



**Faith Advisory Committee (FAC)
Tuesday, September 24, 2024 ♦ 1:30 p.m.
Catholic Education Centre Boardroom**

- Present:** Tara Williams, Heather Graham, Andrew Hall, Rick Petrella (Chair of the Board), Carol Luciani (Vice Chair of the Board), Lorrie Temple (Superintendent of Education), Father Kevin D'Souza, Keri Calvesbert
- Regrets:** Dan Dignard (Trustee), Carole Allen, Riley O'Brien (Student Trustee), Ryan Toft (Student Trustee), Father Augustine Ogundele, Father Rudy D'Souza, Carlo Fortino (OECTA)
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1. Opening Prayer

Lorrie Temple opened the meeting in prayer.

2. Welcome

Carol Luciani welcomed members of the committee.

3. Approval of the Minutes

The Minutes of the June 6, 2024, meeting were approved.

4. Information and Discussion Items

4.1 2024-2025 Pastoral Plan and Faith Day Update Keri Calvesbert shared that BHNCD SB adopted the OCSTA Catholic Education Week Theme, "Pilgrims of Hope" as our new Board Spiritual Theme for 2024-2025. As a dedicated, faith-filled Catholic education community, we explore ways to live out Pope Francis' call for each one of us to be Pilgrims of Hope by honouring human dignity, by caring for creation, by responding to the poverties in our world, by serving in solidarity, and by living as peacemakers. The Board Pastoral Team collaborated to prepare the Pastoral Resource package reflective of the new theme to support schools and sites in the launch of the new theme. This resource will continue to be updated monthly to support schools and sites throughout the duration of the school year. Canvas-sized semi-permanent wall stickers, along with prayer cards in English and French were designed and provided to schools and sites to support the new theme. Faith Day will be held for all BHNCD SB staff on Tuesday, October 8, 2024. Staff will participate in Mass or Liturgy of the Word, learn about The Lord's Prayer as a programme for life through a video teaching from Dr. Josephine Lombardi and engage in a variety of meaningful prayer and community building experiences. On Faith Day, new permanent employees will be commissioned as part of a Mass or Liturgy. All staff will receive a special BHNCD SB Faith Day edition of Dr. Lombardi's book, "On Earth as it is in Heaven". All schools and sites will engage in creating a visual or artefact representing Pilgrims of Hope to be shared as part of the Catholic Education Week display which will be revealed at the Catholic Student Leadership Award celebration in May 2025. Lorrie Temple is compiling a list of Mass times and locations for Faith Day to be shared with the Board of Trustees.

4.2 Secondary Feedback on Faith Day/Faith Activities

Tara Williams reported on the following activities in our Secondary schools: At Holy Trinity, Staff and Student Bible Study has begun and is being held once per week, weekly Rosary has begun and Fr. Augustine celebrated the Opening Mass with the school on September 18th. The HT



Staff Prayer breakfasts will begin October 1st and run six times throughout the school year. Staff will participate in a video series as part of a three-year plan to rediscover their connection to the Holy Spirit as part of the breakfasts. On Faith Day, Mass will be held for all staff on October 8th at St. Mary's Parish, Simcoe (9:00 a.m.). Staff will engage in the video teaching and continue their community connections which began as part of the 2023 Faith Day. HT's visual will be designed around the Year of Prayer consisting of a Plexi-glass-faced cross where staff can write their prayer intentions on a rock and add it to the cross. The Cross will be stationed in the Chapel and intentions can be added throughout the school year. Andrew Hall shared that Grade 9 Spiritual Tours have begun at St. John's College and Grade 9 retreats will begin next week. On October 3rd, SJC students will pilgrimage alongside job skills students to St. Pius X, Parish focusing on helping. Fr. Joe will share his experiences of pilgrimage and Fr. Rafal will lead students in prayer. Eucharistic Minister training for students will take place on October 15th, facilitated by Deacon John Moss, Diocese of Hamilton. Upon completion of the training, students will receive a certificate at their home Parish from the Bishop. This year, SJC has a Senior Worship Band along with two Junior Worship Bands. SJC's Opening Liturgy of the Word will take place on September 25th with bands sharing original songs and testimonials. The Divine Mercy Prayer Group meets weekly, and Riverview Terrace visits will begin again in October.

4.3 Elementary Feedback on Faith Day/Faith Activities

Heather Graham shared that in our Elementary schools, School wide Masses have begun across the system. Elementary schools are in process of slowly introducing the new Board Spiritual Theme (e.g. Theme Prayer being shared via announcements, introduced to Parent Councils, in newsletters, and at assemblies). Clergy has been in to welcome students back and specifically for Notre Dame, Caledonia, Confirmation preparations have begun for students to receive the Sacrament in November. Trustee Luciani shared that Sacramental preparation letters have been sent out within the Norfolk Catholic Family of Parishes encouraging families to register with their Parish.

4.4 Diocesan – Deanery Updates

Father Kevin shared some preliminary information about St. Basil's Parish being the Brantford site for the Diocese of Hamilton pilgrimage and Holy Door exhibit. Parishioners and schools will be invited to participate. Further details forthcoming. Fr. Kevin mentioned the Brant Deanery meeting is being held on September 26th and he will be meeting with his school Principals and Lisa Kuyper next week to coordinate school visits, Masses and share information about Sacramental Preparation.

4.4 F.A.C.E. Updates

N/A

5. Questions/Discussions

Chair Petrella shared the desire that schools begin to learn about Padre Pio in preparation for the opening of the new high school. Lorrie Temple passed on information about Padre Pio and his Feast Day to Humberto Cacilhas. Students learn about Saints in the Religious Education



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Minutes

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curriculum, as well, daily prayers and announcements raise awareness about Saints and their feast days.

Lorrie Temple shared on behalf of Trustee Dignard, the desire to have different prayers shared at Board Meetings. Discussion was held around the idea of inviting schools (staff and students) as well as Clergy share favourite or original prayers as part of a collection of prayers ("Symphony of Prayer" book). Lorrie and Keri will communicate messaging around this process to the system.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Carol Luciani.

Next Meeting: January 28, 2025