

Minutes of the May 5, 2020
Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, May 5, 2020
165A D'Youville Street
Time: 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Rae-Lynn Bertrand - St. Anne
Lori Holden - Marymount Academy
Shannon Morin, Chair - Marymount Academy
Colin Lapalme – St. Francis
Kristin Hall - St. Francis
Erica-Lynn Gertz – Holy Trinity
Tina Timpano - Holy Trinity
Guy Mathieu - Immaculate Conception
Anastasia Rioux - St. Charles College
Julie O'Hearn Brazier - St. Charles
Amanda Hayward - St. Charles
Angela Polischuk - St. Charles
Louise Franklyn - Pius XII
Paola Stefanuto, Vice-Chair - St. Benedict
Marsha Lowe - St. Benedict
Laura Kuzenko - St. Benedict
Devon Crossgrove - Holy Cross
Jenna Serafini - Holy Cross
Tricia Dowdall-Cirelli - St. John
Cara Soehner - St. Paul
Popoola Tayo Kelly – St. David

SCDSB: Michael Bellmore – Chair of the Board
Joanne Bénard – Director of Education

1. Prayer and Welcome

S. Morin shared the prayer and welcomed everyone to the online meeting. Attendance was taken and the process for Zoom was explained.

2. Board Update

M. Bellmore, provided an update which included the following:

a) Distance Learning highlights:

- He began by thanking parents, educators, principals and support staff, along with IT, finance and human resources departments for all of their excellent work in moving to a distance learning model as a result of the school closure.
- He shared that approximately 900 laptops and iPads have been deployed to students who otherwise would not have access to the learning platforms.

Vision: Leaders in Learning and Faith.

Mission: To realize each student's potential within our inclusive Catholic learning community by nurturing and developing their mind, body and spirit.

- Two sites have been built to support staff and our families during this school closure period.
- All staff have adopted a platform such as Google classrooms, MS Teams and D2L.

b) Celebrating Catholic Education Week this week:

This year's week long celebration is titled, "Catholic Education: *Igniting Hope*". In our 'virtual schools' our staff and students will be engaged in many various activities including many participating in Catholic Education Week Mass scheduled for **Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins will be celebrating. Each year OCSTA provides a song celebrating the Catholic Education Week theme. Teachers have been encouraged to include this song in their lesson plans. Click the link to hear the CEW song, [HOPE](#).

He encouraged parents to keep an eye out for both school and social media sites to see the amazing work taking place in celebration of Catholic Education week.

- c)** Last week the Board of Trustees approved the Senate's recommendation for the student Trustee for the 2020-21 School Year. Once again, we had an excellent group of students come forward and are pleased to announce that the Student Senate selected Rosaria Nero. Rosaria is currently in Grade 11 and attends St. Benedict C.S.S. Rosaria certainly exemplifies the mission, vision, and values of the Sudbury Catholic District School Board.
- d)** We are also pleased to report that provincial negotiations with our employee groups were ratified last month. We now look forward to completing local negotiations with our teachers.

3. Learn @ Home website

J. Bénard shared the excellent resources that can be found on our [Learn @ Home Site](#) and encouraged parents to visit and share these additional activities with their children. They are meant to compliment what is being provided by teachers.

4. Distance Learning for parents – Parent Series

J. Bénard and S. Morin highlighted the variety of online sessions that will be offered for parents and educators during the month of May. Sessions include: Internet Safety; Supporting Students Through the COVID-19 Pandemic; Google Classroom: The Parent Connection; Mental Wellbeing; Learning About the Dangers of Human Trafficking; Supporting Your FSL Children; Lexia; Reading and Writing and the Parent Guide to Learning@Home.

Sessions will take place each week in May from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. virtually through Zoom. Parents are encouraged to register at the following [LINK](#).

5. Questions and Answer session:

Question: How much time daily should the children be doing in school? I know they normally complete 6 hours a day at school and I am aware of the letter the ministry sent to parents.

Answer:

Grades	Ministry required total Hours of work per student per week	Number of hours per student per week and focus subjects *Religion is to be integrated into the focus subjects	Other subjects/prep hours of work per student per week: (arts, physical education/health, Core French/primary ECI)
Kindergarten	5 hours of work per student per week	4 hours of work per student/week -Demonstrating literacy and mathematics behaviours	1 hour of work per student/week -Self-regulation and well-being -Belonging and contributing -Problem solving and Innovating
1-3	5 hours of work per student/week	4 hours of work per student/week Literacy/numeracy	1 hour of work per student/week (sciences, social studies, arts, physical education/health, Core French/primary ECI)
4-6	5 hours of work per student per week	4 hours of work per student/week Literacy/numeracy Science and Social Studies	1 hour of work per student/week (arts, physical education/health, Core French/primary ECI)
7-8	10 hours of work per student per week	8 hours of work per student/week Literacy/numeracy Science and Social Studies	2 hours of work per student/week (arts, physical education/health, Core French/primary ECI)
Grades 9-12	3 hours of work per course per week for semestered students Focus: Achieving credits/graduation		

Hours refer to the approximate minimum amount of time students would spend on the work assigned by teachers. Teacher engagement with students is expected; but would vary depending on circumstances and could include a range of ways that teachers would connect with their students. We are trying to provide students with cross-curricular learning opportunities because we cannot teach each subject in isolation. It is imperative that we not overload the students with work.

Question: If a child is sent more than that amount of work what would the next steps be to get that looked at?

Answer: In many circumstances, teachers give options for students and will provide much more work than is required. Parents/students may choose which activities to complete during the required daily/weekly amount of work.

If the teacher is not clear as to what is expected, I would encourage the parent to follow our communication protocol:

- i. First speak to the teacher
- ii. If necessary, speak to the principal

Question: With the time lost due to school closure and with the time lost from the strike will we possibly be looking at continuing e-learning longer if the children do not return in June.

Answer: We have not heard that the school year will be extended but I do believe that summer learning programs will be expanded this summer. We have not yet received these details but as soon as received they will be shared with all families.

Question: How do the students get their marks? And will parents be advised?

Answer:

The following are the guiding principles that have been shared with all teachers:

- Maintaining timely and regular communication with students and parents/guardians with the common goal of supporting overall student achievement, while prioritizing mental health and well-being is essential in a virtual environment. Utilize Board platforms including Board email, Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams, D2L or other platforms using the communication tools within each platform.
- Grades and marks will not go down from what they were on March 13th. No student's mark should be negatively affected by performance during the school closure period. Continuity of learning is critical to prepare students with the knowledge and skills for success in the next grade, course or postsecondary destination. Every effort should be made to keep students involved and engaged in their learning, recognizing that some students in extenuating circumstances may no longer be able to participate. Work that began on April 6 is to be used to enhance their mark.
- While teachers will continue to deliver their lessons based on the expectations detailed in the Ministry of Education documents, there must be consideration given to the number of expectations that will be covered during this time. There is an understanding that not all expectations will be covered as would normally occur during this time in the semester. Particular consideration should be given to the overall expectations and the "big ideas" in a given course/subject.
- Teachers will use assessment for learning (formative assessment) to gather evidence of how students are progressing in their learning and provide feedback to their students to support their continuous and ongoing learning.

A memo outlining these expectations will be prepared and shared with parents. As always you are encouraged to reach out to your teacher if you have questions about your child's progress.