



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

September 18, 2019

MEETING DATE:	Wednesday, September 18, 2019
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Catholic Education Centre Board Room
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
NEXT MEETING:	Wednesday, December 11, 2019

ATTENDED BY:

	ATTENDANCE	PERSON	TITLE
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kathleen Holmstrom	Pope John Paul II School Parent Representative
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lana Goodman	St. Louis School Parent Representative
3.	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Paul White	Superintendent of Instructional Services
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hilary Aitken	Ecole Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Vice Principal, KCDSB Representative
9.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Sweeney	Trustee Representative
10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christine Wayne	Recording Secretary

- Prayer** – Derek Haime opened the meeting with a prayer bringing everyone into the presence of the Lord.
- Roll Call** – Paul White and Hilary Aitken are absent with regret. Kathleen Holmstrom and Gianna Poltronetti declared they are Kenora Catholic District School Board employees.
- The Role of the Catholic Parent Involvement Committee** – Derek Haime
Derek shared an email from Annie Kidder, People for Education People which is a unique organization in Canada: independent, non-partisan, and fuelled by a belief in the power and promise of public education. They continue to provide evidence, policy analysis and an independent voice in support of strong publicly funding education.

Christine Wayne will email documents to committee members. Derek will be presenting to principals and will ask principals to discuss at their school parent council for additional parent engagement on CPIC. Strong parent engagement enhances parent voice for development of student academic achievement.

What is Parent Involvement Committee and What Does It Do? – All school boards in Ontario are required to have a Parent Involvement Committee (PIC).

How are PICs different from school councils? – School councils focus on an individual school; PICs provide advice at the board level. PICs actively support the school councils of their board by supporting their role in fostering parent engagement in their children’s learning and sharing information.

Who can be on a Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)? – PICs are led by parents and most of their members are parents. The director of education and a trustee are also members, so parents have a



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direct link to the school board. The PIC appoints up to three community members. PICs decide where to include other members, such as principals, teachers, and support staff to meet local needs. Parent members serve for a term of one or two years. Each parent member must be the parent or guardian of a student enrolled in a school that is part of the board.

May I attend meetings? – Yes. Everyone is welcome to attend PIC meetings and learn first-hand how PICs work. Meetings are held at least four times a year. Check the board's website to find out when and where meetings will be held, as well as minutes of past meetings.

Is the work of PICs guided by education policy? – Yes. Like all education partners, PICs play an important role in fulfilling the vision and goals of Ontario's parent engagement policy to support student achievement and well-being. PICs are also governed by Ontario Regulation 612/00.

How do PICs help education in Ontario? – When parents and schools work together, there are many positive results. These include improved student achievement, reduced absenteeism, better behaviour and increased confidence among parents about their children's education. The Ministry of Education, district school boards and schools all benefit from the important work parents do to support their children's learning. They also benefit from hearing parent opinions and perspectives at the local, regional and provincial levels.

Where can I learn more? – Visit www.ontario.ca/EDUparents to learn more about:

- Parent Involvement Committees and parent engagement in Ontario schools and school boards
- Parents in Partnership: A Parent Engagement Policy for Ontario Schools
- Ontario Regulation 612/00: School Councils and Parent Involvement Committees

Around the table discussion for ideas to increase liaison with parents?

Corinna and Gianna - St. John School provides childcare and opens the gym and have older students look after the children. Having a strong school council gives you the ability to draw on parents for CPIC. Flexibility in work responsibilities is an issue for parents.

Derek – is it possible to speak to people individually and ask to participate as teams? Phoning in, is also a possibility. Will put on December CPIC meeting agenda a Family Event Night in October 2020 both in Kenora and Red Lake. Derek will look for community partners to be involved.

Anne – has been involved in school parent councils, most of the schools are scheduling their meetings at 5:30 PM and provide childcare. Observed great focus on fundraising, as a trustee would like to here comments to the Board of Trustees as to how they can help parent school councils. On a personal note, the hot lunches at schools are an amazing program to offer students.

Kathleen – Pope John Paul II School struggles with parent attendance at school council meetings. Worked hard to change times and provide childcare to increase parent attendance; have seen a small increase in parent attendance. Not that many parents know about CPIC.

Lana – St. Louis School has a low parent involvement; only four parents on parent council. At the first school council meeting, will be looking for ideas to increase parent involvement. Considering a home note asking for one parent volunteer from each classroom.



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4. Parent Engagement Resources – Derek Haime

- KCDSB will look at CPIC members attending Ministry parent meetings.
- KCDSB is reviewing board communication protocols.
- Parent Engagement: Math package is an excellent parent tool for students. www.parentengagementmatters.ca/parent-engagement-math Modules are excellent resources to support parent engagement in their children's mathematics learning. When students understand mathematics, they are equipped with knowledge they can bring to every aspect of their lives.
- Parent Engagement: Relationships – what parents can do to help their children develop healthy relationships; guidebook is a valuable resource
- Derek will consult with the Multi-Disciplinary Team for additional support to school councils.
- Derek will investigate how we get the mathematics parent tool into our parents' hands
- Derek will invite Dallis Novelli, KCDSB Curriculum Coordinator to a CPIC meeting to present on summer programs

5. Engaging Parents in the Healthy Schools Movement Report – Randi Casey PowerPoint Presentation

The Northwestern Health Unit and Thunder Bay District Health Unit presented at the PIC Symposium in Thunder Bay in 2017.

- Heard about challenges with getting new parents engaged
- School Board support, PRO Grant
- Data Collection – online survey; school council discussions; focus groups and online discussion panel
- Results – findings shared with school boards and councils: summary report with recommendations; infographic, available in English and French
- Top 5 ways parents are currently involved:
 - Attend school events
 - Parent/teacher interviews
 - Support fundraising campaigns
 - Volunteer at student events
 - Member of school council or other parent committee
- Top Tips from parents on what would encourage them to become more involved
 - Provide more specific information about how parents can help
 - Offer fun, healthy events at school
 - Provide a welcoming atmosphere
 - Provide transportation/childcare/meals
 - Provide opportunities for parents to share their unique skills with others
 - Recognize that one-size doesn't fit all – some parents may need extra help and a personal approach
 - Acknowledge all parent contributions to the school community
- Top 5 Health Topics
 - Mental Health
 - Physical Activity
 - Healthy Eating
 - Growth and Development
 - Personal Safety and Injury Prevention
- Connecting for Healthy Schools
 - Support for parent councils and student-led group activities
 - Support for healthy school planning
 - Support for teachers – curriculum resources, Healthy Schools Connection e-newsletter
 - Information/tips for parents and students



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- Highlights from 2018-2019
 - Presentations to the board/principal (2), parents (2), students (7)
 - All five schools participated in the *Student Nutrition Program* and the *Northern Fruit and Vegetable Program*
 - Two schools received *Don't Walk in the Hall* decals to enhance DPA
- What's Next?
 - OPHEA Healthy School Certification
 - Vaping presentation in October at STAHS
 - Immunizations
 - Dental screenings
 - Playground activity leaders in schools
 - Walk to school month October

Randi – contact NWHU for support or presentations to schools.

Anne – question regarding immunization – does the health unit still go into schools to give the flu shot even though pharmacies now give the flu shot? Schools can ask the health unit to go to the school.

Randi - Flu campaign rolling out again this year, beginning in October.

6. **KCDSB Strategic Plan** – Derek Haime – 2020-2025 Multi Year Strategic Plan approved at the September board meeting. Our new strategic plan will be our lighthouse for the next five years. The pillars of Growing, Investing and Engaging will be our three hallmarks of excellence in Catholic education. We will be working through the fall to begin implementing this plan so that everyone will know how they can activate their passion, their talents, their skills and their charisms through Growing, Investing and Engaging. Our students deserve the very best, and this plan will help them define and achieve their dreams.

7. Once Around the Table

St. Louis School - Lana Goodman - Open House September 19th; book fair in conjunction with the Open House; parent council meeting on Monday, September 23rd, hot lunch program rolling out soon.

Pope John Paul II School - Katheen Holmstrom – Open House tonight; distributing parent council calendar of meetings; first meeting Tuesday September 24th.

St. John School – Nil

Anne Sweeney Nil

Ecole Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys

Hilary Aitken – absent

7. **Meetings Dates:** December 11, 2019, February 12, 2020, May 6, 2020
8. **Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 11:30 AM, Catholic Education Centre, Boardroom
9. **Meeting adjourned** at 1:05 PM