



April 2, 2020

Board of Trustees

VIA: Student Achievement Committee

Dear Trustees,

On behalf of CPIC & OAPCE, we want to recognize the efforts that the Board has been doing to support safety of all, keeping parents informed and transitioning through the different phases of Learn-At-Home.

Educators that are going above and beyond for their students should be celebrated and recognized.

Given the continued projections of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is highly likely that the school year will not return to normal or if anything is to be salvaged may occur in June. While the format of education and where we work is modified, the important functions and various work of this Board cannot come to a halt.

Governance

Despite these usual circumstances, and Trustees must ensure governance continues and in fact, calls for **more** governance not less, to provide direction during these transformational times.

The Minister has provided the ability for all meetings to take place remotely by amending "*Regulation 463/97 removing the requirement for any persons to be physically present at electronic meetings.*"

It is also important that work continues on important Board decisions, community engagement & policies in plan, although they may be delayed somewhat to ensure that when the new school year begins, the right policies and programs are in place.



Clear & consistent communications for staff, parents and students is vital – and parents can help provide feedback on what matters most to communicate and when.

Parent Involvement & Parent Councils

Regulation 612 has not been suspended. Parent Councils are still the legislated voice of parents in schools and still need to meet to fulfill their mandate. CPIC continues to communicate with its members and is hosting an online event. OAPCE has continued to have discussions with the Minister of Education and is also communicating with its members planning for online meetings and sessions.

As the province and this Board roll out Phase Two of Learning at Home, hearing the parental voice needs to continue to support priority #1: Student Achievement & Well-Being. Critical discussions around equity and learning supports need to still take place at both the Board and local level.

There are also numerous activities affecting local school communities, methods of engagement and strategies have to be adjusted and parent voices should shape how this can be done.

We have heard from parents three main themes:

- 1) That they are wanting to be a part of continuation of learning with their children
- 2) they want to continue to network with each other to share best practices and lend support
- 3) Be involved more as some find themselves with a little more time, as now outside family commitments, events, activities are no longer taking place.

Parent Council members are asking questions (everything from cancelling events, winding down activities, budget re-allocation, refunds for



lunch days, special events etc..) and while these are by no means urgent, these issues need to be resolved and activities need to be organized.

We would like to ensure the Board continues to support Parent Councils and would ask the Board of Trustees provide direction that: **Principals be required to attend Parent Council meetings that may be held via remote means.**

CPIC and OAPCE has had discussions in terms of what best strategies can take place to alleviate some pressure from board staff who may be currently focused on other concerns relating to the current situation. We are both confident that we can lead and undertake a strategy to reach out to our parents, support them and involve them in CSPC directives.

We hope that everyone & their family continues to be safe during these times and we will be providing supports to parents & Parent Council function over the next few weeks.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Del Grande'.

John Del Grande
CPIC Chair

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Annalisa Crudo-Perri'.

Annalisa Crudo-Perri
OAPCE Executive Director