



REGIONAL CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, November 27, 2019 – 7:00 pm – Boardroom

Present: Charmaine Hanley (Principal Lead), Marcel Perras, Stéphane Rouleau, Anita Santos, Rob DeRubeis (Superintendent of Education), Marie Teskey, Greg Wilson, Colin Phee, Joe Ernst, Holly Colaiacovo, Lori Martisius, Hayley Dorsey, Chris Rudnick, John McDermid, Bree Lovsin, Orazio Caltagirone, Judy Gardner, Dale Petruka, Andrea Cooper, Melanie Montague, Nataley Hyttenrauch, Jeanine Silva, Nicole Bender, Sue Defreyne, Meaghan Nadwodny, Chloe Hoszczo, Ashley Malo, Kaitlyn Burton, Luc Bertran, Heather Graham, Tanya Gaswigne, Danielle Hogeterp, Terri-Lynn Zakrzewski, Dave Szuty

Guest(s): Chandra Portelli (Student Achievement Lead)

Regrets: Carol Luciani (Trustee)

1. Opening Prayer

Charmaine Hanley opened the meeting with a prayer from Catholic Education Week.

2. Welcome and Opening Comments

Superintendent DeRubeis welcomed the group and thanked everyone for their dedication to our students.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Stephane Rouleau

Seconded by: Greg Wilson

THAT the RCPIC approves the agenda of the November 27, 2019 meeting.

Carried

4. Declaration of Interest- Nil

5. Approval of Minutes – May 13, 2019

Moved by: Lori Martisius

Seconded by: Holly Colaiacovo

THAT the RCPIC approves the minutes of the May 13, 2019 meeting.

Carried

6. Business Arising from the Minutes- Nil

7. Hearts on Fire – Encounter: Overview of Board Spiritual Theme

Charmaine Hanley, Principal Lead for the Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (RCPIC) led us in discovering the story of this year's Board Spiritual Theme (Hearts on Fire (Luke 24:32) Journey, Encounter, Transform) rooted in the story of the Road to Emmaus. The story is about relationship. In this Gospel story, Jesus encounters and accompanies the disciples. We are reminded that He is always present with us. Jesus journeyed alongside the disciples, nurturing their relationship



by engaging them in conversation and teaching. Jesus revealed himself to these disciples in the breaking of the bread and through his friendship, enduring presence, and unconditional love. We live the Emmaus experience in our school communities as we witness Christ's love to one another, forming joyful disciples of Jesus.

8. Chandra Portelli – Student Achievement Lead

Chandra reported on the EQAO results for the school board and how it functions in the province. EQAO is written by students in grades 3, 6, 9 and 10. It assesses what children need to know by the end of that grade.

EQAO scores only show one aspect of the picture of how your child is progressing in school. In addition to EQAO scores, parents should consider student achievement on the report card, the teacher's observations and knowledge of the child, and the student's feelings about school and learning. All of these together create a fullsome picture of how students are doing in school.

At a district level, EQAO results are analyzed for trends over time to pinpoint what areas of the curriculum need more attention. EQAO data is one piece of evidence that is considered in determining district priorities regarding teaching and learning.

9. The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education

Stephane reported that he represents the region for catholic parents. Stephane is the director for the region. One of the partners is the institute for catholic education, and they redid the catholic expectations. Stephane handed out a flyer to explain what they do and who they are.

10. Pro-Grant Update

Funding has been provided to us from the ministry of education. We can create some opportunities to pilot some projects. Want the group to brainstorm ideas on ways to help our children.

PRO grants provide funds to parent councils to use to create parent workshops/ parent information speakers.

Project outcomes, parents can have a better idea of what is going on in the schools. Parents can have a better confidence with the schools.

Right now, we have \$ 7,700.

11. RCPIC Goals for 2019-2020

Regional parents set the direction to help the local schools/councils.

Last year was a mental health night, a make and take, and that information was taken back to their schools. Providing a safe and welcoming school is a major issue especially considering all the bullying stories in the news.

Charmaine asks the group to brainstorm ideas how we can work together to achieve these goals. How do we achieve a community of care?



12. Break

13. Group Breakout Sessions – Interactive Feedback

Charmaine held a breakout session on the following questions:

What can parents do to support the development of a healthy school climate?

- ❖ Listen and support
- ❖ Participate and communicate
- ❖ Get involved
- ❖ Listen
- ❖ Consider different perspectives/recognize differences in parenting and teaching
- ❖ Accept others
- ❖ Suggestion/Complaint anonymous box
- ❖ Volunteer
- ❖ Participate in family nights or activities
- ❖ Understand their kids are not perfect
- ❖ Address concerns with teachers/educators first instead of stewing or bashing the issue in the community

What are some positive ways for parents to communicate to the school when they have an issue or concern regarding their children?

- ❖ Speak face to face rather than by email
- ❖ Ask for meetings/phone calls
- ❖ Check in with teacher as needed
- ❖ In person meetings/use agenda for communication
- ❖ Stay calm
- ❖ Keep communication lines open
- ❖ Be respectful
- ❖ Have positive communication as well as negative to encourage positive attitudes towards interactions
- ❖ Speak to the teacher BEFORE you jump to conclusions

What can parents do to build resiliency in their children?

- ❖ Set good examples
- ❖ Problem solve potential solutions and outcomes
- ❖ Ask your children daily about what happened at school and discuss how to problem solve
- ❖ Acknowledge your child's struggle and support them through it vs. solving problems for them
- ❖ Have them work out a scenario to create goals they feel they can accomplish
- ❖ Get feedback from your children on activities that promote resiliency
- ❖ Allow children the freedom to be themselves
- ❖ Give your child the freedom to fail and provide supportive correction
- ❖ Encourage your child to have conversations



B) Ways to build a healthy school community climate.

4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	6	6
3	3	3	2	1	1				

C) Understanding the importance of developing resilient children.

1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
2	2	2	3	3	4				

D) Effective communication protocols related to school concerns.

6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	5	5
5	4	4	2	3					

E) Understanding the impacts of technology i.e. cyber bullying, social media.

3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1	1
3	2	2	4	4	6				

F) Emotional Intelligence – Understanding zones of regulation/mind-up.

3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1	1	1
1	1	2	2	4	5				

Members engaged in active discussions and shared many ideas to the group. Charmaine asked that members send her any additional ideas to the above questions to her attention by the end of the week. All the feedback received will be shared with RCPIC members and Catholic School Advisory Councils.

14. Participation Draws/ Closing Remarks/ Adjournments

We held a pizza party draw among the attendees. Kaitlyn from St. Michael’s Walsh won a pizza party for her school. Congratulations!

Superintendent DeRubeis thanked members and guests for their continued support and for taking the time to bring their valuable input to the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Next Meeting:

School based Skype Mtg- Wednesday Jan 15, 2020
RCPIC Mtg – Wednesday March 4, 2020
School Based Skype mtg- Wednesday Apr 22, 2020
RCPIC Mtg- Wednesday May 13, 2020