



REGIONAL CATHOLIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, January 19th, 2026 – 6:00 pm

Virtual - Microsoft Teams

Members: Michael Lawlor (Superintendent of Education), Joe Persia (Elementary Principal), Mary Bradford (Secondary Vice Principal) Carol Luciani (Chair of the Board), Sarah Lebel (Parent Chairperson), Sadeki Simpson ((Vice-Chairperson), Dianne Wdowczyk (Non-Teaching Rep),
Guest: Lina Hassen and Josh Dailey – Grand Erie Public Health

1. Land Acknowledgement

- Joe Persia, Elementary Principal delivered the land acknowledgement.

2. Opening Prayer

- Superintendent Michael Lawlor led with prayer and reflection.

3. Welcome and Opening Comments

- Superintendent Michael Lawlor welcomed all parents and guests.

4. Greetings from Chairperson of the Board

- Carol Luciani, Chair of the Board, welcomed and thanked everybody for attending the meeting
- Announced the new appointment of Trustee Toni Poirier for Haldimand County.

5. Overview of the Religion and Family Life Program:

- Michael Lawlor gave updates to the group on the rollout of the new Family Life Education Program, "Blessed and Beloved", for grades two and three. New Grade 9 Religious curriculum "Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ".
- OCSTA sent its advanced resources for Catholic Education Week. It takes place in the first week of May.
- The theme is Pilgrims of Hope on the Path to Holiness.
- Lent will begin February 18th, with activities planned for schools.



6. Vaping in Schools:

- Michael Lawlor spoke about Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 bans smoking and vaping in all schools, school grounds and within 20 meters of a school's perimeter. Applies not only to students, but also staff, and parents/guardians etc.
- All School Boards are required to adapt their school codes of conduct.
- Schools educate students about the risks of vaping in the classroom, on morning announcements, in assemblies, with guest speakers, and with signage.
- Joe Persia, Elementary Principal, focuses on education and rules regarding vaping in elementary schools. Education on the topic is traditionally done through the classroom teacher as part of the Physical Education and the Family Life curriculum.
- Mary Bradford, Secondary Vice Principal, outlined the approach in Secondary Schools emphasizing expectations and consequences. Discipline for vaping in school is detention and suspension. Repeat offenders may receive fines with involvement of the Grand Erie Public Health Unit.
- Consequences are more severe for THC vapes compared to nicotine vapes.
- Lina Hassen and Josh Dailey from Grand Erie Public Health presented on the health risks of vaping.
- They shared Ontario survey data showing that 13% of students in grades 7-12 reported vaping in the past year, with use increasing through high school and most youth using nicotine products.
- Lina and Josh also discussed prevention programming goals. Collaborative efforts such as the Planet Youth survey to better understand youth vaping and ongoing education for parents to reduce vaping among students.
- Josh spoke about the Planet Youth Initiative. It's based on the Icelandic prevention model. Focuses on addressing the social and environmental context like school, friends and home/family life.

7. Closing:

- Michael Lawlor, Superintendent of Education, thanked everybody for joining the first RCPIC Meeting of the 2025 School Year.
- Meeting ended at 7:33pm.