



Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE FAITH AND EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. both in-person at the Catholic Education Centre and virtually through video-conference.

PRESENT:

Trustees/Members	Virtually: Kevin MacKenzie (Chairperson), Jennifer Angelo, Iman Deal, Bart Scollard, Jeff Hockett, Stephanie Dahl, Esther Broomfield, Jessica Devlin, Kyle Deegan, Paul Ayotte, Luke Stocking In-Person: Adam White, Michael Mooney, Donna Goheen, Mary Cozzarini
Administration	Stephen O'Sullivan, Michael Nasello
Recorder	Vicki Blakely
Absent/Regrets	Emmanuel Pinto, Michelle Griepsma, Angela Connors, Christine Haffie, Josh Hill, Eli McColl, Justene Briggs, Maria Fitzgerald, Nora Shaughnessy

A. Call to Order:

1. Welcome

Kevin MacKenzie called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Territorial Recognition

Kevin MacKenzie acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishnabe Peoples.

3. Opening Prayer

Jennifer Angelo led the opening prayer.

4. Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Stephen O'Sullivan asked that C. Information Items 1. and 2. precede B. Discussion/Presentations Item 3.

MOTION: Moved by Adam White, seconded by Jennifer Angelo that Emmanuel Pinto be excused from the meeting.

Carried.

5. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Stephanie Dahl, seconded by Adam White that the Agenda be accepted.

Carried.

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None.

7. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, April 30, 2020

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Angelo, seconded by Stephanie Dahl that the Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, April 30, 2020 be approved.

Carried.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

B. Discussions/Presentations:

1. Celebrating Sacred Teaching Wheel

Donna Goheen gave a brief description and update on the Celebrating Sacred Teaching Resource. Celebrating Sacred Teachings aligns the Grandfather Teachings, Fruits of the Holy Spirit, Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Catholic Graduate Expectations into an interactive resource for educators. The resource was rolled out this fall to our schools with good feedback.

2. Development & Peace Report - Luke Stocking

Due to technical issues, this was presented after Section C. Information Item 1.

The organization is in the process of drawing up a plan on what to offer schools, specifically in the context of everything going on in the world. Thinking about the current pandemic, WEE charity collapse, the organization wanted to design a plan that would be really effective. Development and Peace met with teachers today, including some from PVNC to review the resources available to engage with schools/teachers. They will be rolling out an engagement plan for Advent, in a way that is sensitive to the current realities.

Theme of Development and Peace this year is the [Recovering Together Campaign](#), connecting the global pandemic recognizing that Canadians are struggling in our own communities trying to find ways to recover while being mindful of the struggles that are also occurring throughout the world.

Development and Peace is looking to respond to the global pandemic with a global solution by taking care of ourselves and others. Impacts on indigenous communities, on women, refugees - how do you physically distance in a refugee camp? These are the challenges being faced. Key Statistics estimate - 265 million could face starvation by the end of 2020, economic fallout could push 500,000 to poverty. Only 1/5 people in low-income countries are covered by safety net programs.

The main educational message - the pandemic is affecting everyone. The impact of COVID-19 could reverse much of the progress made around the world to help others facing poverty.

The organization is mindful that the pandemic has been tough on students' mental health and is looking at how they can connect this with the challenges our global brothers & sisters are facing. They are currently building a program to share with school boards that schools can engage in - 1 thing/month. Fundraising, education, awareness, advocacy, - it will be a clear/simple program to share with schools. It will include a Catholic School section for teachers including lesson plans and other resources. Development and Peace are being sensitive to the fact that schools are facing new challenges and are reaching out to develop engagement based on the needs of teachers/schools with simplified resources.

C. Information Items:

1. Culturally Responsive & Relative Pedagogy Presentation - Donna Goheen

Donna Goheen presented and reviewed the Culturally Responsive & Relative Pedagogy (CRRP) that was presented to staff at the beginning of the school year as professional development. The presentation discusses the CRRP Framework: Charity, equity, social justice, and equality as it relates to the spiritual teachings.

2. Introduction to Anti-Racism & Anti-Discrimination Training Presentation - Steve O'Sullivan/Michael Mooney

Steve O'Sullivan gave an overview of the professional development (PD) that was given to staff. Michael Mooney then presented the Celebrating Sacred Teachings (CST) Wheel - reflecting on how we might use this document as an anchor when encountering teaching

& learning that may be sensitive and/or divisive.

An example of this is colonialism in the classroom and locally. The CST Wheel gives us a way to understand difficult concepts like that of colonialism or anti-colonialism with the emotional responses it can evoke. The October Prayers: charity, becoming caring family members, understanding, love can be related back to these difficult concepts and allow understanding. In the PD provided to staff, there was an opportunity to reflect by bringing the 4 Sacred Teachings into the discussion of colonialism, one society seeking to rule another, Canada as settlers.

Then the presentation was moved to that of the CBC News Indigenous section of their website (this discussion was part of the PD for staff). The point being that by looking at these headlines, it's difficult to go through and not have to think critically the way one views living in Canada. And that these headlines would provoke different feelings/ideas for different people. The Sacred Teachings can be used as a guide in coming to terms with the truths about the society we live in, locally, provincially and nationally. The Sacred Teachings is an interesting application to use to navigate challenging or difficult waters.

B. Discussion/Presentations

1. DP 700 - Equity and Inclusive Education review - Steve O'Sullivan

The Terms of Reference and committee mandate was reviewed.

Then the current version of DP700 - Equity and Inclusive Education was reviewed. Then groups were then assigned questions from the [How Do We know We're Making a Difference?](#) and broke out into discussions. The groups then returned from the break-out groups and presented their responses. These were then placed in the discussion document for future reference.

C. Information Items

1. Committee Member Updates:

Mary Cozzarini – Many schools engaged in support of the Thanksgiving Food Drives in their various areas. It was a great opportunity for students to give back & engage in our communities with a good response. Grade 7 teachers received their new Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ materials. This has been a big confidence booster gaining support through these materials for teachers.

Michael Nasello - Around the province - Education Equity Secretariat promoting school boards to create identity based funding projects. PVNC is putting that proposal forward this school year. All boards will be required to have something in place by 2023.

Donna Goheen - World Religion students have been taking virtual field trips and have had 3 guest speakers; one on Islam, a Rabbi from the UK, and Fr. Paul & Fr. Tom. The Cathedral visit was sent to all the schools to enjoy.

Adam White - ELL - both ELL teachers Christina Maschas-Hammond & Aspa Bouzinelos have retired. Tanya Kranc is the new ELL itinerant teacher. The quadmester has been a

new challenge to work with students. The Summer Learning program was very active and went well. Many incredible stories from our ELL students, both humbling and helping in our ability to serve them within our community.

Michael Mooney - It has been challenging maintaining the momentum without the traditional tools. We have still been participating in Land Acknowledgement, Orange Shirt Day - Residential Schools, and have Treaty Recognition Week upcoming in November. Treaty Recognition Week is an opportunity to explore that we are all treaty people - what it means to be a treaty person.

Paul Ayotte - Knights of Columbus - Majority of the membership are seniors, due to the pandemic they haven't been meeting regularly. They were able to help students out with the food drive taking donations to St. Vinnie's - almost 1000 lbs. of food from Immaculate Conception CES.

Jeff Hockett - Many new staff in the Special Education department - 4 new consultants and a new vice principal. The conversation throughout the beginning of the school year has concentrated on exceptional learners in Remote Learning (REML) - 542 students with IEPs, this will likely change with the upcoming transition date. We have been busy facilitating SERTs & IEPs from home school and connecting this with new virtual teachers in REML. Priority has been updating versions of the IEPs, prioritizing the students that really needed it the most and ensuring access to support was available. This was a very big challenge but staff has stepped up. Lots of barriers are still being faced, but we have been working at identifying the barriers and trying to connect students in the virtual classroom. Speech Language Pathologists (SLP) & Psych are communicating with the students to provide the assessments & communicating with the virtual staff. Connecting the social workers with students has continued.

Stephanie Dahl - The teachers number one priority has been to create a safe environment for students and a sense of community. Emphasis on the soft start was good to have the acknowledgement from the board that things were going to be different and help facilitate that in the classrooms. Teachers are taking it one day at a time.

Bart Scollard - Anxiously awaiting the data from the transition survey. Working in guidance and as a science teacher has been busy, report cards are going out tomorrow. Has been busy with the provincial body for OECTA for guidance departments.

Jennifer Angelo – We were able to provide extra support for students over the summer in the absence of the board psychologist, supporting existing students and new referrals. There was also an opportunity to provide a transition program that focused on 2 different groups - children feeling more anxious with the return to school and for students with intellectual delays that needed to review the routines. Both were well attended and most transitioned into in-person learning, allowing them to be set up to successfully attend in the fall. We were really pleased to be able to offer this to the students. Additional support transitioned into the fall for staff, students, and families for both in-person and REML learning. Professional development with virtual staff was provided and support is continuing.

Esther Broomfield - Thanked the committee for the opportunity to be involved and hopes that there are opportunities to provide help and meaningful support going forward.

Jessica Devlin – Work continues at the New Canadians Centre in Peterborough, by appointment only. Things are looking very different this year but still connecting with families, referrals from the schools, and/or bringing the families to the schools. Only 3 families have arrived since March, they quarantined for 2 weeks, found housing and children began school. Traditionally the area has seen a lot of Syrian families, but most recently have had three new families all from different countries. The centre continues to support ELL students and connect with ELL itinerant teachers. Staff wanted to pass along a huge thank you to the teachers and administration, for the effort and dedication to the people who are working with the kids.

Kyle Deegan - LINK Program - Relying on the LINK leaders to help support the grade 9's if they're having challenges or need support. Iman Deal, Chaplaincy Leader, has been working with students - no matter where our students are in their faith journey there are supports for students along the way. Terry Fox - cohorts are walking in 15-minute intervals - \$7500 has been raised already in spite of the COVID-19 climate.

Luke Stocking - Iman Deal from Holy Trinity was one of the educators on the call today with Development and Peace. Holy Trinity participates in Think Fast - pennant for this recently received by the school. The Think Fast program will be promoted again this year.

Marie Fitzgerald - Provided a written update from the Catholic Women's League in her absence. Ms. Wendy Tedford, Past President will be awarded the C.W.L. National Life Membership on November 3rd. Many activities of the C.W. L. have been cancelled due to the pandemic, the group continues to prepare meals or offer other means of support such as phone calls to those confined to their homes. Over \$5000 has been raised through drive-in Bingo and Tap and Go Bingo which in turn has been donated to the needy in the community - St. Vincent de Paul & One Roof as examples. Although the rosary visitors cannot visit the schools, they have been busy making over 3000 rosaries for the Grafton, Cobourg, Port Hope and Newcastle Schools in preparation for the launch of the program in these schools. The Rosary Program has COVID-19 procedures in place to ensure they are not shared between students and will be handed to the next grade annually.

Kevin MacKenzie - The next Catholic Parent Engagement Committee meeting is Monday November 2, 2020 from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

D. Next Meeting:

1. February 11, 2021 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
2. Future agenda Items are to be forwarded to Vicki Blakely
3. Selection of Member for Opening Prayer – Donna Goheen
4. Selection of Member for Closing Prayer – Iman Deal

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer

Mary Cozzarini led the closing prayer.

2. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Adam White, seconded by Michael Mooney

that the meeting adjourn – 8:53p.m.

Carried.

Committee Chairperson

Superintendent of Learning
per VB