



**Regional Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
Thursday, November 19, 2020 ♦ 7:00 pm
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting**

- Present:** BHNCDSB Parent Council Chairs, Danielle Becks (Principal – St. Patrick’s, Caledonia), Nicole Bender (Our Lady of Fatima), Glenna Bennett (Secretary – St Patrick), Lindsay Blasdell (Secretary), Marcia DeDominicis (VP – St Basil and Principal Lead RCPIC), Laura Dickson (Resurrection), Darren Duff (VP – Assumption), Anna Fortunato (Principal – St. Michael’s, Dunnville), Robert De Rubeis (Superintendent of Education), Heather Graham (Principal – St Joseph’s), Rebecca Johnson (Resurrection), Heather Knill-Griesser (Principal – St Bernard of Clairvaux), Charmaine Hanley (Principal – Christ the King), Carol Luciani (Trustee), Peter Marchand (Principal – Our Lady of Providence), Shannon Mason (Principal – Sacred Heart, Langton), Melanie Montague (St. Mary’s, Hagersville), Heidi Pasztor (Principal – Our Lady of Fatima), Dale Petruka-Schoffro (Principal – St Patrick), Greg Picone (Principal – St. John’s), Sandra Pineda, Tammy Pogorzelski (St. Pius X), Stéphane Rouleau (Co-Chair), Jennifer Rudyk (Principal, St. Pius X), Anita Santos (Holy Trinity), Lorrie Temple (Superintendent of Education), Marie Teskey (Holy Family), Greg Wilson (Assumption), Samara Young (Notre Dame, Brantford)
- Guest(s):** Adam Gesjorskyj (*System Teacher – Math J-I*), Allison Lawrence (*System Teacher – Math K-8*), Kim Spencer (*St. Mary’s, Hagersville Principal and Principal Lead- Indigenous Education*)
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1. Welcome and Opening Comments

Superintendent De Rubeis welcomed all guests and participants to the meeting.

2. Opening Prayer

Marcia DeDominicis, Principal RCPIC Lead from St Basil School, led the group in the opening prayer.

3. Approval of Agenda – November 19, 2020

Superintendent De Rubeis amended the Agenda to include Land Acknowledgement and the Indigenous Education Update by Kim Spencer as Agenda Item 4.

Superintendent De Rubeis amended the Agenda to include the New Math Curriculum updates prior to the Virtual School updates.

The revised Agenda for the November 19, 2020 meeting was approved.

4. Land Acknowledgement and Indigenous Education Update

Superintendent De Rubeis introduced and welcomed Kim Spencer, Principal of St. Mary’s, Hagersville School and Indigenous Education Lead for elementary schools to the meeting.

Kim Spencer provided the land acknowledgement by recognizing the BHNCDSB ties to Six Nations of the Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations and the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe Nations on which we gather.



Kim described how a territorial or land acknowledgement is an act of reconciliation recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It is often done at the beginning of a meeting and it involves making a statement recognizing the traditional territory of the Indigenous Peoples who called the land home before the settlers.

Kim updated that the BHNCD SB creates an annual Indigenous Education Action Plan to guide the work in this area across our district using these three pillars:

- Using data to support student achievement
- Supporting Students
- Supporting Educators

The BHNCD SB has an Indigenous Education Advisor, Lori Skye-Laforme, who works directly with students and staff to monitor Indigenous student achievement and helps to identify resources and supports to improve engagement and well-being of Indigenous students.

5. Declaration of Interest – Nil

6. Approval of Minutes - November 27, 2019

The Minutes for the November 27, 2019 meeting were approved.

7. Approval of Minutes – June 17, 2020

The Minutes for the June 17, 2020 meeting were approved.

8. Hearts on Fire – Transform: Overview of the Board Spiritual Theme

Superintendent De Rubeis introduced and welcomed, Marcia DeDominicis, new Principal Lead for the RCPIC and Vice-Principal for St Basil Catholic Elementary School, Brantford. Marcia updated on the final year of the three-year Board spiritual theme “Hearts on Fire” with a focus on Transform. To support the final year of the spiritual theme, Transform, the illumination of “The Call of the Disciples” (John 1:35-42) from the Saint John’s Bible was selected to ground understanding of what it means to be transformed. Marcia further explained that the scripture passage and illumination invites us to notice how our faith is being deepened, along with our relationships with Christ and others and how it asks us to consider our own baptismal calling and how we live out our faith as joyful disciples of Christ.

Using the Visio Divina portrait that was shared to the group (pictured below), Marcia asked the group to gaze and reflect at the photo and then walked members through the process for Visio Divina and provided a description of the sacred images.



(Adapted from The Saint John's Bible Seeing the Word, The Call of the Disciples)

9. New Math Curriculum Update

Superintendent De Rubeis introduced and welcomed Allison Lawrence, System Teacher – Math K to 8 and Adam Gesjorskyj, System Teacher – Math J-I to the meeting. Allison introduced Ontario's new Mathematics Curriculum for grades 1 to 8 by focusing on the changes implemented by the Ministry. The changes included:

- Digital Curriculum Platform
- 3 "New" Strands
- Consistent Overall Expectations throughout the grades
- Fewer expectations
- One overall report card mark
- Focus on authentic contexts

Allison updated on the new Ministry Digital Curriculum Platform website, <https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/>, navigating through useful and helpful sections for parents, educators, and students. She listed the strands as follows; Number, Algebra, Data (coding), and new strands, Social-Emotional Learning, Spatial Sense (Measurement and Geometry) and Financial Literacy. With a focus on the high-impact instructional practices in Mathematics, Allison demonstrated how our Board Essential Practices aligned with Ministry directives for learning goals, success criteria, descriptive feedback and knowing the learner.

Adam updated on the current Ministry-provided long-range plans by reviewing the Math curriculum by topic and question. Adam explained how the "question" provides an authentic context for the learning, rather than just a list of expectations effectively connecting the learning and where it can be used in real life situations. Using a visual tool, Adam demonstrated how traditional math was taught to students and



how the new 'spiral curriculum' provides multiple opportunities to revisit concepts, improve retention, and rich problem-solving opportunities.

10. Virtual School Update

Superintendent De Rubeis provided an overview on remote learning from March using Brightspace and D2L and recognizing Chandra Portelli, Student Achievement Lead for the development of professional learning and resources to move to the current emergency remote learning. He detailed how virtual schools were necessary to the reopening plans in September in both elementary and secondary sectors. Superintendent De Rubeis described how the 'Quadmester' supported 46 days of student learning offering one course a day with 2 subjects every other week.

With over 1000 students engaging in remote learning at the start of September, Superintendent De Rubeis updated that students are now migrating back to face to face learning with approximately 850 students remaining. Further explanation on virtual learning was provided and members were encouraged to review PPM 164 for further instruction and details. Superintendent De Rubeis updated that the Board is now currently preparing for the third quadmester and how they are continuing to learn and improve.

11. Bullying Week Information

Marcia DeDominicis provided updates on Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week, from November 15 to 21, 2020, by sharing the Board Resource that was supplied to all educators and staff. The Board resource included the following:

- Focus for each day linking the Board Spiritual Theme of Transformation
- Morning Announcements
- Prayers/Reflections
- Activities for classes
- One big activity that can be done in all schools

The Board Resource package was prepared by Keri Calvesbert, Student Achievement Consultant: Religion and Family Life. Marcia noted that the Board continues to do work in all schools across the district surrounding bullying. Additional information will be provided in the next RCPIC meeting on Paul Davis, a social networking and cyberbullying speaker booked for April 2021.

12. Closing Remarks/ Adjournments

Superintendent De Rubeis thanked the group for their participation and for taking the time to attend the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.