



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 6, 2020

MEETING DATE:	Wednesday, May 6, 2020
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Microsoft Teams
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	11:00 a.m. – 11:34 p.m.
NEXT MEETING:	5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. June 2, 2020 School Councils Year End Presentations to Trustees

ATTENDED BY:

	ATTENDANCE	PERSON	TITLE
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kathleen Holmstrom	Chair - Pope John Paul II School Parent Representative
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lana Goodman	St. Louis School Parent Representative
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gianna Poltronetti	St. John School Parent Representative
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Corinna Glazier	St. John School Principal, KCDSB Representative
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Randi Casey	Northwestern Health Unit Community Representative
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Derek Haime	Director of Education
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul White	Superintendent of Instructional Services
8.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hilary Aitken	Ecole Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Vice Principal, KCDSB Representative
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Sweeney	Trustee Representative
10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Landry	Trustee Representative
11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Favreau	Vice Chair - Trustee
12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Teresa Gallik	Chair - Trustee
13.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cathy McQuillan	Recording Secretary

1. **Prayer – Derek Haime**

In lieu of a prayer Derek Haime wanted to speak about the Mass celebrated this morning by Cardinal Collins for Catholic Education Week.

2. **Roll Call - Absent – Paul Landry, Michael Favreau**

Gianna Poltronetti absent with regret but has forwarded a report to be included in the minutes.

3. **Review of February 12, 2020 Minutes – Derek Haime**

4. **Report on Ministry of Education Parent Involvement Committee Chair Meeting April 23, 2020 – Kathleen Holmstrom**

Kathleen and Derek sat in on this meeting for CPIC chairs across Ontario. It was a collaborative meeting to discuss our successes and challenges with our families during this time of school closures. We are working together to find best practices. It was enlightening to know that all the



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boards throughout Ontario were experiencing the same challenges and that we are in this together.

One thing that seems to be an issue is the communication with families. Other boards cited the lack of transparency or information getting to the families as being an issue. Our board has been diligent in communicating with families. The board has shared updates and Ministry communications with our families by Synvoice, emails, twitter, Facebook and on our website. We are very fortunate to have all those avenues.

Another issue across Ontario is limited resources such as internet.

Family dynamics at home have changed, multiple siblings being home schooled, parents being essential workers, parents working from home.

Our schools have been very good at contacting our students and parents and dealing with issues as they arise. We are also connecting with our families to get them the resources they need, whether it is print material or chrome books. We are also connecting families if their needs are other than academic to resources in our community as required. We are just trying to keep our goals consistent, are we doing well being checks, are we connecting with our families and students while sending them the message that they are not alone? Letting them know that we are here for them.

We also discussed learning opportunities. Sharing our challenges and successes with other boards across Ontario and are hoping to keep a dialogue open.

5. **Once Around the Table**

Corinna Glazier: The last St. John school council meeting was cancelled due to Covid-19 but I had a text exchange with Gianna Poltronetti who sends her regrets but sent to following report:

- a. The Legion Meat Draw that was scheduled in April was postponed until the following April 2021. The meat draw supports our breakfast program at SJS.
- b. Yesterday, in support of CEW, the Catholic Parent Lighthouse Team scheduled time slots and had parents/families go to the school and write/draw messages to the SJS staff outside on the front walkway using chalk.
- c. We are hosting a parent lighthouse meeting tonight at 6:30 by video conference.

Teresa Gallik: Teresa wanted to thank Kathleen for her report on the Provincial CPIC meeting.



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Teresa has sat in on the Covid-19 updates that have happened in our system and has been impressed on how well they went and by all the great questions being asked and by all the great answers Derek has given.

Paul White: Paul agrees with Teresa. The communication has been great. Parents being able to support students from home is challenging. Paul reiterated if you hear of students or parents needing extra support to please contact the teacher, principal or board office and we will do our best to get them the supports they need or connect them with community support.

Lana Goodman: We just finished the St. Louis raffle for the Manitoba Moose Game box seats. The donator of the prize was very generous, with of the Moose games being cancelled, they have made the prize available for next year. The rest of the fund-raising activities for this year have been cancelled.

Hilary Aitken: Hilary has received statements from some other principals to give an update at their schools.

École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys: SMB is looking at setting up some virtual parent council meetings during the winter months for next school year. They are hoping that might boost parent participation. This crisis as been the inspiration for this idea. Our parent council are modifying the year end plans, as well as adjusting year end budgets to accommodate the current circumstances.

All the schools are in the midst of making graduation plans. The schools are also navigating our new ASPEN student information system and working on getting report cards out.

Victoria Swejda wanted to share that St. Thomas Aquinas High School this year was offering parents monthly information sessions and presentations. They were not able to complete the March, April or May sessions and those will be postponed until next year. So far this year they have presented:

September: Welcome and Introductions

October: Bullying Information

November: Stress – Teen Strategies for Coping

December: Multi Year Strategic Plan with Dr. Haime

January: Device Addiction in association with Lake of the Woods District Hospital

February: Brain Development in Teens with Sue Devlin



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Kathleen Holmstrom: PJP was very fortunate to have had their raffle completed before March Break. It was very successful, selling all tickets and making over \$7000.00 after they paid out their cash prizes. PJP just had their first virtual Parent Council meeting last week. They discussed what they would do for the rest of the year and how they were going to support the grade 6 graduation. BB Camp and all year end activities have been cancelled at their school. We will just carry over to next year to try to help out the students who missed out this year.

Randy Casey: The Northwestern Health Unit is very busy, and roles have changed.

April is Dental Health Awareness month and even though the schools are closed they are still able to support families. Families can call and speak with any of our dental professionals.

The grade 7 students were supposed to get the second round of vaccines (HPV and Hep B), the NWHU is recommending parents contact their family doctors for their child to receive these vaccines. The Health Unit will follow up in the fall.

We are still supporting the Student Nutrition program and the Nutrition on Weekend (NOW) program to help to get food to families during this time.

Community gardens had been restricted but they have been allowed again. You must follow COVID-19 recommendations that are on the NWHU website. <https://www.nwhu.on.ca/covid19/Pages/home.aspx>

There is also a questions and answer session with our Medical Officer of Health each Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. that can also be accessed through the website.

Derek Haime commented on how much he appreciates that no matter how busy it has been for the Health Unit their quick responsiveness to our questions. Parents are asking questions and the Northwestern Health Unit quick response helps the board to respond quickly and accurately to them. The fact that we have been able to delay things down and flatten the curve is a tribute to the excellent advice from health professionals like yourself and your colleagues.

Randi thanked Derek for his comments. She also reported that many people are taking advantage of the North Western Health Unit – Hot Line. If you have questions about symptoms or are wanting to get tested call our COVID-19 Hotline at 1-866-468-2240. The hours of operation are:

Monday – Friday: 8:30 – 8:00

Saturday and Sunday: 9:00 – 5:00

Anne Sweeney: Anne was commenting as a trustee how disappointed they were that they were not able to attend the Ontario Catholic Schools Trustee Association (OCSTA) and the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association (CCSTA) annual general meetings this year. They give the trustees a opportunity to network across the province and across the country. Both conferences offer such valuable educational opportunities for us.

Anne also wanted to note that Derek gave a very good summary of Cardinal Collins message from the provincial wide mass for Catholic Education Week. She feels such gratitude and a sense of the awesome responsibly placed on our frontline workers. Giving a message of love, faith and hope at this time is so needed. It made her very grateful for our Catholic Schools. As a trustee and a grandparent, she is



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overwhelmed by the wonderful job our teachers are doing for our students. They are going above and beyond to find the resources to make this work.

Cathy McQuillan: I will be meeting with Trina Henley regarding the School Council's presentations to the trustees on June 2. Please watch your email for an update regarding this event.

Derek Haime: The health and wellbeing of our students, families and staff come first and the education comes second.

The Minister of Education has said that around May 17 or 18 we will get an announcement regarding the rest of the school year. We have plans A, B and C so we are ready when the announcement comes. We don't know yet what September will look like.

Derek is very proud of the students, staff and parents in the efforts to keep leaning moving forward as best they can.

6. Next Meeting:

Tuesday, June 2, 2020, 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

School Council's Year-End Presentations to the Trustees

Meeting Schedule for 2020 – 2021 School Year

Wednesday, September 16, 2020	Lunch 11:30 am	Meeting 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Wednesday, December 9, 2020	Lunch 11:30 am	Meeting 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Wednesday, February 10, 2021	Lunch 11:30 am	Meeting 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Wednesday, May 12, 2021	Lunch 11:30 am	Meeting 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

7. Meeting Adjournment by Derek Haime at 11:43 a.m.