



**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**

**May 4, 2022**

MEETING DATE:	Wednesday, May 4, 2022
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Microsoft Teams
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	11:30 a.m. – 12:24 p.m.
NEXT MEETING:	11:30 am – October 19, 2022

**ATTENDED BY:**

	ATTENDANCE	PERSON	TITLE
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kathleen Holmstrom	Chair – St Thomas Aquinas High School Parent Representative
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chrysti Savage	St. Louis School Parent Representative
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chrystal Wilson	St. John Paul II School Representative
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gianna Poltronetti	St. John School Parent Representative
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Janet Paulson	École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Corinna Glazier	St. John School Principal, KCDSB Representative
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kylie Hughes	St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Principal
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Richards	St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Vice Principal
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Randi Casey	Northwestern Health Unit Community Representative
10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul White	Director of Education
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hilary Aitken	École Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Vice Principal, KCDSB Representative
12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Sweeney	Trustee Representative
13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Landry	Trustee Representative
14.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teresa Gallik	Chair - Trustees
15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Favreau	Vice Chair - Trustee
16.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frank Bastone	Trustee Representative
17.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cathy McQuillan	Recording Secretary

1. **Prayer** – Paul White
2. **Roll Call** – Regrets –Janet Paulson - Christi Savage,  
Guests: Mariette Martineau, Marnie Buffett  
Natalie Rogers presented on behalf of St. Louis School.
3. **Welcome CPIC Members:** P White
4. **Review of February 16, 2022, Minutes** – Paul White



**5. Introduction of Nicole Kurtz, Director of Education for KCDSB – Paul White**

**Paul White:** Introduced Nicole Kurtz who will take on the position of Director of Education effective September 1, 2022.

Click on the link below to read more about Nicole Kurtz's appointment.

[https://www.kcdsb.on.ca/news/central\\_news/director\\_of\\_education\\_announced](https://www.kcdsb.on.ca/news/central_news/director_of_education_announced)

**Nicole Kurtz:** Nicole responded that she is honoured and humbled to be chosen as Director of Education for the Kenora Catholic District School Board. She is looking forward to working with the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee in her new role.

**6. Board Update – Paul White:**

**Paul White** is excited to report that KCDSB is back to business as usual. All our Year-End events will be happening this year. Prom, Graduation Ceremonies, Spring Feast and Pow-wow, as well as Sports, Field Trips, and Extracurricular Activities. Masks are no longer required in school for staff, students, or visitors. Wearing masks is a personal choice. Staff and students are still required to self-screen using the provincial school and childcare screening tool before attending school. Rapid Antigen Tests continue to be available to staff and students for symptomatic testing.

**2022 Municipal and School Trustee Elections October 24, 2022 – Paul White**

**Paul White** gave an update on the upcoming 2022 Municipal and School Trustee Elections.

Click on the link below for information regarding the election.

[https://www.kcdsb.on.ca/news/central\\_news/information\\_for\\_catholic\\_trustee\\_candidates](https://www.kcdsb.on.ca/news/central_news/information_for_catholic_trustee_candidates)

**7. Board and School Family Learning Events – Mariette Martineau, Marnie Buffett**

**Mariette and Marnie** did a presentation to the CPIC committee regarding the Family being at the center of Event Planning. Events will involve the whole household, including food, be engaging, and affirming and involve the themes of mental health, faith, and joy!

- Increase parent involvement and responsibility in Catholic Education.
- Promote and encourage communication amongst the home, school, parish, and community.



## Events Hosted for All Schools at the Board Level

### Events Directly Offered at Board Level

- October                      Mental Health Trends
- January/February      FNMI Storytelling in the Woods
- March                        Early Years Arts Festival (Marnie & Team)
- April                         Family Arts Jamboree (Dependent on Funding – Marnie & Team)
- May                          Children's Mental Wellness Week: Take home for CMHW Passport of wellness activities to do as a family – prizes, parent night, virtual activities, Catholic Education Week (Sue, Mariette & Team)

Month	Board Event Hosted at School for that School's Audience
August	Getting Ready for School- Food planning, calendar craft, wellness fun, and so on!
November	Preparing for Advent– Week of Nov. 21-25
February	Preparing for Lent- Ash Wednesday Feb. 23 <sup>d</sup> – so the two weeks before then are available for booking.
	Snowshoeing (Each school will be offered one hour on the same date)
School Choice of Month	Family Science Evening with Scientists in Schools



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**Kathleen Holmstrom** commented she is very excited to hear of this initiative. Conversations were happening before Covid that we need to do more than work on student engagement but involve our families and communities as well.

She also wanted to comment that there are a lot of activities at our Board for our younger students, but we need to have activities that our high school students would be interested in as well.

**Mariette Martineau** responded that they are in the initial stages of planning but agrees the St. Thomas Aquinas High School needs more skill-based events to engage parents, students, and the community. An example would be having a cooking evening with our Culinary Arts.

**Randi Casey** added that the NWHU has many resources on food and meal planning and would be very happy to partner with KCDSB to bring families into the schools.

### 8. School Updates:

#### **École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys: Hilary Aitken**

We are very excited that our next Parent Council meeting will be in person. Babysitters will be available, and we will have food so that families can attend. The SMB and the St. John Paul II Parent Councils are working together to plan a zoo and carnival for the end of the year. Our ice cream social is happening tonight. We have some other events planned to get parents back into the school and have a parent volunteer survey being sent out.

#### **St. John School: Gianna Poltronetti**

Throughout the month of March, Students have been participating in Archery in Gym as well as during nutrition breaks to compete in an in-house tournament.

Students have started swimming again at the Balmertown pool. Each class will attend swimming 4 times, and swim lessons will end in June.

Students have also been busy participating in local tournaments in Volleyball and will be participating in Basketball throughout the month of May.

Grade 5-6 Students had the opportunity to construct Crosses for our Stations of the Cross with the OYAP Program.

St. John School held a community "Early Years Arts Festival" on Saturday April 23, 2022.

Despite the poor weather, it was successful event with over 100 people in attendance. Families were provided with art opportunities for young children, snacks, and music.

Fundraising events included Make it Sow seed fundraiser.

#### Upcoming Events:

- Catholic Education Week: Busy planning and preparing for this week's celebrations. Tuesday- Community Clean up, Wednesday- Leadership Day, Thursday- Staff and Student Lunch, Friday- Stem Building Activities
- This week is also Staff appreciation week- Families have been providing snacks to staff to show their appreciation and support.



- Bookfair is this week and is in person, this is a big change from previous years, and we are so excited for its return.
- Meat Draw: Throughout the month of May and proceeds will go towards Graduation celebrations
- Spring Basket Raffle: Parent Lighthouse fundraiser, and proceeds will go toward Graduation celebrations.

Busy time of year, preparations are well underway for Graduation, field trips, etc.

### **St. Thomas Aquinas High School: Kathleen Holmstrom**

The students are very excited to be participating in sports, they are ready for graduation, prom, and year-end activities. It feels like we are back to normal. We had Norwossa, and it was nice seeing the parents in the stand and students were able to go to the gym to support their peers and cheer on our teams. We are celebrating the sacrament of confirmation for the grade sixes that were not able to do it for the last two years because of COVID restrictions. The NWHU has been in the school conducting immunization clinics to catch our students up for the last two years. We also had our first prayer service together in the gymnasium.

### **St. Louis School : Natalie Rogers**

This week STL is hosting fun activities for the kids during Catholic Education Week, including a scavenger hunt in the magical forest.

The living art workshops are a great hit. Enrollment in the workshops is at an all-time high with there being more options for students in grades 4 to 6. This week the kids are doing a 1.5 hour hike on the Tunnel Island Trail.

Coming up next week the school will be hosting an open house BBQ for students and their families.

## **9. Once Around the Table**

### **North Western Health Unit: Randi Casey**

#### **COVID-19**

Our mass clinics have ended, but the vaccine is still available at NWHU offices, schools, and pop-up community clinics. Appointments can be booked online - [Booking a COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment – Northwestern Health Unit \(nwhu.on.ca\)](https://nwhu.on.ca/booking-a-covid-19-vaccine-appointment).

Most prevention protocols have been lifted in schools, but parents/guardians must continue to:

- Screen daily using the Ontario School and Childcare screening tool
- Keep children/youth home when sick
- Wear a mask in indoor spaces (including at school) if certain situations apply – see <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/exposed> for details
- Role model and encourage good hand hygiene and sneeze/cough etiquette



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Have symptoms, or tested positive and not sure what to do? Call the Provincial Testing and Isolation Information Line (1-888-777-0730). It operates Monday – Sunday from 7am-5pm CST.

### **NWHU school health services**

NWHU staff are happy to be back in schools providing routine immunizations and dental screening. If we are planning a visit to your child's school, information will be sent home.

A listing of all upcoming clinics can be found on our website: [Clinics, Classes, and Events – Northwestern Health Unit \(nwhu.on.ca\)](#).

### **Staying Safe with Needles**

With the snow melting, discarded needles may appear. Talking to your kids about needles may be uncomfortable, but it is important for children to know what to do if they find a needle or other sharp objects on the ground.

You can talk about needles in an age-appropriate manner. For example, for younger children having this conversation does not need to include talking about drugs and addiction; but for older children, you can teach them about the dangers of injection drug use.

Remind your children that there are many things on the ground that can harm them and teach them not to touch anything that they find on the ground that does not belong to them.

For more information: [Staying Safe with Needles – Northwestern Health Unit \(nwhu.on.ca\)](#)

**Anne Sweeney:** Anne just wanted to speak about her experience of being a school board trustee for the last eight years and what an amazing experience it has been. The two most important qualifications are that you love being with children and you have a passion for your faith.

**Cathy McQuillan:** Just a reminder that the Parent Council and CPIC presentation to the Trustees will be at 5:00 pm on June 7<sup>th</sup>, in the Training Room at the Catholic Education Center. Appetizers and refreshments will be served At 6:00 pm.

### **10. Next Meeting: Draft Meeting Dates 2022-2023 School Year Attached**

Please be advised that CPIC meetings are held at the Catholic Education Centre Board Room beginning with lunch at 11:30 AM.

The meeting follows lunch 12:00 – 1:00 PM.

Month	Dates
October	Wednesday, October 19, 2022
December	Wednesday, December 7, 2022
February	Wednesday, February 15, 2023
May	Wednesday, May 10, 2023
Year-End Presentation to the Board of Trustees	
	5:00 pm, June 6, 2023