

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

Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 3:45pm  
Library

M I N U T E S

Attendees: Marta Baltazar (Teacher), Daniel Birkenbergs (Principal), Stef Iannizzi (Teacher), Andrew Laporte (Teacher), Nadia Pizzani (Teacher), Samanta Parsaud (Peel Public Health Nurse), Nicole Sunseri (CYW)

Regrets: Sandra Salvino (CSC Co-Chair)

1. Welcome & Introductions
  - D. Birkenbergs welcomed team and began with a prayer and land acknowledgement
  - D. Birkenbergs invited round table introductions and welcomed all participants to the team
  - D. Birkenbergs thanked individuals for their active participation throughout the meeting
  
2. Purpose of Committee and Committee Objectives
  - D. 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
  
3. Safe Schools Review / CCCC Climate Survey / Bullying Prevention & Awareness Initiatives
  - For context D. Birkenbergs 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
  - Briefly referenced CCCCAT data and how that is used to inform next steps
  
4. Goal Setting
  - Team asked to consider 3 areas of focus for 2023-2024 school year to improve the sense of community and belonging at Georges Vanier Catholic School
  - Based on discussion and initiatives from previous years, 3 areas of focus emerged as priority for the team
    - i. Faith Focus: Plan an in-school half-day retreat during Lent for all grades across the school focused on our Faith, the theme of Catholic Education Week: We Are Called to Love and the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE)
      - Sub-committee to be formed within the school to plan for event in February 2024
      - Retreat will follow similar format to last school year; target date is March 8, 2024; mass in the morning, retreat in the afternoon

- ii. Community & Belonging Focus: Explore opportunities to enhance students' feelings of a welcoming and caring community at Georges Vanier Catholic School
  - Many initiatives already occurring within the school in this regard (e.g., Anti-Bullying lesson from ROP, Anti-Bullying Week initiatives, Virtues/OCSGE assemblies, BRAVE workshops)
  - School will continue to capitalize on various opportunities to build community and prevent bullying through various activities throughout the school year
  - Increased focus on equity across the school and working towards identifying dismantling barriers for students
  - Monthly focus to support anti-bullying practices school-wide and to engage students in ways to decrease bullying incidents within the school and the community; initiatives to start with provincial Bullying Prevention & Awareness Week (November 20-24)
  - PALS to continue at the school this year; led by S. Iannizzi
  - Seek ways to support restorative justice practices and to establish and promote positive relationships amongst students
  - Virtuous Vikings program launched last year is continuing; staff to discuss ways of enhancing engagement
  - School will continue to address inappropriate conduct through a variety of approaches; need to further improve student willingness to report incidents; A. Laporte to engage Student Council for suggestions
  
- iii. Health & Wellness Focus: Student Mental & Physical Health
  - School engaged in a variety of well-being activities last year which will continue this school year (e.g., Bell Let's Talk Day, Junior paint day, etc.)
  - Intermediate students participated in a board-wide Mental Health session in September 2023; explore possibility of YES4MH initiative through Peel Public Health within the school
  - School accesses and utilizes various resources to support student mental health (e.g., SMHO platform)
  - Seek ways to support personal resiliency amongst students to support strengthening student mental health
  - N. Pizzani continues to lead the Health Snacks program within the school to great success
  - N. Pizzani spearheads the process to certify our school as an OPHEA Healthy School this year

#### 5. Open Discussion

- S. Parsaud shared resource for teachers (target age group: late Junior/Intermediate) to address vaping → <https://www.notanexperiment.ca/>
- S. Parsaud provides a PPH information blast with a variety of resources and activities for healthy well-being and active living; D. Birkenbergs will share with committee as received moving forward
- N. Sunseri volunteered to facilitate a school-wide weekly wellness activity initiative; target launch will be week of November 20<sup>th</sup>
- Suggestion of exploring the possibility of a games club for students at lunch recess to provide additional opportunities for positive student engagement; school to explore further

#### Next Meeting

- February 2024 (exact date/time TBC)