



Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE FAITH AND EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Thursday, February 11th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. virtually through video-conference

PRESENT:

Trustees/Members	Kevin MacKenzie (Chairperson), Jennifer Angelo, Iman Deal, Bart Scollard, Jeff Hockett, Jessica Devlin, Kyle Deegan, Paul Ayotte, Luke Stocking, Adam White, Michael Mooney, Donna Goheen, Emmanuel Pinto, Christine Haffie, Maria Fitzgerald,
Guests	Tanya Kranc, Steven Williams
Administration	Jeannie Armstrong
Recorder	Shannon Carr
Absent/Regrets	Stephanie Dahl, Esther Broomfield, Mary Cozzarini, Michelle Griepsma, Angela Connors, Josh Hill, Eli McColl, Alexa Purves, 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

None.

5. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Paul Ayotte, seconded by Father Paul Massel
that the Agenda be accepted.

Carried.

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None.

7. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday October 22, 2020

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Angelo, seconded by Donna Goheen
that the Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, October 22, 2020 have been approved.

Carried.

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

B. Discussions/Presentations:

1. Revisiting PVNCCDSB's Equity Plan: The Equity & Diversity Continuum

Jeannie Armstrong gave a presentation and update on PVNCCDSB's 2017-2020 strategic plan and discussed next steps in the revision of this document. Next steps include providing resources such as guest speakers and Professional Development courses for system/school leaders and consultants. Guest speaker Nadine Williams presented to the Principal's about nurturing hope through allyship. The Board received great feedback from principals about Nadine's presentation and Nadine will speak to students in each of our six high schools. Jeannie also shared PVNCCDSB's "Equity Continuum" which will provide further assistance with educating and training staff, with Equity and Diversity, including areas such as promoting student voices, pedagogical practices, safe schools, family/community connections and professional development.

Professional Development is being provided to staff from all levels of the Board so we can support the system with training on equity. Senior staff, Administrators and Learning Consultants are all taking part in the National Equity Project (NEP). This project is a six week course, with one session per week about how to coach students in Equity.

2. Black History Month Resources- Jennifer Angelo

Jennifer presented the We Are All Wonderfully Made resource, which includes a variety of lessons including curriculum for black history month. Through the We Are All Wonderfully Made resource, lessons are also included for Indigenous history, ELL and LGBTQ. Lessons are being added on a regular basis.

In terms of Black History month in Canada, Jennifer Angelo provided an article to teachers from "School Mental Health Ontario." This is an article that teachers are encouraged to read before utilizing resources. Discussion points in this resource help to create safe spaces within the classroom so all students can engage in conversations. It is a great document for teachers to review and prepare themselves to reflect on the content provided. It is also another great resource to support student mental health to identify possible triggers along with next steps for staff. The Board has also provided additional prompts to teachers which gives them the language and topics to start the conversation and establish norms.

Exit cards have been provided to teachers along with the resources so mental health leads can gather data on who is using the resources and how they can further provide support. More information can be found here: [Wonderfully Made](#)

3. ELD/ESL Update - Adam White & Steven Williams

We had 55 intake meetings this year, mostly relocated students. Incomers are coming to us knowing how school works but not knowing enough to be able to effectively participate in academic classes. We have an incredible partnership with settlement workers whose job it is to support families and help them integrate into our community and schools. They are helping them get into homework clubs and connecting with chaplains. We had challenges this year getting those connections to work again with COVID-19. However, we set up virtual meetings with settlement workers and it was a huge accomplishment and has worked well for both sides. The virtual meetings helped with the student's mental health as well.

Adam introduced STEP, which is a Ministry Language Assessment tool, which guides teachers through English development. ELL has received funding from the Ministry of Education in order to kick start this new program. We are moving all STEP forms/assessment information to Clevr. Clevr is an online database to store information. Teachers that are currently teaching ELL students will have access to student information along with the administration and it will be a secure way to share the assessment information of that student. More information can be found here: [Update on ELL](#)

C. Information Items:

1. Faith & Diocesan Update- Father Paul Massel

Before COVID-19 we had a morning prayer at the CEC every Wednesday morning, around 7 or 8 staff members would attend. During COVID-19 lockdown we have integrated the prayer via google meets and have made it available to all staff members of PVNCCDSB. It has become a great success with 25-30 people joining every Wednesday morning.

The Thursday after Ash Wednesday we have a book study called “The Universal Christ”. The writer, Richard Rohr, will be speaking with us while we read the book. We have about 20 people attending the book study which will take place over 6 evenings.

An Ash Wednesday service was filmed outdoors to connect to the sacredness of the earth and involved students from many of our high schools. The Bishop prepared the homily at the Ash Wednesday service. This pre-recorded service will be available to all PVNCCDSB staff and students.

2. CWL and Rosary in the Schools update - Maria Fitzgerald

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 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.

This year we are having mini member meetings to elect new Diocesan officers and conveners. Last week we answered the plea of the YES Community by giving them \$1,500 to their fundraising bliss.

We just had our 11th annual Bell Let Talk day campaign which was supported by CWL. This program encourages action for people to listen to a friend, ask for help and to care for the common home.

3. Religion Resource List Update - Jeannie & Adam White

Currently looking at identifying some French resources, we have a meeting with the Bishop to discuss this so that our teachers can use consistent vetted resources. The list of resources was shared by our Director of Education, to members of the Board of Trustees. The list of resources can be found here: [PVNCCDSB Text and Support Resources for Religious Education and Family Life](#)

C. Information Items

1. Committee Member Updates:

Jeff Hockett - Special Education Advisory Committee members will be attending the following meetings: Attended International Holocaust Remembrance Day virtual event on January 27th and Humber College International Women's Day Forum on Lessons on Groundbreaking Leadership from Black Women on March 6th 2021. These meetings highlight the conversation that is taking place in regards to the intersection of race and special education.

Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act - After review of AODA, different Administrative Procedures are to be written for items such as General requirements, employment, IT, customer service, public spaces and HR. Principals are doing PD on the basis of the new AP's requirements. All Public spaces are to be accessible - Resolution has been written to solicit the government for funding to update public spaces.

Weekly presentations from our Special Education Services Department - live Thursdays at noon and recorded to be available to all PVNC staff. Topics have included Executive Functioning Skills, Self-Advocacy, French as A Second Language and Special Education, Reading and Interpreting a Psychological Assessment and The Science of Reading.

Luke Stocking - Since last meeting we have hired a new Central Ontario Animator, she is responsible for the Diocese of Peterborough. Emily will maintain the relationship of Development and Peace and PVNCCDSB moving forward.

We have also been developing a new program called Laudato Si schools program, more information can be found here: [Laudato Si schools Program](#). The National THINKfast takes place March 11-12 and there is an information meeting on February 18th.

Paul Ayotte - Knights of Columbus are disappointed that they cannot go into the schools to do the annual poster contest or the basketball free throw contests. As part of our food for family's program we are providing 40 cans for 40 days of Lent. We have had great support from the students at Immaculate Conception Catholic Elementary School, they have supported us by providing food, hats and mitts.

Jessica Devlin - We are not seeing people in person at the New Canadian Centre, we are doing it virtually, which is quite challenging. We usually have 75 new individuals per year, however, we have had 10 this year due to COVID-19. Most of these individuals have relocated to bigger cities with their loved ones. We are in partnership with PTBO youth services and have received funding. We are hiring someone for a 18 month contract position that speaks Arabic. This individual will be working with youth and

families and will be within the schools to help students.

Bart Scollard - ELECA is March 27th which will be held virtually. Mental health resources have been posted to the PVNCCDSB Facebook group for students to access. However, other resources are going to be available on March break. Those resources will be provided in April due to the announcement made by the Ministry of Education today that March break will be postponed till the week of April 12, 2021.

D. Next Meeting:

1. April 29, 2021 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
2. Future agenda Items are to be forwarded to Shannon Carr
3. Selection of Member for Opening Prayer – Emmanuel Pinto
4. Selection of Member for Closing Prayer – Kyle Deegan

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer

Father Paul Massel led the closing prayer.

2. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27p.m.

Committee Chairperson

Superintendent of Learning
per SC