



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

MINUTES

CATHOLIC FAITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 17, 2011 – 5:00 pm

Main Boardroom – Catholic Education Centre

Chair: Dr. Frank Leddy, Superintendent of Education

Trustee: Michelle Parks

Present: Daniela Azzolina – Chaplain, St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School
Liz Bujaki – Consultant, Catholic Curriculum, Elementary
Brendan Deery – Principal, St. Christopher Catholic Secondary School
Kathy Foisy – EA & Faith Ambassador, Holy Rosary Catholic School
Adrien Gagnier – Vice Principal, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim
Kim Gaiswinkler – Teacher & Faith Ambassador, St. Ursula 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
Hollie Sparling – Teacher, St. Vincent Catholic School
Cindy Waddick – Elementary Chaplaincy Leader
Richard Whitney – Chaplain, St. Patrick's Catholic High School

Regrets: Margaret Palmer-McCann – Chaplain, Ursuline College

Recording Secretary: Josselyne 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

3. Introductory Remarks

Dr. Leddy reviewed the new structure of the agenda and explained how the first meeting

will be spent reviewing the role of the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee as many of the members are new to the committee.

Liz Bujaki mentioned the upcoming event, “Jesus” that will be travelling school to school over the coming weeks. Currently this fall it will be visiting the south schools. The north schools will be hosting the travelling caravan in March and April of 2012. Sister Theresa is overseeing the event. She is bilingual; therefore the presentation will be delivered in French to our French immersion students. Secondary schools will also be receiving the event as part of the Arts and Religion courses.

4. *Approval of Minutes*

Motion: (Richard Whitney and Liz Bujaki) That the Minutes for the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, April 18, 2011 be approved as presented. Carried.

5. *Approval of Agenda*

Cindy asked for the addition of “New Website” to the list of Updates.

Motion: (Brendan Deery and Cindy Waddick) That the Agenda for the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, October 17, 2011 be approved as amended. Carried.

6. *Role of Catholic Faith Advisory Committee (CFAC)*

The committee reviewed the Board Vision Statement, the Board Mission Statement, the comments regarding CFAC as noted on the Board CFAC website and Policy 6.4 – Catholic Faith Advisory Committee.

It was noted the triad as mentioned on the CFAC webpage does not clearly reference families as a main support. They are mostly likely thought to be included in the statement “all of the partners in Catholic education”, however as a parent they may not realize they are included. It was commented that it can be challenging to get families involved. It will be noted to revisit the wording to include families.

Discussion continued with how the focus of the policy is towards curriculum. It was commented that the committee’s focus has been broader, although the actual policy goals seem quite narrow.

The list of committee member representation is quite dated. There have been changes to roles since the list was created, and therefore should be updated. With the introduction of Faith Ambassadors, they should have an active role in the committee as the secondary Chaplains currently do. Other possible members could include parent and student representatives.

Wording in the policy of the Board Mission Statement does not match the current Board Mission Statement. This should be noted for future wording changes, as they should be the same.

It was agreed that the CFAC policy needs to be revised. This will be discussed with the Director, and the committee can work towards a revised policy at future meetings.

Key points from the discussion were reviewed:

- Triad – not mentioned in detail; use of the word “parents” so they can see themselves as part of the triad.
- The policy places heavy weight on the actual program/curriculum.
- Include the role of Faith Ambassadors as part of CFAC.
- CFAC representation from Board Advisory Council, students, parents.

An Assessment and Evaluation document was reviewed by the committee. There was discussion about embedding it into Board and School Improvement Plans. This would be a constant reminder of how our Faith is part of our everyday lives. It would be a way to keep us on course, and assist with self-reflection. It should be re-visited more often. An open-ended question regarding the role of our faith to teachers and to students would be a great way to gather feedback. Teacher’s responses compared with student responses will show how the students are interpreting discussions, activities and events and provide valuable feedback.

This document could be revised using resources such as the book “Auditing Our Catholic Schools” by John Kostoff.

Cindy Waddick, Margaret Palmer-McCann and Kerry Matthyssen worked as a sub-committee last year to create goals based on the Pastoral Plan that will be specific to our board. They began by addressing the question, “How do we know we are progressing?” Steps were created that will help the schools to reach these goals, in addition to the many things they already have in place.

Our new board theme “Live Like Jesus ... Rooted in God’s Word”, is an example of goal #2 with the objective of incorporating Scripture. Our discussion about revising and using the Assessment and Evaluation document is an example of goal #3 with the objective of being aware of the ways we are living our faith. This document will help us reach this goal.

Using the Pastoral Plan and the sub-committee’s objectives and steps to reach the goals, the committee will explore ways to assist our schools in moving forward and build success of these goals in our schools. The committee commented on using the A & E document, the Pastoral Plan, and the virtues and graduate expectations to develop ways to bridge the Pastoral Plan from the Church into our schools.

7. *We Believe Statements*

The committee worked in pairs to examine the question:

What is the role of CFAC in ...

- Inclusive Catholic Learning Communities
- Higher Levels of Achievement
- Reduced Gaps in Student Achievement

- Increased Public Confidence in Catholic Education

8. *Lighting Our Way Award*

This award was created by CFAC last year, and is taking over from the former Living Faith Award. A sub-committee including Cindy Waddick, Kerry Matthyssen and Liz Bujaki worked to develop this new award. Several applications were received, and a committee was formed with representatives from the Unions, Trustees, the Deanery, Elementary and Secondary Chaplains, and was chaired by Dr. Leddy. One recipient from the north and one from the south will be receiving the Lighting Our Way award on Friday, October 21st, at the System Faith Day.

CFAC will examine this award again in the future to determine an improved format for applications, and other ways to improve the nomination and selection process.

9. *Updates from Chaplains and Faith Ambassadors*

St. Patrick's:

Planning has just started for the Irish Miracle fundraiser. 2 members on the committee are from St. Christopher's as they keep in mind the future merge of the two schools. This year they have St. Christopher helping with the Irish Miracle, and in turn they will be sending students to help with the Cyclone Aid fundraiser. The schools are working together really well, and this is very encouraging!

St. Christopher:

Students are being encouraged to take on more leadership. They are participating in Team Chaplaincy, helping out with sacraments during masses at the school. Students are also working to develop different ways to incorporate faith at school.

Faith Ambassadors:

The Faith Ambassadors retreat was excellent, very encouraging! Many new resources were distributed and are already being used in the classroom. Schools are participating in food drives for their local communities. Upcoming events include First Confession, meetings for Confirmation, and school masses.

10. *Updates*

King's College Lecture Series has started already. Upcoming dates include: November 3, January 12, January 26, and February 9.

Annual Christ the King Lecture will be held on November 17th.

More information on events at King's College can be found on their website.

Teachers As Scholars at King's (TASK): Many of our secondary teachers have registered to attend these workshops.

Catholic Curriculum Cooperative: They are currently revising a secondary Religion

document. They are also examining giving grades for Religion courses to elementary students. Currently some boards are already giving grades, and others are not. They are developing effective practices with regards to this to create consistency.

The resources in our faith kits are currently up to date with what is available from the CCC. As new resources become available, they do their best to update the kits. Each summer a writing committee at the CCC works to create complimentary documents to new ministry initiatives. The latest document is "Planting the Seeds of Success – K-8". They are now working on this document for secondary schools.

When Faith Meets Pedagogy: WFMP is taking place on October 27th – 28th. Kim Gaiswinkler will be presenting the workshop "Cool Tools for Catholic Teachers". Daniela Azzolina and Richard Whitney will be attending the WFMP Youth Forum with some of our students.

Cindy Waddick is working with a group to create a power point presentation that will be distributed to our teachers outlining how to navigate through the new masses.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 23, 2012.

11. Adjournment

Motion: (Joan Martell and Michelle Parks) That the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, October 17, 2011 adjourn at 7:29 p.m. Carried.