

# Minutes

**THE MINUTES OF THE FAITH AND EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Thursday, February 2, 2023 6:30 p.m. virtually and in-person at the Catholic Education Centre - Boardroom**

**PRESENT:**

Trustees/Members: Loretta Durst (Chairperson), Mary Ann Martin, Jennifer Angelo, Kim Fletcher, Chidinma Igboanugo, Tenesia Benjamin, Father Paul Massel, Adam White, Michael Mooney, Jeff Hockett, Christine Haffie, Julianne Charette, Maria Fitzgerald, Iman Deal, Dean Dettloff

Guests:

Administration: Jeannie Armstrong

Recorder: Vicki Blakely

Absent/Regrets: Stephanie Dahl, Jessica Devlin, Bart Scollard, Branden Fonovic, Angela Clarke, Kevin MacKenzie, Alexa Purves, Nora Shaughnessy, Siobhan Marie, Madelyn Gaskell

**A. Call to Order:**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Loretta Durst called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Territorial Recognition

Jeannie Armstrong acknowledged that the meeting took place on the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg (or the Mississauga Anishinaabe).

3. Opening Prayer

Loretta Durst invited Chidinma Igboanugo to lead the opening prayer.

4. Additions to the Agenda

None noted.

5. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION**

Motioned by: Mary Ann Martin, seconded by: Jennifer Angelo  
That the agenda be approved, as presented.

Carried

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None noted.

7. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, October 13, 2022

**MOTION**

Motioned by Jeff Hockett, seconded by: Fr. Paul Massel  
That the Minutes of the Faith and Equity Advisory Committee held  
on October 13, 2023 be approved, as presented.  
Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

None noted.

**B. Discussion/Presentations:**

1. Development & Peace Schools - Dean Detloff

Dean Detloff gave an overview of the initiative to bring faith and justice into the classroom; giving a brief history of Development & Peace (D&P). Development and Peace's school program makes heavy topics more translatable throughout the school years, with its adaptable/flexible program. The school program offers challenges that students can complete and receive badges. A poster is given to each school and as badges are earned they are placed upon the poster to reflect on how far they have come in the program. There is no required amount of challenges/badges that must be completed and is at the discretion of the school. Examples of badges were given, ranging from simple to more complex. Development and Peace provides support to educators in a variety of ways to help complete the badges, including a database on their website with activities and prayers for educators. They also have an Educator Network - connecting colleagues, offering newsletter and more about resources and opportunities. Dean offered his email if anyone had any questions, please reach out via email [ddettloff@devp.org](mailto:ddettloff@devp.org)

At the end of the presentation it was asked if this had been presented to the Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association (it had not), and suggested that the presentation should be offered to them.

2. Chaplaincy Work at PVNCCDSB - Iman Deal - Chaplain and Fr. Paul Massel - Board Chaplain/Faith Animator

Iman and Fr. Paul presented on the role of PVNCCDSB Chaplains - symbolic presence, we and they all are the sacrament, as we are all called to care for one another, to bring Christ's ministry of presence to everyone. Chaplains provide pastoral care in PVNCCDSBs educational environment, promote spiritual and human development, answer God's call by offering a helping hand in the school, parish, and community. Chaplains bring awareness to the needs of our brothers and sisters in our country and in

the world. They don't impose, they listen; meeting students where they are and guide them with Faith as a foundation. Chaplains are role models for students and staff. PVNCCDSB schools, although Catholic, are full of diverse beliefs and backgrounds.

The responsibilities of the Chaplain are to provide pastoral leadership and implement the pastoral plan. Both are intended to encourage the development of the Catholic Faith amongst the students and staff by offering opportunities for participation and leadership in community worship, class masses, daily prayer, scripture, reading, meditation, music, ministry and Eucharist

Chaplains offer opportunities to both staff and students to provide leadership building, have them realize their gifts and talents; boosting self confidence and creating leadership skills. They want students to remember their own successes. Striving to be that person helps them and guides them through a faith foundation to be mentally healthy and confident.

The board Chaplains organize retreats for students and staff, plan Faith day in the board, and develop liturgies. The Grade 9 retreat has some offered in the school and some off-site from the school. The Grade 12 retreat celebrates mass in the woods by the water in nature with creation. Students as they get into the higher grades are more confident to volunteer in leadership roles. The Chaplains at the 6 secondary schools develop, implement and coordinate programs and practicums for students to volunteer in the wider community.

Key Responsibilities include providing pastoral care to students, staff & families through crisis, illness, visits to the hospital, attending visitations and funerals, sending mass cards and cards of sympathy. Chaplains work with the student success teams and many different staff within the building to support students. They also work closely with administration and social workers to help students achieve success. True believers in school - parish community. coordinate with the school crisis intervention team, and participate in board crisis intervention.

Chaplains are providing guidance to our faith ambassadors - from the elementary feeder schools. They help provide support in regards to liturgies promoting the board pastoral plan, spiritual support for schools, prayer, and building a sense of community together.

3. Black History Month Presentation - Equity Team: Benjamin, Tenesia - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Advisor and Chidinma Igboanugo - Faith & Equity Learning Consultant

Benjamin gave a brief overview of what PVNCCDSB has completed and planned for Black History Month. For the first time, January 17, 2023, PVNCCDSB as a system participated in Black Shirt Day. This day raises awareness about racism, the systemic barriers and struggles faced by black and racialized students within the school community.

Opening ceremonies commenced February 1, 2023 at the Catholic Education celebrating the theme Black Resilience. The event included staff, leaders, community members, trustee, and student, Valentina, who gave the Land Acknowledgement.

Resources were shared with both elementary and secondary schools ahead of time to allow them to be incorporated into the learning and lesson plans. Professional Development & Social Initiatives are providing teachers personal learning resources. Professional development has been provided to administration and staff.

There will be multiple events offered throughout the month including Hair Therapy, Canadian Multicultural Inventors Museum exhibit and Hidden Figures discussion panel.

Hair Therapy is being offered in 7 host schools, with a black hair consultant/certified hair stylist providing hair care and hair love demonstrations. A mental health lead will be active in this event providing tools and resources in navigating support. Schools have been a tremendous support in helping launch Hair Therapy.

Various high schools at PVNCCDSB will be hosting the mobile exhibit provided by the Canadian Multicultural Inventors Museum focusing on racialized leaders in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math).

The movie Hidden Figures will be discussed in a hybrid (in-person/virtual) offering to staff of PVNCCDSB on February 15 from 4-6pm. Panelists will include a principal, human resources manager, teacher and psychologist.

Benjamin thanked everyone behind the scenes for helping to bring the events and resources together for Black History Month at PVNCCDSB.

### **C. Information Items:**

#### **1. Committee Member Updates**

Julianne Charette - Very excited about the upcoming panel discussion event Hidden Figures. Piggybacking on Black History Month, principals are beginning a book study with the book *Principal Leadership for Equity* with 20 principals participating monthly to build capacity and study the book together virtually.

Adam White - Gave a history of the shift away from English as a second language to English language learners, and now known as multilingual learners or multilingual language learners. The shift has moved towards a more equitable term, as English may not be their second language, many students know multiple languages and are learning English. In addition, French as a Second Language program has changed to French Programs.

There are approximately 250 students being supported at PVNCCDSB with varying degrees of support. Some may need help with language, 70 students need medium - high support, the rest are lower support, with some requiring check-ins.. The number has slowly grown over the last month with 10-15 new families. Multi-lingual itinerant teachers are part of the intake process and meetings with families. PVNCCDSB is seeing an increase in demand for support. The New Canadians Centre has recently hired for the role of vocational liaison helping students to plan for their journey/pathway into careers.

Jennifer Angelo - The Third Path is a framework being introduced, meeting with principals and engaging in professional development to integrate The Third Path into schools. The mental health team has also been in schools this week guiding meditation with students.

Maria Fitzgerald - The Catholic Women's League is undergoing major structural changes, through a 4 year plan with the majority of it being implemented this year. National theme 2022, "Catholic and Living It!" A focus to rebuild relationships assuring that God changes all things into beauty. Members have embraced the theme, and recruiting has been successful at rebuilding the CWL community post pandemic.

Three pillars: Faith, Service and Social Justice. Faith - formerly spiritual development and Christian family life - has now combined. Service - has now combined spiritual development, Christian Family life, community life, education and health, communications, parish activities. Social Justice - was community life, education and health.

The Catholic Women's League is the largest organization of women in Canada and the only organization that has an annual invitation to meet with the government. The initiative of the white lines on highways was from the CWL and they were also involved in the implementation of seatbelts.

**D. Next Committee Meeting:**

- a. Next Meeting Date:  
Thursday, May 11, 2023
- b. Agenda items for the next meeting are to be forwarded to Administrative Assistant, Vicki Blakley ([vblakley@pvnccdsb.on.ca](mailto:vblakley@pvnccdsb.on.ca))
- c. Selection of committee members for Land Acknowledgement – Jennifer Angelo
- d. Selection of committee members for Opening Prayer – Fr. Paul Massel
- e. Selection of committee member for Closing Prayer – Mary Ann Martin

**E. Conclusion:**

1. Closing Prayer: Kim Fletcher closed with prayer.

Trustee Loretta Durst thanked everyone for coming.

2. Adjournment

**MOTION**

Moved by Jennifer Angelo, seconded by Jeff Hockett  
That the Faith and Equity Advisory Committee meeting of  
February 2, 2023 be adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Carried