



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MINUTES

CATHOLIC FAITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 29, 2013 – 5:00 p.m.

Main Boardroom – Catholic Education Centre

Chair: Dr. Frank Leddy, Superintendent of Education

Trustee: John Fontaine

Present: Brenda Corchis – Consultant, Catholic Curriculum, Elementary
Brendan Deery – Principal, St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School
Adrien Gagnier – Vice Principal, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim
Kim Gaiswinkler – Teacher & Faith Ambassador, St. Ursula Catholic School
Fr. Jim Higgins – Episcopal Vicar, Sarnia Deanery
Gloria Knoll – Teacher, Holy Rosary Catholic School
Christine Lambert – Vice Principal, Holy Trinity Catholic School
Joan Martell – Teacher & Faith Ambassador, St. John Fisher Catholic School
Kerry Matthyssen – Principal, St. Ursula Catholic School
Greg Moore – Teacher, Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School
Margaret Palmer-McCann – Chaplain, Ursuline College Chatham
Daniela Oana – Chaplain, St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School
Marcia Vermey – French Immersion Parent, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim
Cindy Waddick – Elementary Chaplaincy Leader
Richard Whitney – Chaplain, St. Patrick's Catholic High School

Regrets: Lauri Butzer – French Immersion Parent, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim
Lorri Moynihan – Educational Assistant, Christ the King Catholic School

Recording Secretary: Josselynne Segeren

1. Welcome and Introductions

Dr. Frank Leddy, chair of the meeting, welcomed and thanked those in attendance and called the meeting to order.

2. *Opening Prayer – All; led by Daniela Oana*
3. *Approval of Minutes*

Motion: (Margaret Palmer-McCann, Gloria Knoll) That the Minutes for the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, February 25, 2013 be approved with ammendments. Carried.

4. *Approval of Agenda*

Motion: (Joan Martell, Margaret Palmer-McCann) That the Agenda for the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, April 29, 2013 be approved as presented. Carried.

5. *Subcommittee Reports*

- i. **Evaluation Tool/Survey (Frank Leddy, Joan Martell, Margaret Palmer-McCann)**

Changes were made according to recommendations at the last meeting from the committee. Suggestions from Carol Bryden were included also. It will be a draft or working document that can be modified as needed. Each year Principals will report on what areas they are working on according to the survey.

- ii. **Creative Ways to Use the Catholic Graduate Expectations (Kim Gaiswinkler, Christine Lambert, Cindy Waddick)**

There are no new additions at this time. The powerpoint will be made available to all teachers for their use. Next steps involve how to disseminate. Suggestions included adding a hard copy in all faith kits, posting it on the board website, emailing it to principals who will distribute it to teachers, Faith Ambassadors can discuss it with staff.

- iii. **Creation of School Families (Gloria Knoll, Christine Lambert)**

There are no changes to the information. At the upcoming Administrator's Meeting, Christine will present how the school families are currently being used at other schools. A hand out will be prepared with a basic model and suggestions on how it might look at different schools.

- iv. **Staff Retreats (Brendan Deery, Daniela Oana, Richard Whitney)**

A new survey was created and shared with the committee. It gave feedback on areas such as geography, timing, format and topics of interest. The committee suggested additions including the frequency, and spots where staff can recommend a preferred location or suggest a facilitator. Changes to the current survey included adding an option of "no preference" to geography question #2, and a note should be added at the beginning of the survey to advise staff of costs related to the retreat. The final recommendation from the committee was to modify the survey to collect information on both staff retreats specific to the school, as well as board-wide retreats.

v. **Creation of Prayer Spaces in the School/Classroom (Brenda Corchis, Kim Gaiswinkler, Cindy Waddick)**

A book has been created that will be shared at NTIP next year and also at the Vice Principal Cluster meeting. It will be referenced in the June newsletters as well. The group has not yet met with the secondary consultant, but will be meeting to discuss additions and uses for the secondary teachers. Currently there are teachers at the secondary schools that have created prayer spaces in their classrooms.

The summary of next steps for the groups were:

- i. Make additions and formatting changes to the evaluation tool.
- ii. Determine where the power point will best fit on the website.
- iii. Creation of a hand out for the Administrator's meeting.
- iv. Make changes using suggested additions and include the separation of school and staff retreats to collect information for both.
- v. Incorporate pieces for secondary schools in the Prayer Spaces resource.

All groups are to prepare a short summary of their work to be presented to Principals at the May 14th Administrator's meeting. This will allow Principals to use these resources in their planning for September.

6. *System Faith Day – November 22, 2013*

A half day has currently been approved by the Trustees for November 22nd, 2013. Although this may be changed, the board will move forward planning this day, with the possibility of modifications at a later date. The committee was asked if they would like to take on the planning of the System Faith Day. The committee decided in favour of planning for the event.

Suggestions included having 2 locations, or various smaller locations depending on format and timing as only the morning is available. A subcommittee was formed including: Joan Martell, Greg Moore, Cindy Waddick, Christine Lambert, Margaret Palmer-McCann, Richard Whitney.

7. *Holy Childhood Society (Deacon Dave Robertson)*

Deacon Dave Robertson presented information to the committee on the Holy Childhood Society. He shared numerous resources which can be ordered for free online at www.missionsocieties.ca. It was determined the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee can help support this project in various ways. The Holy Childhood Society will be highlighted in the Curriculum/Chaplaincy Newsletter, it will be shared with Principals at an upcoming Administrator's meeting who can share this information with their teachers at staff meetings and with parents in their school newsletters.

Deacon Dave Robertson was invited back in the fall to once again share his presentation and discuss further ways the committee can help promote the Holy Childhood Society in the schools.

8. *Lighting Our Way Award*

The committee discussed the promotion of the Lighting Our Way Award would be best in the fall. The System Faith Day is in November, so by sending it out in September, there is enough time to collect nominations and for the selection committee to make a final decision on the recipient(s). Suggestions to modify the nomination form included stating the maximum number of words directly on the form, and adding the signatures of the nominators.

9. *Catholic Curriculum and Chaplaincy Newsletter*

The curriculum and chaplaincy departments have created a newsletter that is now being sent out bi-monthly to all staff. Currently this only includes elementary curriculum, however a meeting is being arranged with secondary to ensure a secondary piece is included moving forward.

10. *Board Theme*

Cindy Waddick discussed the options as brought forward last year with regards to the board theme. Comments from the committee included how nicely Pope Francis' comment "... let us be loving custodians of creation." ties in with the idea of Rooted in Justice and Service. Using that as a starting point was well liked by the committee. The committee was asked to submit their suggestions for the theme based on that idea to Cindy Waddick by May 25th.

11. *Reports*

Daniela Oana, Chaplain at St. Christopher, reported on the success of the Cyclone Aid with over 20,000 pounds of food and monetary donations collected. The recent Trivia Night also raised \$3,000 for Noelle's Gift. Retreats are ongoing at the school. Muskoka Woods is coming up next week with 90 leaders from St. Christopher attending. The St. Christopher open house will be held on May 25th. Friday June 14th will be the final Mass at St. Christopher.

Richard Whitney, Chaplain at St. Patrick's, shared the addition of a new club, the Pro Life Club – Fighting Irish for Life. They currently have 12 members already. They will be having Mass this coming Thursday.

Margaret Palmer-McCann, Chaplain at Ursuline College, reported that the grade 12 retreats are coming up and students are excited for Muskoka Woods.

Christine Lambert, Vice Principal at Holy Trinity, shared that the school has finished their collection for the Holy Childhood Society. The school is holding a religious concert on Monday. They are having a Tribes day coming up where students will discuss stewardship and draw pictures outside using sidewalk chalk.

Adrien Gagner, Vice Principal at St. Anne, Blenheim, commented that the school recently raised over \$900 in Canadian Tire money which they put towards building supplies donated to Canadian Food for Children.

Greg Moore, teacher at Our Lady of Fatima, said the grade 7 students are very excited for the Muskoka trip.

Gloria Knoll, teacher at Holy Rosary, shared there is a Liturgy every Monday morning at the school involving all students and staff. She commented that this was very encouraging for everyone.

Kim Gaiswinkler, teacher at St. Ursula, said the school recently finished their Me to We week which tied in with the safe school initiative.

Brenda Corchis reported that she is looking at the roll out for the Religious Education document.

12. Closing Prayer

13. Adjournment

The Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, April 29, 2013 adjourned at 7:45 p.m.