



OAPCE: The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education

"We shall preserve and enhance the highest quality publicly funded, English Catholic education in Ontario, enabling all of our children to become contributing members of the Church, School, Home and Society in accordance with God's will."



**Meeting Minutes of Regional Meeting
DRAPCE (Dufferin-Peel Regional Association of Parents in Catholic Education)**

Date: January 25, 2017
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Held at: St. Valentine
5610 Heatherleigh Ave GYM
Mississauga

- Thirty-two (32) parents were in attendance.
- Meeting started at 7:05 pm
- M. Cittadio motioned to approve the agenda, A. Danglay seconded.
- A. Clarke approved November 2016 minutes, K. Tatone seconded
- M. Zoric, DRAPCE chair introduced our guest, Susan Steer, Superintendent, Well-Being, Experiential Learning and Learning Services, who will answer questions that were canvassed from parents on their on line registration form.
- The meeting was devoted to Superintendent Steers answering questions from the floor as well as the questions e-mailed ahead of time. It was very informative and thorough.

- The board is coming to an end of a three-year strategy, planning to receive input on new strategy to provide and promote resiliency for children starting in September. Keynote talks on resiliency, what mental wellness looks like. What does a mentally healthy classroom look like? Calming time before exams.
- Each high school council has a member, Student Voice who sits on the Board. They bring feedback to the Board members to get an understanding of what is going on high school. They don't want mental wellness to be a one day event, they want it to be an all year around awareness via posters, and with guidance counsellors, CYW staff, school social worker and psychologists.
- There will be a survey for parents on what they need in the wellbeing strategy in June 2017 so they can provide it to the Ministry of Education.
- There have been calls for council chairs and councils to have their own Board e-mail. There are concerns that members may get negative emails and thus members need to protect themselves from this. Email should come from the Principal, in case any issues or concerns arise. Most high schools don't use email blasts, instead they use phone system.
- The Board will be moving to a new online registration system next year. The Cash Online Payment System continues to roll out. One elementary school has 100% compliance amongst its families.
- Parents can be issued a tax receipt by the principal if they would rather give \$25 instead of selling box of chocolates. The principal would fill out a remittance form, GF325.
- Safe School Survey is to be sent to all parents and guardians in DPCDSB. Typically known as the bullying survey, it also covers questions about faithfulness, healthy schools and inclusiveness.

- Councils cannot buy items for schools from outside vendors or big box stores. They must buy through Board approved vendors who have submitted tenders for their services. Apparently other school boards don't follow tender policy. Ms. Steer will investigate this matter further to see if changes can be made. She will bring back issue to Procurement, but cannot promise immediate answer.
- Experimental learning is a new area that the Board is looking to develop framework around for all grades starting in 2018. Students will have work placement, Aboriginal studies unit, grow local food and donate to food banks. More ideas to follow.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm