



**Faith Advisory Committee (FAC)
Thursday, May 25, 2023 ♦ 2:00 p.m.
Virtual Microsoft TEAMS Meeting**

Present: Tara Williams, Heather Graham, Andrew Hall, Dan Dignard (Trustee), Lorrie Temple (Superintendent of Education), Keri Calvesbert, Carole Allen

Regrets: Halaena Buenviaje, Tom Laracy, Father Augustine Ogundele, Father Ronald Angervil, Father Stephen Murrin

1. Opening Prayer

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 February 2, 2023, meeting were approved.

4. Information and Discussion Items

4.1 Faith Day Update

Keri Calvesbert provided updates to planning for the September Faith Day scheduled for Friday, September 15, 2023. This day offers an opportunity for staff to live our mission together, along with our community partners. As part of the day, staff will be working alongside local service organizations to support programming, to learn about each organization's impact locally, and to further connect to and serve our communities in various capacities. The day will be educational and impactful, and it is intended that collaborations and connections continue throughout the school year and beyond. At the March, April, and May AAC meetings, Lorrie Temple provided monthly updates and information about Faith Day to Administrators, Managers and Facilitators including components of the day (i.e., Mass or Liturgy, Video Teaching, Service-learning activities), options, Service Ideas and Agencies, and timelines. Schools and sites were asked to make decisions and connect with community partners if needed, prior to the end of this school year in preparation for September. While we are still waiting for the new Board Spiritual Theme to be released by OCSTA (early June), the Pastoral Resource Package is being updated to reflect components and teachings of Faith Day and additions will continue to be made to support the new Spiritual Theme. Fr. Toby Collins will be providing the video components for Faith Day prior to September 2023. System memos about Faith Day will be sent out in June and August.

4.2 ICE Symposium Update and Next Steps

Members of the committee who attended the ICE Symposium on Adult Faith Formation shared their positive experiences of the conference; grateful to gather as stakeholders representing diverse roles in Catholic Education, opportunities to network, combination of English and French, speaker stories, breakout sessions, student artwork, availability of liturgy including Sacrament of Confession, Mass with Archbishop Leo, Taize prayer. Lorrie Temple explained a



meeting will be held with Board team to debrief the Symposium and determine action steps on how to share out with the district. Results of the meeting will be shared back with committee.

4.3 Culture of Life Day

Andrew Hall reported that this year in lieu of attending the March for Life in Ottawa, Secondary Chaplaincy Leaders along with the Religion and Family Life Consultant planned a day retreat experience for students, "YOUR LIFE MATTERS Student Symposium – Let's Talk About It! Youth Voices on Current Culture of Life Issues." The symposium took place on Friday, May 12th at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish Hall, Waterford. This experience encouraged students to explore various current issues and how we can live out Gospel justice in today's world around us. Topics included: the wonder and awe of human life, Canadian refugees inspire peace by chocolate, the vibrancy of diversity and the spirit of allyship. The day began with fun community building activities and ended with praying the Stations of the Cross through a Culture of Life lens. Student feedback from the day from all three Secondary schools was very positive. A debriefing meeting with the planning team to look ahead for next year's symposium day is scheduled for early June. Trustee Dignard extended an invitation for this to be shared at June Board Meeting. Lorrie Temple will take this back to SAM and advise.

4.4 Catholic Education Awards Sharing

Keri Calvesbert shared about the 2023 Catholic Student Leadership Awards held at Holy Trinity Catholic High School, Simcoe, on May 1, 2023. Elementary and Secondary student award recipients participated in the afternoon Catholic leadership symposium led by the Religion and Family Life Consultant and Chaplaincy Leaders. Students engaged in liturgy, prayer and reflection, team-building activities and connected with their feeder school Chaplaincy Leaders and peers. Students were joined by Trustees and Sr. Admin Team for a celebration dinner. Deacon Gerard Van Schyndel, Norfolk Catholic Family of Parishes presided at the evening awards celebration. Each student award recipient received a certificate and an Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectation Medal, during the Trustee presentation to students. Also, this year, as part of the evening event, the family of Danielo Pace received the 2023 Outstanding Contribution to Catholic Education Award, on behalf of Dan. Debriefing and planning for the 2024 CSLA event is already underway and will continue throughout the school year until the event to be held on Monday, May 6, 2024.

4.5 Future CSLA discussion (clergy input)

Lorrie Temple asked for committee input on practice of having Administrators and/or nominating teachers connecting with either Parish Priest or Priest attached to the school as part of nomination process for student awards. Consensus that this practice already takes place and to continue. As part of process moving forward, will remind Administrators and nominating teachers of this practice.

4.6 September 2024 Diocesan Mass

Lorrie Temple noted BHNCD SB is scheduled to host the Diocese of Hamilton Diocesan Mass in 2024. We are waiting on direction from the Diocese of Hamilton and will begin planning once we hear back from the Diocese.

4.7 Secondary Faith Activity Sharing

Tara Williams reported on the following activities in our Secondary schools: Holy Trinity staff will have one more prayer breakfast before the end of the school year. In-person Grade level retreat days have returned, including NET retreats and the Grade 12 Graduation retreat. HT held their first Cultural Heritage Day and hope to continue this. In the month June, student initiated, and student-led Bible study and socials will be held on Mondays. ACS held their Grad retreat at



Camp Marydale. Chaplaincy Leader and students from ACS attended the Diocese of Hamilton Vocational Recognition dinner. Andrew Hall reported that SJC was invited to participate in a filming of students visiting at Riverview Terrace. The video will be released by the CCCB in July on World Grandparents Day. SJC held their grad retreat at Camp Marydale. All three schools reported the Culture of Life Day was a success.

4.8 Elementary Faith Activity Sharing

Heather Graham shared an update from St. Joseph's Catholic Elementary School in Simcoe. During Catholic Education Week, Catholic Leadership Awards were held in-person at Holy Trinity Catholic High School. Grade 8 students from St. Joseph's and St. Cecilia's, Port Dover participated in the NET (National Evangelization Team) Retreat. Junior Kindergarten orientation was held and Catholic Children's Bibles were given out to our newest learners this year. The Sacrament of First Communion for students was held in April. Currently, staff and students are preparing for Grade 8 Graduation liturgies and staff is in the beginning stages for planning Faith Day in the Fall; connecting with community partners, deciding on layout for the day.

4.9 Parental Understanding (Sacraments in Schools) (What is being taught around First Communion)

Dan Dignard asked about Sacramental Preparation in schools. Keri explained that Immediate Sacramental preparation is the responsibility of the Parish. Educators support this preparation through the teaching of the Religious Education curriculum expectations within the "Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ" program from grades 1 through 8. Full access to the student and parish portals enables facilitation of the home-school-parish relationship. Fr. Ronald Angervil further explained that Immediate Sacramental preparation happens at the parish level as celebrations of the sacraments take place in the parish and to encourage families to attend Sunday Mass. Teachers supplement this preparation through the teaching of the curriculum expectations in the schools. Keri shared the BHNCD SB website clearly points families looking for information on Sacramental preparation to contact their local parish (found under tabs: Faith/ Our Dioceses and Parishes).

5.0 Diocesan – Deanery Updates

Fr. Ronald explained within the Diocese of St. Catharines, some changes to the format of Deanery meetings are happening and will share more in the future about this. Fr. Ronald gave an overview of upcoming events happening around the celebration of the 150th Anniversary of St. Stephen's Parish in Cayuga on the weekend of Sunday, July 9, 2023. Events include a fish fry dinner, historical sharing, Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop Bergie and a barbeque. Fr. Ronald will share posters and Keri will distribute across the district to advertise this important celebration.

5.1 F.A.C.E.- Updates

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

6. Questions/Discussions

Discussion took place around the flying of the Pride flag. This year, in our district, a decision was made by the Trustees to fly the Progress flag in June at our secondary schools only. Clarification was made about the messaging shared by Fr. James Martin to staff on the April PD Day. Fr. James Martin presented a pastoral approach to accompanying and supporting individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ in our Catholic Schools. In our district, we continue to adhere to our Catholic teachings, while at the same time have a responsibility to accompany those who are marginalized with dignity, compassion, and respect. Fr. James Martin did not engage in any conversations or dialogue about the flying of the flag in our Catholic schools.



**Brant Haldimand Norfolk
Catholic District School Board**

Minutes

Catholic Education Centre
322 Fairview Drive
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7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Lorrie Temple, noting future meeting dates will be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Next Meeting: September 26, 2023 (teams)
November 23, 2023 (in person)
January 23, 2024 (teams)
April 18, 2024 (in person)
Calendar invites coming soon 😊