



**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

**MINUTES**

**CATHOLIC FAITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, September 29, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Main Boardroom – Catholic Education Centre**

**Chair:** Ann Sutton, Superintendent of Education

**Trustee:** Linda Ward

**Present:** Terri Sinasac – Consultant, Catholic Curriculum, Elementary  
Adrien Gagnier – Vice Principal, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim  
Christine Lambert – Principal, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Port Lambton  
Joan Martell – Teacher & Faith Ambassador, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Port Lambton  
Kerry Matthyssen – Principal, Georges P. Vanier Catholic School  
Margaret Palmer – Chaplain, Ursuline College Chatham  
Marcia Vermey – French Immersion Parent, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim  
Cindy Waddick – Elementary Chaplaincy Leader  
Joseph Palko – Chaplain, St. Patrick's Catholic High School  
Kim Gaiswinkler – Teacher & Faith Ambassador, St. Ursula Catholic School  
Cory Baillergeon – Teacher, St. Anne's Catholic School, Blenheim  
Linda Ward – Trustee  
Michelle McLean – French Immersion Parent, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim  
Chris St. Amand – Teacher, Holy Trinity Catholic School, Sarnia

**Regrets:** Dino Petrucci – Teacher, St. Patrick's Catholic Secondary School  
Lorri Moynihan – Educational Assistant, Christ the King Catholic School  
Rob Cicchelli – Principal, St. Patrick's Catholic Secondary School  
Fr. Jim Higgins – Episcopal Vicar, Sarnia Deanery

**Recording Secretary:** Silvia Leggiero

*1. Welcome and Introductions*

Ann Sutton, chair of the meeting, welcomed those in attendance and any new members to the committee then called the meeting to order.

*2. Opening Prayer – All; led by Cindy Waddick for Margaret Palmer*

3. *Approval of Minutes*

**Motion: (Margaret Palmer, Joan Martell) That the Minutes for the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, April 28, 2014 be approved as printed.**

4. *Approval of Agenda*

**Motion: (Linda Ward & Adrien Gagnier) That the Agenda for the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, September 29, 2014 be approved as printed. Carried.**

5. *Business Arising*

5.1 *Strategic Plan*

Ann Sutton spoke about the new Strategic Plan launched by the St. Clair Catholic School Board and its importance in the role of Catholic Education from K to 12. Discussions occurred in the group regarding items that were listed and items that were not listed under Goals and Strategic Actions of the plan. Overall the group was very happy with the end result of the board's Strategic Plan and the desired results related to Catholic Education.

5.2 *Living Our Faith*

Ann also stated that each Supervisory Officer was responsible for 1 pillar of the plan and how "Living Our Faith" is under her portfolio. She shared a presentation of Short Term Targets for this pillar. A summary of the presentation includes:

- Develop an implementation plan for our new Religion/Family Life Program
  - Monies budgeted to assist in purchasing 'Many Gifts' Resources for Grades 1, 4,5
  - Provide after school sessions on Religion & Family policy documents
  - PD sessions for K/1, 1 and ½ on integrating Religion and Social Students
- Introduce New Adult Faith Initiatives
  - Offer sessions in both North & South on Scripture Student
  - Continue to support and promote school and non-academic departmental retreats
- Integrate Social Justice Concepts and Actions in our Schools
  - Promote through Chaplaincy Leaders and Religion Department Heads
  - Create on-line site for all schools to celebrate initiatives
- Celebrate the Liturgical seasons and sacraments in our school through partnership with parishes and community

- Support schools by having resources such as Chaplaincy Newsletter available
- Maximize Enrolments in our Catholic Schools with the assistance of the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee.
  - Survey schools and departments on current practices to promote retention
  - Final result to prepare recommendations for retention to Executive Council

### 5.3 *Review of Retention Brain Storming*

The group reviewed the brain storming sheet that was typed up and printed from their discussions at the last meeting (April 28). This information will help when analyzing of the survey results that will be completed by principals.

Joe Palko spoke about how not only social justice is important in our schools but integrating prayer as well such as a Science department going down to the chapel for a class and integrating prayer with academic success. Michelle McLean spoke about the “Y catholic” group through the parish that she and Marcia are involved in.

## 6. *New Business*

### 6.1 *CFAC Retention Survey*

A subcommittee is required to develop a survey that can be completed by the principals on retention in their schools such as the Frisbee Day, Muskoka Woods etc. Ann Sutton suggested that the principals/vice principals on the committee are the best to create this survey. Rob Cicchelli, Kerry Matthyssen, Christine Lambert and Adrien Gagnier will work together to create a draft of the survey before the next meeting. Timelines for the completion of the survey including analyzing the information and sending it to Executive Council is April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

### 6.2 *Projects 2014 - 2015*

Ann Sutton stated that she wanted the committee to brainstorm in groups some small projects that could be taken on by the committee during this year. Below are a summary of ideas that were shared:

- a) A Resource List which include trusted speakers and companies for schools use
  - a. Adrien Gagnier will bring back contact information to the group, anyone with additional information can send it to Adrien or bring to the next meeting.
- b) User friendly, easy to digest versus of the material presented at the HR Retreat “History of Catholic Education”
  - a. Ann to send information to Margaret Palmer

- c) Bridging our schools with parishes on an in depth level
  - a. The project is too “loose”, parameters need to be defined

7. *School Reports*

St. Anne – Blenheim: Grade 6,7,8 collected 5 banana boxes of school supplies. Michelle indicated that the 1<sup>st</sup> ‘Yes’ mass of the year occurred at St. Mary’s Church in Blenheim, which has grown significantly over the past 3 years. Marcia indicated that as a Public Health Nurse, it was nice to see the ‘KinderStart’ program being planned again for next year.

Sacred Heart – Port Lambton: The school is changing the format of their family of schools group. October 10<sup>th</sup>, they will celebrate their 1<sup>st</sup> school mass along with Thanksgiving lunch and the Terry Fox Run.

St. Patrick’s: This year the school started the year off with a mass for all staff in late August which was very well attended. A mother’s prayer group has come to bless the lockers at the new school. The blessing of the new school will take place on October 16, 2014. Teams have started coming to the chaplain for a team blessing before their games which is nice to see. A lot of Social Justice events taking place at the school.

Georges P. Vanier: Attended the Admin Retreat last week which was a huge success with all the administrators. The school is also collecting school supplies and is starting the ‘Drive Away Hungry’ campaign for FCC. Hoping to bet their record from last year.

Ursuline College: Holy Redeemer Feast Day is occurring in October along with Grade 12 retreats. Grade 10 retreats will start in October and the Pedagogy Club is going down to London to cook a meal for the Ronald McDonald House. They also celebrated together at the first school mass last week. Teacher Raymond Girard from UCC is a Deacon candidate.

Holy Trinity: The school staff is meeting each Wednesday before school for prayer. The Social Justice Club is owning this year’s Inn of Good Shepherd event.

St. Ursula: Feast of St. Ursula will take place on October 21th which will include a mass and lunch. Kim is trying out ‘Christian Mediation’ with some of her classes. We scare hunger away campaign is being launched at the school for the FCC and the ‘Do the right thing’ team is collective school supplies.

Human Resources: Administrators Retreat occurred last week with the theme “Shepherd Leadership”. The speaker this year was Maria Sanchez-Keys. Her presentation tied in nicely with our theme and Strategic Plan.

Curriculum: Curriculum Team is meeting each Monday and taking turns preparing a prayer service. Terri attended this session on Christian Mediation for student which was very interesting to hear about.

Cindy – Assisting in piloting 2 schools in Christian Mediation to see the difference in behavior between classes that use this technique. Involved in several upcoming staff retreats.

OECTA – The importance of Catholic Education is discussed at each OECTA meeting.

7. *Closing Prayer; led by Margaret Palmer*

8. *Adjournment*

The Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, September 29, 2014 adjourned at 7:15 p.m.