesus had for us and that the theme embodies the cardinal and theological virtues referenced in the Board's 2011 resource "Growing in Virtue". Keri outlined 2016-17 plans demonstrating the Board's commitment to compassionate, loving action across the district and in schools. She addressed the following in her presentation:

- information on the 2016-17 Praxis of Faith series
- an update on Christian Meditation
- an overview of Catholic social teaching and social justice activities
- introduction to the new Grade 3 Religious education program "Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ"
- implementation of the new Secondary Religious Education Policy Document once revision is complete
- a continued commitment toward strengthening relationship with our Catholic service organizations and parishes by offering invitations to participate in Praxis of Faith experiences, retreat days and social justice outreach opportunities.

5. French Learning: What's New? Quoi de Neuf?

Jackie Whiting, French as a Second Language Consultant, shared a PowerPoint presentation discussing the programs offered for learning French as a Second Language, as well as the benefits of becoming bilingual in Canada. Jackie shared the three main goals for FSL in Ontario and discussed what we are doing within the Board to accomplish these goals. In addition, members learned about documents that have been created by the Ministry to support all learners in the French language classroom: *Including Students with Special Needs in French as a Second Language Programs* and *Supporting English Language Learners in the FSL classroom*.



6. EQAO Update: Closing the Gap

Superintendent Shypula reviewed the 2015-16 Primary and Junior EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) Literacy and Numeracy results. EQAO assesses how effectively Ontario's public education system is developing students' reading, writing and mathematics skills and provides reliable and useful information that is used by boards and schools to improve student achievement. In the district, both Primary and Junior Divisions surpassed last year's levels of achievement in reading and writing and also exceeded those of the province. Mathematics results in Grade 3 were on par with the province and in Grade 6 were slightly below that of the province. Superintendent Shypula shared with the parents the district's Math Action Plan for the 2016-17 school year and its alignment with the Ministry's recently released Renewed Mathematics Strategy.

7. Learning Math Today: Parent Resource Update

Michael Skrzypek (System Student Achievement Teacher: Mathematics, K-8) and Kerri Chartrand (Student Achievement Lead K-12) shared how the district is working with educators of elementary and secondary students to support them as students are encouraged to think accurately, flexibly, and efficiently about numbers. They discussed that the emphasis should not be placed on memorizing facts versus exploring mathematical concepts, but rather, on balancing these two instructional approaches. As well, they presented some of the myths that exist in relation to teaching mathematics today. They highlighted the value in engaging students in learning opportunities that allow students to think about numbers and how this allows them to build a bank of strategies that they can access when asked to apply their understanding in other mathematical contexts. Finally, they shared a Ministry of Education resource for parents called *Math Learning Today* which provides parents with an overview of the Ontario Math curriculum and how parents can support their children at home as they are learning mathematics. Further details about this resource can be accessed at the following link:
http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/Parent_Engagement/Parent_Engagement.html

8. Regional Parent Reaching Out Grant 2016- 17 Update

Superintendent Shypula provided parents with an update regarding the RCPIC's application for a Regional Parent Reaching Out (RPRO) Grant for the 2016-17 school year. The intent behind the RPRO Grant is to enhance the partnership between home and school and assist parents in supporting their children's learning experience. Based on feedback received during a system wide Catholic Parent Council webinar hosted in February 2016, the RCPIC Executive successfully applied for a grant focusing on "Raising Emotionally Healthy Children". A working group will meet on November 1, 2016 to begin planning for the expenditure of the RPRO Grant to best meet the needs expressed by parents.

9. Closing Remarks

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