



ST. CLAIR CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Lighting the Way ~ Rejoicing in Our Journey

MINUTES

CATHOLIC FAITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 18, 2011 – 5:00 pm

Main Boardroom – Catholic Education Centre

Chair: Deb Crawford

Present: Cindy Waddick Margaret Palmer-McCann Liz Bujaki
 Richard Whitney Anna Giuliani

Regrets: Laura Callaghan Betty Anne Pickett Kerry Matthyssen

Trustee: Michelle Parkes

Faith Ambassadors:

Joan Martell
Kathy Foisey
Kim Gaiswinkler

Recording Secretary: Josselyne Clark

1. Opening Prayer - All

Deb Crawford, chair of the meeting, welcomed and thanked those in attendance and called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by consensus as presented.

3. Approval of Minutes -

The minutes of the January 10, 2011 meeting were approved by consensus.

4. King's College Update

Deb announced that the King's College Partnership is continually growing, Laurentian and Waterloo Catholic are two examples of new additions.

King's has started a Chamber Choir. They recently held an Irish night which was very well received.

King's was working to promote One Life Many Gifts, and recommended bringing this to each board. We have been able to promote this awareness across our board, bringing it to all staff and our senior students.

Religious Life Lecture Series is now available through podcast.

Carpe Diem will be held the last Thursday and Friday of May, schools can choose which day they plan to attend.

SOCDOCS 2011 was planned for May 20, 2011. Submissions were very low, it has not yet been confirmed if it is still taking place. It was arranged to take place at the same time as King's Social Justice Conference.

The next King's College Meeting is May 6th, 2011 at the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Board Office.

King's has wonderful speakers. As a committee we may consider hosting a speaker in the future. We could host an evening here at the CEC, it would be an excellent opportunity for adult faith formation. Comments have come forward regarding the enthusiasm of our young teachers; this surely would be well received. It was also suggested this could also be part of a twilight retreat.

5. *Faith Leadership Award*

The Director has arranged for actual lanterns that include an engraving to be the award rather than a trophy. Faith Ambassadors and Chaplains have been asked to assist in promoting the Lighting Our Way – Faith Leadership award in the schools.

6. *Board Theme for 2011 (Suggestions)*

Cindy Waddick provided a hand out with numerous Board Theme suggestions that have been submitted to her since the request went out at the January meeting. She asked for any further suggestions to be submitted by April 30th.

The committee was asked to think about where the board is headed in future years, and what themes will assist the students in their learning. Comments around the current theme were it has a "simple elegance", it is easy to remember, easy to weave, and has application at both elementary and secondary levels.

How Board's decide their themes ranges from linking to the Catholic Education Week theme to utilize the resources created. Others have chosen three part themes that carry over 3 years. There are many ideas; again submissions are due April 30th to Cindy.

7. *Updates from Catholic Curriculum Corporation (CCC)*

Liz Bujaki brought many new resources that are available to download online or for purchase through the CCC. As many teachers preferred having a hard copy to make notes while planning, they have now partnered with Maracle Press to make them available in hard copy in addition to online.

The Northern Ontario CCC has a new resource available for grades 3-6 entitled, "Living in Faith, A Catholic Approach to Virtue Education Through Shared Reading" which helps teach virtues and tie them in to the curriculum. The book includes a DVD with an audio component to the shared reading texts. The shared readings are in a variety of text formats, eg. Fiction, non-fiction, poetry. Another resource entitled, "Affirming Catholic Themes Through Mentor Texts to Enrich Student Writing" from the Northern Ontario CCC is for grade 7 & 8 students, and features the use of mentor texts.

The Eastern Ontario CCC has now published a companion document to Planting the Seeds which focuses on exploring learning skills and work habits from a Catholic perspective. This new document is for secondary to accompany the elementary book.

The CCC writing team has created a new resource on the Holocaust. The goal is for students to understand empathy and assist them in living out the virtue. The publication has students developing media texts of their own. A writing proposal has been put forth to CCC to have this document reviewed and published through Maracle Press.

Other resources mentioned were on the ethical use of technology for secondary students, and critical and creative thinking tasks for secondary. There is a perpetual calendar for each month, it has no dates. This is another great resource meant for families, helping parents to understand how we live, breathe and teach our Catholic faith, traditions and values to our students. OECTA has posters on their website on virtues available for teachers to use.

Liz mentioned the use of Catholic curriculum maps. New teachers really appreciate this resource when they are planning their lessons. It is currently being revised to include links to media and aboriginal studies. It can be found on the CCC website.

When Faith Meets Pedagogy conference will take place October 27-29th, 2011. They are in need of presenters, so the committee was asked to relay this message to staff at their schools. April 29th is the deadline for presenters to come forward. Kim Gaiswinkler offered to present at the conference and will submit her name to the WFMP committee.

Resource Lists (Handouts are attached with the complete list of resources as discussed by Liz Bujaki, also included is a copy of the order form and pricing)

1. Living in Faith – A Catholic Approach to Virtue Education Through Shared Reading (Grade 3 & 6) Available through Northern Ontario CCC
2. Affirming Catholic Themes Through Mentor Texts (Grade 7 & 8) Available through Eastern Ontario CCC
3. Catholic Curriculum Maps (Revised, 2011) Available through CCC

8. *Pastoral Plan*

February 2012 is when the plan is set to be rolled out. A group will work on the pastoral plan, and it will take place over a period of 3-5 years. It will align with the Diocesan level. Included will be the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee, Faith Ambassadors, parents and the Deanery. This plan will be part of the School Improvement Plan.

Each school will have the ability to create their own pastoral plan that fits with their school. There will be an overall theme, goals will be set accordingly, and there will be an action to fulfill in school. Each school can put together their own vision on carrying out the framework. This is also important as each school/Parish is different.

Cindy commented that taking an inventory at our schools, we are already doing many of these things. Setting goals will help us to check in and see what we are doing well, and what we can improve. It will give us the ability to measure.

The question is: Once we have the plan, how do we move forward?

Discussion around embedding this pastoral plan in our board and school improvement plans will assist in working towards goals, and celebrating success. The Board strategic plan is up for renewal soon, and this could be included in that new strat plan. It was mentioned it should be part of a living document.

The current pastoral plan hand out has 2 columns, one is the Diocesan plan, the other is our goal. Each school could review this hand out, review the goal, and submit their ideas of how to meet these goals. They could be current things they are doing at their school, or ideas of what they could do. This would generate an inventory with input from all schools of ways to meet these goals across the board. Ideas should be measurable, and include ways to promote faith. Scriptures should also be included.

As a 6 year plan, with roughly 1 goal per year, this will be supported over time. Schools can mentor one another. There needs to remain a focus, this will ensure that something is accomplished. It cannot remain open for 6 years with schools randomly working on different areas. If there is not a focus, it becomes hard to achieve.

Another thought put forward was keeping the current “Live Like Jesus” theme and tying it to the pastoral plan. If there is a goal around social justice – “In a year of social justice, we live like Jesus”. The theme has been wonderful for students, and the Chaplains and Faith Ambassadors agree it works so well for both elementary and secondary students.

The goals from the Pastoral Plan could be married to the theme, and this would be suitable for Grade 1 through 12.

The options were reviewed: have 1 goal per year (6 years); have 2 goals per year (3 years). It was agreed that the pastoral plan should be included in the strategic plan. Another option was suggested: according to the hand-out goals 1 and 6 are oriented for personal and school use. Goals 2 through 4 are main goals that could be tied into the board theme and measured at the school level. Therefore: use the 4 middle goals, and each time a goal is set, tie in goals 1 and 6, personal and school development.

In the community, the Catholic Women's League could assist in reaching out to the community. An example is hosting a King's College speaker at the Parish, with the CWL providing lunch. Teachers and parents would come to hear the speaker. This would bring everyone together.

As this is a 5 year plan, there is no rush. Planning will take place between now and February 2012. Future faith days and retreats can be linked to the Pastoral plan, and this will assist everyone is carrying out these new goals across our board and moving this forward.

Everyone agreed they are willing to assist Cindy in the planning. She will keep them informed of the progress and next steps. Cindy will be reporting to the Director soon.

9. Other Business

Liz Bujaki mentioned that there is a committee through the CCC producing a religion curriculum document. It will examine how we assess content of religion class. Some boards are using mark and comments, other boards are only using comments (Such as our board). The CCC would like to see continuity across the boards. The document is currently in the draft stages. It is set to be released in January 2012.

On April 26th, the Director has invited members of Parliament, Mayors, Politicians, along with the Trustees to the Board Office for breakfast. Secondary students will be presenting the importance of Catholic Education. Their focus will be on the Catholic Graduate Expectations.

Leadership Conference – Richard and Margaret both attended with the students. They said it was a great conference. The next one will take place in 2 years, 2013, in Ottawa.

A comment was made that there was very limited time in planning for the vocations. Perhaps next year they could be done earlier to allow for more time.

10. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm and all said the closing prayer.