



**Brant Haldimand Norfolk
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

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

**Faith Advisory Committee (FAC)
Thursday, April 16, 2026, ♦ 1:30 p.m.
In person at CEC or Microsoft Teams**

Present: Michael Lawlor (Superintendent of Education), Keri Calvesbert, Heather Graham, Tara Williams, Carol Luciani (Chair of the Board), Andrew Hall, Dan Dignard (Trustee)

Regrets: Carole Allen (FACE), Fr. Augustine Ogundele, Fr. Rudolph D'Souza, Carlo Fortino, Fr. Kevin D'Souza

1. Opening Prayer

Dan Dignard opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Welcome/Introductions

Dan Dignard welcomed members to the meeting.

3. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the January 20, 2026, meeting were approved.

4. Information and Discussion Items

4.1 Catholic Education Week Theme and Activities

The 2026 Catholic Education Week Theme is "Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness." Keri Calvesbert provided an overview of system wide CEW plans. All school Administrators received a draft "At a Glance" calendar indicating daily events, special events, and where things can be found. Links to daily announcements and prayers are included in the calendar. This year to celebrate CEW and Mental Health Week, schools are invited to participate in Belonging Bingo and a Faith and Wellness Pilgrimage. The pilgrimage can be done as a whole school or by individual classrooms. The Catholic Student Leadership Awards afternoon leadership symposium and Evening Celebration will take place at Holy Trinity Catholic High School, Simcoe on Monday, May 4, 2026. Secondary schools were invited to register for the OCSTA Catholic School Student Youth Day Virtual Event on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, and the Catholic Education Week Provincial Mass livestream will air Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. On Friday, May 8, 2026, Chaplaincy Leaders and the Religion and Family Life Consultant are hosting the BHNCD SB Your Life Matters – Culture of Life Retreat Day at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish Hall for Secondary students. In anticipation of CEW and for planning purposes, a link to all OCSTA Classroom resource packages including lesson plans for Elementary and Secondary Educators was emailed to all staff in March 2026. The Diocese of Hamilton shared a CEW 2026 Package including Bishop Dabrowski's Messages for CEW in English and French. Bishop Dabrowski will make his inaugural visit to the district on May 7th, visiting Our Lady of Providence Catholic Elementary School, Brantford. All schools and sites are encouraged to use their Twitter/X accounts to share and celebrate CEW 2026.

4.2 Secondary Feedback on Faith Activities

Tara Williams shared a few highlights on behalf of Assumption College and submitted the following:

All 3 BHNCD SB Chaplaincy Leaders have been involved in planning the CSCO 2026



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conference, taking place in Brantford April 28-May 1. The focus is on Indigenous learning and relationship with keynote Niigaan Sinclair and two days of activities on Six Nations Reserve. As part of CEW's Monday morning prayer, a 7-minute video will be aired school-wide on the life of St. Francis of Assisi celebrating the Year of St. Francis of Assisi. The ACS 180 Team continues to volunteer in the community once a week. They completed 157 decorated snack bags for SSVP to be distributed over March Break for families accessing the food bank. The 180 Team and social justice class are facilitating the "Faith in Action" program with the Grade 8 students in the ACS Catholic family of schools, supported by Keri Calvesbert, the RFL Consultant. The 9 feeder schools have 13 Grade 8 classes attending this semester. This is a significant initiative, with 10 student leaders per visit requiring the participation and commitment of 130 leaders. ACS' Teacher Prayer Thursdays has become a popular initiative among the teachers, leading the school community in the morning prayer broadcast live to all classrooms. The spots were all filled by teachers for this semester within a couple of days of the dates being posted. Since Ash Wednesday was an inclement weather day, Lent was marked with a revised Lenten Liturgy for all grade levels in the cafeteria. The Social justice teacher has paired up with the ACS Chaplaincy Leader, to apply for permits for a school-wide Pilgrimage on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from ACS to St. Mary's Church. The initiative was approved by Administration. ACS aims to send a shipping container to the Sisters of Holy Cross in Haiti in two years, in collaboration with Niagara CDSB high schools who financially support the Sisters of Holy Cross and have been doing this through their annual Pilgrimages - this year will be their 50th Pilgrimage.

Tara highlighted the following on behalf of Holy Trinity and submitted:

At the school Mass during Holy Week, the vocations director for the Diocese of London, Fr. Rob Renaud, celebrated Mass and brought a relic of the Cross of Jesus. Rosaries and crucifixes made by students in the religious art class were blessed by touching these items to the cross and turning the items into Third class relics. HT's Chaplaincy Leader connected with feeder schools during their Grade 8 School Tours. A Staff Prayer breakfast was held on Shrove Tuesday, and the Ash Wednesday Liturgy was moved online due to inclement weather. Holy Trinity participated in the Reaching Out for Lent campaign for Norfolk SSVP and donated 3 carloads of food to the pantry. A Day of Confessions was held during Lent. The HT Chaplaincy Leader visited all Grade 9 semester two Religion classes to explain the Mass prior to the Holy Week Mass. Two Job Skills students are doing Coop placements in chaplaincy this Semester, which began after March Break. Five Grade 12 classes have been participating a 33-day Marian Consecration for Teens this semester, in lieu of a Grad Retreat.

Andrew Hall shared on behalf of St. John's College:

On April 14th, SJC celebrated their Easter Mass with Fr. Paul Matthew from St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish, in Hamilton, presiding. The school is growing closer to reaching their goal of having 100 students participate in the *Path to Holiness Prayer Challenge*. Currently, there are 84 students who have lead morning prayer this school year. The SJC Grade 12 Grad Retreat will be taking place Friday, April 24th at Camp Marydale. SJC Grade 9 Retreats took place with all Grade 9 Religion classes this semester. During Lent, students in Grades 11 and 12 had the opportunity to make their confession. Also, during Lent, Brant St. Vincent de Paul presented to



Grade 10 Religion classes, sharing about the mission and volunteer experiences. During Lent, SJC held a Toonie Dress Down Day and raised \$2,150.50 for St. Vincent de Paul.

4.3 Elementary Feedback on Faith Activities

Heather Graham reported on various Elementary activities happening around the district:

Many elementary schools participate in monthly Retirement home and Telfer place visits. Lenten weekly reflections for families were sent home via School Messenger. Schools participated in a 'Pantry to Personal Care Campaign' for Lent where food and hygiene items were collected for SVDP. During Lent, one school shared a family challenge using the Stations of the Cross where every other day families received a challenge that was connected the meaning and lessons of one of the Stations of the Cross. In partnership with a retirement home in Stoney Creek, a kindergarten and grade 3 class visit twice a year to sing songs, play games, do a craft and have lunch together (before Christmas and in the Spring). Notre Dame, Brantford is hosting the board 'Chess and Wellness' fair during CEW. For the Celebration of the Arts night, one school's performance is faith based with students singing 'This Little Light of Mine' with a spoken word shared over top of the singing. Schools participated in a Lenten Challenge for St Vincent de Paul and donated over 2000 items to stock their shelves. Peter Giordano, from Brant SSVP visited schools in March and presented to grades 6-8 to explain about the mission of SSVP. Grades 2 and 8 have been preparing to receive the Sacraments. A school Social Justice team visited ARTC (Adult Recreation Therapy Centre) where students spent time volunteering to run games and exercises for the clients. Another school participated in a Kindness and Gratitude project in March where each classroom was provided with a community agency/service provider. The class was led by the teacher to research how that service/agency gives back to the community and students created something in an action of gratitude for them. Final products were delivered along with a letter of explanation to all agencies.

4.4 Diocesan – Deanery Updates

N/A

4.5 F.A.C.E. Updates

N/A

4.6 Other Business

N/A

5. Questions/Discussions

Chair Luciani posed a question about the recent Ministry of Education announcements which included a mandate that all secondary school courses would have final examinations during a defined examination period. Chair Luciani wondered if this new directive would impact the school board's service-learning trip to Guatemala which is scheduled to depart in January 2027 during the final examination period for Semester 1. Superintendent Lawlor assured that updates will be provided as information becomes available.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Trustee Dignard.