

THE MINUTES OF THE FAITH AND EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Thursday, May 9, 2024 6:30 p.m. in-person at the Catholic Education Centre or virtually using: <https://meet.google.com/uua-yqaj-mmz>

PRESENT:

Trustees/Members: Loretta Durst (Trustee/Chair) Mary Ann Martin (Trustee/Vice-Chairperson), Jennifer Angelo, Benjamin Tenesia, Jeff Hockett, Jessica Devlin, Shawn Panio, Jennifer Koch, Jacqueline Gorveatt, Father Paul Massel, Kim Fletcher, Stephanie Dahl

Administration: Julie Selby

Recorder: Shannon Carr

Absent/Regrets: Madelyn Gaskell, Alexa Purves, Nora Shaughnessy, Angela Clarke, Christine Haffie, Randy Haluza-DeLay, Branden Fonovic, Julianne Charette, Bart Scollard, Lindsay Bowen, Wendy Tedford

A. Call to Order:

1. Welcome and Introductions

Loretta welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for gathering together.

2. Territorial Recognition - Julianne Charette

Loretta asked Julie to lead with the Territorial Recognition, in the absence of Julianne.

3. Opening Prayer – Father Paul Massel

Loretta asked Father Paul to lead with Opening Prayer.

4. Additions to the Agenda

Item C.2. Growing In Faith Growing In Christ, Kindergarten Kits - Julie

5. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Moved by Mary Ann Martin, seconded by Jennifer Koch, that the Agenda be approved, as amended.

Carried

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None.

7. Approval of the [Minutes](#) from the Meeting held on Thursday, February 22, 2024

MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Angelo, seconded by Paul Massel, that the Minutes be approved as presented.

Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes

Loretta acknowledged the Faith Ambassador and Chaplaincy Lead Roles presentation from last meeting was presented to the Board of Trustees and it was wonderful.

B. Discussion/Presentations:

1. [Multicultural Festival](#) - Jessica Devlin

The New Canadians Centre hosted a youth led and run Multicultural Festival on Wednesday, May 1st from 6:00-8:00pm. The event was open to the public and showcased cultural booths from a number of different countries around the world. The event also had a raffle and a talent show including a band comprised of students from Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School. Jessica felt the event was a huge success and was so excited about the large turnout. Jessica shared a short video with the committee highlighting different cultural booths and performances from the event.

2. May, the Month of Mary - Mary Ann Martin

Trustee Martin highlighted the importance of recognizing Mary throughout the month of May. Trustee Martin asked that schools include saying the Hail Mary within their daily announcements. Trustee Martin was ecstatic when a teacher reached out to her and asked her if she wanted to join their class as they prayed with the rosary. Trustee Martin is hopeful that schools continue to implement and promote the use of the rosary throughout May and throughout the school year.

An open floor discussion took place regarding initiatives PVNC Catholic is doing to promote May the Month of Mary including taking time to pray with the rosary during the Priest/Principal meeting last week, providing rosary beads to schools, St. Stephens CSS has partnered with their parish to make the rosaries to give out to students. Additionally, Julie stated the board sent out a memo at the end of April and called it "May the Month of Mary" which included the feast days of the month and titles given to Mary. The memo also included a number of suggestions in terms of curriculum connections, explaining certain decades in the rosary, lesson activities and resources. This year PVNC Catholic has been focusing on "[Formed.org](#)" in collaboration with Bishop Mehim as resources within the schools.

Trustee Martin asked if any correspondence has gone home to families regarding May the Month of Mary to ensure families are involved as well? Superintendent Selby stated we can utilize resources available within the *Growing In Faith, Growing In Christ* program to send home to families. Superintendent Selby will connect with the Director of Education to further

discuss whether we would send this prayer resource home centrally or individually through each school principal.

3. Family Life Curriculum - Jen Koch & Father Paul Massel

Jen introduced the new Ontario Catholic Elementary Curriculum and the new Family Life Education Program for Grades 1 to 8. The new Family Life Education curriculum has been divided into three distinct but related strands. The three strands are:

- i. Families: A Living Communion of Love,
- ii. Families: Called to be in Relationship
- iii. Families: Created in Love, Wonderfully Made

The three strands provide the organizational structure for the overall curriculum expectations which are presented in a manner that scaffolds students' learning as they journey through the developmental stages of their lives from Grades 1 through 8.

The curriculum also comes with expectations on where students should be at the end of the school year based on the primary, junior or intermediate levels. The expectations are not used for evaluation or for assessment purposes; however, they speak to our deep aspirations for students and all who we are in the Catholic education system. Jen reviewed some examples of expectations associated with each level.

In partnership with the Assembly of Catholic Bishops in Ontario, RCL Benziger will publish the new Family Life Program from Grades 1 to 8. The program is called *Blessed and Beloved* and will be broken down into 5 units. All units are aligned with the liturgical year and the three strands mentioned above. The five units are:

- iv. God's Gift of Self
- v. God's Gift of Family
- vi. Rooted in Relationship
- vii. Life and Love in Christ
- viii. Growing in Community

In Fall 2024, the new curriculum will take effect with the new program replacing Fully Alive for Grade One only. In subsequent years a new program will be available for Grades 2 and 3 (September, 2025) then Grades 4, 5, 6 (September, 2026) and finally Grades 7 and 8 will be available in the Fall of 2027. In the meantime, Fully Alive will continue to be available as the only resource currently approved by the Bishops for use for Family Life Education. PVNC Catholic has already ordered their Grade 1 texts and teacher resources.

With Bishop Miehm's blessing, Anne Jamieson, Executive Director of the Institute for Catholic Education will be invited as a keynote speaker to present on the new *Blessed & Beloved* Family Life Program at the October, 2024 Priests/Principals/Deacons/ Chaplains meeting. PVNC Catholic is hopeful Anne can attend.

An open floor discussion took place amongst the committee members regarding the new curriculum.

C. Information Items:

1. Committee Member Updates

Jeff Hockett - Special Education is continuing to work with Laurie Faith regarding Executive Functioning skills. Special Education is hosting 70 staff members throughout the board to take part in four after school executive functioning skills professional development sessions over a span of four weeks. Laurie will also be providing professional development in person for 40 additional staff members on May 23rd. The Special Education team is currently busy with hosting CASA Professional Development sessions, attending meetings for PVNC Catholic students attending Sagonaska Demonstration School, and hosting Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT) professional development. They are also excited about supporting an Empower pilot project at St. Stephen Catholic Secondary School beginning in September, 2024.

Benjamin Tenesia - PVNC Catholic hosted a successful opening ceremony for Asian Heritage Month on Wednesday, May 1. Benjamin and Dr. Cynthia Chan Reynolds received very positive feedback from families. The event was very focused on student voice as all presenters and MC's were students. Guests included trustees, senior team, principals, vice principals, CEC staff, parents, community partners and invited dignitaries.

Jacqueline Gorveatt - On May 5, Catholic Education Centre employees took part in a beautiful ceremony to recognize National Day of Awareness for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2S+. Staff took part by doing readings and participated in a prayer service. Staff have been purposely using the phrase "Red Dress Day" to make it more comfortable for staff and students but still acknowledging the importance of the day. Part of the learning that day included the Moose Hide Campaign which is a grassroots movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous men to stand up against violence towards women and children. The Indigenous Education team has also been busy establishing safe spaces in secondary schools for Indigenous students and allies, providing professional development for secondary school staff to support the *Listening to Indigenous Voices* resource and helping implement a new resource called *This Place* which reflects Indigenous voices. This resource supports the NBE 3C and 3U courses. Julie highlighted the collaboration of the Faith team and the Indigenous team and how important it is that we implement these important Indigenous resources through the Catholic lens.

Jennifer Koch - The New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) will be hosting two orientation sessions, one at the end of August 2024 and one in September 2024. The August orientation day will include a half day session focusing on faith and looking at the pastoral plan including different ways to pray. The layout of the half day session will have a retreat feel in the hopes that it eases the anxiety for new and nervous teachers.

Father Paul Massel - Father Paul expressed he is really enjoying the collaboration him and Jen Koch are doing with all of the different departments within the Board. Father Paul felt this past Priest/Principal meeting was a great success and highlighted that PVNC Catholic and the Peterborough diocese are the only board/diocese within the province that have these meetings twice a year. Father Paul is looking forward to their Chaplain meeting next week at Holy Cross CSS. Lastly, Father Paul met with Michael Higgins who will be a guest speaker during next year's Faith Day, Mr. Higgins is highly successful as an educator and publishing books.

Kim Fletcher - Secondary schools are fully engaged with intake meetings with students in our feeder schools coming into Grade 9 this September. Schools are also engaging in intake meetings with students from non feeder schools which includes bringing the student and their legal guardian in for an in person meeting to get to know the student/family and outlining the expectations of attending a Catholic school. Secondary schools are also busy planning orientation day, LINK training and preparing for graduation ceremonies. An open discussion ensued regarding intake meetings.

Jennifer Angelo - Jennifer advised there are two social workers that work with our Indigenous Education team and have been doing a lot of work within the school with our students. The Mental Health team is doing a lot of Tier 1 work and supporting classrooms around stress and coping strategies. The team is working with school chaplains and doing work around self care.

The team will be facilitating two summer camps this year focused on coping strategies and understanding ways to support students. Information has gone out to all families within the board with the hopes of offering two weeks in each of Peterborough and Clarington, one week in the City of Kawartha Lakes and one week in Northumberland. Secondly, the team is also facilitating a second camp for students transitioning from Grades 8 to 9. The program will provide strategies on how to cope from transitioning between grades including adjusting to the secondary school day format vs. elementary. Some programs within the event will be specifically for students with identified autism. One program will take place in July and one will take place in August. The idea is to have very small groups with a maximum of 8 students and the camps will be run by PVNC Catholic staff.

2. *Growing In Faith Growing In Christ* (GIFGIC) Kindergarten Kits - Julie

The GIFGIC program has been fully implemented in schools from Grades 1 through 8. PVNC Catholic has been patiently waiting for the Kindergarten program to be developed. Julie was excited to share that the new GIFGIC Kindergarten kits are now developed and have begun to be ordered in schools. Elementary schools have been asked to purchase their own kits. Currently, 23 of our 30 elementary schools have already purchased their kits and have started using them. Due to budget constraints, the remaining 7 elementary schools will purchase the kits at the end of August when they receive their new 2024-2025 school budget. Given the costs of the kits, we largely have one kit per school with the ultimate goal of having one kit per classroom. There will be professional development provided within the 2024-2025 school year on the kits, however, the kits are very user friendly.

D. Next Committee Meeting:

1. Next meeting is Thursday, October 10, 2024 6:00-8:00 pm, Large Boardroom, Catholic Education Centre. Members are asked to note the new start time of 6:00pm.

Loretta stated that this meeting is the last meeting of the 2023-2024 year and the last meeting within the 2 year membership term. At the end of June, Shannon and Julie will be reaching out to stakeholders to determine their representatives for the upcoming 2024-2026 term.

2. Please contact Shannon Carr regarding Agenda items for next meeting.
3. Selection of committee member for Land Acknowledgement
 - a. Deferred due to membership renewal.
4. Selection of committee member for Opening Prayer
 - a. Deferred due to membership renewal.
5. Selection of committee member for Closing Prayer
 - a. Deferred due to membership renewal.

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer – Julie Selby
Loretta asked Julie to lead with Closing Prayer.

2. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Deacon Shawn Panio, seconded by Mary Ann Martin.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.