



MINUTES

**Central Committee for
Catholic School Community Council
Meeting #03 ~ Monday, February 2nd, 2009 at 7:00pm
General Meeting Room, 80 Bell Farm Road, Barrie**

Present:

Michael O'Keefe, Director of Education
 Darren Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools – Elementary
 John Grise, Board Chair
 Clayton Ferguson, Board Trustee
 Bob Lemay, St. Michael the Archangel
 Lisa Cuypers, Pope John Paul II
 Michael Kodama, Sister Catherine Donnelly
 Heather Knight-Bortoluzzi, St. Marguerite d'Youville
 Susan Tesi, St. Paul's
 Lori Janssen, St. Bernard's
 Laura Pasut, The Good Shepherd
 Darcy Agostinho, St. Joan of Arc
 Sandra Fujioka, Administrative Assistant (meeting minutes)

Regrets:

Mary Puopolo, Superintendent of Schools – Secondary
 Lorri-Anne Pigeon, Our Lady of the Assumption
 Robert Ben, Mother Teresa
 Odette Couto Clarke, Mother Teresa
 Christina Bacci, Monsignor J.E. Ronan
 Cathie Brenner, Father F.X. O'Reilly
 Karen Whalen, Foley
 Lisa Rady, St. Bernard's
 Pam Berko, Our Lady of Mercy
 Tina McNeill, St. Antoine Daniel

Called to Order at 7:05pm

<i>Rooted In Faith, Hope and Love</i>	
ACTION REQ'D	TOPIC
	<p>1. Welcome/Prayer/Introductions Our new members were introduced and welcomed.</p>
	<p>2. Guest Presentation – St. Dominic's Video, presented by Diane Legg Deferred to next meeting – Diane was ill.</p>
	<p>3. Review Minutes from October 6th, 2008 meeting Minutes approved with no changes.</p>
	<p>4. Catholic School Council Annual Survey Some boards do an annual survey – is this something we would like to do? If the Central Committee is interested we can have a draft ready for next meeting to review and then share with all school councils.</p>

Darren	<p>Wide range of topics, how we consult and communicate – suggestion could be made to school councils that the night they choose to do principal profiles they could also do the survey.</p> <p>Lots of different ways to set-up, could use Survey Monkey on-line. Advantage of doing during a council meeting is that the members get to openly discuss as some questions may not be clear to some people.</p> <p>Will provide samples/draft for next meeting.</p>
	<p>5. History of Catholic Education – Michael O’Keefe</p> <p>Author Michael Power wrote <i>A Promise Fulfilled: Highlights in the Political History of Catholic Separate Schools in Ontario</i> – during the last election there was peripheral focus on Catholic Education, we may look at this again in the next election. Various ideas are being put forward with respect to Catholic Education, boards to talk about the history of Catholic Education in the province of Ontario. Many people don’t know many of the critical elements of the history. Understanding the history will provide people a strong sense of why we exist. The role of religion in our schools, and how religious orders used to run the schools. Go back only 40 years it was a time around 1968 there was almost no public funding for Catholic schools. In 1984 extending catholic funding to grade 13 was only partial funding as it was based on taxes. 1998 the new funding formula came in and treats public and catholic boards, French and English as basically equal.</p> <p>Is there an interest with this group to talk about the history of Catholic education?</p> <p>Committee agreed the history is very important. The history; will it be sound bites for the next election or to educate the parents? More important that the parents are able to tell their neighbours and friends why Catholic Education is so important. What it brings to our students, our communities and society.</p> <p>Part of the seminars that St. Mary’s Church had done some time ago gave the history of Catholic Education – members thought that was very well done.</p> <p>How do we educate the parents? If we agree to move forward on this how do we do it? Add bits to the calendar, our website so that people could download information. Newsletters. Suggestion to have the history added to the curriculum as that is something the parents will read. Agenda books. Workshops – community level so that people interested could come. Sister Claire Fitzgerald would make a great guest speaker at the parent conference. Could be also done through the parishes.</p> <p>Also personal histories would be very interesting to look into, not just the dry history.</p> <p>IE: 40 years ago today....etc. could be posted on the website.</p> <p>A large part of the history is about the parents who sacrificed to have their children attend catholic schools.</p> <p>All of this will be taken into consideration.</p>
	<p>6. School Year Calendar for 2009-2010 - Darren</p> <p>Many members had already done consultation at their schools.</p> <p>The committee was asked how they felt about the different drafts. The idea was to use the drafts as a starting point for discussion there wasn’t a need to choose one or the other.</p> <p>We have rec’d some feedback from councils. Some believe there will be a lot of absenteeism if we begin before labour day.</p> <p>One school asked their school community via email – parents were given a choice of a, b or their suggestion – majority chose to start after labour day due to day care needs. Students</p>

	<p>suggested starting early – since they don’t want to give up their pa days....10 weeks is a long time between learning without a break.</p> <p>Council discussed if the pa days at the beginning of the year would be beneficial to the teachers – professional development?</p> <p>As a business owner they will not higher the older students for summer season work knowing that the students will be returning to school prior to Labour Day. Camps are assuming that this summer will be 10 week summer.</p> <p>We try to coordinate with our co-terminus boards the Simcoe County and Lakelands boards.</p> <p>Enrolment numbers are based on the first few days of schools and that impacts funding and teacher requirements. We may have to change how we assess this, perhaps a change of when we take the numbers.</p> <p>Pros and cons to both – we won’t win either way. Best to be consistent with other boards.</p> <p>March 1st for modified calendar, may 1st for regular calendar. Feedback from school councils due by Feb. 11th.</p>
	<p>7. Consultation regarding “Role of the Trustee” – Bob Lemay</p> <p>Kathleen Wynn put together a governance review committee. Bob has been invited to attend on February 18th to discuss Modernizing the Education Act, Identifying Effective Governance Practices, Supporting school board leaders, strengthening school board accountability. Three different types of consultation – director’s, trustees and then parents will meet. This is the Barrie Regional Office of the Ministry of Education. One parent from each board has been asked to attend. Two trustees from each board have been invited.</p> <p>Co-Chair Rick Johnston and Madelaine Chevalier ~ Rick has stepped down as he’s running for a political office, a replacement has not been announced as yet.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to pay close attention to the pre-ambles before answering the questions.</p> <p>The Ministry hopes to revise the education act and regulation, update the role of the trustees to senior staff.</p> <p>Bob handed out a copy of the Ontario School Board Governance for the 21st Century Consultation Paper dated December 2008 prepared by the Governance Review Committee.</p>
	<p>8. Networking Session Feedback - Darren</p> <p>Referred members to the handout.</p> <p>Barrie Southwest group have Positive Parenting Program – as a result of the networking session.</p> <p>This will be distributed to all School Council Chairs.</p>
	<p>9. Central Committee Membership</p> <p>Terms: we may have 10-12 new members to this committee. Next meeting agenda item – who is the overlapping committee member. 1 year and 2 year term memberships. Members would have to state their intention to sit on council for another term? We will put this on the next agenda as a discussion item.</p> <p>What would the process be? Would there be an election. The commissioning service provides an opportunity to look at membership.</p>
	<p>10. Report Cards Systems</p> <p>A question about the new system, not transparent to the parent at the high school level. If it is</p>

Michael	<p>not transparent to parents then there is something wrong. Is there feedback from the school to the board and then from the board to the ministry? The change was that we switched over to eSIS the end result for the ministry hasn't changed. This is the second year that secondary has been using eSIS for report cards.</p> <p>How individual students are assessed and how that mark is determined. It's all about achievement levels, secondary teachers are struggling with this – if a teacher does a number of assessment and all numbers are at level 4, was the student at 4+++ or was it a 4- where it may be a 90. This really involves the teacher's professional judgment.</p> <p>The marking system is not transparent for the parents or the students. How does it get clearly explained to the students and parents.</p> <p>Report cards go home this Friday. Michael will look into messaging to explain to parents how the marks are determined. Perhaps have Michele Lister present to parents.</p> <p>Are their differences between high schools? Yes there may be differences between schools.</p> <p>This is a province wide system. K-12 document is soon to be released. Secondary has been out for some time.</p> <p>Will Universities interpret the marks the same way?</p>
	<p>11. Additional Items</p> <p>None at this time.</p>
	<p>12. Future Meeting Dates</p> <p>Tuesday, April 7th & Monday, June 1st, 2009</p>
	<p>Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm</p>