



Kenora Catholic District School Board

We are a Roman Catholic school system dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and meaningful partnerships with family, community and Church.

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 10, 2021

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|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| MEETING DATE: | Wednesday, February 10, 2021 |
| LOCATION OF MEETING: | Microsoft Teams |
| SUBJECT OF MEETING: | Catholic Parent Involvement Committee |
| TIME OF MEETING: | 11:30 a.m. –12:16 p.m. |
| NEXT MEETING: | 11:30 am – May 12, 2021 |

ATTENDED BY:

| | ATTENDANCE | PERSON | TITLE |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| 1. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Kathleen Holmstrom | Chair - Pope John Paul II School Parent Representative |
| 2. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Chrysti Savage | St. Louis School Parent Representative |
| 3. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Natalie Rogers | St. Louis School Parent Representative |
| 4. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Gianna Poltronetti | St. John School Parent Representative |
| 5. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Corinna Glazier | St. John School Principal, KCDSB Representative |
| 6. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Pam Carlson | St. Isidore Virtual School |
| 7. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Randi Casey | Northwestern Health Unit Community Representative |
| 8. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Phyllis Eikre | Advisor to the Director of Education |
| 9. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Paul White | Director of Education |
| 10. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Hilary Aitken | Ecole Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Vice Principal, KCDSB Representative |
| 11. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Anne Sweeney | Trustee Representative |
| 12. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Paul Landry | Trustee Representative |
| 13. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Teresa Gallik | Chair - Trustees |
| 14. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Michael Favreau | Vice Chair - Trustee |
| 15. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cathy McQuillan | Recording Secretary |

1. **Prayer** – Phyllis Eikre

2. **Roll Call** – Paul White

Regrets: Kathleen Holmstrom, Chrysti Savage, Paul Landry, Teresa Gallik

3. **Introduction New CPIC Members:** P White

Pam Carlson: St. Isidore Virtual School Parent Representative

Natalie Rogers – Standing in for Chrystie Savage – St. Louis Parent Representative

4. **Review of December 9, 2020 Minutes** – Paul White



5. Ministry of Education and Province of Ontario Update – Paul White

Covid Update:

- Thanks to the Northwestern Health Unit for their incredible work
- Our schools remain safe for learning – thanks to staff, students and parents
- Social distancing, masks for Gr. 1-12, washing hands
- Self-Assessment and Self-Attestation for all staff and Gr 9-12 students
- Stay at Home Order continues until Feb 16 in the Kenora region

Academic Updates:

- Our Lenten Journey begins on February 16th and will continue to Easter.
- April 19-23: Earth Day Celebrations
- May 2-7: Catholic Education Week
- A calendar of events for the above activities is attached
- OSSLT will be written in the spring for any student in a 'brick and mortar' school. This is not a graduation requirement for Gr. 12 students this year. This test will still be mandatory for grade 9, 10, and 11 students. Students in our virtual schools will write the test next year when they are back in the brick and mortar' schools.
- Gr. 9 Math De-Streaming – starting September 2021

Kindergarten VIRTUAL Registration:

- Social Media Campaign starts on February 22.
- Registration week is March 1-5 – Kindergarten Bags for the students
- Can register online or the school can arrange to have paper package for parents
- Early Years Arts Festival – Virtually each Sunday in March. Registration will be online on February 24. Bags will be provided for the first 150 registrants of each session.

6. School Updates – Hilary Aitken and Corinna Glazier

St. John School – Corinna Glazier

- The Kindness Project is happening at St. John School. The project is involving Red Lake and Ear Falls School Mental Health Teams who have partnered with New Starts for Women. The



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project started on the Bell's, Let's Talk Day. There is recognition for random acts of kindness. On February 18, a guest speaker, Ben Fanelli will be virtually speaking to the students about "Using Their Inner Strength".

- That evening the presentation will be open to all families.
- Each week in February will have a different theme:
- Week 1: Be Kind to Nature
- Week 2: Be Kind to Yourself
- Week 3: Be Kind to Others
- Week 4: Be Kind to Your Community

St. John School: Gianna Poltronetti:

- SJS family Christmas light celebration was a great success. Families were invited to walk through a path of lights where student art, crafts, and decorations were showcased. Although winter temperatures were not ideal, many families bundled up to enjoy the evening with candy canes and hot chocolate.
- St. John School returned to school in January with a focus on literacy. January 25-29, St. John school celebrated Family literacy week where students participated in a story in motion, combining literacy with physical activity, students enjoyed story time with virtual guest readers, and completed class activities such as class scrabble, and dress as your favourite book character. Families were also invited to participate in a fun, and interactive bingo that focused on creating literacy focused activities for families. Each family that participated was entered into a draw to win a pizza night.

Hilary Aitken shared school updates from:

St. Louis School:

- The school is focusing on the Living Arts Community workshops and activities.

St. Thomas Aquinas High School:

- At the School Council meeting in January they received a presentation from Sue Devlin, KCDSB Mental Health Lead, regarding, Parenting in a Pandemic.
 - At the February School Council Cindy Melenchenko will do a presentation on Xello.
 - Patron Feast day was celebrated on February 2, with a prayer service and a pasta lunch for all staff and students.
 - Exams were completed for Quadmester 2 and Quadmester 3 started on February 1, 2021.
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École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys:

- SMB celebrated their Patron Feast Day.
- Books for Breakfast was celebrated on Family Literacy Day.
- The school is celebrating, festival du voyageur with online workshops and concerts.
- Our Parent Council is starting a book club for primary and junior students. The primary students will be reading the book Kadoo and the junior students will be reading the book, A Dogs Way Home. There will be crafts and virtual discussion after each chapter for the month of February.

Pope John Paul II School:

- On Bell's, Let's Talk Day, the Mental Health Team presented to families how to support student's mental health not only during the pandemic but in everyday life.
- Literacy Week saw many activities for students and families including, Home Reading Bingo, that gave students a chance to win prizes. They hope to go ahead with their cash raffle draw after spring break or in the fall to help fundraise for outdoor playground equipment.

St. Isidore Virtual School – Pam Carlson

- St. Isidore has started their Parent Council Committee. They are setting up policies and procedures for their committee.
- They are looking at the differences between the virtual schools and the 'brick and mortar' schools and different ways to engage students virtually.
- She commented on how well her children are doing very well on the virtual school platform. Her children are engaged, and all have seen an improvement in their grades.

7. Once Around the Table:

Corinna Glazier: commented on the students that have returned from St. Isidore School to St. John School. Parents have shared how engage the students were with the teachers.

Northwestern Health Unit Update: Randi Casey – Attached

Phyllis Eikre:

Mrs. Eikre shared that since she has returned to the board how Covid-19 has added a new layer. She sees how amazing our schools, students, and parents have adapted. She hears comments in the community about the safe practices that are in place and the options available for students who are in the classroom and for the students who are online. She also wanted to thank the North Western Health Unit for their guidance during this time.



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Phyllis Eikre also wanted to remind the Parent Council members that she will be asking for the Yearly Annual reports from the schools at the May 12, 2020 meeting.

Michael Favreau:

Mr. Favreau commented what a wonderful job everyone is doing and how quickly everyone adapted to all the changes that were made this year. Now we have to identify everything in a different way and keep everyone safe. He thanked the parents today for their involvement with this committee as the trustees use the information shared at these meeting to decide the direction the board will go and to make decisions.

Anne Sweeney:

Mrs. Sweeney would like to also comment on how amazed she is of the work of our administration, staff, student, and parents for making this difficult time so normal. She also wanted to extend a welcome to our new parents who have joined CPIC.

8. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 11:30 am**
9. **Meeting Adjournment – Paul White**



Nurturing Hope: Reconciling with the Land and Each Other – Lent to Catholic Education Week 2021: Our Journey of Ecological Conversion

"I've been considering the phrase *all my relations* for some time now. It's hugely important. It's our saving grace in the end. It points to the truth that we are all related, that we are all connected, that we belong to each other. The most important word is "all". Not just those who look like me, sing like me dance like me, speak like me, prayer like me, or behave like me. ALL my relations. That means every person, just as it means every rock, mineral, blade of grass, and creature. We live because everything else does. If we were to choose collectively to live that teaching, the energy of our change of consciousness would heal each of us and heal the planet." Richard Wagamese, *Embers* 2013

"We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the earth (Genesis 2:70;) our very bodies are made up of the earth's elements, we breathe her air, we receive life and refreshment from her waters... The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change." Pope Francis, *Laudate Si*

| Week | Feb. 16-19 | Feb. 22-26 | March 1 – 5 | March 8-12 | Mar 22-26 | Mar 29-Apr 1 | April 6-9 | April 19-23 | May 2-7 CEW |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|-------------------|
| Focus of learning and prayer | Ecological Conversion – Fasting, Praying, Alms | Kinship and Stewardship vs Domination | FNMI Worldview – Hope through Relationships | Earth Rights & Human Rights | Sacred Spaces – Jesus & Nature | Holy Experiences: Triduum Symbols Grounded in Nature | Nurturing Hope by Recognizing Grace | Earth Day | Nurturing Hope |
| System Prayer – “televised” from STAHS BOLD are the expected services | Ash Wednesday Wed 9:05 a.m. | Wednesday 9:05 a.m. St. Francis | Wed 9:05 Tentative: Elder Terry | Lent Penitential Service Wed 9:05 a.m. | Wed 9:05 | Easter Triduum Thursday 9:05 | Easter Tuesday 9:05 | Earth Day 50 th Anniversary April 22 9:05 | |
| Symbol | Bowl of Dirt | Tree image | Ribbon Braid | Rock | Empty Frame | Water | White cloth, alleluia | | Seeds |
| Read-Aloud (Included in Fresh Air the week before) | <i>Tale of Three Trees</i> | <i>Can You Hear the Trees Talking?</i> | <i>We Learn from the Sun</i> – David Bouchard | <i>The Water Princess</i> – S.Verde | <i>Earth Hour</i> by N.Heffernan (March 27 is Earth Hour) | <i>We Are Water Protectors</i> – C. Lindstrom | <i>I Wonder</i> by Annaka Harris – beautiful Easter Connections | <i>Heal the Earth</i> by Julian Lennon | CEW List Hi-lites |
| Environment/Nature Challenge | What can you fast from to help Mother Earth? | Paper challenge: Reduce, Re-Use, Recycle | <u>Nibi Water Declaration</u> Re-Commitment | <u>Outdoor Way of the Cross</u> (Example): How is our earth hurting? | Participate in Earth Hour | Clean Water for Our First Nations – Letter Writing Campaign | Nature Walk: Is New Life visible anywhere? | Board Wide Clean Up | |
| Scripture Focus | Joel 2:12-18 (Fast) | Exodus 16 (Manna) | Genesis 2: 4b to 25 | Matt 21:12-13 (Jesus in temple) | Luke 6:12 + | John 13:1-17 | John 20:1-10 (Easter) | Col 1:15-16 | |

COVID-19 Vaccine

The COVID-19 vaccine will be offered across our region according to the Ministry of Health's 3-phase [vaccine distribution plan](#).

Led by Ornge, Phase One roll-out has begun in Sioux Lookout and in remote northern First Nations as vaccinations are being administered to eligible populations. NWHU expects to receive our first shipment of vaccine this month (February) and residents of long term care homes will be the first to receive the vaccine. Roll-out to other groups will proceed according to Ministry of Health guidance based on vaccine availability.

The vaccine is not currently available to the general public and we are not developing waitlists at this time. When the public is able to book an appointment for a COVID-19 shot, we will advertise widely in our communities. The process will be similar to our annual flu clinics, and will be offered in many communities in the region. Timelines for general public shots are dependent on vaccine supply but we expect these clinics are still months away.

It is important to remember that even once immunized, you must continue to practice all COVID-19 prevention measures. The number of shots given will be closely monitored throughout the immunization process to assess when it is safe for prevention measures to be loosened in the region.

Learn more here: <https://www.nwhu.on.ca/covid19/Pages/covid-19-vaccines.aspx>

Safe Holidays

NWHU has a safe holiday page which is updated regularly to guide anyone who is planning a celebration, be it a birthday or an upcoming occasion such as Valentines' Day. There is also information for safe school celebrations. <https://www.nwhu.on.ca/covid19/Pages/safe-holidays.aspx>

Upcoming Webinar

Please join us on Feb 17th at 6pm for an online discussion of what it means to be a parent of a child who is part of the LGBTQ2S+ community. Learn how to advocate for your child, and where you can find support. Register here: [Love is Love Tickets, Wed, 17 Feb 2021 at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)