



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

MINUTES

CATHOLIC FAITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, November 3, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.

Main Boardroom – Catholic Education Centre

Chair: Ann Sutton, Superintendent of Education

Trustee:

Administration: Dan Parr, Director of Education

Present: Adrien Gagnier – Vice Principal, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim
Joan Martell – Teacher & Faith Ambassador, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Port Lambton
Kerry Matthyssen – Principal, Georges P. Vanier Catholic School
Cindy Waddick – Elementary Chaplaincy Leader
Joseph Palko – Chaplain, St. Patrick’s Catholic High School
Cory Baillergeon – Teacher, St. Anne’s Catholic School, Blenheim
Michelle McLean – French Immersion Parent, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim
Rob Cicchelli – Principal, St. Patrick’s Catholic Secondary School

Regrets: Christine Lambert – Principal, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Port Lambton
Chris St. Amand – Teacher, Holy Trinity Catholic School, Sarnia
Linda Ward – Trustee
Fr. Jim Higgins – Episcopal Vicar, Sarnia Deanery
Marcia Vermey – French Immersion Parent, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim

Recording Secretary: Alecia Atterbury

1. Welcome and Introductions

Ann Sutton, chair of the meeting, welcomed those in attendance.

2. Opening Prayer – All; led by Joseph Palko

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: (Cory Baillergeon and Kerry Matthyssen) That the Minutes for the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of September 29, 2014 be approved as printed. Carried.

4. *Approval of Agenda*

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

5. *Business Arising*

5.1 *CFAC Retention Survey- DRAFT*

This survey is to be completed by the principals of our schools, with Principals and Vice Principals to be on the working group (Catholic Faith Advisory Committee). Christine Lambert and Kerry Matthyssen, in consultation with Rob Cicchelli and Adrien Gagnier, have been working to prepare the survey.

The timeline for this task is that recommendations from the completed survey be presented to Executive Council prior to budget preparation. The CFAC Retention Survey will be discussed at this meeting and the February 9th, 2015 meeting. Final recommendations will skip CFAC and be brought directly to Executive Council; this is due to the tight timeline to meet with Executive Council prior to budgeting.

Timeline:

- April 28th, 2014 – Request for survey presented.
- September 29th, 2014 – Reviewed outcomes of brainstorming and prepared a committee.
- November 3rd, 2014 – Kerry Matthyssen to present survey draft to CFAC. Revisions and suggestions presented today will be provided to Bob Arnold. Bob will assist in creating the survey through FluidSurvey.
- February 9th, 2015 – Next CFAC meeting.
- February 29th, 2015 – Recommendations to be finalized.
- March 2015 – To be brought to Executive Council for budget support.

Kerry Matthyssen provided the revised version of the survey and requested feedback. The committee divided into smaller groups to discuss and review more closely. Discussion was had regarding revisions to the survey and retention brainstorming.

Retention Ideas for Kindergarten:

- Increase parish presence in Kindergarten registration. This occurred last year in Wallaceburg and was very positive.
- Baptism package is currently being developed with hopes of release for January 2015. Deaneries are to hand out this package at the time of baptism. Package would include information brochure and a book entitled “I Love My Catholic School”.

- Infant onesies with Lancer and St. Patrick logo suggested being included in baptism package.

Include in the Survey Under the Elementary Section:

- Focused attention in K-12 Catholic Education.

Retention Ideas for Elementary Schools:

- Discussion regarding how the focus should be on retention targets rather than school spirit, as targets provide evidence based results.

Retention Ideas for Promoting Secondary Schools to Elementary Schools:

- Test our assumptions.
 - Do principals need support in being ambassadors of the K-12 Catholic Education system?
 - Is our Elementary staff informed enough for 9-12 support of Catholic Education?
 - Can all of our schools serve as an ‘information booth’ within the community for K-12 Catholic Education?
 - Similar discussion should be had with the School Advisory Council
 - Our schools must be ‘worth the drive’. What do we need to do next to make our schools ‘worth the drive’?
 - Discussion was had in regards to scholarship support. It was concluded that the value of Catholic Education is in our faith, not in money.
- Discussion was had as to how we can promote this conversation throughout the system. Suggestion was made to include as many staff in the survey response as possible. This may be possible during December Staff Meeting and this recommendation will be made with the survey.

Include in the Survey Under the Secondary Schools Section:

- Orientation for Grade 7/8 students.
- Mass, reconciliation, prayers, and retreats.
- Examples of chaplains at schools.
- Kingdom Assignment.
- Grade 8 Student and Parent nights.
- Elementary school banners and pennants hung within the secondary school.
- Inviting elementary schools to events/groups (example: choir).
- The use of a uniform and its merits.

Retention Ideas for Secondary Schools:

- ‘Adopt a School’ idea - department ‘adopts’ an elementary school to support additional connections.

Overall Recommendations to Include in the Survey:

- Section to indicate what schools are doing in addition to the provided list.

Kerry indicated that a meeting will be held tomorrow, November 4th, 2014 to review the suggestions made by the CFAC committee. The final version will be provided to Bob Arnold by November 17th, 2014 with an anticipated survey launch date of December 8th, 2014. The survey will close on January 11th, 2015. At that time, the committee will be tallying the results and brainstorming recommendations to provide to Ann Sutton for review prior to Executive Council.

5.2 *Verbal Updates*

A. *Religion and Family Life*

On behalf of Terri Sinasac, Ann Sutton indicated that the purchase of new curriculum will be made in January 2015. Release date for this material will be Spring 2015, with hopeful arrival of materials before June. There has been a delayed release of Grade 1 Religion Materials.

New materials for:

- Faith ambassadors
- PD Many Gifts
- Living our Faith

B. *Adult Faith Initiatives*

This group is to be held at the end of the day. There is social time to build community afterwards. There are multiple bookings for this initiative upcoming.

Faith Ambassadors: One representative from each school. New materials and new curriculum will be utilized.

Scripture and Supper: This group met every Wednesday in October. Literature used was easy to read and understand and provided for great discussion. Different section and chapters were shared. Cindy has received a great response from those that attended, with hopes to see the program continue.

C. *Social Justice and Liturgical Year*

Ann Sutton indicated that a request to all the schools has been made to send in to the Director's office activities relating to the liturgical year. The goal is to make it evident to our faith community that the liturgical year is important and is therefore being promoted and endorsed in our board communities.

5.3 *Projects 2014 - 2015*

A. *Resource List*

Ann Sutton requested that names of potential speakers should be emailed to Silvia Leggiero for compilation.

Names submitted during the meeting:

Linden MacIntyre
Commander Hadfield
Carol Off

Dan Moynihan
NET Ministries

B. Retreat Package

The Administrator's Retreat was based on exploring what Catholic Education is about. The recommendation was to turn this teaching into a package for further professional development. Margaret Palmer to report on this topic at the next meeting.

6. *New Business*

No new business.

7. *School Reports*

OECTA: OECTA has not met since last CFAC meeting. Ideas will be presented as discussed during meeting regarding Catholic school promotion and what the union can do support the Catholic school retention. Particularly, limiting attacks on Catholic schools during election time and promoting the importance and excellence of Catholic schools.

Dan Parr: Terri Nelson Johnson presentation at St. Patrick's High School on November 12th and 13th, 2014. Please register to attend this event.

Joseph Palko: Grand opening of St. Patrick's Catholic Secondary School has been a large focus for the fall. Grade 8 Faith Days have been completed and were successful. Joseph noted that he felt this was an excellent idea and will have a great impact.

Irish Miracles can drive will be starting soon with correspondence with the public already taking place. Joseph is serving as the contact for volunteers.

Cindy Waddick: Training for Christian Mediation with Children- implementing prayer in the classroom- has been completed in the North. Training in the South will be held on November 17th, 2014.

Joan Martell: Family Circles and Family Group times have been successful. Most recently, the school has participated in a Thanksgiving Dinner and Hallowe'en Party. Faith Ambassadors and Scripture and Supper events have been a great experience as well. Ann shared a story about her experience at the Thanksgiving Dinner. She noted that a grade 8 boy showed Spirit of Service in assisting a younger student during the meal.

Rob Cicchelli – St. Patrick's Secondary School: Wednesday, November 5th, 2014 is Take Your Kid to Work Day. On this date, 330 Grade 7 students will be coming for a school visit, dramatic presentation, information on Muskoka Woods, and lunch. This will serve as a great opportunity for students and staff to see the school.

Remembrance Day – an assembly with audio and visual presentations will be coordinated by Robert Walicki.

Field trip to Ottawa has been rescheduled to November 27, 2014. Memorial service in Ottawa will be taped and presented to the school to discuss further and pray for peace. Blake Morrison, a veteran and teacher, will assist with this event.

Kerry Matthyssen – Georges P. Vanier: The Grade 8 Muskoka leaders, head of school families, prepared activities on Friday for Hallowe'en. All Saint's Day was celebrated with each class choosing a Saint to research. The Grade 8 class presented the researched Saints to the school.

Grade 7/8 students will be attending a retreat with St. Anne – Blenheim. St. Agnes, Monsignor Uyen and St. Vincent schools joined with Georges P. Vanier for NET Ministers musical group. The school is hopeful to have them return in the Spring.

Adrien Gagnier – St. Anne Catholic School: School collection of backpacks and school supplies has been very successful. We Scare Hunger event has occurred. Can food collection is at two boxes already.

Georges P. Vanier and St. Michael – Ridgetown schools will be attending for a Grade 7/8 retreat at St. Anne's. Confirmation applications will be handed out after this event.

8. *Closing Prayer; led by Joseph Palko.*

9. *Adjournment*

MOTION: (Joseph Palko and Joan Martell) To adjourn the meeting. Carried.

The Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, November 3, 2014 adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Next CFAC Meeting Dates:

February 9th, 2015

April 27th, 2015