

MINUTES

INTEGRATION OF CATHOLIC FAITH COMMITTEE

Monday, April 24, 2017

Attending:

Trustee Committee Members: T. Ciaravella, C. Cotton, C. Ferlisi, A. Stong

Other Trustees: Student Trustee B. Smith

Absent with Notice: D. Giuliani

Administration: A. D'Addese, N. Davie, N. DiNardo, M. Fedrigoni, D. Murgaski, O. Oloya, K. Pickard-Lefterys, J. Sarna, S. Ulgiati, M. WaySkinner

Recording: S. Greco

Presiding: D. Murgaski, Superintendent of Curriculum & Assessment
(Preceding Integration of Catholic Faith Elections)

PART A

1. OPENING PRAYER

2. ROLL CALL:

Trustee D. Giuliani absent with notice.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2016-2017:

A. Stong - Chair
T. Ciaravella - Vice Chair

PRESIDING: A. Stong, Committee Chair

4. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair, A. Stong called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST – FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

THAT the agenda be approved as presented. No Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

MOTION: Cotton/Ferlisi

CARRIED

6. REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Minor revisions were suggested to the Purpose/Mandate section. D. Murgaski will revise the Terms of Reference accordingly. A revised copy will be shared with the Committee prior to the May 24th Executive committee as these will be included in the May 30th Regular Board Meeting agenda package. With the above changes, the Terms of Reference for 2017 were approved.

MOTION: Ferlisi/Ciaravella

THAT the Board approve the Terms of Reference for 2017 for the Integration of Catholic Faith Committee.
CARRIED

7. APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MINUTES: Nil

8. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTS OF PREVIOUS MEETING: NIL

PART B

DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS:

a) Indigenous Peoples Initiatives at YCDSB

Teaching Smudge

“Smudging is a tradition, common to many First Nations, which involves the burning of one of the four sacred medicines gathered from the earth. The four medicines are sweet grass, sage, cedar and tobacco.”

Todd Jamieson, an Oneida artist and YCDSB Knowledge Keeper began the meeting with a traditional smudge using sage. Mr. Jamieson explained that a smudging ceremony is done before any meeting and it is a ritual cleansing done by the Native North American people. Smudging is used to cleanse, purify and bless the part of our Mother, the Earth. Committee Chair A. Stong thanked Mr. Jamieson for leading and performing this honorary custom to YCDSB.

S. Ulgiati, Consultant, Equity, Faith Leadership & Student Engagement and L. Paonessa, Principal of Student Success provided information relating to a deeper understanding of the Indigenous Peoples Initiatives underway in our board, related to a land acknowledgement and curriculum development in secondary and elementary. As well, work is being done with regards to community outreach and a more streamlined process of self-identification. They provided an overview on smudging, shifting use of language, YCDSB Land Acknowledgement, Native Studies English in Secondary, Process of Self-Identification, Racialized Student Grant (Elementary) and Community Speaks Events. Clarification was given to the correct use of the word “Indian” now being referred to “Indigenous” as changed by the Government of Ontario. The seven Sacred Indigenous / Tribal Life Values are closely aligned with the YCDSB Character Virtues. S. Ulgiati advised there are currently 31 sections of Native Studies courses throughout our fifteen secondary schools and next year we will have forty-eight. Curriculum Resources are currently being developed. Currently we have ninety-one self-identified students in our schools and their achievement is being monitored closely. The Board is currently reviewing the process of self-identification to be able to launch an online platform. The Board has received approval for a Ministry Racialized Student Grant for grade 6 students. A “Community Speaks” session was held with over 60 participants. In closing, S. Ulgiati commented that we are being approached by other Boards inquiring how we launched the Native Studies course to be so successful. Chair Stong thanked S. Ulgiati and L. Paonessa for an informative overview.

Proposed Land Acknowledgement Agreement

Discussion occurred regarding the wording of the YCDSB Land Acknowledgement. Committee members agreed that an education / history piece is necessary to educate staff and students on what is a Land Acknowledgement? *“A Land Acknowledgement is a formal statement that recognizes the unique and enduring relationships that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories”*. To recognize the land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation to those whose territory we reside on and a way of honouring Aboriginal people.

Post Meeting:

Following the April 24th Meeting of the Integration of Catholic Faith Committee, the following was approved by the Committee and put forth for Board approval at the May 30th Board Meeting (as part of the Report to Board).

We are gathered on the ancestral lands and waters of all Indigenous Peoples, who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us. We respectfully acknowledge, those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now, and future generations who have yet to walk upon it. We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.

b) Exploring Catholicity

M. WaySkinner, Coordinator of Religion, Family Life and Equity provided information on the understanding of Catholicity. Based in the work of systematic theologians, there are nine elements that contribute to our Catholicity and understanding of what it means to be Catholic: Positive View of Humanity; Commitment to Community; A Sacramental Worldview; Scripture and Tradition; Universal Spirituality; We are Catholic; Devotion to Mary; Commitment to Justice and Holistic. *(An Addendum follows these Minutes with an explanation of the elements)*

c) New Secondary Religious Education Program

M. WaySkinner, Coordinator of Religion, Family Life and Equity provided information on the new Secondary Religious Education Policy document approved by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario for implementation in all English Catholic District School Boards in Ontario. Writing teams will complete the development of resources by August 31, 2017. The resources will be reviewed by the ACBO and revised as per the bishops' feedback. Final approval will be addressed at the March 2018 Plenary session of the ACBO. This will provide an opportunity for Catholic DSB's to inservice staff from April to June 2018 for September 2018 implementation.

d) Enhancement Material for Catholic Education Week: Walking Together in Faith

M. WaySkinner, Coordinator of Religion, Family Life and Equity provided information to further support Policy 613, "Equity and Inclusive Education" This resource builds upon the OCSTA Catholic Education Week themes for 2017.

e) Evaluation in Religious Education in the Primary Grades

N. Davie and K. Pickard-Lefterys, Program Consultants: Religious Education, Family Life, Equity provided information on Assessment and Evaluation of Religious Education in the Primary Grades. They provided the rationale for adopting the practice of providing a report card mark for Religious Education in Grades 1 to 3 and the resources that are available to support staff through the implementation process.

f) Update of Secondary Prayer Centres

J. Sarna, Superintendent of Education provided information on the status of the prayer centres in the secondary schools. To date, there are thirteen out of fifteen schools that have set up Prayer Centres as outlined in Policy 315. The two remaining schools will have all required items by the end of this school year. The Committee felt that it was important not only to have Prayer Centres in place in every classroom but for teachers to educate students as to why they are in place. Suggestions brought forward included having the Religious Education Department prepare a brief outline that can be shared with Religious Education teachers. Other suggestions included having high school teachers engaged in activities on Faith Day.

9. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM(S): NIL

11. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the Integration of Catholic Faith Committee meeting adjourns at 9:40 pm

MOTION: Ciaravella/Cotton

CARRIED



Catholicity

Adapted From "What Makes us Catholic" by T. Gorman

1 A Positive understanding of the person

Catholicism insists that the human person is essentially good, ever more graced than sinful.

The glory of God is the human person fully alive.
(St. Irenaeus)

Catholicity

2 Committed to Community (We are a "We!")

We are inherently communal -- Part of the Body of Christ. God creates us as communal beings, making us responsible for and to each other. By nature and faith, we are relational, "made for each other." We seek the common good beyond our own self interests. This communal sense reaches beyond death and includes the Communion of Saints.

Catholicity

3 A Sacramental Outlook

Catholicism sees God and goodness in all things, and all experiences. This begins with the conviction that God reaches out to us and we respond through the ordinary and everydayness of life, through the created order, through our relationships, through all our good efforts and the experiences that come our way. We are created and creative. This outlook finds its ultimate expression in the 7 Sacraments.

Catholicity

4 Catholics cherish Scripture & Tradition

Catholics affirm the centrality of sacred Scripture. Also, we look to Sacred Tradition (the time-tested truths that emerge over the Church's history) as a "fountain" of divine revelation. The Holy Spirit helps us to deepen our understanding and to address new questions and circumstances with the wisdom of Christian faith.

Catholicity

5 Catholics embrace a holistic faith

There is no aspect of our lives from which our faith can be excluded. faith is to be exercised on every level of existence—the personal, interpersonal and political. Christians should live as disciples of Jesus in every circumstance. Our faith and our works are essential to salvation.

Catholicity

6 Commitment to Justice

Jesus taught about the coming of God's reign as personal and social, spiritual and political, for here and hereafter. It calls people to do God's will "on earth as in heaven." Our faith demands care for the neighbour in need. In our Catholic Social Teachings, we are told that our faith requires us to work for social justice.

Catholicity

7 Universal Spirituality

Everyone is spiritual. We have a vast variety of spiritual devotions, practices, and charisms (gifts). These help us as we are "putting faith to work. Spirituality for action is sustained by our active membership our faith community and through disciplines of prayer, worship and conversation. It bears the fruits of compassion, justice and peace for ourselves and for the world.

Catholicity

8 Catholics are "catholic" (Inclusive)

"Catholic" not only means "universal." Its roots are the Greek kata holos, which literally mean, "to include, welcome or embrace everyone." To be "catholic" calls a community to welcome all people, regardless of their human circumstances.

