

GEORGES VANIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY CULTURE AND CARING ACTION TEAM MEETING
[CCCCAT]

Tuesday, May 27th, 2025 @ 3:45pm
Conference Room

M I N U T E S

Attendees: Marta Baltazar (Teacher), Daniel Birkenbergs (Principal), Alisha Da Costa (Teacher), Andrew Laporte (Teacher), Nadia Pizzani (Teacher)

Regrets: Mathura Arulalagan (Public Health Nurse), Alexis Commander (Parent), Stefania Iannizzi (Teacher)

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Daniel Birkenbergs welcomed team and began with a prayer and land acknowledgement
- Daniel invited round table introductions and welcomed all participants to the team
- Daniel thanked individuals for their active participation and invited round-table introductions

2. Review of Purpose for Committee and Objectives

- Daniel Birkenbergs set context for committee; required under Safe Schools legislation
- Team to meet 3 times over the course of the school year
- Catholic values and faith at centre of committee; team to focus on safety, security, care and well-being of students
- Committee to determine areas of focus and discuss initiatives and action plans to address identified needs
- Committee to function as advisory to school administration; whole-school, solution-focused approach to identified needs
- For context, Daniel briefly reviewed the context for the school in terms of what initiatives are in place and how the school will enhance the school plan moving forward

3. Goals for 2024-2025: Final Report

- Daniel provided an update for the team as to the progress related to the school goals chosen by the CCCCCAT in November
- Progress Report:
 - i. Faith Focus: In-school half-day retreat during Lent for all grades across the school focused on our Faith, the theme of Catholic Education Week (Pilgrims of Hope), and the Jubilee Year
 - Hosted for March 5th, 2025
 - Ash Wednesday liturgy began the day
 - Featured stations rotations based on themes mentioned above in a scramble format

- ii. Community & Belonging Focus: Opportunities to enhance students' feelings of a welcoming and caring community at Georges Vanier School
 - Initiatives included: Anti-Bullying lesson from ROP, Anti-Bullying Week initiatives, Virtues/OCSGE assemblies, BRAVE workshops, etc.
 - Continuation of virtuous Vikings initiative
 - Consistent review and response to student conflict and concerning behaviours
- iii. Health & Wellness Focus: Mental Health & Well-being
 - Involved continuation of programs such as PALS and school-wide "Play Day"
 - Healthy Schools initiatives have focused on Mental Health and Well-being for students thus far
 - Mental Health & Well-being Spirit Week
 - Mental Health Retreat – January 22nd
 - Mental Health Champions (N. Pizzani; Grade 5/6) → various initiatives included Mindfulness Monday & Wellness Wednesday activities
 - OPHEA Certification → Gold

4. Open Discussion

- Looking ahead to 2025-2026, potential areas of focus include:
 - i. Increased focus on anti-vaping within the school
 - ii. Address increasing concerns about inappropriate interactions between students focused on race/ethnicity
 - iii. Consider opportunities for peer mentoring during school year within current structures
 - iv. Continuation of initiatives from this school year and seek further engagement from other staff to support initiatives

Next Meeting

- *2025-2026 School Year [exact date/time TBC]*