



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

**MINUTES**

**CATHOLIC FAITH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Monday, April 27, 2015 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Main Boardroom – Catholic Education Centre**

**Chair:** Ann Sutton, Superintendent of Education

**Trustee:**

**Administration:**

**Present:** Adrien Gagnier – Vice Principal, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim  
Joan Martell – Teacher & Faith Ambassador, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Port Lambton  
Kerry Matthyssen – Principal, Georges P. Vanier Catholic School, Chatham  
Cindy Waddick – Elementary Chaplaincy Leader  
Joseph Palko – Chaplain, St. Patrick's Catholic High School, Sarnia  
Cory Baillergeon – Teacher, St. Anne's Catholic School, Blenheim  
Michelle MacLean – Parent, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim  
Christine Lambert – Principal, Sacred Heart Catholic School, Port Lambton  
Chris St. Amand – Student Work Study Teacher, Catholic Education Centre  
Terri Sinasac – Teacher, Elementary Literacy/Numeracy, Curriculum Elementary  
Dino Petrucci – Teacher, St. Patrick's Catholic Secondary School, Sarnia  
Raymond Girard – Teacher, Ursuline College Catholic Secondary School, Chatham  
Kim Gaiswinkler – French as a Second Language Teacher, St. Ursula Catholic School, Chatham  
Rob Cicchelli – Principal, St. Patrick's Catholic Secondary School, Sarnia  
Marcia Vermey – Parent, St. Anne Catholic School, Blenheim

**Regrets:** Brenda Rumble – Trustee  
Margaret Palmer – Chaplaincy Leader  
Jennifer Vilaranda – Chaplaincy Leader, Ursuline College Catholic Secondary School, Chatham  
Fr. Jim Higgins – Episcopal Vicar, Sarnia Deanery

**Recording Secretary:** Libby Hallett

*1. Welcome and Introductions*

Ann Sutton, chair of the meeting, welcomed those in attendance. Introductions were made.

2. *Opening Prayer – All; led by Cindy Waddick*
3. *Approval of Agenda*

**Motion: (Joan Martell and Raymond Girard) That the Agenda for the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of April 27, 2015 be approved as printed. Carried.**

4. *Approval of Minutes*

Chris St. Amand, Kim Gaiswinkler and Michelle McLean requested their titles be updated. Typing errors on pages 2-3 of the February 9, 2015 minutes were corrected.

**Motion: (Christine Lambert and Cory Baillergeon) That the Minutes for the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, February 9, 2015 be approved as printed. Carried.**

5. *Business Arising*

- 5.1 *Verbal Report on Recommendations from Retention Survey*

Ann Sutton updated the Committee on the recommendations that were brought forward to Executive Council. Executive Council received the retention survey, the raw results and the consolidation of those results that were identified by the Committee during the February 9, 2015 meeting. The recommendations that were brought to Executive Council were those with dollar amounts associated with them. For example, surveying parents to evaluate if we are offering enough courses, (e.g. offering a machine shop course).

Senior administration would like to thank the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee for all of the work that was put into this, and emphasize that everyone's efforts are greatly appreciated.

- 5.2 *Board Theme 2015-2016*

For the last 2 years the Board has had the theme "Live like Jesus – Call to Serve." This theme is accessible to students of all ages, especially in regards to the wording. The "Live like Jesus" theme will remain for another year, as the Director feels it has not finished being thoroughly explored. After the 2015-2-16 year the Director is thinking he may move away from the "Live like Jesus" theme and head towards utilizing a theme from the board vision statement, or mission statement.

Cindy Waddick asked how people found this theme was working in their schools, and the responses were as follows:

- Having visual reminders/banners in every school and in every classroom shows unity across the board; it becomes part of the fabric of the school and part of the culture
- Utilizing the theme from Catholic Education week (prayers, support documents etc.) could possibly be easier for a school to do things with than the “Call to Serve” theme
- Our external communications don’t necessarily reflect us; they are not faith centered (e.g. the large billboards being used to advertise FDK). Putting a cross or our theme could separate us from the Public Board and show parents that our Board is different
- School photographers will create banners for us free of charge; if we come up with a common theme/logo we could share it among all the schools to utilize at registrations, school functions, special events

### 5.3 *System Faith Day 2015-2016*

System Faith Day 2015-2016 will be taking place on October 23, 2015. This year we have a full day dedicated where the entire staff will be fed in 3 ways: fed at the table of the Lord through the celebration of Mass, fed as a community through sharing a meal together and fed theologically and intellectually through our speaker, Terry Nelson Johnson. We are meeting in both the north at St. Patrick’s, and in the south at UCC.

We will also be giving out the Lighting Our Way awards. The awards will be given to one recipient in the north and one in the south based on recommendations that were made by the Catholic Faith Advisory Committee many years ago. The awards will be lanterns with an engraved plaque.

The Director will be speaking in both the north and the south for approximately 30 minutes as this is one of the few opportunities he has to address the entire staff. The Chair/Vice Chair of the Board will also speak to the entire staff.

A committee has been set up to help organize the day, with people designated to certain roles in both the north and the south. The committee has already met once, and will be meeting again May 14, 2015.

### 5.4 *Projects 2014-2015*

Interest was expressed in turning the workshop that was done with the Human Resources department into a “pick it up and sue” workshop. If anyone wishes to do so they need to contact Ann Sutton.

It is also time for people to start brainstorming projects for the 2015.2016 year.

## 6. *New Business*

### 6.1 Christian Meditation with Children – Cindy Waddick

Ann Sutton began by clarifying that the Christian Meditation we would be doing is wordless; there is no one guiding you and it is about being present. Cindy then invited everyone to close their eyes and silently pray for 3 minutes. She then asked for comments, which included the difficulty to focus the mind and eliminate distractions around you. However those had that done this before found it easier than the previous time they had tried.

Cindy then presented a video and distributed a booklet on Christian Meditation. Those that had already tried Christian Meditation in their schools gave the following comments:

- Students felt that meditation made them feel safe; like they were in the hands of God; helps them feel relaxed; helps them picture what heaven looks like
- Meditation helped classroom teachers discover specific needs of students
- The students asked for the song from the video for Meditation at home

Terri Sinasac then went over what Christian Mediation does and does not look like. This information can be found on page 4 of the booklet distributed. Cindy noted the importance of debriefing following meditation (through journaling, sharing etc.) and how it helps the students understand how God is present to them.

Ann Sutton also introduced an article from the November 2014 issue of Scientific American magazine outlining the benefits of mindful meditation. The link to the article was distributed to the Committee.

## 7 *School Reports*

Cory Baillergeon: OECTA wants to address the negativity that is out there right now; urges you not to believe everything you hear in the media.

Adrien Gagnier: Every classroom competed to raise Canadian Tire money (\$400-\$500 was raised) which was used

Marcia Vermey: Her son was confirmed this year; attending the yes masses gave a very positive sense of community; good to engage the parents in home activities to re-establish the parent-child faith formation.

Michelle McLean: She is a Sunday school teacher and the yes masses brought a lot of younger kids (30 compared to 3-12); trying to engage the school-parish connection

Dino Petrucci: Handed out copies of “33 Days to Morning Glory” to the entire Committee; 7 teachers at St. Patrick’s are currently doing all 33 days of the retreat in preparation for Marian Consecration. The type of prayer offered here is pondering and reading upon some of the great truths of our faith in regards to Mary.

Raymond Girard: UCC students just completed the 30 hour fast; students were moved by the idea of hunger being a reality

Kim Gaiswinkler: In addition to Christian Meditation St. Ursula had a Lenten fundraiser “Jar Wars” with the idea being to count the number of coins, not the dollar amount. The money raised was used to buy 3 goats to send to Africa, with the remainder of the money being donated to Christ the Kind for their Africa project.

Joan Martell: Grade 2 students are working towards getting reconciliation in first communion; recently had a literacy and math night that went terrifically

Christine Lambert: Grade 5 students are going to a retreat; Grade 5’s were picked as they are left out of a lot of things; Grade 8 students are involved in the living stones project where each of the 4 schools is going to create one piece of artwork representing one the of the sacraments, but the 4 pieces will be submitted as 1 piece of artwork

Kerry Matthyssen: Had a presentation on Canadian Food for Children

Terri Sinasac: added a slideshow to the Living Our Faith website called Faith in Action

Chris St. Amand: currently involved in 4 schools; during lent he went to a different school every day and enjoyed the continuity there was between them despite geographical location etc; good testament of the system and the leaders in it

Rob Cicchelli: Diocese in Grade 8 day on May 13; St. Patrick’s will be hosting the dinner and some of the evening sessions in the building

Joseph Palko: Cyclone Aid Event – canvassed the Sarnia area with the aim to knock on every door with the proceeds going to Inn of the Good Shepherd; Muskoka leaders had a mass getting ready to go as a sendoff; has 110-115 students, family memebtrs teachers etc in attendance

Ann Sutton: shared an experience from St. Philip school in the FDK classroom; the students envisioned what Jesus was like as a boy and created a book

8            *Closing Prayer; led by Cindy Waddick.*

9            *Adjournment*

**MOTION: (Raymond Girard and Adrien Gagnier) To adjourn the meeting.**  
*Carried.*

The Catholic Faith Advisory Committee Meeting of Monday, April 27, 2015 at 7:37 pm.