



**Faith Advisory Committee (FAC)  
Tuesday, January 28, 2025 ♦ 1:30 p.m.  
In person at CEC or Microsoft Teams**

**Present:** Tara Williams, Heather Graham, Dan Dignard (Trustee- Brant), Lorrie Temple (Superintendent of Education), Fr. Kevin D'Souza, Carole Allen (FACE), Andrew Hall, Keri Calvesbert

**Regrets:** Fr. Augustine Ogundele, Fr. Rudolph D'Souza, Riley O'Brien, Ryan Toft, Carlo Fortino

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**1. Opening Prayer and Land Acknowledgement**

Lorrie Temple opened the meeting in prayer

**2. Welcome**

Lorrie Temple welcomed members of the committee.

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the September 25, 2024 meeting were approved.

**4. Information and Discussion Items**

**4.1 Holy Doors Activity – Share about the Replica**

Keri Calvesbert shared that in November schools were encouraged to learn more about the Holy Doors in preparation for the Jubilee Year. Schools were invited to participate in an activity to promote the Holy Doors in their school communities. As individual classrooms or as a school community, schools could create a Holy Door inspired by a Scripture passage from one or more of the panels of the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome or they could create a Holy Door reflecting the theme of Hope for the Jubilee Year. A replica of the Holy Doors at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome was purchased through the Diocese of Hamilton to pilgrimage across our school district. Schools were invited to sign up to host the replica in their school each month during the Jubilee Year. At the January AAC meeting, the Opening prayer launched the pilgrimage using excerpts of the Liturgy from December 29, 2024. This prayer was shared, and all schools were provided with resource packages containing reflections, devotions, prayers and activities to support the hosting of the replica of the Holy Doors. Schools are asked via school social media to share their experiences with the replica. The replica will return to the CEC in the month of December 2025.

**4.2 Catholic Student Leadership Awards**

Keri Calvesbert explained planning for the 2025 Catholic Student Leadership Awards afternoon leadership symposium and evening celebration are well underway. The event will be held in-person at Assumption College School, Brantford on May 5, 2025. His Excellency, Bishop Bergie, Diocese of St. Catharines will preside at the awards celebration. Elementary and Secondary Student Nominations have been received by Directors Office. Congratulatory letters are being processed to be emailed out to families. During the meeting, Keri noted to her knowledge, no Distinguished Catholic Graduate Awards or Outstanding Contribution to Catholic Education Awards nominations had been received by Directors Office. **Correction** - It was announced at the Board Meeting (January 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.) that a nomination for the



Outstanding Contribution to Catholic Education was received, and Cliff Casey will be presented this award at CSLA 2025.

#### **4.3 Looking Ahead to Lent**

This year, Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, March 5, 2025. Schools are to proceed with Ash Wednesday plans for Liturgy and receipt of ashes as in previous years. Schools are to participate in either a Liturgy of the Word (in the school) or a Mass (at the Parish). Administrators will be informed at their February AAC meeting to connect with their Parish Priest or Pastoral Team attached to their schools to make the necessary arrangements to celebrate Ash Wednesday. An Ash Wednesday Liturgy of the Word is provided in the Pastoral Resource Package for Administrators and schools to follow. Keri outlined that she has connected with Brant SSVP and Norfolk SSVP for Collections of Caring and Reaching Out for Lent initiatives. All Administrators will receive this information at the February AAC meeting, along with an email outlining the priority needs, as determined by SSVP, for donations and collections. During Lent, all schools are encouraged to participate in Lenten Almsgiving and/or a Collection of Caring. Haldimand schools are welcome to participate in either Brantford or Norfolk campaigns, or if schools wish to connect with local food banks in Haldimand County, this is permissible also. Finally, Keri mentioned plans are in place for an adult faith formation event for BHNCD SB staff. An Evening Lenten Faith Formation opportunity for all staff will be offered. Once details are finalized, information and an invitation will be shared.

#### **4.4 Secondary Feedback on Faith Activities**

Tara Williams noted there are 'lists' of great faith related things that our Secondary schools are doing and continue to do every day. For this meeting, Tara asked each Secondary school to highlight one significant event or faith initiative to be reported on. Assumption College School shared that Campus Ministry (Debra Sheldrake, Chaplaincy Leader) in collaboration with their Social Justice class (Ella Torto, Teacher) will be hosting all their Grade 8 Feeder school classes on an individual basis beginning February 20<sup>th</sup> through May 2025. Each Grade 8 class will be spending 150 minutes at ACS for a Campus Ministry and Social Justice experience. Programming for this initiative is supported by Keri Calvesbert, Religion and Family Life Consultant. At Holy Trinity Catholic High School, their Chaplaincy Leader offered a "33 days to Marian Consecration for Teens" in a Grade 12 class and wanted to highlight the impact of this offering. At the onset three of the grade 12 students ranked their relationship with Jesus between 1-3 on the scale out of 10. At the end of the 33 days, these same three students indicated their rating to be between 8-9 on the scale. This is a good news story as it shows the value of prayer and the importance of offering these experiences to students. Andrew Hall highlighted that during Black History Month in February at St. John's College, morning prayers will allow students and staff to learn about the lives of Black Saints and those on the road to sainthood. Every Monday, during February, Andrew will share a video with staff to play in their classrooms where an SJC student will be sharing about the life of a Black Saint.

#### **4.5 Elementary Feedback on Faith Activities**

Heather Graham highlighted some activities happening in our Catholic Elementary Schools across the district, specifically:

**Holy Family:** Giving campaign at Christmas. Supported 6 families financially over the holidays and the Society of St. Vincent De Paul. Additionally, Holy Family will be featured in the Catholic Education Week video for the Diocese of Hamilton.



**Our Lady of Providence:** Tree of Warmth for SSVP. Social Justice Club members went to SSVP for a volunteer day. We Scare Hunger Campaign for SSVP.

**Notre Dame, Brantford:** Participated in a “give back” campaign before Christmas called ‘Chew for Chalice’ where for three weeks gum licenses were sold at school and gum on Fridays to raise money for Chalice. The week before Christmas vacation the money earned was divided amongst all classes and they went ‘shopping’ to purchase items that the class felt were important for those in need. In total, \$900 raised was raised and a variety of items were purchased from roosters and hens to animal feed, hygiene items, sports equipment, fruit trees, mosquito netting, crop seeds, and we even bought goats, sheep and pigs. In addition, we were able to feed one family for two months and another for two weeks. This was an amazing experience for our students as they worked to earn the money and then were able to spend it to support others (and it is even a connection to our religion program as Chalice is referenced in the grade 3 resource).

**St. Michael’s, Walsh:** Currently participating in Souper Bowl right now and all canned goods are going to the St. Vincent de Paul (Simcoe).

**St. Stephen’s, Cayuga:** Before Christmas, the CLT did candy cane grams, and all proceeds went to the Cayuga Food Bank. Also did a (new) hat, mitts and socks drive for the food bank as well at the same time.

**Notre Dame, Caledonia:** Donations were made to Caledonia Food bank during December along with a Tree of Caring (collection of mitts, hats, socks). Souperbowl is currently happening, collecting cans of soup for the food bank. Holy Doors - spent time at a staff meeting explaining the Jubilee/Holy Doors, information behind the Holy Doors. Shared resources and activities with staff for use in their classroom. Preparing to host the Holy Doors replica at ND mid-February.

#### **4.6 Diocesan – Deanery Updates**

Fr. Kevin D’Souza shared about the larger replica of the Holy Doors being housed at St. Basil’s, Brantford. St. Basil’s is one of the six parishes across the Diocese of Hamilton hosting the replica. The church is open for pilgrimages to see the doors. Everyone is invited and welcome to come to Mass, to pray before the Holy Doors and have their prayer book passport stamped. See St. Basil’s Parish, Brantford website for further details and for information about their four *Special, Additional Pilgrimage Days of Prayer, Receiving the Sacraments and Obtaining a Plenary Indulgence* dates ([St. Basil Parish | Brantford, ON](http://St.BasilParish|Brantford,ON)).

#### **4.7 F.A.C.E. Updates**

N/A

#### **4.8 Other Business**

N/A

#### **5. Questions/Discussions**

N/A

#### **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by Trustee Dignard.

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**Brant Haldimand Norfolk  
Catholic District School Board**

**Minutes**

Catholic Education Centre  
322 Fairview Drive  
Brantford, ON N3T 5M8

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**Next Meeting:** April 17, 2025 (TEAMs)

Important Dates: June 10, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. (In-person meeting at CEC)