



**Faith Advisory Committee (FAC)
Tuesday, January 23, 2024 ♦ 1:30 p.m.
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Present: Tara Williams, Heather Graham, Dan Dignard (Trustee), Carol Luciani (Vice-Chair of the Board), Lorrie Temple (Superintendent of Education), Father Ronald Angervil, Andrew Hall, Keri Calvesbert

Regrets: Tom Laracy, Carole Allen, Father Augustine Ogundele, Father Stephen Murrin, Caroline Goveas (Student Trustee), Mia Martorelli (Student Trustee)

1. Opening Prayer

Lorrie Temple opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Welcome

Dan Dignard welcomed members of the committee.

3. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the November 23, 2023 meeting were approved.

4. Information and Discussion Items

4.1 Update on Diocesan Mass, Advent Speaker Follow-up, and Lenten Opportunities

Keri Calvesbert shared plans for the Diocesan Mass for Catholic Education Partners in the Diocese of Hamilton scheduled for September 19, 2024, and hosted by BHCNDSB are moving forward. The Liturgy sub-committee met, and plans for the Mass are well underway. All sub-committees will report their planning progress to the whole committee at their meeting in January 2024. Keri also shared BHCNDSB held their pre-Advent Evening Faith Formation Event on November 29, 2023, with guest presenters, Fr. Toby Collins and Chef Amy Cyr who shared the deeper experiences and stories of their ministry with Tiny Home Takeout in Kitchener, ON. The event was extremely well attended by BHCNDSB staff. Fr. Toby and Chef Amy answered questions collected from BHCNDSB staff during the September Faith Day. One outcome resulting from this evening is that Fr. Toby has partnered with BHCNDSB to create a third video in the series to teach how to start a ministry like Tiny Home Takeout in our own geographic areas. Finally, Keri spoke about Lent and explained that all schools have been informed that Ash Wednesday will take precedence over Valentine's Day in our schools (as they both fall on the same calendar date this year). Schools are encouraged to celebrate Valentine's Day prior to Ash Wednesday. Keri extended an invitation from Trustee Bill Chopp for schools to participate in Valentine's card making and delivery to their local senior's long-term care residences, nursing homes or retirement homes. On Ash Wednesday, schools are expected to participate in either a Liturgy of the Word in their schools or attend an Ash Wednesday Mass in the parish, where possible. Lenten Almsgiving and Collections of Caring opportunities based on priority needs identified by Brant SSVP and Norfolk SSVP have been shared with all schools. Schools and sites are encouraged to participate either in these collections of caring or in a campaign that supports and sustains a community connection or relationship established on the



September Faith Day. Finally, BHNCDSB will be offering two Evening Lenten Faith Formation opportunities for staff to visit Tiny Home Takeout in Kitchener, ON. Details will be shared soon!

4.2 Secondary Faith Activities and any Ongoing Faith Day Activities Sharing

Tara Williams reported on the following activities in our Secondary schools. At Holy Trinity, faith activities in December included: NET Retreats for Grades 10 and 11 (one HT alumni expressed an interest in serving on NET leadership in 2024-25), Giving Tree (serving 64 children under 18, and a total of 115 people across 24 families this year), Graduation Retreat, Social Justice Club packaged Christmas hampers for SSVP Norfolk, Staff Prayer Breakfast, Advent Mass, Christmas Liturgy, Christmas Concert Tour to HT Feeder schools and school-wide Confessions were offered in the Chapel. Teacher-led morning prayers each Tuesday and leadership class students leading morning prayers over the announcements twice weekly are ongoing. Campus ministry activities such as daily games club led by Chap Ian, weekly Bible study, weekly Rosary, weekly visits to the PAL's classrooms and visits to Community Living class twice per week continue. Plans for semester two at HT involve preparations for Grade 9 Religion class retreats, Ash Wednesday Liturgies, the Grade 12 Grad Retreat, and Staff Prayer Breakfasts (February, April, and June). Debra Sheldrake provided notes to share that at ACS, the Pennies from Heaven Christmas basket campaign raised \$9000.00 and helped 37 families. An ACS alumnus, working at Sport Chek donated her 50% employee discount to purchase winter coats and boots for the families. The monthly staff prayer group met in December for an Advent reflection and breakfast. In December, the 180 Team created and delivered stocking stuffer packages to the St. Leonard's Youth shelters supporting 32 youth. Advent liturgies by grade took place in December. Chaplaincy and the Social Justice class Teacher hosted the St. Theresa's Catholic Elementary School Social Justice Club for an afternoon of learning and outreach experiences. ACS produced a video about their migrant worker initiative, funded by the CEFO. The video will be shared school-wide in the Spring. Andrew Hall provided an update on faith activities at SJC. The annual Angel Campaign helped 22 SJC families in need at Christmas. The SJC Worship Band provided music ministry for a SSVP Brant Advent retreat. The school participated in an Advent Mass and staff participated in an Advent potluck lunch sharing prayer intentions for students. Students from Grade 9 Religion classes created an outdoor Advent display in the courtyard. Presently, the SJC Worship Band is preparing music for the Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word, Campus Ministry is looking forward to resuming visits with the elderly at Riverview Terrace during semester 2, Grade 12's will visit the residents of St. Joseph Lifecare Centre for a dance and social on February 16th, and the Worship Band and Campus Ministry is working towards leading the Chaplet of Divine Mercy through song during Lent.

4.3 Video Contest *(Lorrie add link to YouTube video here?)*

Andrew Hall shared the St. John's College Senior Worship Band OCSTA song contest entry.

4.4 Elementary Faith Activities and any Ongoing Faith Day Activities Sharing

Heather Graham shared about activities happening in our Catholic Elementary Schools across the district including classes connected with a Senior's home and made Christmas cards and brought poinsettias for residents to enjoy. Another class created a special bulletin board message for the staff working over the holidays. Many cash donations and non-perishable food items were collected to support SSVP Brant and Norfolk in December. One school donated a



portion of the money raised from their themed school basket fundraiser to their local food bank (\$500.00). The Social Justice Club at St. Theresa's visited SSVP and ACS to learn more about social justice and local and global outreach. At one school, students in Grades K-8 created cards and messages of hope for Brant County Healthcare workers which were shared with them over the Christmas break. Elementary schools are currently preparing for Ash Wednesday liturgies and Lenten outreach.

4.5 Diocesan – Deanery Updates

N/A (Fr. Ronald joined virtually from the airport, stating he did not have anything to report this time. Fr. Augustine attempted to join the meeting link late, but the meeting had already been adjourned).

4.6 F.A.C.E. Updates

N/A

4.7 ICE Symposium Follow Up

Lorrie Temple shared information received from ICE about their upcoming webinar dates as a follow-up to the Symposium, "On the Way" to support Faith Formation in our school board. Webinars with Dr. Anne Walsh will be hosted on Thursday, February 20, 2024, and Thursday, February 27, 2024 from 4 pm – 5 pm. ICE will be sending this information, inviting school boards to attend. This information will be shared with our Board Team who attended the symposium in May 2023 and our Board Pastoral Team.

4.8 School Parish Planning Guidelines

Lorrie Temple briefly outlined updates and changes to the School Parish Planning Guidelines (OPS.200.46.AP) which provide clarity around Sacramental Preparation referencing pastoral care documents from all three Dioceses, inclusion of acts of charity, and opportunities for communication about parish-school information sharing to benefit families (e.g., Children's Liturgy programs) Full document can be found here: [OPS 400.26.AP - School Parish Planning Guidelines.pdf](#)

5. Questions/Discussions

N/A

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Trustee Dignard.

Next Meeting: April 18, 2024 (In-person, location TBD)