



Minutes

THE MINUTES OF THE FAITH AND EQUITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING held on Thursday, October 12, 2023 6:30 p.m. in-person at the Catholic Education Centre or virtually using:<https://meet.google.com/emb-pkpz-aud>

PRESENT:

Trustees/Members: Loretta Durst (Trustee/Chair) Mary Ann Martin (Trustee/Vice-Chairperson), Jennifer Angelo, Tenesia Benjamin, Jeff Hockett, Christine Haffie, Julianne Charette, Jessica Devlin, Bart Scollard, Branden Fonovic, Shawn Panio, Kim Fletcher, Lindsay Bowen, Jennifer Koch, Angela Clarke, Stephanie Dahl, Jacqueline Gorveatt, Wendy Tedford

Administration: Julie Selby

Recorder: Shannon Carr

Absent/Regrets: Kevin MacKenzie, Madelyn Gaskell, Alexa Purves, Nora Shaughnessy, Father Paul Massel, Emily Lukasik

A. Call to Order:

1. Welcome and Introductions - Loretta Durst

Loretta welcomed everyone attending the meeting in person or virtually. Loretta asked members to make a brief introduction of themselves.

2. Territorial Recognition - Jeff Hockett

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

3. Opening Prayer – Jennifer Angelo

Jennifer led with Opening Prayer.

4. Additions to the Agenda

None.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

Carried

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

None.

7. Approval of the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2023

MOTION: Moved by Mary Ann Martin, seconded by Christine Haffie, that the Minutes be approved as presented.

Carried

8. Business Arising from the Minutes
None.

B. Discussion/Presentations:

1. Connections between Diocessen Pastoral Plan and PVNC Catholic Pastoral Plan -
Jennifer Koch & Julie Selby

Julie reviewed PVNC Catholic 2023-2024 Pastoral Plan “Ignite Faith, Ignite Hope and Ignite Love”. During the 2022-2023 school year, PVNC Catholic focused on Faith where students and staff had opportunities to offer their reflections through the cross. During the 2023-2024 school year, the Pastoral Plan is focusing on three goals, which are:

- i. Invite conversation, making space for the holy spirit;
- ii. Celebrate diverse charisms while reflecting on shared identity, hopes and mission; and
- iii. See God's presence in each other and witness within school and communities.

This year's symbol for "Ignite Hope" is a bridge designed by a secondary teacher within one of PVNC Catholic schools. As done with the cross, each PVNC Catholic secondary school shop class will be tasked with creating and building a “kit” for each of their feeder schools. Each school's logo will be carved into the bridge. The “kits” will include pre-drilled pieces with instructions on how to assemble the bridge. Students will be encouraged to work collaboratively to build the bridge together.

Jennifer reviewed the nine ways to be creative in Prayer. The nine ways are through Christian Meditation, Guided Meditation, Synodal Sharing, Scriptural Reflection, The Examen, Liturgy of the Word, Prayers of Petition, Free and Formula Prayer and Celebration of the Eucharist.

Julie reviewed the 2023-2028 Diocesan Pastoral Plan which is in collaboration with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough and PVNC Catholic. Julie outlined the 6 main goals as follows:

1. To reach out and engage all people with the message of the Gospel;
2. To be an inviting and welcoming Church that fosters community;
3. To offer well-prepared Liturgies that promote prayer and participation;
4. To be a Church engaged in ministry and mission;
5. To engage in responsible stewardship of God's gifts for the present and future.
6. To be a Church that nurtures reconciliation, healing and mercy.

Julie reviewed the “Signs of Grace” through Forum.Org. The board is encouraging staff and parents to access Formed.org which provides many resources such as First Communion Preparation, Reconciliation Preparation, Advent information or Lent information. Every parish within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough has purchased this resource; you can access it through your parish and sign up for free. Questions and conversations took place following the presentation.

2. PVNC Catholic Faith Day 2023- Julie Selby

Faith Day is on Friday, November 3rd, 2023. The Faith Day theme for PVNC Catholic this year is “Healing through Hope”. Julie shared the Healing through Hope design/logo which includes symbolic images of bridge, love, hope, faith and reconciliation.

Julie reviewed the outline of this year's Faith Day agenda. In the morning, there will be a welcome from Bishop Mehim, listening to Keynote speakers focusing on key events such as Papal visit and pivotal actions on the journey of Truth and Reconciliation. In the afternoon, the focus will be on Synodal sharing within the community through key questions focused on healing, and offering our hopes for our schools, system, community, nation and world.

Faith Day is mandatory for all staff throughout the 36 schools and within the Board Office to attend. The format of the morning will be virtual where all 36 schools and the board office will join into one live link to listen to the keynote speaker's. In the afternoon, staff will be engaging in the same learning activities however, it will be done in-person within their school or office community. An open discussion regarding Faith Day followed.

3. Equity Action Plan - Benjamin

Benjamin introduced “A Path to Transformation 2024-2028”. This plan will be phased out over 4 years. All the work within the plan is based on the results the board received from the 2022 Clarington Parent Information, Student Census data, Staff Census data and the School Equity audit. Additional consultation took place with different staff members in all levels of the board to ensure the Equity Action Plan is equitable and reflective of all staff and student needs. The purpose of the Equity Action Plan is to remove barriers and make education more accessible for all.

The Equity Action Plan will be rooted in our faith using catholic social justice teachings rooted in affirming the dignity and worth of every student, staff and partners. The two main objectives of the plan are transformation through anti-racist, anti-oppression and decolonizing methods and to create spaces where students achieve and the wellbeing of all students in their journey towards completing the Catholic Graduate Expectations.

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Benjamin outlined the guiding principles to PVNC Catholic human rights-based approach to inclusion. The three main pillars are Provincial Obligations, Ministry of Education Obligations and Catholic Obligations. The principles outlining the priority areas within the Action Plan are Governance, Inclusive and response education, Climate and prevention of discrimination and harassment and Religious accommodation. Each action item has a clear monitoring framework tied to anticipate outcomes and multiple actionable items.

Benjamin outlined the next steps which includes consultations for public feedback from October 20 to October 30, consultations with Principals on October 25, consultation with Administrative Council on November 20 and finally a presentation to the Board of Trustees on November 28, 2023. The Committee engaged in an open discussion following the presentation.

4. [NCCYL \(New Canadians Centre Young Leaders\) Tips for Teachers](#) - Jessica Devlin

Jessica introduced the New Canadians Centre Young Leaders Program. The program is composed of youth-led council high school aged students new to the Peterborough Nogojiwanong area. The goal is to make young newcomer students feel welcomed, empowered, build leadership skills and to make a positive impact in the community.

The New Canadian Centre created an initiative called “Tips for Teachers” which collected anonymous data from newcomer students in schools within PVNC Catholic and Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board (KPR). Newcomer students were asked a series of questions about their school experience. Based on the data collected, New Canadians Centre put together a list of tips for school teachers when having a newcomer student in their classroom. Jessica reviewed the “Tips for Teacher” list with the committee. A complete list of “tips” given can be found in the link above.

Jessica asked that the “Tips for Teachers” booklet be shared with Teachers within PVNC Catholic. An open discussion by committee members following Jessica’s presentation.

5. Development and Peace Program - Emily Lukasik

Emily was not able to make it tonight and did not provide an update.

C. Information Items:

1. Committee Member Updates

Jennifer Angelo - PVNC Catholic and KPR worked collaboratively with The New Canadian Centre to offer a “Welcome to School” day. This day was available within multiple areas in our board to welcome newcomer families within our region that have school aged children. During the day, families received information on school curriculum, uniforms for high school, immunization information and overall day to day school operations. Each newcomer family that attended received a New Canadians Centre bag which

included school supplies. This was the second year this program took place and it was a great success.

PVNC Catholic Mental Health and Well-being department is continuing to prompt Tier 1 strategies in mental health. The department has secured a grant from the Ministry and is in the process of planning how to utilize funds. In the 2022-2023 school year, 14 schools participated in The Third Path program using this grant. This year the department is hoping to maintain the work already done in the 14 schools as well as welcoming more schools. Training included in the program consists of restorative practice, equity, trauma and other components.

Jeff Hockett - On Friday, September 29, Dr. Laurie Faith presented to all PVNC Catholic Special Education Resource Teachers at the board office. Dr. Faith focused on executive functioning skills and taught staff how to really understand students' needs using different methods. In addition, the learning provided staff resources on how they can respond to student behaviour based on needs.

PVNC Catholic Special Education (Spec Ed) department is continuing to work with school staff to have better understanding of each student's needs. The department is continuing to encourage staff with problem solving skills and working through tiers of intervention to support students.

Jacqueline Gorveatt - PVNC Catholic has recently hired Anne Taylor as our Indigenous Education Advisor and Cydney Habraken as our Indigenous Education Coach. Anne and Cydney have been working closely with staff and students at the six secondary schools to start a "Student Voice Circle". Anne and Cydney are going into each high school to hear from students, their thoughts, perspectives, difficulties they have faced, positive items, what do they want to see? What does a safe school look and feel like? etc. to engage more student voices.

Lindsay Bowen - Tanya Kranc and Pam O'Brien (MLL Itinerant Teachers) have seen a dramatic increase in the number of newcomer families within PVNC Catholic. Tanya and Pam have been doing a lot of intake meetings and data entries.

Lindsay, Tanya and Pam are looking at improving communication with newcomer parents in our secondary schools. For example, newcomer parents may not know how to open progress reports using the board's online system. Staff are setting up times for parents to come in and talk to teachers one on one to discuss their child's report cards. A translator will be provided (if needed) to ensure newcomer parents fully understand their child's progress in school.

Bart Scollard - Bart reminded everyone about the PVNC Mass for Deceased employees and community taking place on Wednesday, November, 22nd, 2023. The mass will be at 4:30 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains with a reception to follow.

D. Next Committee Meeting:

1. Next meeting is February 22, 2024 (6:30-8:30pm Large Boardroom)
2. Agenda items for next meeting, please contact Shannon Carr
3. Selection of committee member for Land Acknowledgement
 - a. Julie Selby
4. Selection of committee member for Opening Prayer
 - a. Lindsay Bowen
5. Selection of committee member for Closing Prayer
 - a. Julianne Charette

E. Conclusion:

1. Closing Prayer – Fr. Paul Massel
Father Paul was unable to attend the meeting. Julie Selby led with Closing Prayer.
2. Adjournment
MOTION: Moved by Jennifer Koch, seconded by Jennifer Angelo
The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.