

Council of Chair's Report

Wednesday, February 28th, 2018 - Our Lady of Fatima CES, Milton

Thank you for attending the second Council of Chairs meeting for the 2017-2018 School Year. The Catholic Parent Involvement Committee hosts these meetings 3 times a year to gather all School Council Chairs and co-Chairs as a means to provide opportunities for networking, sharing of ideas and best practices and to disperse consistent and relevant information to our Catholic School communities. These meetings are attended by Senior Board Administration, Board Trustees, Principals and Vice Principals and their School Council Chairs. Below you will find a recap of the information from the February 28th Council of Chairs meeting. The information covers all relevant areas of the agenda that could be shared with your own parent communities. This report should also be presented to your School Councils at the Council meeting following the Council of Chairs.

Board Welcome: Mrs. Diane Rabenda, Chair of the Board

Greetings and a warm welcome were brought on behalf of the Board to all of the parents in our Board attending the meeting. Mrs. Rabenda expressed gratitude to the parents who attended as Chairs and Vice Chairs to volunteer their time to strengthen the vital partnership between School, Home and Parish.

Mrs. Rabenda reminded us that this is an election year for the Trustees of the Board. She encouraged us to vote in the upcoming election this October.

CPIC Speaker, Fr. Francis Salasiar – CPIC Deanery Representative

Father Francis presented a PowerPoint to review and reflect on our Catholic values. He visited the importance of our Catholic faith in regards to the relationship amongst the home, school and parish triad. He used the analogy of a three-legged stool; all three are required for strength and balance. Father Francis touched on three major points:

Catholic Education – How is Catholic Education doing?

- At the heart of Catholic Education, the person of Jesus Christ and the Good News of the Gospel.
- How can we improve living out God's plan, developing Christ centered students, and the partnership of the triad.

How are we fulfilling our mission? What are the fruits of our labour?

- We must examine our journey
- We all need to reflect and evaluate
- Taking time to reflect allows us to focus

Involvement of Parents – we need to work together. Why is there so much of a gap between home, school, and parish?

- *We are like a three-legged stool, if one leg is broken we cannot function*
- *How we are different as Catholics*
- *How is the faith life of staff, parents and students different*

Catholic Literacy for Parent Engagement, Alexandra Gonzalez, CPIC Representative

Each School Council was presented with 44 copies of the book 'Resisting Happiness' by author Matthew Kelly, which encourages the exploration of our faith. This book helps parents to learn about their faith, find God's purpose, and put our faith in action. School Councils were advised to distribute the books as a way to engage parents. Some ideas for engagement were provided, such as book clubs, study groups, etc... School Council Chairs and Vice Chairs were asked to share ideas of how they used the books for the parents in their school communities.

Lighthouse Catholic Media, Gaile Merritt-Murrell, CPIC Co-Chair

Each school council was given a CD titled 'Protecting Innocence, Parenting, Your Kids, and the Internet' to share amongst Council members. Other resources were provided such as www.integrityrestored.com and www.covenanteyes.com

Christian Meditation, Gillian Federico, HCDSB System Chaplain Leader

Mrs. Federico provided a video with the advantages of Christian Meditation for students. Some parents and staff were sceptical about meditation in the school and were concerned that it would lead students away from their faith. In actuality, meditation helps you to go within to find your calm. This is part of the Board Strategic Plan, and thus far, feedback has been positive from students. Christian Meditation is rooted in Hebrew Scriptures and used to: gain control of the flesh, learn about God, and engage in a relationship with Him. The room was then lead into a time of brief meditation.

Indigenous Education, Sherry Saevil, Indigenous Education Advisor, HCDSB

Mrs. Saevil provided us with a summary of the history of land acknowledgement recognition and initiatives at HCDSB and HDSB. There are monthly meetings at Crawford Lake, with both School Boards in attendance. She summarized learning goals for deeper understanding of Indigenous Education and talked about resources within the schools. Each school has been supplied with a smudge bowl, tobacco, and sage for smudging ceremonies.

Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE),

Denice Garell-Teti, Halton OAPCE Director

Mrs. Garell-Teti presented us with the changes within OAPCE. A new president was elected, and an overview of the regions were reviewed. The main focus was on relationship building with the Ministry of Education and our Catholic schools. There will be an OAPCE Representative and Parish Representative retreat on April 5th, at St. Raphael Parish in Burlington. Mrs. Garell-Teti will be attending the upcoming OAPCE Regional meeting in Toronto.

New Cannabis Legislation and the Impact on Our Schools, Camillo Cipriano and Tim Overholt, Superintendents of Education, HCDSB

Mr. Cipriano and Mr. Overholt gave an overview of the proposed legislation that is to be implemented in July of this year. Changes will be required to the Education Act:

- Section 301, Code of Conduct
- Section 306, Areas of Suspension
- Section 310, Expulsion

The Ministry will be reviewing curriculum for opportunities to educate students and parents with the proposed changes, and there will be a review of police protocol. Further information will be provided in the coming months when the Bill has been passed and the Education Act has been updated.

School Climate Survey, Paula Dawson, Director of Education, HCDSB

A School Climate Survey, which is mandated by the Ministry, was put forth to us by Miss Dawson. She implored us to complete the survey and provide feedback. The survey should be completed with your child in mind. It is anonymous, and password protected. The survey will be set out on March 19, and open until April 20.

This meeting report is prepared under the CPIC mandate of Communications – please share this information with your School Council and then each School can maintain these reports in their individual School Council records. CPIC members can be contacted at CPIC@hcdsb.org.

If you have any questions or require any clarification on any of the content or information covered in this report, please contact CPIC.

We look forward to seeing you at the next Council of Chairs meeting:
St. Mary Catholic Elementary School on Wednesday, May 23rd, 2018.