

WATERLOO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
35 Weber St. West
KITCHENER, ONTARIO

A meeting of the Family Life Advisory Committee was held on Jan 25, 2006, at the Board Office.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (present)

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Alannah Bell | Andy Gaiger |
| Gerry Clifford | Teresa Hartnett |
| Manuel de Silva | David Reinhardt |
| Annie Denommé | Carole Reitzel |
| Pat Dowsett | Raymond Rennie |
| Lee Fitzpatrick | Wendy Schuster |
| | Caitlyn Sheehey |

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS

(Names of senior staff present)

Recording Secretary –

OTHERS

(Names of other trustees/staff present)

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest:

Welcome and Opening Prayer Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with opening prayer led by Theresa Hartnett

Declared Pecuniary Interest Pecuniary interests of Trustees declared at the start of the meeting under Agenda Item _____ are as follows:

The following items were discussed by the committee with the following action:

| Topic | Action |
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| Minutes | The minutes were approved as presented by |

| Topic | Action |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| February 22, 2006 - 5:30 pm. meeting | Prayer: Theresa Hartnett Treats: Alannah Bell |



Recorder: Alannah Bell

| Topic | Action |
|---|---|
| St. Monica House Presentation – Heather Spanjers (presenter) | <p>St. Monica House is a maternity home for young women between 14 – 24 years. Public Health considers these girls high risk. They want to address FL Advisory to talk about parenting supports and adoption options. They would also like to know if there is room in our program for youth to come in and talk to other youth e.g. student who chose adoption, talk to other girls of positive experience.</p> <p>St. Monica House wants to promote adoption over foster care and explain this as a positive option to the students. It is a challenge promoting adoption among teens (not accepted by peers) .One third of referrals come from the Catholic schools. Cambridge has parenting groups for dads available through Catholic Family counseling.</p> <p>St. Monica House does prenatal with students. The process is as follows: contact is made, intake is done, and some girls stay at home while others move into the residence. The community clients, who live at home, go to school at St. Monica School from 9:00 – 2:30 pm. There are moms and dads programs after child is born. There may be other issues involved such as development delay or mental problems. Girls would be able to stay for 3 months after birth depending on situation at Monica House. A ‘Monica Ainsley’ apartment option has childcare through the region with a two year stay.</p> <p>Most of the adoptions are “open adoptions”. There is no cost involved for client wanting to adopt. The rates of addict/substance problems are found in families and not usually in the girls themselves. Often girls are products of fetal – alcohol syndrome which comes with challenges. Parents are usually honest about these difficulties.</p> <p>Some fathers come to support but some fathers are out of picture, for a variety of reasons.</p> <p>** The FL Advisory approved this agency for use in our system.</p> |
| Topic | Action |
| Right to Life – Review evaluation of Material from the November meeting | <p><u>All Right to Life</u> resources <u>must</u> go through the Family Life Advisory Committee <u>prior</u> to being used in the WCDSB. <u>Right to Life</u> will provide resources to women that are pregnant that are approved. The Family Life Advisory Committee will continue to look over pamphlets for the January 25, 2006 meeting and for the February 22, 2006 meeting and make suggestion for optimum use.</p> <p>Question: Is there the possibility of Right To Life materials available to students during Catholic Education Week? Perhaps students could assess brochures, available through the Chaplains office. **Committee advised that some material seems more appropriate for teachers/adults as opposed to students. Some material may <u>not</u> be appropriate for students. The committee will continue to evaluate RTL materials for use in our system.</p> |

| Topic | Action |
|------------------------|---|
| Date smart 2 - Video 3 | <p><u>Understanding the Opposite Sex (Video # 3)</u> is approved for use in secondary schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly presents SMART and NOT SMART Choices and promotes making healthy choices Teachers <u>must use</u> the manual with activities/and provide questions for discussion Suggestion: For thorough discussions, it would possibly take 2 -3 classes to cover the material. Originally designed for students with mild to moderate learning, emotional and cognitive disabilities, but is quite appropriate for any population. Simply adjust the discussion questions and activities for the level of your students. |

| Topic | Action |
|--|---|
| LGBTTSIQ*Sensitivity Training / Counselling – Dave Vervoort M. Sc. (Guelph) | <p>A brochure giving information regarding where to go for counseling for students/parents around LGBT.</p> <p>This was approved for use in our system and it was approved that the information would be placed in the Sexual Health Referral Protocol binder for use with administrators, chaplains, YCW's social workers and guidance to support parents/students. Following the approval of this material for use in the SHRP binder, Alannah Bell and Theresa Hartnett made a decision to ask the bishop for his advisements regarding supporting this population of students. The bishop feels that we need to support these students. He also felt that this brochure could be seen as too explicit (back page of brochure). Subsequently therefore, the brochure will not be placed "as it stands" in the SHRP binder. The phone number of the counseling agency will be placed there. Alannah Bell will contact Dave Vervoort about the possibility of having a brochure without the back page.</p> |

| Topic | Action |
|---|---|
| Just Thought You Ought to Know – The Medical Institute | <p>Facts on STD's and Sex presented by a group of students promoting abstinence. **This was approved for use in our system. Most appropriate for grades 7 -12 and promotes values, abstinence, decision making and respect for life. Length of Video is seven minutes. This video will be purchased for our system.</p> |

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

ADJOURNMENT

The recording secretary reviewed the meeting decisions.

Closing prayer led by _____.



Minutes – Committee Meeting

– 4 –

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Next Meeting February 22, 2006 (5:30pm – 8:00pm) Rm. 232 St. Aloysius

cc Roger Lawler, Director of Education
Bruce Rodrigues, Superintendent of Education
Liz Degutis, Principal of Leadership and Faith Development