



Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE FAITH AND EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Thursday, October 14, 2021 6:30 p.m. virtually through video-conference

PRESENT:

Trustees/Members: Kevin MacKenzie (Chairperson), David Bernier (Ex-Officio), Emmanuel Pinto, Jennifer Angelo, Iman Deal, Kyle Deegan, Adam White, Peter Bagnall, Bart Scollard, Stephanie Dahl, Christine Haffie, Fr. Paul Massel, Michael Mooney, Maria Fitzgerald, Dean Dettloff, Jessica Devlin

Guests: Mante Molepo, Sandra Connolly

Administration: Jeannie Armstrong

Recorder: Vicki Blakely

Absent/Regrets: Siobhan Marie, Nora Shaughnessy, Jeff Hockett, Paul Ayotte, Angela Connors

A. Call to Order:

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Territorial Recognition

Peter Bagnall acknowledged that the meeting, although virtual, would take place on the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg (or the Mississauga Anishinaabe).

3. Opening Prayer

Kevin MacKenzie invited Jennifer Angelo to lead with opening prayer.

4. Additions to the Agenda

None noted.

5. Approval of Agenda

MOTION Moved by Kyle Deegan, seconded by Adam White
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 April 28, 2021

MOTION Moved by Jennifer Angelo, seconded by Emmanuel Pinto
That the Minutes of the Faith and Equity Advisory Committee held on
April 28, 2021 be approved, as presented.
Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

None noted.

B. Discussion/Presentations:

1. Equity Work and Student Survey - Jeannie Armstrong, Superintendent of Learning, Mante Molepo, PVNCCDSB Equity Advisor, Sandra Connolly, Learning Consultant

Jeannie Armstrong presented an overview of the PVNCCDSB Demographic Data Project and the purpose of collecting the data; need to create a system plan, education and engagement in personal learning for staff and students, and accountability by removing system barriers in student pathways. Equity Committee members have been engaging in training through the National Equity Centre. Data collected from the survey will remain confidential and will be released as aggregate data only. The platform being used, Qualtrics XM, will provide quality data analysis to produce reports that will be shared PVNCCDSB wide.

Sandra Connolly reviewed the census survey questions required by the Ministry and walked the committee through the survey. 90% of survey questions were provided by the Ministry, while the other questions being designed by Equity Advisor, Mante Molepo.

Mante Molepo explained the purpose of the equity work and the student survey. PVNC wants to both understand how the students experience discrimination and if/how they experience an inclusive education. A fulsome equity review will aid in developing the equity policy and action plan. Consultations and focus groups (including educators, principals, black secondary students, parents and black organizations) on anti-black racism will be taking place throughout Clarington. Survey responses from educators, principals and vice principals, along with the data collection through the student census data has been utilized. Developing professional development across PVNCCDSB is underway, including "Lunch & Learn" sessions in October and November, full day professional development, and access to resources for educators of K-8.

The student census survey has had responses from over 1,000 students in grades 1-8, and 1,200 responses for 9-12. The student census is a Provincial pilot project, which will be mandatory for all boards by 2023.

2. Review of "Wonderfully Made: Renewing the Promise Faith and Equity Walk" School Resource - Peter Bagnall, Religion and Family Life Learning Consultant

Peter Bagnall presented the Faith & Equity Reflection Tool which brings together four resources; the “Wonderfully Made” image, “Renewing the Promise” themes (Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario), “Equity Continuum” (Ontario Institute of Studies in Education), and “Auditing Our Catholic Schools” (Author John Kostoff). The tool is designed as a spreadsheet that brings all four resources together through indicator categories which are based on the themes of Renewing the Promise. Each tab features a particular theme and indicators, which are then able to assess where the schools meet the indicators. The colour will change (brighten) as the assessment is completed and as those indicators are met by the school. The committee then took time to review the tool with an eye to placement, language used and the order of the indicators.

3. Accompaniment through Synodality: A Look at the Strategic Priorities - Father Paul Massel, Faith Animator and Peter Bagnall, Religion and Family Life Learning Consultant

Father Paul Massel and Peter Bagnall presented on the discussion of synodality and the synodal process from the Vatican. Often connected with the hashtag #ListeningChurch, it is focused on the art of encounter, participation, spiritual discernment and prayer along with dialogue. This movement will be occurring for the next two years including at the local level within the Diocese. The synodal process is an exercise in “mutual listening involving the entire People of God,” as described by Pope Francis. The main reflection questions are relevant and brief which allow them to be explored more deeply.

An overview was provided of PVNCCDSB’s new Strategic Priorities and the consultation process which included students, staff, the community and the diocese. The three pillars; “Being Creative, Being Well, Being Community” helped to guide PVNCCDSB’s strategic plan as it strives to achieve the mission of accompanying our students as we strive for excellence in Catholic Education. We educate students in faith-filled, loving, safe, inclusive schools to develop the God-given abilities of each person, each day and the direction to achieve these as an educational institution and religious community. ‘Being’ – finding that place centred in God where one finds their sense of being and where they can accomplish all of their best in doing, like that of the cross - intersecting and experiencing God together. It is exciting and inspiring being aligned with the Church, with accompaniment building on the spirit of listening to one another.

The committee then discussed the question: “Where do you see possibilities for Faith and Equity in the updated strategic priorities?” The following came from the discussion:

- This should build and strengthen relationships between parish, school and community.
- All the priorities flow through the lens of faith and equity, growing in our faith and merging this with equity so all staff, students, stakeholders see themselves reflected in the strategic plan.
- Giving a space and providing staff to have uncomfortable discussion and build on dialogue and grow through learning and professional development.
- Identifying and responding to barriers for both students and staff.
- It is important to reflect on the word “diversity”, so it isn’t binary, as all are at different levels in their journey.
- Faith and equity directly correlates with being well, valuing relationships, keeping Jesus at the centre, being the heart of inclusion as everyone is made in the image

and likeness of God.

- The more we discover our diversity, the more we discover our oneness.
- Out of the being comes the doing. In a society that focuses more on doing, hope that it aligns more with being, which will influence the doing differently.

C. Information Items:

1. Virtual Rosary and Peterborough Catholic Women's League Government Resolutions – Maria Fitzgerald

The CWL is rebuilding and renewing in celebration post-COVID. To provide background regarding the CWL, Maria spoke about the advocacy role CWL's have taken over the years and which has proved successful in encouraging positive legislative changes at all levels of government. The CWL supports their members and the parishes and continues to actively pursue new members to join.

Due to COVID-29 and the restrictions that have been implemented which restricts visitors into the schools, the CWL has created a Virtual Rosary program. A request for volunteers was made and resulted in an overwhelming response from CWL members. 18 people have volunteered to help deliver this program to our students.

2. Secondary School Chaplaincy Update – Iman Deal

Iman Deal provide to the Committee of some of the activities taking place in the secondary schools.

The secondary school Chaplaincy Team Leaders continue to provide support to school staff with morning liturgies and Christian meditation.

Priests from the secondary schools' local churches are visiting all religion classes to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This has nurtured the relationships between both staff and students, which had been missing during the pandemic.

Staff and students are regularly invited to the Chapel to participate in meditation, reflection and prayers. Students are asking to pray the Rosary (in French and English) and are taking the lead in morning prayers.

An Indigenous prayer service on Truth and Reconciliation, with the focus on the Grandfather Teachings, was offered recently and Orange Shirt Day was widely promoted and included a minute of silence.

A Social Justice Club has been started with students leading a St. Vincent food drive.

COVID restrictions permitting, a cultural Christmas event is being planned.

Recently, to improve student voice and participation, the Thanksgiving Mass, and a recent Youth Mass held at one of the local parishes, were both student-led.

A Development and Peace virtual event was presented recently and was attended by students from all of our Catholic Secondary Schools.

The schools recently took part in a fundraising walk to raise money and awareness for ovarian cancer in memory of a beloved St. Mother Teresa Catholic Elementary School teacher who lost her battle in 2021 to the disease.

3. Committee Member Updates

Kyle Deegan – The Parish Priest has been visiting the school. It was amazing to see how focused the students were and captivated by the discussion.

Jennifer Angelo – Working on the renewal of the Being Well Strategy. Very happy to visit St. Mary CES in Campbellford with Peter Bagnall recently where he assisted most classes with Christian meditation; promoting good for all/Tier One strategies to promote Well Being with students, incorporating the mind, body and spirit.

Jessica Devlin, New Canadians Centre – 78 individuals arrived September 2021 from Afghanistan. The families are different than previous settlements - many of the fathers are interpreters and speak English very well. Staff has been called from other programs and some staff, those that worked during the Syrian initiative, have been recruited back to assist with welcoming and helping to settle the new families.

Dean Dettloff, Development and Peace – [A Schooling in Solidarity](#) - Ladauto Si is still a big part of the program, but has been renamed for longevity. The badge program; taking on social justice challenges to earn badges at all different levels of participation.

Bart Scollard – On Tuesday, November 16, 2021, PVNCCDSB will be celebrating the Mass for the Deceased Community Members at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Chains in Peterborough.

Adam White – New Canadians Centre invited a team of youth to the meeting, the youth group has developed a guide for youth which is now being distributed to staff and students. English Language Learners (ELL) staff are progressing forward with a couple of initiatives that will assist classroom teachers in getting to know their students better.

Father Paul – So proud of our schools and the work of our Chaplaincy Team Leaders. The Chaplaincy Team Leaders in the schools and the Parish Priests are working hard to bring home, parish, and school together again.

D. Remaining 2021-2022 Committee Meeting Dates:

1. Thursday, February 10, 2022
2. Thursday, April 28, 2022

E. Next Committee Meeting:

1. Thursday, February 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
 - a. Agenda items for February 10, 2022 meeting are to be forwarded to Administrative Assistant, Shannon Carr (scarr@pvnccdsb.on.ca).
 - b. Selection of committee member for Land Acknowledgement – Iman Deal

- c. Selection of committee member for Opening Prayer – Kyle Deegan
- d. Selection of committee member for Closing Prayer – Jennifer Angelo

F. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer

Father Paul Massel closed with prayer.

2. Adjournment

MOTION

Moved by Bart Scollard, seconded by Kyle Deegan

That the Faith and Equity Advisory Committee meeting of October 14, 2021 be adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Carried