



# Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE Faith and Equity Committee held on Thursday, October 12, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. in the Large Boardroom at the Catholic Education Centre, 1355 Lansdowne Street West, Peterborough.

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**Present:** Linda Ainsworth (Chairperson), Peter Bagnall, Toni Bellefontaine (on behalf of Anne Heemskerck, Stefani Burosch, Maria Fitzgerald (on behalf of Wendy Tedford), Sharon Lajoie, Fr. Paul Massel, Helen McCarthy, Joe Monardo, Kelly O'Boyle, Stephen O'Sullivan, Bart Scollard, Karen Stoker,

**Absent/Regrets:** Patty-Anne Bronson, Wayne Clark, Caitlin Currie, Jessica Devlin, Doug Dodd, Jim Gibson, Christina Maschas-Hammond, Luke Stocking

**Administration:** Laurie Corrigan

**Recorder:** Michelle Kennedy

**Guests:** Jane Braithwaite

## A. Call to Order:

### 1. Opening Prayer

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and Fr. Paul Massel was asked by the Chairperson, Linda Ainsworth, to lead the committee in prayer.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION:** Moved by Helen McCarthy, seconded by Karen Stoker that the Agenda be accepted as circulated.

Carried

### 3. Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

None declared

### 4. Approval of the Minutes.

**MOTION:** Moved by Helen McCarthy, seconded by Stephen O'Sullivan that the minutes of the Faith and Equity Advisory Committee meeting held on April 24, 2017, be approved.

Carried.

5. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**B. Recommended Actions/Presentations:**

1. Strategic Priorities

Laurie Corrigan gave an update on the Strategic Planning Process that the Director of Education began last year and the wide-spread consultation that took place with all stakeholders within our board and the community. Michael Nasello undertook a large consultation process and collected feedback which culminated a renewed vision statement with a refreshed look.

The new look of the strategic priorities still references the work done in the last strategic plan and there were many parts to the previous plan which the consultation endeavoured to keep. Laurie reviewed the change from 'Learning, Leadership and Service' to the new action words: 'Learn, Lead, Serve'. There are strategic priorities which are focused and grouped under each vision area. A mission statement, 'To educate students in faith-filled, safe, inclusive Catholic learning communities by nurturing the mind, body and spirit of all', was added.

On behalf of Michael Nasello, Laurie Corrigan thanked the committee for their participation and contribution to the strategic priority consultation process.

2. Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ, Grade 4 Program

Peter Bagnall, Student Achievement Consultant in the area of Religious Education and Family Life, introduced himself and gave a presentation on the newly implemented Grade Four Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ program. This program is the progression of the elementary religious education program that has already been put into Grades One, Two and Three. Upper grades are also being developed by Pearson and will be available for purchase by the board.

Peter gave an overview of the resources available and demonstrated some of the on-line features that can be accessed by parents, teachers, and families at home.

3. Rosary Program

Peter Bagnall distributed the Rosary Program booklet that has recently been developed for use by volunteers in our schools. Peter reviewed the booklet with the committee and explained the components of the program from kindergarten through to secondary school. The volunteers are also given a copy of 'The Rosary with Pope Francis' as a reference.

Peter recognized leadership of Maria Fitzgerald and the volunteers who attend the schools as an important part of the program. It was noted that prayer is led by the volunteers but teachers are present in the classroom and are able to take the opportunity to pray with the students as part of the class.

Father Paul and Peter Bagnall responded to questions from the committee about the Rosary Program.

#### 4. Sacramental Preparation

Father Paul Massel gave a brief overview of how the Sacramental Preparation is being conducted in partnership with the school and parish. Fr. Paul has been attending meetings with Parish Priests and Teachers and collaborating on how they will share in the preparation program. Improvements have been made in the communication between school, church and home. The program 'Chosen', which is a series of videos, has been adopted and purchased for every elementary school to prepare grade seven students for Confirmation. At this time it is being used in Peterborough only but should expand to the rest of the Diocese. The schools will cover half of the videos and the parish will cover the other half.

#### 5. Be Well Strategy Update

Stefani Burosch gave an update on the status of the Be Well Strategy. She stated that last year, there were consultations throughout the board on the Be Well Strategy. This has resulted in a new 30 page strategy document which is posted on the Board website.

Stefani reviewed the Mental Health and Well-being web page and the themes Mind, Body, Spirit and how we imbed our Catholic faith lens when we speak of well-being. Areas of focus for the next three years were highlighted.

### C. Information Items:

#### 1. Renewing the Promise Update

Laurie Corrigan gave a brief update regarding Renewing the Promise.

The Institute for Catholic Education and the Assembly of Catholic Bishops have engaged the public to gather information and examine the prevalent themes which will be used to guide the direction of Catholic Education in the future. This initiative, called 'Renewing the Promise' has evolved from two predecessor documents. 'This Moment of Promise' from 30 years ago and 'Fulfilling the Promise' which followed and considered the changes in Catholic Education since the first letter.

The next step in the process is a symposium which will be held in Toronto in November, 2017. A team of 14 people from our Board will attend. Laurie encouraged the committee to go to the ACBO website and read the previous direction-setting pastoral letters.

#### 2. Holocaust Trip, Summer, 2017

Laurie Corrigan informed the committee of the Holocaust Trip that students and the Director, Michael Nasello, participated in during the summer of 2017. Student attending the trip were able to gain secondary school credit for school work related to the trip. A video which highlighted the students' perspective and powerful messages was viewed by the committee.

#### 3. PVNC Celebrates World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation

Pope Francis declared September 1<sup>st</sup> as a world day of prayer for the Care of Creation. Since this day did not fall within the school year, it was celebrated by the Board on October 4, which

coincided with the Feast of St. Francis. Many schools and the Catholic Education Centre participated by having prayer services to commemorate its significance.

#### 4. Committee Member Updates

Committee members were invited to share any updates with the Committee.

Maria Fitzgerald – reported that Wendy Tedford is away at a provincial CWL event in Toronto. Maria read a report on Wendy's behalf which highlighted the activities of the Peterborough CWL throughout the spring and summer, including their work to present resolutions to Provincial and Federal Parliament representatives.

Sharon Lajoie – There have been three Indigenous Cultural Competency training sessions so far this fall. There have been participants completing Cycle One and Cycle Two training. Orange shirt day was commemorated by a majority of schools in our board.

A Student Leaders retreat will take place at the beginning of November, entitled 'Voices that Listen' will include guests from First Nations and Métis Communities. The students will engage in a blanket exercise, learn about cultural competency, and examine next steps in 'reconciliation' for students.

Peter Bagnall – reported that a team of five representatives from the board attended training delivered by the Ministry's Equity Secretariat on Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy. The group was presented a framework consisting of three pillars: cultural competencies – recognizing and celebrating backgrounds, critical consciousness – recognizing systemic inequities and action steps to overcome and change thinking. There are many connections to the Catholic Social teachings and to Well-being.

Fr. Paul Massel – is feeling a sense of hope, with changes that he has been facilitating. The Cultural Competency training was personally rewarding and with the understanding of reconciliation, hope is there. At a Barrie Region Equity meeting he and Peter Bagnall heard Dr. Barbara Perry, an expert in hate crimes, speak.

Helen McCarthy – reported that there will be an event to celebrate spiritual diversity at the Synagogue this weekend which has been coordinated by the Unitarians. The information was shared with us by the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Joe Monardo – Introduced himself to the Committee as a representative for CUPE members on the committee. Previously, Joe was part of the Equity Committee and he takes the honour to be part of this group and get information from this table to CUPE members.

Joe expressed gratitude to the implementation of specialized people to work with classrooms and give suggestions to work on behaviour strategies. Really appreciative of the extra tools and extra hope for the students and staff members.

Stefani Burosch – reported that PVNC continues to be on the forefront of how students are supported, especially those the students who are at risk and struggling. Being involved in equity issues creates a better way of identifying students at risk and understanding their barriers, which in some cases, are perhaps systemic.

Karen Stoker– gave an example of students being heard by the Minister and Deputy Minister. The Ministry of Education was looking at closing provincial demonstration schools due to lessening enrolment. Many of the students who attend demonstration schools have experienced chronic deprivation of success in the regular system and the demonstration schools have been a beacon of hope where they have succeeded. When the Minister and Deputy Minister visited the demonstration schools the students were able to tell them told their stories of success. Their voices were heard and the demonstration schools are not closing.

Bart Scollard – reported that historically, on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, OECTA held a Mass for deceased teachers which was followed by a social. The Board also held a Mass for deceased employees. This year OECTA will join with the Board for this event.

The Executive of OECTA has formed a wellbeing committee and will survey their members on the subject. OECTA will be sharing their findings with administration.

Jane Braithwaite – Asked if the schools could be reminded that the Ojibway National Anthem be played. Learning Consultant, Sharon Lajoie indicated that the FNMI contacts in the school understand the importance of playing the anthem and have reiterated that the anthem is to be played.

Linda Ainsworth – noted that an election year is coming up and with that, challenges to Catholic Education. Linda reminded the committee of the reasons and messages to be mindful of when speaking positively about Catholic Education.

#### **D. Next Committee Meeting Date:**

1. The next meeting is scheduled for, **Thursday, January 25, 2018**, at the Catholic Education Centre, Peterborough
2. Future Agenda Items  
Please forward any future agenda items to Michelle Kennedy, Administrative Assistant.
3. Selection of Member for Opening Prayer – Sharon Lajoie
4. Selection of Member for Closing Prayer – Stephen O’Sullivan and Stefani Burosch

#### **E. Conclusion:**

1. Closing Prayer

At the request of the Chairperson, Peter Bagnall closed the meeting with prayer.

2. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Moved by Helen McCarthy, seconded by Stephen O’Sullivan, that the meeting adjourn at 8:29 p.m.

Carried.

DRAFT