



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC DISTRICT BOARD ADVISORY COUNCIL

MINUTES

Monday, October 3, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

**Location: Boardroom, Catholic Education
Centre
420 Creek Street, Wallaceburg**

Board Advisory Council Members Present:

Michelle Jardin – Christ the King Catholic School
Wendy Vercauteren - Good Shepherd Catholic School
Wanita Gebal & Changelo Dziver - Monsignor Uyen Catholic School
Krista O’Leary & Jana Murphy- Sacred Heart Catholic School, Port Lambton
Renata Palmateer - St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim
Diane McCahill – St. Anne Catholic School, Sarnia
Colleen Fraleigh - St. Elizabeth Catholic School
Heather Heyboer- St. Michael Catholic School, Ridgetown
Heather Vasey – St. Philip Catholic School
Anne Marie Ryan - St. Ursula Catholic School
Jeannie VanDen Eenden - OAPSE
Mary Roberts - St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School
Tracey Perks-Whitson - St. Patrick Catholic High School
Marian McEwan - Ursuline College Chatham Catholic Secondary School

Absent

Georges P. Vanier Catholic School
Tammy Simrak - Gregory A. Hogan Catholic School
Holy Family Catholic School
Holy Rosary Catholic School
Holy Trinity Catholic School
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School
Marian Dunn - Sacred Heart Catholic School, Sarnia
St. Agnes Catholic School
Janice Morrision - St. John Fisher Catholic School
St. Joseph Catholic School, Chatham
St. Joseph Catholic School, Corunna
St. Joseph Catholic School, Tilbury
St. Matthew Catholic School
St. Michael Catholic School, Bright’s Grove
St. Peter Canisius Catholic School
St. Vincent Catholic School

Trustees and Administration Present:

Carol Bryden	Shirley Churchill
Paul Wubben	Luana Sfalcin
Deb Crawford	Adrien Gagnier
Patricia Leblanc-Jaeger	Bill Nelson

Ms. Carol Bryden, Chair of the Board opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

1. Opening Prayer

**Mr. Paul Wubben,
Director of Education**

Mr. Wubben opened the meeting with a reflection video based on our Board's Theme for this year: Live Like Jesus . . . Rooted in God's Word. This video was made by Cindy Waddick, Elementary Chaplaincy Leader and Kim Gaiswinkler, Teacher at St. Ursula School.

2. Information/Discussion Items

a) Student Fees

**Ms. Deb Crawford and
Ms. Patricia Leblanc-Jaeger**

- Ms. Crawford, Superintendent of Education introduced the Draft Policy – Student Fees and gave the background on why and how this policy has come into effect.
- Consultation with those involved at the school level and board level began last October and has been ongoing to the end of this month. The reason for this long timeline was to be able to consult with everyone affected within our Board.
- Ms. Leblanc-Jaeger, Manager-Business Services presented a PowerPoint which explained the Ministry's intent for requiring boards to have this policy in effect:
 - Every student has the right, without payment of a fee, to attend day school programs;
 - Students are entitled to receive the materials required to meet.
- The role of the principal was explained.
- Fees which are permissible were explained as well as an explanation of those fees which will be ineligible.
- Ms. Bryden thanked Superintendent Crawford and Ms. Leblanc-Jaeger.

b) Lambton College

**Ms. Judith Morris,
Vice President of Lambton College**

- Ms. Morris gave a presentation on **STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math)** and how there is a need to prepare students for work in Science Technology and Mathematics fields.
- This initiative connects with high schools.
- STEM is a result of a collaborative effort between St. Clair Catholic District School Board and Lambton Kent District School Board and arising from the STEM meeting in January 2011.
- STEM focuses on student's engagement and skills from the earliest grades in science, math, engineering and technology. The ultimate goal is to grow the proficiency level of students in all levels of the curriculum.
- Barriers to STEM Education societal and cultural beliefs that STEM is not for everyone. Students don't see the relevance of STEM. Teachers don't show kids the connections between real-life activities and STEM.
- Ways to break these barriers are: expose kids early; integrate into curriculum for all students; contextual learning relevancy-hands on learning; job shadowing; school to work activities with gender related role models; female mentors. Secondary schools special programs, tech prep programs, after school programs, Math/Science summer camps, skills Camps.
- Negative peer pressure is the number one reason that girls drop out of math, science and technology classes.

- Children need to be encouraged to take things apart and put them together again without fear of failure.
- STEM skills need to be promoted with students from primary grade up to and including secondary schools

Update on Lambton College

- Enrollment in the last 10 years has rapidly increased from 2100 to 3500 students.
- The college has 484 international students.
- Collaborative partners with universities developing degree courses at the college.
- Full residence on campus.
- Focusing on lots of new directions within Sarnia Lambton area and the world.
- Tony Hanlon, President, Lambton College, has been making connections with the surrounding school boards and area local municipal administrations.

c) Board Website

Ms. Patricia Leblanc-Jaeger

- The board's new website will be up by the new year.
- Want to get parent feedback. What do you use and want on our website?
 - Too many clicks to get to School newsletters – too many steps;
 - Main page too complex;
 - Parents want to have quick and easy access to get to their school websites;
 - Used for Transportation;
 - Used for Class;
 - Cannot find curriculum department;
 - Out of date school websites;
 - New school year required school supplies;
 - New Kindergarten enrolment information should be on the main page;
 - BAC meeting information;
 - Maps of school locations;
 - Imagine calendar would be helpful if added;
 - Kids Help Phone link added to website.
- Other board's websites were explored:
 - Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board:
 - Clean and easy to look at, ribbon at centre is easy access;
 - Index tabs are useful;
 - Locked staff area.

Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board:

- Clean and flexible.

Waterloo Catholic District School Board:

- Very clean main page

- Our board is looking at a very clean type of format, with search engine and site map, this should make it easier to use.
- A prototype was shown to the BAC members.
- Ms. Leblanc-Jaeger thanked the BAC for their input and if parents have anything else they want on the website they can email her at patricia.leblanc-jaeger@st-clair.net

d) OAPCE

**Ms. Jeannie VanDen Enden,
Regional Director**

- Ms. VanDen Enden gave a brief overview of Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE).
- BAC members were asked to bring the information sheet back to their Catholic School Community Council.
- The yearly membership fee is approximately \$40/school.
- New members of OAPCE are needed and Ms. VanDen Enden would like to have some other members join her in this association.
- There is an OAPCE website at www.oapce.on.ca if you require further information.
- Ms. Bryden thanked Ms. VanDen Enden for her years of involvement with OAPCE.

**e) Mental Health Curriculum/Suicide
Curriculum/Newsletter Inserts**

**Mr. Paul Wubben,
Director of Education**

- This is our board's initiative and is also a focus for the Ministry this year.
- Student well-being is now a focus for education.
- Grade 4 program will be used to deal with children's anxiety.
- There is a grade 7 program which will also be taught this year.
- The front page of the Director's newsletter deals with mental health issues and the inside pages deal with strategies for parents.
- The Director will be providing newsletter inserts which will be forthcoming for the remainder of the year mainly focussing on resiliency as well as focussing on different resources for parents.
- Kids Help Phone received a contribution from both the St. Clair Catholic District School Board and the Lambton Kent District School Board.
- Kids Help Phone lines are manned by a paid counsellors. Parents are encouraged to explore their website.
- At the January BAC meeting we will endeavour to have a representative from Kids Help Phone as a guest speaker.

f) Food and Beverage Policy

**Mr. Paul Wubben,
Director of Education**

- There is a 3 minute video on our Board website which explains this new policy.
- The BAC members viewed the video.

3. Ms. Bryden closed the meeting at 8:32 p.m. with a closing prayer, "Our Father".

Next Meeting January 16, 2011.