



# 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 15, 2021

MEETING DATE:	Wednesday, September 15, 2021
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Microsoft Teams
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	11:30 a.m. –12:02 p.m.
NEXT MEETING:	11:30 am – December 15, 2021

### 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"/>	Chrysti Savage	St. Louis School Parent Representative
3.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gianna Poltronetti	St. John School Parent Representative
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chrystal Wilson	Pope John Paul II School
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Corinna Glazier	St. John School Principal, KCDSB Representative
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Randi Casey	Northwestern Health Unit Community Representative
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Paul White	Director of Education
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"/>	Teresa Gallik	Chair - Trustees
12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Favreau	Vice Chair - Trustee
13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Landry	Trustee Representative
14.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frank Bastone	Trustee Representative
15.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cathy McQuillan	Recording Secretary

1. **Prayer** – Paul White

2. **Roll Call** – Paul White

- Regrets: Teresa Gallik, Michael Favreau, Paul Landry, Frank Bastone

3. **Welcome CPIC Members:** P White

4. **Welcome new CPIC member** – Chrystal Wilson – PJP II Representative

5. **Introduction of new KCDSB Superintendents of Instructional Services:**  
Nicole Kurtz and Jamey Robertson hope to join us at our next meeting

- **Nicole Kurtz** will be responsible for: École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys, St. Louis Living Arts School, and St. Thomas Aquinas High School
- **Jamey Roberson** will be responsible for: Pope John Paul II School, St. John School, St. Isidore Virtual School, St. Thomas Aquinas High School (Remote Learning)



**6. Review of May12, 2021 Minutes – Paul White**

- Approved: Kathleen Holmstrom
- Seconded by: Chrysti Savage

**7. Ministry of Education and Province of Ontario Covid Update – Paul White**

- Our number one priority is to keep our schools open. Having students in schools decreases mental health issues, increases academic ability.
- Our staff are always wearing masks and if they are within six feet of a student, they must also wear eye protection.
- We are encouraging our staff to get vaccinated, but it is their choice.
- We have hosted in our schools, vaccination clinics which were ran by the Northwestern Health Unit.
- We are trying to keep extra curricular activities moving forward with all the regulations in place.
- There will not be any overnight trips.
- We have communicated to our students and parents through our school websites and social media what students need to do before they arrive and while they are at school. The daily student self attestation, washing their hands, wearing a mask, practicing social distancing.
- KCDSB has been working closely with the NWHU.
- In the first opening days of this school year, we have had one Covid case at Pope John Paul II School. With the help of the NWHU we were able to react quickly, and all the students are back in their class now.

**8. School Updates – Hilary Aitken and Corinna Glazier**

**Corrina Glazier – St. John School** - We are just getting up and running. St. John School will have its first parent council meeting this evening. We are so happy to have our students back at school. We are doing everything to support our student with their academics, mental well being, and just getting them back into a routine in the school environment. We are looking forward to again making connections with our parents and our community.

**Hilary Aitken - École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys** - Start up is going very well. All the school is very excited about starting up field trips and activities. SMB had their first Parent School Council meeting last night and will have a parent representative at the next meeting.



**9. Once Around the Table**

**Paul White – KCDSB Director of Education**

We will have four CPIC meetings this year.

We have not heard yet from the government if there will be any Parent Reaching Out Grants (PRO) for the 2021-22 school year.

At our December 15th CPIC meeting we will be looking at CPIC Chair positions.

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

STAHS will be having their Parent Council meeting on Monday, September 20, 2021.

They will continue having their meetings virtually for now. The students are so happy to be back in class. They are excited about having sports and extracurricular activities back.

**Christi Savage – St. Louis School**

The first Parent Council meeting for St. Louis will be held on Wednesday, September 22.

**Gianna Poltronetti – St. John School**

The first Parent Council meeting for St. John School will take place tonight. St. John School has been sending out emails hoping to recruit some new Parent Council members.

**Randi Casey – NWHU – Report Attached (5)**

**Chrystal Wilson – Pope John Paul II School**

Pope John Paul II School will hold its first Parent Council meeting on September 22, 2021

The enrollment has gone up at PJP II this year. Grades 5 and 6 will have it Student Body Council elections next week.

**Anne Sweeney – KCDSB Trustee Representative (6-7)**

The trustees are so happy to have our students back in class. Sue Devlin, KCDSB Mental Health Lead, reported to the trustees that during the school closure referrals went up dramatically. We know that our students struggled when they were not in school. The trustees are very proud of all of our staff who are putting forth a tremendous effort to keep our students safe while they are at school.

The trustees have sent a letter to the Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, regarding Mandatory Vaccination Policy. - **Attached**

**Cathy McQuillan – CPIC Recording Secretary**

KCDSB will be providing CPIC members with orange shirts. Orange shirt day will be held on Thursday, September 30.



**Chrysti Savage** asked Mr. White what the school family activities will look like this year.

**Mr. White** responded that things are changing daily. What we know now is schools can have field trip if they are a day activity. This includes activities at rinks and swimming pools. Family BBQ's will require a phone call to the NWHU a week prior to the event to ensure all protocols are being met.

**Randy Casey** of the NWHU also responded that now gathering of twenty-five people are allowed indoors and one hundred are allowed outdoors. You still need to wear a mask if you cannot maintain personal distancing, even if you are outdoors.

**Mr. White** added the KCDSB is following the same protocols that the NWHU is advising.

**Corinna Glazier** also added that some activities that are happening in Kenora may not be happening in Red Lake. St. John School is not yet able to offer swimming.

**Hilary Aitken** commented they are excited to have two classes starting swimming on Monday.

10. **Meeting Adjourned at 12:02 pm - Paul White**

**Up-coming CPIC Meeting Schedule 2021-2022 School Year**

Month	Dates
December	Wednesday, December 15, 2021
February	Wednesday, February 16, 2022
May	Wednesday, May 4, 2022

\*\*\*Location to be determined.

## **Back to school!**

The Northwestern Health Unit is pleased that students are back in school. In-person learning supports the academic success, personal development, and overall mental health and well-being of children and youth. NWHU and KCDSB work together to optimize student safety. Many of the prevention measures that were in place last school year remain in place this year. Parents can support their child by encouraging and modelling prevention behaviors such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, masking, and physically distancing. Check out our schools and COVID-19 web page for more information - [Schools, Daycares, and COVID-19 – Northwestern Health Unit \(nwhu.on.ca\)](https://nwhu.on.ca/Schools,Daycares,andCOVID-19)

## **COVID-19 school and childcare screening tool**

Daily screening before your child goes to school is an important tool in preventing spread of COVID-19. Parents/Guardians must ensure their child is screened each day before school using the [COVID-19 school screening \(ontario.ca\)](https://nwhu.on.ca/COVID-19schoolscreening).

Remember:

- If someone fails the screen or has a COVID symptom during the day, they must either get tested or not attend for 10 days. If they get tested, they must wait for a negative test result before they can return to school even if symptoms have resolved before they get results back.
- If someone passes the screen but has non-COVID symptoms and feels too unwell to attend, they should stay home from school, self-monitor and screen again the next morning and follow instructions provided.
- If someone is ill on a weekend day and would fail the screen based on their symptoms, they must get tested or not attend for 10 days from symptom onset (even if symptoms were resolved by Monday morning).

The screener provides very detailed instructions on the final page where you get a pass (go to school) or fail (do not go to school) result, and in most cases can answer questions about what to do if someone is ill.

## **COVID-19 school vaccine clinics**

The NWHU is hosting vaccine clinics in secondary schools during the month of September. Students can stop by as a walk-in between 1-7 pm on the day of the clinic. Families of students, youth attending other schools, and members of the public can attend the evening clinic from 4-7 either as a walk-in or by [booking an appointment](https://nwhu.on.ca/bookinganappointment) on the health unit's website.

Getting vaccinated saves lives and reduces the chance of getting seriously ill from COVID-19. Protect yourself, your family, and your friends by getting your shot.

## **Nutrition programs**

The Northwestern Health Unit is pleased to support schools once again this year with a range of nutrition programs. School meal and snack programs, Nutrition on Weekends and the Northern Fruit and Vegetable program (Jan- June for K-8) are all back for the 2021-22 school year!



**Sent via email**

September 13, 2021

Honourable Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 438 University Avenue  
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5  
[Minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.edu@ontario.ca)

Dear Minister Lecce,

I am writing to you with an urgent request on behalf of the Board of Trustees. With only two days into the 2021 – 2022 School Year, we were forced to close one of our elementary classrooms due to a positive case of COVID-19.

The Kenora Catholic District School Board strongly urges the Province of Ontario to act as quickly as possible to implement a policy and strategy to mandate COVID-19 vaccinations for all education staff, school visitors and anyone working with students in schools.

We support the growing number of medical and public health professionals, parents and union partners calling for a mandatory vaccination policy for the education sector. The evidence is clear that vaccination is the most effective tool to reduce the risk of COVID-19 and provides a high level of effectiveness for preventing COVID-19 related hospitalizations, including risks associated with the highly transmissible Delta Variant and emerging Variants of Concern. A mandatory vaccination policy, with proper provincial direction and implementation, will provide greater protection from the spread of COVID-19 for students, especially children under the age of 12, who are not eligible to be vaccinated, vulnerable members of our communities and those who are unable to be vaccinated for medical or religious reasons.

The [federal government announced on August 13](#) that it would require vaccination of its federal workforce as early as the end of September across the federal public service. We are urging the provincial government to follow the federal government's lead and take these steps to further protect the health and safety of the education sector, community citizens and, most importantly, our students and school communities.

Protecting the health and safety of all students, staff and families and keeping our schools and classes open for in-person learning is the highest priority for the Kenora Catholic District School Board. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is the value of in-person learning, the relationships between students and teachers, and the positive impact in-person learning has on student mental health and well-being.

We will continue to advocate on behalf of our students, families and staff for a mandatory vaccination policy for education staff so that students can enjoy the benefits of learning at school with their peers, without the repeated and prolonged disruptions that marked last school year.

As a Board, we are prepared to work with the Ministry of Education, education staff, stakeholders, unions, and families to support the implementation of a mandatory provincial vaccination policy for education.

In closing, and as we have students and families who have already been impacted by a classroom closure due to COVID-19 exposure, we urge you to take action immediately to protect Ontario's education sector and keep schools open for students.

Yours in Catholic education,



Teresa Gallik  
Chair of the Board

cc: Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario ([doug.fordco@pc.ola.org](mailto:doug.fordco@pc.ola.org))  
Greg Rickford, MPP Kenora – Rainy River ([greg.rickford@pc.ola.org](mailto:greg.rickford@pc.ola.org))  
Christine Elliot, Minister of Health ([Christine.elliott@ontario.ca](mailto:Christine.elliott@ontario.ca))  
Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health ([kyounghoon@nwhu.on.ca](mailto:kyounghoon@nwhu.on.ca))  
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