



ST. MARY C.S.S. PARENT COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017

Executive Members	Name	Attendance
Principal	Mike O'Brien	P
Chair	Beatrice Povolo	P
Vice Chair	Nancy Carpenter	P
Secretary	Shelley McMurter	P
Financial Secretary	Lisa Cairns	P
Teacher Representative	Melissa Wilson-Clark	P
Parish/Non-Teaching Representative	Tomy Valookaran	P
Parent Representatives		
Parent Representative (Grade 9)	Julie Roberts	P
Parent Representative (Grade 10)	Cathy Hadley	P
Parent Representative (Grade 11)	Louella DiFrancesco	P
Parent Representative (Grade 12)	Lisa Allison	R
Parent Representative (French)	Frances Quinn-Ford	Ab
Parent Representative	Kathy Miller	Ab
Parent Representative	Keisha Petrolo	P
Parent Representative	Allison Jocko	R
Parent Representative	Jill Williams	P

Attendance: P= Present Ab = Absent R = Regrets

Other Attendees:

Jennifer Millar

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 pm

Opening Prayer: T. Valookaran

Welcome and Introductions: B. Povolo

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Approval of Minutes: September 20, 2018 – no changes

Motion to Approve by: L. DiFrancesco Seconded by: J. Roberts

REPORTS

Principal's Report: M. O'Brien

Leadership Retreat

- 81 students were trained as retreat leaders in September at Mary Grove Camp with Mr. Valookaran
- There were reports of students contracting bed bugs – this was a small group and not wide spread – it is difficult to know if the bed bugs were at Mary Grove Camp or brought in somehow – Mary Grove does clean and check for bed bugs regularly
- One of the focuses this year will be around the hurricane and earthquake fundraisers
- St. Mary's has a personal connection in Mexico and Haiti through the Jesuit society so supplies can be allocated through this group

Student Awareness and Education

- A Black History Committee has been formed at the school - the committee will educate students around black history clarifying any misunderstandings - students will be able to present their concerns for education topics
- Last year students were educated on LGBTQ, learning disabilities, mental health, bullying with great success
- Harmony will also assist in educating students on racialized students and possibly around autism and stigmas
- Police officers will be coming on October 13th to discuss human trafficking with the female students at the school

Eco Club

- The Eco Club will be making a presentation to the whole school at the assembly to raise awareness
- The club is looking to be able to support cleaning our community from St. Mary's to the plaza – looking to obtain garbage bins

Issue with the Water Sprinkler

- There was an issue with the water sprinkler on October 3rd
- A door, that normally remains open, was closed and hit one of the water sprinkler heads that did not have a protective cover
- The sprinkler went off, the alarm was triggered, and the fire department arrived
- The fire department assisted with cleaning the water out of the school which resulted in the students being outside for about an hour
- A cleanup crew was at the school with the industrial dryers drying out the walls and floors
- There will be a check for mold in the area in the next weeks

Food Drive

- There is a Thanksgiving food drive happening – there is a challenge to all of the classrooms to see which classroom can bring in the most food
- At the early bird weighing, one class has managed to bring in about 200 pounds of food

Specialist High Skill Major (SHSM)

- Is a specialized program for grade 11 and 12 students wishing to focus their learning in a specific economic sector
- SHSM is open and available

- There are courses and field trips in arts and culture; business; non-profit; and auto with some examples including certifications in automotive; fire extinguisher training, etc.
- It covers all levels of pathways

Student Summit

- This year is for the Year of Service to the Poor
- November 19th is the world day of the poor
- St. Mary's is encouraging activities the week before to focus helping the poor

EQAO

- Again numeracy will be the focus at school
- The grade 9 test is made from material covered in grades 7, 8, and 9
- There will be a bridging meeting to review the curriculum and determine where the school has weaknesses – it will be difficult due, to the complexity over 3 grades, to match up the units but there will be an evaluation of the EQAO scores to see where the school needs to improve

PA Day

- October 20th will be a PA Day
- During this time the teachers will be working on numeracy with concentration on IAP students
- There will be an external consultant to assist in teaching the teachers how to identify strengths and weaknesses
- There will also be a look at literacy

UPMath

- Ultimate math is for grade 8 students that are at a level 2 – it is a focus group that help the students with the gaps in math to develop their potential
- The school board finds the difficulties are seen within the grade 9 applied math
- The student takes the UPMath in the first semester of grade 9 and then takes grade 9 applied math the second semester
- The school will be getting together with the math strategy team on Friday October 6th

Mission's Room

- St. Mary's has onsite a mission's room that is stocked with items that families in need can either pick up or if needed St. Mary's will deliver
- The Thanksgiving foodbank food drive is ongoing this week to stock the room – prizes will be given out to the top rooms
- Students can participate with the missions to understand where the donation are going – donations include clothing, food, household items etc. – 1 million pounds is expected to be reached this year for the families missions

New Sound System

- M. O'Brien is looking at a new sound system for the gym – cost estimated between \$25000 - \$30000
- There are a couple more board approved companies that are coming in to provide pricing – one quote has already been received from Apex – M. O'Brien will follow up on the price
- Look at the possibility of the Knights of Columbus or the Lion's Club providing some help with the funding of the system – B. Povolo to draft a letter with assistance in being able to answer questions that may come up such as why the school board will not fund the system etc.
- Looking to fund the system through the school board, council, and external parties
- Possible look at fundraising specifically for the new sound system and share the funds with charities through additional non-uniform days- TBC

Upcoming Dates

October 5 th	Thanksgiving Liturgy
October 12 th	Post-secondary Fair
October 20 th	PA Day

Financial Report: L. Cairns

- The current council budget is at ~\$18800 but the graduation awards from last year have not been removed from the budget – L. Cairns will follow up
- Opening balance will be ~\$17500
- Need to look at the amount of money earmarked for known events supported by council (e.g. graduation gifts, bursaries, etc..)
- Items discussed for council funding include:
 - Contributing a portion of money to the school sound system
 - The Christmas outreach
 - OFSAA is in Thunder Bay this year which would require the cost of a plane ticket should the boys' soccer team make it – should know if the boys will make OFSAA by the next council meeting
 - Band will be going to BC and will be fundraising for this event but maybe council can help to supplement the cost
 - 10% of the council budget goes to charity
 - Desktop computer refresh in the classroom for business classes – this would be 4 rooms – M. O'Brien to follow up on the cost
 - Textbooks/learning resources that are not covered in the school budget – M. O'Brien has not heard of a need for these resources as of yet
 - New Learning Management System (LMS) to centralize all communications and sharing of information that can be done in one place for students, parents, and teachers
- M. O'Brien to discuss with teachers to see if there are any needs
- Non-uniform money is used for compassionate funds for students that cannot afford events so there is not a need to have council fund

NEW BUSINESS

Fundraising: All

- Looking to do another used uniform sale early next year – possibly setup in the library
- Discuss at the next council meeting

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Look at dates for a used uniform sale

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned: 8:00 pm

Closing Prayer: T. Valookaran

Next St. Mary CSS Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 1, 2017 @ 7:00 pm - St. Mary CSS Library

St. Mary CSS Parent Council meetings usually take place on the first Wednesday of the month, from 7:00pm – 8:00pm in the school library. All parents are welcome to attend the monthly Parent Council meetings and bring agenda items forward for discussion.