



**Faith Advisory Committee (FAC)
Thursday, September 23, 2021 ♦ 1:00 p.m.
Microsoft TEAMS**

Present: Dan Dignard, Aidan O'Brien, Father Luke Kopaniak, Father Augustine Ogundele, Tara Williams, Heather Graham, Father Ronald Angervil, Andrew Hall, Carole Allen, Lorrie Temple, Keri Calvesbert

Regrets: Tom Laracy, Tracey Austin

1. Land Acknowledgement

Lorrie Temple shared the Land Acknowledgement.

2. Opening Prayer

Keri Calvesbert led the Opening Prayer.

3. Welcome (Introductions)

Lorrie welcomed members of the committee and sought introductions from the group.

4. Approval of the Minutes

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

4. Information and Discussion Items

4.1 New Board Spiritual Theme – Introduction and Faith Days

Lorrie Temple gave an overview of the new Board Spiritual Theme, "Rebuild, Restore, Renew Together" rooted in the Scripture passage "Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5). The new theme aligns with the OCSTA 2022 Catholic Education Week theme. The new theme will be the focus of the October 5th (Norfolk) and 8th (Brant/Haldimand) PD Days. On these days, staff will engage in community building, prayer experiences (e.g., Christian Meditation, Lectio and Visio Divina), and reflection activities to gain a deeper understanding of the theme. In the afternoon, staff will engage in professional learning on Self-Regulation with the MEHRIT Centre. Connections will be made between Self-Regulation and our faith.

4.2 Board Charity Ideas for Dress Down Days

Along with the effort to continue to support our local and global Catholic Service Organizations with which the Board has established relationships and partnerships with, it is the desire of the committee, moving forward, to expand and make room to support others. Keri Calvesbert shared the proposal that this year, the CEC will donate their dress down day money to the CCSTA "Toonies for Tuition" to support families in other provinces where Catholic Education is not publicly funded. Perhaps this is something to consider as a Board initiative moving forward. This proposal was well-received by the committee. Suggestions were made to invite schools to



participate during the 2022 Catholic Education Week to raise funds and awareness and celebrate the blessing of publicly funded Catholic Education in Ontario.

4.3 Give the Best of Yourself Wellness Kits

Keri Calvesbert shared that all Secondary students across the district will receive a “Give the Best of Yourself” Wellness Kit as part of our sport and faith initiative. Kits to be distributed on September 24th. Grade 8’s will receive their Kits at the end of October. Weekly workouts and reflections to support the use of the Kits will be shared via BHNCD SB Twitter. A 20–25-minute pre-recorded video session is being produced to be shared with Secondary schools and Grade 8 classrooms. This video will dive deeper into the “Give the Best of Yourself” values for students, to be released in November 2021.

4.4 St. Vincent De Paul Thanksgiving Food Drive

Keri Calvesbert shared that the Norfolk SSVP chapter reached out looking for support for their Thanksgiving Food Drive. Norfolk Secondary and Elementary schools willingly accepted the call to support this effort through collecting monetary donations through School Cash Online. Families who wish to donate items will be pointed to the parish collection dates. Keri will share the communication with Norfolk Principals to be shared with their school communities.

4.5 Diocesan – Deanery Updates

Fr. Luke shared about changes to Clergy at St. Pius X Parish in Brantford because of the death of Fr. John Redmond. Sacraments of Initiation missed by last year’s cohort have been caught up. Fr. Luke expressed that during this time of pandemic, a separation exists between schools and parishes. Priests are connecting with classes remotely, as needed.

Fr. Augustine began with the Catholic Family of Parishes in Norfolk in July following Fr. Al’s retirement. He is settling in and shared his interest in this committee and in helping to integrate faith in our Catholic schools. Over the summer, Fr. Augustine worked to catch-up cohorts on their Sacraments of Initiation. The Catholic Family of Parishes in Norfolk is looking for a Coordinator of Youth Ministry. They have advertised with the Diocese of London, Diocese of Hamilton, and with the Archdiocese of Toronto.

4.6 Inclusion Rooted in Faith

Lorrie Temple and Keri Calvesbert shared that intentional learning around educating our staff in supporting our 2SLGBTIA+ students, staff, and families has begun in the district. The work is being done with a focus on our faith in collaboration with our Equity and Inclusion Education Committee to respond pastorally. Safe spaces training sessions, arranged by our Mental Health Lead are underway. Fr. Ron suggested connecting with Courage International as a Catholic resource.

4.7 Acknowledgement of Religious Days and Seasons

Secondary schools include readings of the day, catechesis on Saints, Feast Days, Liturgical Seasons in their daily prayers on their announcements. St. John’s College tweets their morning announcements, along with opening prayers for parents/families to view. Elementary schools capture the same using the “Children’s Daily Prayer Books” provided by the RFL Consultant.



4.8 F.A.C.E Update

Carole Allen provided the committee with an update regarding F.A.C.E.

5. Questions/Discussions

There were no items for questions or discussions.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Dan Dignard.

Next Meetings: Thursday, November 18, 2021; Thursday, March 24, 2022; Thursday, May 19, 2022.