

GREATER SASKATOON CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

CATHOLIC FAITH COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Objectives

- To support the Catholic dimension of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools
- To support the Board's priorities and goals for 2010 - 2011
- To celebrate the faith dimension of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools

2. Board Priorities and Goals 2010 - 2012

The vision of the Board of Education is to make the schools in the division ones that are: Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge, and Reaching Out to Transform the World.

The Mission Statement of the Board of Education is: Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools: a welcoming community where we nurture faith, encourage excellence in learning and inspire students to serve others, making the world a better place. 'We love because He first loved us.' 1 John 4:19

ROOTED IN FAITH

Priority: Celebrating and Promoting Catholic Identity

RATIONALE: Catholic education in Saskatoon, Biggar, Humboldt, Viscount, Martensville and area grew from a shared desire by home and parish to teach children in a faith-filled setting. This relationship between parents and church has sustained Catholic education for more than a century. Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools will continue to define and strengthen its Catholic identity to ensure Catholic education exists in our communities for another 100 years.

GOALS:

- To nurture an awareness and understanding of Gospel values, with a focus on faith formation for staff and students while supporting each individual's faith journey.
- To advocate for Catholic Education.

GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE

Priority: Improving Student Learning and Achievement

RATIONALE: Catholic education helps all children in our division develop their God-given talents as they strive to reach their full potential spiritually, academically, physically, socially, and emotionally. Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools combines academic excellence and spiritual development with support for the physical wellness of each student. A well-rounded Catholic education helps students become contributing citizens in their communities.

GOALS:

- To support transitions for all students, from early learning through to high school graduation.
- To commit to increasing health and wellness of all students.
- To improve academic achievement, with an emphasis on literacy and numeracy.
- To ensure First Nations and Métis students are successful in their program of studies.

REACHING OUT...TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD

PRIORITY: Building Relationships and Partnerships

RATIONALE: Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools believes a strong relationship between parents, the church and the school is needed to educate children and youth to their full potential. We will continue to develop and enrich our relationships with the broader community and all levels of government. We are committed to working with many groups and organizations within our communities because we all share responsibility for educating our children and youth.

GOALS:

- To continue to develop relationships with parents, through Catholic School Community Councils; and the church, through the Diocese, Eparchy and parishes.
- To nurture formal partnerships with First Nations and Métis groups, so these relationships may contribute to improved outcomes for First Nations and Métis students.
- To maintain our focus on academic success for New Canadians through a variety of shared initiatives.
- To continue to develop and enrich relationships with the broader community and all levels of government.

PRIORITY: Promoting Stewardship

RATIONALE: Catholic education is a calling to take care of God's abundant gifts. As stewards the Board is entrusted with the gifts of people, finances, facilities and the environment. We seek to receive these gifts gratefully and tend to them responsibly so that our work contributes to the greater good of the school division, our communities and our world. The Board of Education will continue to define and implement practices to achieve and sustain excellent Board governance.

GOALS:

- To nurture and develop God's people: our human resources.
- To responsibly allocate and use financial resources and build and maintain facilities as centers of learning.
- To teach children and youth to care for God's creation.

3. Membership

Committee membership will consist of:

- . the Board of Education,
- . the Director of Education,
- . members of Religious Education Services, and
- . others as determined from time to time by the Board of Education including:
 - . superannuate
 - . principal
 - . vice principal/assistant principal
 - . elementary religion representative
 - . high school chaplain
 - . communications consultant
 - . representative from support services

The Committee may also invite input by means of focus groups, some of which may include youth, parents through Catholic School Community Councils, pastors and their associates, and Catholic organizations.

Membership on the Committee shall be reviewed at the first meeting of the school year.

4. Roles, Responsibilities and Term of Service

The Catholic Faith Committee is a standing committee of the Board of Education.

The role of the Committee, consistent with policy governance, will be to do the pre-Board work, that is, the Committee is empowered by the Board of Education to make recommendations with respect to the Catholic dimension of Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools to the Board for approval at its regular meetings.

The standing committees for 2010 - 2011 are:

- . Faith Development Committee
- . Distinctiveness of Catholic Education Committee

The working committees for 2010 - 2011 are:

- . Opening Day Committee
- . World Catholic Education Day Committee
- . Roots of Secondary Education
- . Centennial Celebration Committee

5. Meetings

The Committee will meet 5 times throughout the school year and at the call of the Chair based on need.

The Board of Education shall nominate a chair and the chair shall appoint a recording secretary.

The Committee will adopt a consensus model of decision-making.

Meeting minutes, to be deemed as working documents, will be e-mailed to the Board of Education and to each Committee member. The agenda will be e-mailed prior to the next meeting.

6. 2009 - 2010 Indicators/Measures

- The Faith Development Committee continued its work of assisting the Board of Education in the development and coordination of staff faith development opportunities. Some of the outcomes of this work were:
 - . Collaboration took place with the Diocese on Theology Uncorked.
 - . Faith Formation Facilitator program: A total of 14 elementary schools are involved in this program; three new schools were added this year. This program provided Religion representatives with one sub-day per month. With this time, the Faith Formation Facilitator provided further support to fellow staff and students in the areas of liturgical and faith development. As well, they enhanced the partnership between the school and parish. The focus is on supporting staff to better understand and take action regarding social justice.
- The Distinctiveness of Catholic Education Committee has continued to work on the key messages of the booklet Understanding Catholic Education. This year elementary teachers helped to compile an additional booklet on the theme "Reaching Out...to Transform the World". This new booklet was made available to all staff at the fall institute.

The Committee continued to develop a sub-committee that developed resources for K to grade 8 focusing on all key messages of the Understanding Catholic Education booklet. The resource package offers deliberate points in the existing Religion program to insert the key message.

Further work was done on establishing a communication plan to make Catholics and the general population aware of the distinctiveness of Catholic education. A part of that plan was to use our schools' outdoor signs to communicate up coming events as well as communicate our distinctiveness.

- Our 2009-2010 Opening Day Celebration was held on August 28, 2009 at Circle Drive Alliance Church. The theme for the day was "Growing in Knowledge". Each school received an etching of the Board's new Mission Statement from the Board of Education. The guest speaker for the afternoon was Fr. Ron Rolheiser. Each staff member received a booklet entitled "Growing in Knowledge" to assist in their staff faith formation.
- World Catholic Education Day was celebrated on May 13, 2010. The celebration was expanded to encompass the entire week. Daily prayer was circulated and celebrated in all Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools' workplaces. A special liturgy was celebrated at all sites at 9:15 a.m. on Thursday, May 13.

BOARD APPROVED:	November 7, 2001
AMENDED:	December 11, 2002
AMENDED:	May 17, 2006
AMENDED:	December 3, 2007
AMENDED:	October 20, 2008
AMENDED:	October 26, 2009
AMENDED:	October 25, 2010