



**Faith Advisory Committee (FAC)
Thursday, November 18, 2021 ♦ 1:00 p.m.
Microsoft TEAMS**

- Present:** Aidan O'Brien, Father Luke Kopaniak, Tara Williams, Heather Graham, Andrew Hall, Lorrie Temple, Keri Calvesbert
- Regrets:** Dan Dignard, Tom Laracy, Tracey Austin, Father Augustine Ogundele, Father Ronald Angervil, Carole Allen
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1. Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer

Lorrie Temple shared the Land Acknowledgement and opened meeting in prayer.

2. Welcome

Lorrie welcomed members of the committee.

3. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the September 23, 2021 meeting were approved.

4. Information and Discussion Items

4.1 Board Website Updates

Lorrie Temple gave an overview of the new refresh of the "Our Faith" pages of the Board website. Content has been updated to inform and celebrate Catholic Education in our communities. Webpages under tab include: Welcome to Catholic Education, 2021-2022 Board Theme, Religion and Family Life Programs (Elementary and Secondary), Our Dioceses, Our Parishes, Living our Faith (Events), Resources, and Catholic Education Week.

4.2 The Year of St. Joseph – Ends on December 8th

Andrew Hall shared a reminder that the Year of St. Joseph ends on December 8, 2021. Andrew asked us to consider ways in which we can acknowledge the closing of this important year in our school communities. Suggestions were made to include in our prayers an entrustment to St. Joseph and to consider incorporating a mention of the closing of this year in our Advent celebrations.

4.3 Pope Francis to Visit Canada for Indigenous Reconciliation

Andrew Hall suggested that once we are informed of the details about the schedule of the Pope's visit to Canada, we share information in our schools with our students about why Pope Francis is visiting and pray for his visit on a daily basis.

4.4 Secondary Feedback on Spiritual Theme and Faith Day

Tara Williams reported Faith Day was well received by Secondary staff at ACS. The Facilitator's Guide provided to Principals was helpful. ACS staff took advantage of the opportunities for much needed prayer and community building. Placemat activities were completed by all staff. Administration team at ACS asked staff to incorporate elements of relationship building into their Department Improvement Plans to help students reconnect to faith and community. Tara



continues to post “4 words” on a weekly basis at the school to remind staff of their hopes for this school year.

4.4 Elementary Feedback on Spiritual Theme and Faith Day

Heather Graham reported shared feedback collected from some Elementary Principal colleagues. Overall, staffs appreciated the opportunity to gather in prayer as school faith communities. Staffs liked that the Liturgy was provided centrally. The Facilitator’s Guide provided to Principals was well received. Principals were able to easily adapt the suggested activities to meet the needs of their communities. Staffs really like the consistency of the Board theme now connected with the OCSTA Catholic Education Week theme. Some considerations for next day include educators prefer a full day for Faith activities to be better able to bring things back into classrooms. Also, staff are missing the prayer cards.

4.5 Diocesan – Deanery Updates

Fr. Luke spoke to concerns about capacity limitations in churches. Currently, parishes are restricted to 25-30% capacity. Churches are asking for restrictions to be lifted to allow 50-75% capacity hopefully by the Easter season. The Diocese of Hamilton continues to catch up cohorts on Sacraments of Initiation. Currently, Priests are waiting for guidelines on Sacraments for the next cohorts. Fr. Luke expressed the return to pastoral ministry that once existed will not be easy as many have become comfortable with ‘remote praying’. It will be important for our schools and parishes to work together to promote the practice of Sunday Mass obligation.

4.6 Give the Best of Yourself

Aidan O’Brien and Andrew Hall reported Wellness Kits were well received by Secondary students. Weekly workout and reflection videos are being released via Twitter. It was suggested to consider asking school sports team members to distribute future items, if applicable. In Elementary, the Grade 8 students were excited to receive their Kits and T-shirts. Heather Graham reported the promo videos led to great discussions in classrooms after the announcements.

4.7 Virtual Advent Evening Event

Keri Calvesbert shared about the Virtual Advent Evening Event for staff being held on December 8, 2021 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. via Teams. Fr. Peter Ciallella will present on “Rebuilding, Restoring, Renewing in Advent”. Registration information to be sent out from Directors Office next week via email.

4.8 Care for Our Common Home Resource

OCSTA published, “Care for Our Common Home”. This resource is a collection of school board and classroom practices promoting stewardship of the earth. BHNCDSD purchased a copy for all schools and sites. For use, connections have been made between the resource and our Board Spiritual theme of “Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together.” In collaboration with the Diocese of Hamilton, certified Eco Schools in our district will be invited to participate in a virtual Saint John’s Bible visit to help make further connections between scripture, care for our common home, and Laudato Si’. Virtual visits will be opened to remaining schools following the targeted Eco School presentations.

4.9 Religiosity in Canada and its Evolution

For information purposes, Keri shared some insights from Statistics Canada, “Religiosity in Canada and its Evolution from 1985 – 2019” and encouraged committee members to read this document. The information can be used to inform home-school-parish relationships as there is a trend towards “cultural Catholicism”.



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Minutes

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5. Questions/Discussions

Fr. Luke briefly spoke to Diocese of Hamilton's parish process for consultation in the Synod. Lorrie Temple is hosting two online meetings for consultation in the school board for Diocese of Hamilton schools. Consultation will take place for Diocese of London and Diocese of St. Catharine's schools once they release their processes.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Lorrie Temple.

Next Meetings: Thursday, March 24, 2022; Thursday, May 19, 2022.