



REGIONAL CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 23, 2017 – 7:00 pm - Boardroom

Present: Bonnie McKinnon (Trustee), Corrie Bakker, Lidia Bellington, Lindsay Blasdell, Oksana Broeders, Alisha Bryson, Jaclyn Hill, Christal Maguire, Melanie Montague, Courtney Montgomery, Michael Pin, Colin Phee, Alexandra Renneberg, Jennifer Saunders, Michelle Shypula, Shannon VanDalen, Mark Watson, Greg Wilson

Guest(s): Keri Calvesbert, Jennifer Charnish, Kerri Chartrand,

1. Opening Prayer

Keri Calvesbert, Religion and Family Life Consultant, 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. Mark Watson, Principal at St. Patrick's School, Caledonia, and Principal Lead for RCPIC, presented charts to the group containing questions regarding parent engagement and challenges. Parents were encouraged to submit their responses to the questions listed below throughout the evening.

- What does parent engagement mean to you?
- What challenges you as a parent of a student in one of our Catholic Elementary Schools?
- What challenges you as a parent of a student in one of our Catholic Secondary Schools?

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Bonnie McKinnon

Seconded by: Colin Phee

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

Carried

4. Declaration of Interest- Nil

5. Approval of Minutes – Monday, May 15, 2017

Moved by: Colin Phee

Seconded by: Bonnie McKinnon

THAT the RCPIC Committee approves the minutes of the May 15, 2017 meeting.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes

Parent members inquired if the committee would consider a Keynote and application for Regional Grant this school year. Superintendent Shypula provided an overview of the process to apply for a Regional Grant with the Ministry of Education. She also provided a breakdown of events involved for the 2016-17 symposium in April 2017. When reviewing the best way to engage parents, an application for a new Regional Grant would need to be provided to the Ministry in May 2018 for the 2018-19 school year.



7. Correspondence- Nil

8. Walk Humbly- Overview of Year Three, Our Board Spiritual Theme- Keri Calvesbert

Keri Calvesbert, Religion and Family Life Consultant, provided members with a brief introduction to what it means to “*Walk Humbly with your God*” as the Year Three focus of our Board spiritual theme taken from Micah 6:8. She noted that to “*Walk Humbly*” means to pay attention to the presence of God in our lives and in the lives of those around us. When we pay attention to and recognize God’s presence, we are better able to serve God and others through acting justly and loving tenderly.

Information was shared to identify concrete plans that will take place in the 2017-2018 year to provide outreach, prayer, and faith formation in order to enable our staff and students across the district to deepen their relationship with God and to “*Walk Humbly*”. Christian Meditation was introduced in the district as a way of entering into a deeper awareness of God’s presence. Christian Meditation is currently practiced in all of the Elementary Schools. Work is being done to expand and continue the practice with all students with a key focus for Secondary Schools during the 2017-2018 school year. Keri also gave an overview of the Praxis of Faith series being offered. This year, the series consists of five Contemplative Retreats, a Trilogy Series on Contemplative Living, an Advent Retreat and Theology on Tap. The Elementary Social Justice Teams have added another five Grade 6 students to their teams for a total of 15 students per team. Already, teams are reaching out both locally and globally to support various social justice initiatives. In celebration of Year Three, a Culminating Social Justice Retreat Day is planned for May 2018. In September 2017, the new Religious Education program, “Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ” was revealed to all Grade 4 teachers across the district. All Grade 4 teachers participated in an in-service day and received their print and access to digital classroom resources. On October 24, 2017, Elementary Schools will participate in “Dress Purple Day” to raise awareness of the important role communities play in preventing child abuse. The focus of this day for schools is to make the connection between the Board spiritual theme of “*Walk Humbly*” and the importance of child protection. Teachers in all schools will be provided with lesson plans (divisional) to explore with how God calls us to “*Walk Humbly*” and care for others just like his Son, Jesus. Students will complete a “*Walk Humbly*” activity. All lesson plans include Catholic Connections and Ministry curriculum links to Language Arts. In November, teachers will receive a *Safe and Accepting Schools Toolkit: Walk Humbly* which will include teacher and classroom resources, opening and closing prayer services and a Twitter Challenge to root Bullying Awareness.

Keri announced that the Guatemala Global South Encounter was approved by the Board in September 2017. Secondary students from all three high schools along with chaperones will be participating in this encounter experience in Guatemala in February 2018. Finally, Keri shared that the “Christian Meditation Reflections” book published for Catholic Education Week 2017 has undergone a second print and is available for purchase (\$15.00/each). All members received a complimentary copy of the book.

9. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Innovation Update- Jen Charnish

Jen provided an overview of STEM Education and how the initiative is being delivered to schools within our Board. A description of STEM education was provided which included modules that will be introduced to students such as makerspaces/maker movement, coding, design theory and Engineering. The Board currently has 10 schools receiving STEM education instruction and Jen reviewed how all 28 elementary schools would be receiving the instruction from a 3-year timeline. A handout was shared with parents regarding the STEM education (see handout Appendix A). Jen proceeded to respond to



parents inquiries and provided parents a chance to engage in some of the activities that have been introduced to students as part of STEM education.

10. EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) Update: Closing the Gap- Kerri Chartrand

Kerri Chartrand, Student Achievement Lead, reviewed the 2016-17 Primary, Junior and Secondary EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) Literacy and Numeracy results. She reviewed historical data and averages and advised that results of EQAO testing are what guides school improvements plans. The Board uses the data from the test results to look at staff development so that high-quality programming to our students is provided. Looking at the results, Number Sense continues to be a need in both divisions. Kerri reviewed current strategies that the Board has developed to meet those needs such as providing additional training on Measurement concepts for Grade 1 and 4 educators within our Board. Kerri responded to parent questions and discussions ensued on the varying levels of scores from Grade 3, Grade 6 and Grade 9 testing. Parents were encouraged to visit the EQAO website for further information related to the purpose of EQAO and for further information specifically for parents. Additionally, a link was provided to the group: <http://www.ontariodirectors.ca/> which is a website where parents can access information that can assist them in better understanding the Ontario Mathematics curriculum and in providing mathematics support at home.

11. BREAK

12. Commissioning Ceremony

RCPIC executive appointments were made as follows:

Colin Phee – Chair
Stephane Rouleau – Vice-Chair
Ashley Malo – Vice Secretary
Megan Flexman- Vice Secretary

A commissioning ceremony was held for all RCPIC members present and Colin Phee was acknowledged as the new Chair for the RCPIC executive. It was noted that Vice Chair, Stéphane Rouleau and Vice Secretaries, Ashley Malo and Megan Flexman were not in attendance.

13. Closing Remarks/ Adjournments

Attendees were thanked for their participation and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.