



Parent Involvement Committee
Tuesday, October 8, 2024 | 1 PM

MINUTES

Attendance

Chairperson:	Erinn Ladouceur, CSPA / PIC Chair
Trustee:	Eugene Milito, Trustee Scott Phelan, Trustee, Alternate
Committee:	Steven Boucher, CSPA Vice-Chair Traci Clarke, SEAC Chair Andrea Mackasey, Parent Member Charmy Modi, Parent Member Marline Al Koura, Principal, St. Patrick's HS Jody Prevost, Principal, St. Cecilia
Guests:	Cailey Dirksen-Coxworth, Student, St. Mother Teresa High School Warner Schaettgen, Student, All Saints High School
Regrets:	Taihisa Hill, Parent Member Virginia Boyden, Parent Member
Administration:	Thomas D'Amico, Director of Education Stephanie Dunne, Recording Secretary Sandra Falcomer, Administrative Assistant

1. Opening remarks & welcome

At 1:07 pm, Erinn Ladouceur called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the new school year. Introductions were made.

2. Acknowledgement & Prayer

Director D'Amico read the land acknowledgement and offered a prayer.

3. **Approval of Oct. 8, 2024 Agenda**

Moved by Traci Clarke, seconded by Andrea Mackasey,

THAT the agenda for the PIC meeting of October 8, 2024, be approved as presented.

Carried

4. **Approval of May 14, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Andrea Mackasey, seconded by Traci Clarke,

THAT the minutes of the May 14, 2024 meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

5. **General Updates & New Business**

- Ministry of Education (MOE) Updates
 - [Sept 18, 2024 *PPM 128](#)
 - Future Meetings: November, February, May

Erinn Ladouceur reported that she, Steven Boucher and Andrea Mackasey attended the September 18th Ministry meeting. The Ministry plans to have four meetings this year. Discussion took place about PPM 128 and the new Minister of Education, Jill Dunlop, spoke. The link to resources about how to work together and ideas on how to reach families is attached to the meeting date.

- Vaping/Cell Phone Special Grant Funding

Director D'Amico reported that the Ministry has provided funding of \$27,554 to increase parent/caregiver awareness and knowledge about problematic and addictive behaviours among youth. Activities/expenditures for this project start on September 1, 2024 and must be spent by August 31, 2025.

Discussion took place about how to engage parents on this topic. A list of topics was included from the Ministry.

Erinn noted that as this is a substantial amount of money, we need to find ways to be creative. Is the Board interested in developing documents, along with OPH? Translation was suggested to reach less engaged parents.

Student Warner was in favor of having documents to bring home, a short pamphlet with accurate statistics; this could be an info graphic.

The Director noted that schools could use these funds for speakers.

Another possibility is to turn money over to school councils - give them \$1000 to take advantage of an existing activity involving parents - for handouts, prizes. This would supplement PRO and PIC grants.

Another option is to give the money to students. Warner noted that at All Saints there is room to build on clubs and associations. There is a mental health team that could involve students. Cailey suggested holding a student event which would involve speaking to parents.

It was noted that English is not the first language of all families and some families are not on social media. It was suggested that there could be pictures of what the vaping devices look like. The money could be used for printing.

Andrea noted that there are organizations that create info graphics, there is an organization for Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids - this could be investigated. Research needs to be done.

Tom asked Principal Jody Prevost for suggestions on how to reach parents of grade 6 students. Principal Prevost noted that it was important to get that message out to parents and that parents would like a pamphlet.

Paul Davis has a presentation to students and then to parents, then parents can discuss this with their children.

It was noted that cell phones were discussed at the Meet the Teacher nights, and could be tied into the grade 6 to 7 transition meeting. It could be discussed at the beginning and end of the school year.

Erinn asked if we could reach out to OPH for resources and Tom noted there is no shortage of resources.

Another consideration is how we prepare staff to support students.

It was suggested that a sub committee be formed to decide how to spend the money. Erinn suggested sending \$1000 to each high school school council and have the remaining \$11,000 for speakers and elementary transition days. The committee was in agreement to give each student council \$1000. The student council could decide how they want to proceed.

Warner noted that her student council did a presentation and offered OPH pamphlets; it was mainly geared to students, but they could integrate parents into the process at transition meetings.

Jody noted that the use of cell phones, rather than vaping, is a huge topic for elementary parents.

- Transportation & Safety

Erinn commented that there was a presentation by OSTA at the first CSPA meeting. Transportation and safety is a big issue, and CSPA would like to request a review of

processes when new schools and boundary changes are made - and would like to see some changes with OC Transpo. The Director responded that OC Transpo has no commitment to the board. We can't commit to a better process, unless we get cooperation from OC Transpo. We have advocated through city councillors and the General Manager, but it is a political matter.

Erinn commented that they have had some good conversations with OC Transpo, but the community at St. Mother Teresa is not pleased, and feels that they were not contacted during the process.

- PRO Grant Funding (Andrea)

Pro grant applications were launched on October 1, with the first deadline of November 1. One application has been received, which had a great idea, but the execution was lacking. CSPA will work with the school to revise the application.

Sandra Falcomer reported that the PRO grant funding is \$50,500.

- PIC Grant Funding (Sandra)

[Draft Letter](#)

Sandra reported that elementary schools receive PIC grants of \$500 and high schools receive \$1000. This amounts to \$60,000. There was \$20,000 deferred from last year, which goes to the PIC committee.

Principals Marline Al Koura and Jody Prevost have approved the letter which will be sent to schools next week. Finance will transfer the money to the schools' accounts. Erinn suggested to the two students that they speak to their school councils regarding the spending of these grants.

6. Director's Update

Director D'Amico reported that the two new schools, St. Gianna and St. Veronica, opened as scheduled. The number of OCSB students has surpassed 50,000 for the first time. Spending on extra staffing has been \$2 million. As usual, we overspend on special education.

Tom D'Amico noted the ongoing shortages of teachers and EA's and suggested that CSPA and SEAC might want to write a letter to the Minister. Trustees and Directors have sent similar letters.

He reported that shortages of bus drivers are continuing to decrease, OSTA is short 10 drivers now with 13 more drivers being trained, resulting in a much better situation for transportation.

The Director noted that the OCSB is the lead board across Canada in AI implementation. This will take some time to see in the classroom. The parent website is launched and AI FAQ'S and tools for parents are coming soon. The board website will have a chatbot in mid October - it is still being tested.

Minister Dunlop visited St. Bernadette School and was very supportive.

The Ministry has provided some funding for guest speakers as career coaches in grade 9 and 10.

A Ministry directive is to provide information to parents regarding guest speakers that are presenting to more than one class.

Christian Community Day takes place on Friday, October 11. Erinn thanked Tom for the invitation, but unfortunately no one from CSPA or SEAC was available to attend this year.

- CEFO Fundraising

The Director noted that November 1 will be a dress down day for CEFO, and the staff campaign will run November 8-22. Parents are not asked directly to contribute, because there are fundraisers like Christmas baskets in schools. In the new year, there will be a 50/50 draw, open to parents also, which is intended to replace the \$20,000 that was raised by the gala.

- SEAC Update (Traci)

Traci Clarke commented that SEAC would be happy to write letters and she will contact Tom for more information.

- Draft SEAC Member Guide

Traci reported that the final copy of the guide will be brought to the next meeting. It is hoped that this will result in a more cohesive committee and attract new members. Recently there have been new members from the Autism Association, Down Syndrome Association, Epilepsy and LDAO.

- CSPA Update (Erinn)

Erinn commented on the presentations that were happening at CSPA meetings. In October, Tom will be present for the elections and members of the Planning and Facilities department will discuss the capital plan. Dr. Richard Bolduc will speak about mental health in November. Members can attend virtually or in person. CSPA is in the process of organizing a few events. They are hoping to have a math session with Kim Lacelle and Christine Marshall in November. There will be presentations on Inclusive Education on October 30th. The School Council Conference will take place on November 2nd. Hannah Beach will be presenting on December 11th.

Erinn thanked the students for their input and noted they are welcome to attend meetings in the future.

8. Budget Update (Sandra)

No report.

9. 2024-2025 Upcoming Meetings @1pm

- December 10th, 2024
- February 11th, 2025
- May 13th, 2025

10. Adjournment

Moved by Trustee Milito, seconded by Traci Clarke,

THAT the PIC meeting of October 14, 2024 be adjourned at 2:08 pm.

Carried