

Minutes of the December 9th, 2021
Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Meeting

via Zoom
Thursday, December 9th, 2021
165A D'Youville Street
Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Paola Stefanuto – St. Benedict (Chair)
Amanda Demore – St. Charles Elementary (Vice-Chair)
Julie O'Hearn - St. Charles Elementary
Angela Polischuk – Principal, St. Charles Elementary
Mel Young – Holy Cross
Lori Holden – Principal of Holy Cross
Shannon Gouchie – St. Charles College and Holy Trinity
Maureen O'Hare-Nebre – Marymount Academy
Tera Wilson Chayer – Remote School
Kristin Hall – St Francis
Natasha Folino – Principal, St. Francis

SCDSB: Michael Bellmore – Chair of the Board
Nicole Bedard – Superintendent of School Effectiveness
Rossella Bagnato – Superintendent of School Effectiveness

1. Prayer and welcome

Paola Stefanuto welcomed everyone to the meeting. Amanda Demore led the Committee in the land acknowledgement and P. Stefanuto followed with a prayer.

2. School Board Update

M. Bellmore (Board Chair) provided a Board update which included the following:

- a. Reviewed the Board's financial situation from the 20-21 school year and indicated that at next week's board meeting, there will be a motion to appropriate funds for further investments such as music, the arts, science, physical education, robotics and coding. We are very pleased to further invest in our programs.
- b. Shared the results of the Board voting at the Inaugural meeting held Tuesday, Dec 7th, 2021. Michael Bellmore will continue to be the chair and Ray Desjardins will continue to be the vice-chair of the board.
- c. Reviewed that our schools continue to be welcoming and safe places for our students. The school calendars show many great activities are taking place even with the COVID restrictions.
- d. The chair thanked everyone for their participation and offered everyone a Blessed Christmas. He wished everyone a great time with family and friends.

3. COVID update

N.Bedard shared a covid update which included the following information

- New Requirements by PHU

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.

- Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) Program: All students in grades Kindergarten to grade 8 received a RAT kit for home use last week. In Grade 9 to 12 RAT kits are available upon request for all unvaccinated students. The use of the kits is voluntary.
- The week of Dec. 13, schools will receive a RAT kit for all students K to 12 to be used during the Christmas break. All unvaccinated students should monitor 2 times per week with one test administered prior to returning in January.
- How-to/Information videos will be available shortly through the Ministry of Education.
- Virtual only assemblies in elementary and secondary schools.
- Mandatory masking for students while outdoors if physical distancing cannot be maintained. Teachers were given direction to allow students to remove masks during the day when social distancing could take place.
- Maintain distancing between cohorts when outdoors as much as possible as we did last year.
- Pausing on school field trips that require group transportation and that are not outdoors for both elementary and secondary students. This did not include sports or sporting events.
- Continue to limit visitors into the schools and require strict protocols for those entering (e.g. confirmation of symptom screening (long list), masking, limited access).
- Please note we are planning a return to a regular semester system for the second semester.
- Mandatory daily confirmation of symptom screening for students and staff to begin Dec.1. This will continue for at least 2 weeks upon our return from the holidays.
- Changes to contact management and isolation processes such as determining if there is a breakthrough case where the case has been double vaccinated. In this case, all staff and students must self-isolate for 10 days.
- **work-from-home** requirements for anyone that can work from home based on their position. This will not impact the school as all direct services to students will continue.
- For the most up to date info please visit
<https://www.phsd.ca/>
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-education>
<https://www.sudburycatholicschools.ca>

P. Stefanuto indicated that the previous letter that was send home from public health has a weblink to Sick Kids in Toronto where there is an option for parents to have a consultation and ask questions about vaccinations

M. Bellmore added that the public health unit has been working closely with our Board and that information and that information is continuously updated.

4. Mental Health Services: An New Model

Diane Zannier, the Board's Mental Health Lead, presented the new model of mental health services in our board. She shared the tiered approach to mental health services currently in place.

Tier 1 mental health promotion is good for all and includes strategies such as: Teachers, administrators and other school staff work together to create caring, inclusive schools and classrooms. Universal sessions are a support that is part of regular class and school activities.

Tier 2 mental health prevention is necessary for some. Some students may require additional support. Other professionals in the school / board may become involved to support the student.

Tier 3 mental health intervention is essential for few. This includes more intensive therapy for students struggling with a significant mental health problem. Services are short term - 4 to 6 sessions.

She also shared information about various community partners who support Mental Health.

- ❖ COMPASS Child and Youth Mental Health Services, for families and children 705-525-1008
- ❖ Mental health and addiction nurse, available at your child's school.
- ❖ Child and Community Resources 705-525-0055
- ❖ Children's Community Network 705-566-3416

❖ CRISIS Intervention at HSN705-675-4760

Mental Health Ontario website was shared and demonstrated the many resources available for parents visit <https://smho-smso.ca/>

5. Planning the Parent Series

N. Bedard reviewed the results of the parent survey. It seems that parents prefer Wednesday evening from 6:00 to 7:00 for the parent information sessions. We also reviewed the parent series topics for these information sessions. The committee chose the top 5 which are: mental health and well-being, a focus on math, a focus on literacy, cyber bullying and internet safety as well as transitioning to secondary school especially with the return to the semester system. Dates for the parent series are to be determined.

6. Catholic School Council sharing on promoting positive morale in schools

P. Stefanuto led a sharing opportunity for participants. She indicated that St Benedict had a month of positivity which included activities such as sweater day, pyjama day, cupcake birthday celebration, Disney day, Star Wars day, Rock Band day etc...One parent shared that at St Charles Chelmsford they had the door decorating contest, food drive and giving back to families as well as a virtual zoom dance party. Some other ideas were shared such as: virtual Christmas concert or a virtual Christmas parade using shoe box decorated as floats. At Holy Cross they also had a Christmas campaign with a Jesse Tree in order to help families.

7. OAPCE opportunities for parents

P. Stefanuto shared that OAPCE offers all of their sessions virtually. The last session was on resiliency. Everything is online for anyone to access. It was also recommended that parents sign up for their free newsletter. <https://www.oapce.org/>

8. Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10th, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. Focus area: Inviting someone from COMPASS to share their program information and how they are accessed. T. Wilson-Chayer representing the remote school has asked that we ensure to focus on how remote students can access these services as well.