

# Kenora Catholic District School Board

We are a Roman Catholic school system dedicated to excellence in education, the Christian formation of youth, and meaningful partnerships with family, community and Church.

## MINUTES OF MEETING

October 19, 2022

MEETING DATE:	Wednesday, October 19, 2022
LOCATION OF MEETING:	Board Room at CEC and Microsoft Teams
SUBJECT OF MEETING:	Catholic Parent Involvement Committee
TIME OF MEETING:	12:00 PM – 1:13 PM
NEXT MEETING:	11:30 am – December 7, 2022

### ATTENDED BY:

	ATTENDANCE	PERSON	TITLE
1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kathleen Holmstrom	CPIC Chair and St Thomas Aquinas High School Parent Representative
2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Angela McEvoy	St. Louis School Parent Representative
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tressa Main	St. Louis School Parent Representative
4.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grace Dunford	St. John Paul II School Representative
5.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michelle Kurtz	St. John Paul II School Representative
6.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gianna Polronetti	St. John School Parent Representative
7.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amy McCann	École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys
8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kylie Hughes	St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Principal
9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mark Richards	St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Vice Principal
10.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Randi Casey	Northwestern Health Unit Community Representative
11.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nicole Kurtz	Director of Education
12.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hilary Aitken	École Ste. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Principal, KCDSB Representative
13.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anne Sweeney	Trustee Representative
14.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Landry	Trustee Representative
15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Teresa Gallik	Chair - Trustees
16.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Favreau	Vice Chair - Trustee
17.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Frank Bastone	Trustee Representative
18.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cathy McQuillan	Recording Secretary

1. **Prayer:** Nicole Kurtz

2. **Roll Call:** Regrets: Tessa Main, Paul Landry, Frank Bastone, Teresa Gallik, Kylie Hughes, Mark Richards, Michael Favreau

**Guests:** Mariette Martineau, Marnie Buffett, Natasha Tsevende

3. **Welcome CPIC Members & Round Table Introductions:** Nicole Kurtz



4. **Board Update – Nicole Kurtz**

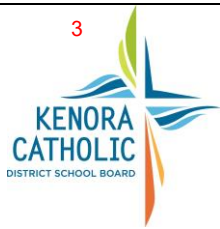
- Nicole Kurtz, is new to the position of Director of Education.
- This is our second month, back to in-person meetings and travel. Since August she has attended sessions in Toronto for Directors, sessions in Thunder Bay for Trustees and Directors as well as Thunder Bay for meetings with Directors from Northwestern Ontario.
- Normal start to the school year with all activities back to normal at schools, field trips, sports trips, etc. We have had a great start to the school year.

- **October 24th PD Day – Spiritual Development Day – Presenter - John Roberto**

**John Roberto** has been involved in Catholic faith formation—teaching, writing, researching, consulting, and developing program resources—for almost 50 years. He has dedicated his life in many religious denominations to helping communities effectively share faith.

**Topic:** How does every adult in the community promote an environment in our schools in which children and teens can grow personally and spiritually?

- Creating an environment for building a healthy Catholic school culture
  - Five developmental relationship practices
  - Nurturing belonging
  - How do we support the spiritual and religious growth of others?
- **Board of Trustees** – Outgoing Trustees, Anne Sweeney, Frank Bastone, Mike Favreau, and Vaughn Blab. Their last official meeting was October 18 but will remain in effect until November 14th.
- **New Trustees** will be inaugurated on November 15th – Marie Lundin, Lorne Temple, Derek Favreau, and Angela Bishop. We are having an onboarding session and training with them on Saturday, October 29th, where they will also be blessed by Father Rudy at the 5:00 mass at Notre Dame du Portage Parish.
- **The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**, has an advertisement for those interested in being part of the committee. The deadline is October 21st.
- **OPP** will be doing a collaborative Lockdown Drill with each school so they can become familiar with our buildings and what occurs at each school during a Lockdown Drill. Today it will be held at STAHS and the Elementary schools over the next several weeks.



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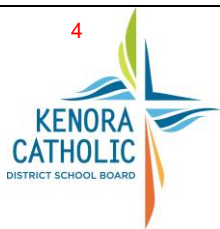
October 19, 2022

### 5. Ministry Updates – Nicole Kurtz

- **Ventilation**- An email sent home to families to inform them of the ventilation improvements to all schools.
- **Ministry reports** in all departments are due in September and October.
- **New Language Curriculum** coming for September 2023 Grades 1-8.
- **EQAO – Provincial Testing Results** from the 2021-2022 School Year will be released sometime this fall (we hope). All provincial testing is planned to continue for grades 3, 6, and 9, and Literacy Tests for grades 10, 11, and 12.

### 6. CPIC Committee Overview – Nicole Kurtz

- **The Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC)**, is an important board-level advisory body that operates as a direct link between parents and a board's director of education and trustees.
- **School Boards in Ontario** are required to have a parent involvement committee. CPICs builds parent engagement by:
  - Provide advice to the district school board on parent engagement and ways to communicate with parents
  - Developing strategies and initiatives that the board could use to effectively engage parents in improving student achievement and well-being
  - Share information with and support the work of all the school councils in the school board
- **The difference between parent involvement committees and school councils:**
  - Where school councils focus on an individual school, parent involvement committees provide advice at the board level and focus on things that affect more than one school.
- **Effective parent involvement committees are those that:**
  - focus on the needs and interests of all students, including equity, student achievement, and well-being
  - are involved in assisting school councils to engage parents, creating a welcoming environment, and recognizing the diversity of the parents within their school community
  - promote effective, ongoing communication among all partners in education
  - establish a positive relationship with the director of education and trustees
  - provide feedback to parents by letting them know how their advice and ideas have been considered
  - plan relevant and engaging meetings, drawing on the expertise of committee members



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- are familiar with funding opportunities and resources provided by the Ministry of Education
  - **The Role of the Chair:**
    - Kathleen Holmstrom has been the chair for four years, so she can no longer be the chair.
    - The chair and co-chair of a parent involvement committee must be parent members of the committee and shall be elected for a two-year term by the parent members of the committee. An individual may not serve more than two consecutive terms as chair or co-chair.
    - Next meeting, we would like to determine who might be interested.
    - I have asked Kathleen to review her role and responsibilities.
  - **Outgoing CPIC Chair – Kathleen Holmstrom**
    - I have enjoyed my time as CPIC Chair. I will continue as the CPIC parent representative for St. Thomas Aquinas High School. This is my 8th year as a CPIC member.
    - I work with the KCDSB Director on the Ministry level, for instance, on Curriculum change, Parent Reaching Out Grants (PRO)
    - Sharing funding opportunities that are available to our schools or school communities.
    - Be the KCDSB representative on an Ontario Parent Council board and report back to CPIC.
7. **Parent Book Club – Natasha Tsevendé – Attached Pages 9-10**
  8. **Update – Family Events – Mariette Martineau, Marnie Buffett - Attached Page 11**
  9. **School Updates – Hilary Aitken**
    - The schools are fully back to normal.
    - Field Trips, Sports, Clubs, Band are all up and running.
    - Staffing is continuing to be an issue in all our schools.
    - Family Events happening in the school are a wonderful addition to our schools.
    - We have many viruses in our community and we ask you to please keep your children home if they are sick.
  10. **Once Around the Table**
-



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- **Amy McCann: École Ste-Marguerite Bourgeoys**
  - Some of the events that we've had so far this year are:
  - Back to school backpack blessing
  - JK play date
  - Open house BBQ
  - Book Fair
  - Parent Council has resumed we've had fundraisers
  - Hot lunches
  - Fall feast
  - Thanksgiving food drive
  - Swimming lessons
  - Clubs have resumed, Choir, Floor Hockey, and Cross Country
  - Field trips, including a field trip to Strecker Farms for National Truth and Reconciliation Day
  - Family Fun Science Night
  - We are working on hosting a community event with opportunities for families of young children to engage in physical activity during the colder months throughout the winter.
- **Kathleen Holmstrom – St. Thomas Aquinas High School**
  - We are fully back to normal with all activities back up and running in our school
  - Sports, Band, Drama, Clubs, Grade 8 Toronto Trip, Europe Trip 2023-24
- **Anne Sweeney - KCDSB Trustee**
  - Anne will be retiring from the Board of Trustees this year. She has enjoyed working with Parent Council and CPIC over her last 8 years as a Trustee.
- **Grace Dunford – St. John Paul II School**
  - SJP is back to all events: Field Trips
  - We just finished our fundraising raffle
  - We have a Halloween Event happening next week
  - We received a Jump Start Grant of \$15000.00 to provide sports and activities to get kids moving. We are currently doing Yoga and Karate.
  - Pre-Covid the Early ON Center hosted indoor activities for kids. Grace is wondering if this is something that we could do in partnership with all the Kenora Schools as a Parent Council Activity Group.



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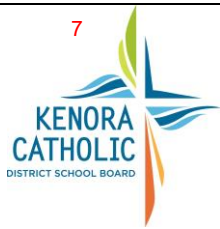
- **Angela McEvoy – St. Louis School**

- It's been an exciting first few weeks back to school at St Louis, our School Council has a new Chair, a new Treasurer, a new Hot Lunch Coordinator, and several new members! We have a great mix of new and returning members, and representatives from JK – Gr. 6 families
- Our hot Lunches and Milk orders have started again, and we are running 5 days a week. Our vendors are the same as last year – Ristaurante, Plaza, Subway, and Gropp.
- We kicked off our new school year with our Open House in September, which was well attended and enjoyable
- Our Fall Festival, an annual family event held on an October evening, planned, organized and supported by School Council, has been planned for Oct. 20th – the first one since COVID, and we are very excited for it
- We have planned several fundraisers for the year, and we have started with Christmas Cactus and Amaryllis, working with Flowers by the Lake
- Families have already begun volunteering in the school, with several families volunteering for our Thanksgiving Luncheon.
- The school has started Living Arts Community Classroom Workshops, and the School Council is continuing to sponsor the Workshops
- Up-coming School Council events -Frosted Foods Fundraiser, Christmas Luncheon, Christmas Concert Cookie Sale, Christmas Concert Basket Raffle, and a larger raffle in the winter
- We are excited and eager for all the fun and blessings this new school year is to bring.

- **Gianna Poltronetti – St. John School**

- Our students were busy in September with Soccer tournaments, Cross Country runs Volleyball will start in December
- Leadership initiatives are starting and the students are working on their applications
- Summit Groups and Clubs will be starting in November
- The schools in Red Lake are partnering this year with School Dances. St. John School started it off with a Fall Fling.
- The Parent Council has held two meetings so far this year with excellent attendance.
- The First Fundraiser will be a Christmas Market. Tables are rented out to vendors. Grade 8 Travel Club will be selling food and drinks to raise money.
- Our students will be hosting Sunday Mass this week.

- **Randi Casey – Northwestern Health Unit – Attached Page 12**



- **Nicole Kurtz – 7:00 PM - November 24 - Community Event with Michael Jacque**  
**Information Attached Page 13**

11. **Meeting Adjournment – 1:13 PM - Nicole Kurtz**

12. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 7, 2022**

Please be advised that CPIC meetings are held at the Catholic Education Centre Board Room beginning with lunch at 11:30 AM.

The meeting follows lunch 12:00 – 1:00 PM.

Month	Dates
October	<del>Wednesday, October 19, 2022</del>
December	Wednesday, December 7, 2022
February	Wednesday, February 15, 2023
May	Wednesday, May 10, 2023
Year-End Presentation to the Board of Trustees	
	5:00 pm, June 6, 2023

**KCDSB Parent Book Club:** “How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk” by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish.

It’s an easy read and has been helping parents for over 30 years. We all struggle at times with parenting. This book offers tried and true approaches that make parenting easier, if we are willing to try some strategies. We hope to create a safe place for parents to gather once a month to discuss parenting challenges and celebrate success.

Each parent will get a copy of the book: a printed copy, an ebook, or an audio book. We will also do a quick review of each chapter before we talk about it so that parents won’t miss anything if they are unable to get the reading done. We will provide dinner and childcare for those who register for the Book Club.

In addition to the whole series we are also offering each chapter as a standalone session. Each month we will have time to discuss things that we have tried or difficulties we are experiencing. We will have a chance to learn from each other and try new things.

5:30pm – Dinner is Served

6:00pm – 7:30pm – Brief Presentation, Break and Discussion

There are 7 Chapters in the book:

October 26<sup>th</sup> – Helping Children Deal with their Feelings

November 30<sup>th</sup> – Engaging Cooperation

January 25<sup>th</sup> – Alternatives to Punishment

February 23<sup>rd</sup> – Encouraging Autonomy

March 30<sup>th</sup> – Praise

April 27<sup>th</sup> – Freeing Children from Playing Roles

May 25<sup>th</sup> – Putting it all Together

More information: [https://www.kcdsb.on.ca/parents/parent\\_book\\_club](https://www.kcdsb.on.ca/parents/parent_book_club)

Register at: <https://forms.gle/RQaSkzogpDiyFJeC8>

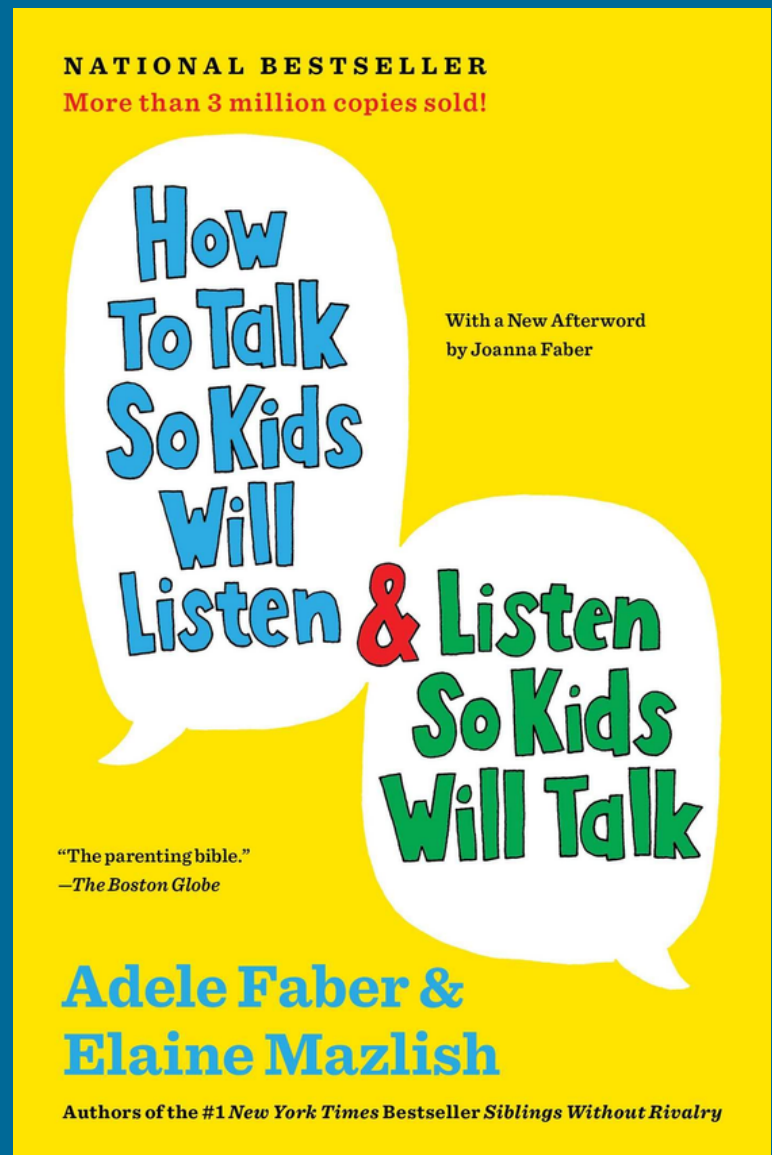
Do you have questions? Contact Sue Devlin ([sdevlin@kcdsb.on.ca](mailto:sdevlin@kcdsb.on.ca)) or phone 807-468-9851), Natasha Tsevende ([ntsevende@kcdsb.on.ca](mailto:ntsevende@kcdsb.on.ca)) or Jillian Williams ([jwilliams@kcdsb.on.ca](mailto:jwilliams@kcdsb.on.ca)).



# YOU ARE INVITED

## PARENT BOOK CLUB

HELP YOUR CHILD COPE WITH  
DIFFICULT FEELINGS.  
EXPRESS ANGER WITHOUT  
BEING HURTFUL.  
ENGAGE WILLING COOPERATION.  
SET FIRM LIMITS AND MAINTAIN  
GOODWILL.  
USE ALTERNATIVES TO  
PUNISHMENT.  
RESOLVE FAMILY CONFLICTS



## YOU ARE INVITED TO A BOOK CLUB FOR PARENTS!

MEET WITH OTHER PARENTS, EXPLORE ONE CHAPTER A MONTH  
(EASY READING WITH CARTOONS).

GET A BOOK (YOURS TO KEEP) IN 1 OF 3 FORMATS (PRINT, EBOOK, OR AUDIOBOOK).

DINNER AND CHILDCARE PROVIDED WITH PRE-REGISTRATION.

HOSTED BY THE KCDSB MENTAL HEALTH TEAM

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER:

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/RQASKZOGPDIYFJEC8](https://forms.gle/RQASKZOGPDIYFJEC8)



## CPIC Presentation - Family Events 2022-2023 – Marnie Buffett – Mariette Martineau

Goal- Engaging families in faith-based, mental wellness activities that offer multiple lenses to the activity (and therefore connect multiple portfolios)

### I. Numbers/Comments

#### ***Getting Ready Backpack Blessing Events***

Attendance: well exceeded expectations as all events were before school started.

Partnership with NWHU – thank you!

SMB – 44 households

STL – 20 households

SJS – 14 households

SJP - 26 households

*“We do a lot of events, but you showed us how we could integrate faith into a simple family event.” Principal*

*Students going to first day of school and seeing an adult who was there, look, I got my back pack tag!*

#### ***STAHS Family Food Event***

Capacity – 6 households

*“It was a fun night and took care of dinner for 2 evenings! If you see Mrs. McNulty please let her know the Mexican casserole was a hit with my fam and a big Thank you!”*

#### ***Science Event***

SMB – 52 households

STL – \*17\* (current) households

SJS – 16 households

SJP - 37 households

*“It was a fun evening, we enjoyed being together and the room facilitator.”*

#### ***STAHS – Building Families by Building Together (Tonight!)***

Capacity – 8 households

#### **OVERALL Team Feedback**

- Great joy we have in seeing families learning and doing together – affirming relationships
- Teamwork makes the dreamwork- there have been many hands-on deck to make these events happen. Instructional services staff – generally 3 of us on site per event, and the banked hours staff, averaging 3 to 5 depending on the event.

- Opportunity for school staff, along with their families, to attend and engage in the school community from another perspective. Participating *with* other families instead of having the pressure of building connections and being the host at the same time.

**Upcoming:**

- Advent Preparation Evenings – wondering if a faith-based event will have a lesser draw. Families will be creating their own Advent wreaths together.
- Debbie Pushor Presentation Nov 25<sup>th</sup> PD Day – partners will “zoom/skype” in and we could share the link with all of you (checking physical attendance with Nicole). Focus: Pushing forward the Family Centric Continuum to Valuing Family Strengths as Partner
- Post Christmas there are 3 family-specific events - snow shoeing, storytelling, Lent plus the arts events.
- Will do a feedback survey by email at some point in early spring to gather feedback, and I guess plan the next year if we focus.
- Funding: questionable...

**Back to school!**

With the return of in-person school the NWHU is once again providing health services at your child's school during the 2022/23 school year!

- We provide immunizations to children in schools. We give immunizations as per the [Ontario publicly funded immunization schedule](#); we also notify parents when clinics are happening.
- Elementary students receive an annual dental screening. We contact parents/guardians if their child has a dental concern or if we recommend other services. We also offer other free dental services such as fluoride varnish, sealants, and teeth cleanings. For children to receive these services, parents / guardians must complete a consent form that the school will send home.
- We offer sexual health clinics in some high schools to provide free, confidential sexual health counselling, support, and services. Appointments are also available in our offices.

**Stay home when sick**

Daily screening before your child goes to school is an important tool in preventing spread of illnesses. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

The screening tool also provides instructions on what to do when someone is sick, including when a person should be wearing a mask in public settings.

You can also visit this website for more information: [Public health measures and advice | ontario.ca](#)

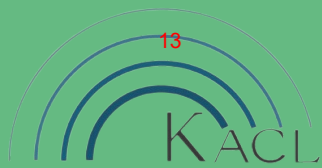
**Fall vaccine clinics – Flu and COVID-19 vaccine**

The NWHU is holding clinics across the region this fall to offer COVID-19 and Flu vaccinations. You can book your appointment on our website: [Booking a COVID-19 or Flu Vaccine Appointment – Northwestern Health Unit \(nwhu.on.ca\)](#)

**Nutrition programs**

The Northwestern Health Unit is pleased to support schools once again this year with a range of nutrition programs. School meal and snack programs, Nutrition on Weekends and the Northern Fruit and Vegetable program (will begin in November for K-8 schools) are all underway!

See our website for details on these programs: <https://www2.nwhu.on.ca/for-professionals/for-schools-and-educators/>



Invite you to,

# CAN'T READ, CAN'T WRITE, HERE'S MY BOOK

## THE JOURNEY

**Community Event**  
with Author **Michael Jacques**



**Gym at École Ste.  
Marguerite Bourgeois**  
or join us virtually!

**Michael is a public speaker and activist, who in 2018 wrote and self-published Can't Read, Can't Write, Here's My Book using speech-to-text technology.**

At a young age, Michael was diagnosed with autism and an intellectual disability. Never one to shy away from obstacles, Michael has made his authorial debut, sharing experiences from his life to help audiences understand accepting and belonging. His story demonstrates the empowerment that comes from being comfortable in your own skin, knowing your strengths, valuing relationships, and giving back to your community.



**Appointed to the  
Minister's Advisory  
Council on Special  
Education.**



**Special Olympic athlete  
competing in baseball  
and basketball.**

**Elected President for the  
Board of Directors with  
Community Living  
Ontario**

