



**ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

*Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey*

**MINUTES**

**CATHOLIC FAITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, February 3, 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  
Dino Petrucci – Teacher, St. Patrick's Catholic Secondary School  
Margaret Palmer-McCann – Chaplain, Ursuline College Chatham  
Marcia Vermey – French Immersion Parent, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim  
Cindy Waddick – Elementary Chaplaincy Leader  
Richard Whitney – Chaplain, St. Patrick's Catholic High School  
Rob Cicchelli – Principal, St. Patrick's Catholic Secondary School  
Linda Ward – Trustee

**Regrets:** Lauri Butzer – French Immersion Parent, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim  
Kim Gaiswinkler – Teacher & Faith Ambassador, St. Ursula Catholic School  
Fr. Jim Higgins – Episcopal Vicar, Sarnia Deanery  
Gloria Knoll – Teacher, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Port Lambton  
Lorri Moynihan – Educational Assistant, Christ the King Catholic School

**Guest:** Dan Parr - Director

**Recording Secretary:** Silvia Leggiero

*1. Welcome and Introductions*

Ann Sutton, chair of the meeting, welcomed and introduced Guest Dan Parr, Director of the board and the new trustee of the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee. She then called the meeting to order.

2. *Opening Prayer – All; led by Richard Whitney*

3. *Approval of Minutes*

**Motion: (Adrien Gagnier, Terri Sinasac) That the Minutes for the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, October 28, 2013 be approved as printed. Carried.**

4. *Approval of Agenda*

**Motion: (Joan Martell, Cindy Waddick) That the Agenda for the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, February 3, 2014 be approved as presented. Carried.**

5. *Business Arising*

5.1 *System Faith Day*

Ann Sutton asked the committee to reflect on the recent System Faith Day and to think, pair, share three items. Identify one item from the day to continue going forward, one item to review and look at doing differently at future days and one new idea for future System Faith Days.

Items to continue going forward

- The Mass – it brought everyone together as a family; celebrating our faith and sound of the vibrant music.
- Speaker (Dan Moynihan) was wonderful, strong and motivating
- Gathering of Priests and Clergy
- Break-time – the food/drink allow for socializing with other that you normally don't see
- The layout of the day – The length of time for mass, break, speaker etc.
- The use of music during the speaker – very uplifting

Items to review and look at doing differently

- Reflection time of the speaker on the day of the event
- Changing the day to an annual event instead of bi-annual
- Create a clean-up crew as hosting school never gets to leave with the rest of the staff
- Longer period of break-time to allow for socialization
- Layout the day to allow the same speaker to be present at both sites
- For Faith Award – have recipient's co-worker introduce them, it more meaningful.
- Have the Full day instead of a half day

New ideas for future System Faith Days

- If Annual event, make one year retreat and the next year mass and speaker
- Speaker – Terry Nelson Johnson

- Link the Principal speaker to the System Faith Day speaker so that all get the same message
- Bring the entire school board together at some point every couple of years
- Bring back Lunch in between mass and speaker
- Change Award to Lantern from Star
- Find a way to bring awareness to staff of Faith Award and nominating co-workers

## 5.2 *Board Theme*

Ann Sutton read the letter submitted by the Catholic Faith Advisory Meeting to Director Dan Parr regarding keeping the Board Theme for a 2 year period instead of changing it annually.

Dan Parr liked the recommendation and approved the recommendation on a go forward basis.

## 6. *New Business*

### 6.1 *Maximizing Enrollment and Retention in our Catholic Schools*

Director Dan Parr asked the committee if the committee would be open to taking on a new task through this committee or creating a sub-committee to assist in the retention of our elementary students to our secondary schools through education. He presented the enrollment numbers between our elementary schools and our secondary schools identifying the gap in some school areas. He proposed the following:

- a) Analysis what we are doing now
- b) Strengthen our current relationship with our board parishes
- c) Develop packages for student to be given out at Confirmation time
- d) Work to increase the percentage of retention

Ann Sutton stated that we would have a full discussion of this new task at our next meeting in April. She asked the committee to compile a list of things done currently from Baptism, school entry, and during Grade 6, 7, 8 and bring it to the next meeting to discuss. She indicated that it could be simply things such as wearing the secondary school lanyards when visiting our elementary schools to show school spirit.

### 6.2 *New Religion Curriculum*

Terri Sinasac presented on the new Religion Curriculum that was launched in the fall which will align with the Ontario Education Guidelines. There is a Social Studies Program now available that ties into the new curriculum in grades 1 & 4.

Terri also spoke on the new interactive newsletter created by the Curriculum department and Cindy Waddick which all members can access various ways pages on our website.

Joan Martell asked if this was available to our community such as parents. Ann stated that at this time, it is being targeted to specific audience which is our staff.

### 6.3 *Social Media Campaign*

Ann Sutton presented a video series from OCSTA on social media indicating that Principals are aware of these series. It is another form of a resource for our community and would be great to use for reflection at group/ staff meetings. Linda Ward indicated that one of the persons on the video is a form student our this board.

### 7. *School Reports*

St. Anne – Blenheim: The school put on a Talent show as part of the Kingdom assignment, Marcia's son was involved.

Sacred Heart – Port Lambton: During the Christmas season they brought in a school Elf which watched over the students. It was a big hit, Students loved it.

St. Patrick's: 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Irish Miracle at St. Patrick's has provided food for St. Vincent de Paul to last until April. Over 7700 bags gathered during canvas. Cyclone Aid is to take place on April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014. It is to be a city wide event. Generation Life program also taking place to promote Chastity.

Georges P. Vanier: Warm Hearts/Kind Hearts Program was to show kindness to students. Lent Offering raised enough money to buy a farm.

Ursuline College: Retreat for Grade 12 was taking place next week and Grade 10's in May. Roar video was produced by entire school on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to show support to Sophia Vlasman who is undergoing cancer treatments currently. Current talks occurring with Ursuline sisters regarding a group home for girls, it's in the preliminary stages.

### 7. *Closing Prayer; led by Richard Whitney*

### 8. *Adjournment*

The Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, February 3, 2014 adjourned at 7:10 p.m.