



ST. MARY C.S.S. PARENT COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, December 6, 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	Ab
Parent Representative (Grade 11)	Louella DiFrancesco	P
Parent Representative (Grade 12)	Lisa Allison	P
Parent Representative (French)	Frances Quinn-Ford	P
Parent Representative	Kathy Miller	P
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

Julia Tapp

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order: 7 pm

Opening Prayer: T. Valookaran

Welcome and Introductions: B. Povolo

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Approval of Minutes: November 1, 2017 – no changes

Motion to Approve by: L. DiFrancesco

Seconded by: J. Roberts

REPORTS

Principal's Report: M. O'Brien

School Events

- Summer sports are done
- Cross country runner at OFSSA placed 11th
- The musical Mary Poppins show was a big success
- The school band concert was held on December 6th and 7th
- The choir concert will be on December 14th
- There will be a downhill ski team this year

Equity

- Equity is a big part of the ministry and education this year
- Last month was black history month and a perceived comment from a student sparked a great conversation where a need for equity training was identified
- The external group, Harmony, was brought in to help racialize students from the Unity Group so they have a language to communicate with – the organization is teaching microaggressions which are slangs that are offensive but are often used in daily life without thought to their offensive nature
 - 10 staff members were also trained to run sessions during the PA day on November 17th - 5 classrooms of 20-25 staff completed similar training to bring more awareness, sensitivity, and understanding
 - T. Valookaran will provide a PowerPoint presentation from the Ontario Pastoral Care to the staff around the Church's position on same sex to assist with the training
- The student Unity Group will be going to the grade 9 and 10 homerooms to complete the equity training
- St. Mary's has been recognized as one of the top 10 school to be awarded the Premier's Award for Inclusion
- Students are running a Selective Connect Organization that is a drop in for students to talk about issues and meet for support – it runs every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in the chapel where the Selective Connect Organization provides presentations with information for support

Christmas Outreach

- The program supports 60 families within our community
- A number of fundraising events are taking place with BINGO running all week (December 4th week) ending Thursday
- It is a tough time of the year for families in need – colder weather, shorter daylight hours
- The events will also provide some fun and a bit of a break for the students
- Students will bring in gifts to their homerooms
- 45 shoe boxes of toiletries will be provided to the Covenant House along with \$2000 cash from the school

Financial Report: L. Cairns

- Council budget is currently at \$17393.91
- There will be some money used to buy the graduation class gift

NEW BUSINESS

School Uniform Policy Update: M. O'Brien

- Discussion around the school uniform and specific issues was held at the Chair's Meeting with the staff
- Staff have been requested to enforce the school uniform with the understanding that reasonable requests to remove the sweater may be granted in the classrooms
- No further review of changes to the requirements of the school uniform is required at this time and no further information has been brought forward
- Consideration of adding a blue shirt to the uniform will be discussed in February or March – if accepted, will look into the feasibility of adding the shirt in September

Used Uniform Sale: J. Williams / F. Quinn-Ford

- All used uniforms have been washed and are stored in the missions room
- A used uniform sale will be held on February 22, 2018 in the evening – time to be confirmed
- Volunteers will be needed for the night of the sale and discussed at the next council meeting

EQAO Math Results: M. O'Brien

- The EQAO math results were discussed
- 17% of the students were in the applied math stream and 83% were in the academic stream
- Looking at 3 years of data across the school, province, and board, there is a trend of problem solving and number sense skills being a needed focus area
- The school is currently below the provincial standard for the applied and academic streams
- Last year there was a focus to address some of the gaps with a focus on mastery learning of fractions and decimals as students are having trouble in these areas possibly due to the use of calculators
- UpMath was also created for students struggling in grade 8 math going into grade 9 – UpMath students take the UpMath course in the first semester and then enroll in the grade 9 math course in the next semester – there is a noticeable sense of confidence and enjoyment of math among the students that have taken the UpMath course – it has also been observed that students failing the grade 6 EQAO in math have achieved a level 3 or higher in the grade 9 applied math EQAO
- Teachers are available every day for math help should the students require additional assistance
- A request was made to look into offering UpMath in grade 10 for students who may not have been struggling in grade 8 math but are struggling in academic grade 9 math as there is sometimes a disconnect from grade 8 to grade 9 that may not be apparent and often students need to remain in the academic stream for University programs – M. O'Brien to look into the possibility of offering the UpMath course in grade 10

New Classes Being Added: M. O'Brien

- 2 new courses will be offered next school year – A Caribbean focus course and a hockey focus course which will be a Phys Ed course offered in grade 10 and will count for 2 credits as there will be 2 hours on the ice everyday – there is currently a basketball focus course
- New classes are added based on departments submitting a course they would like to offer – if there is enough interest in the course it may be put forward for offering

Budget Requests: M. O'Brien / B. Povol

- School Sound System: 3 quotes from the board approved suppliers for the sound system have been request, Ajax Sound has not provided a quote
 - o Suggestion to appeal to Knights of Columbus at both St. Isaac Jogues and Holy Redeemer for support - look to sending request in February
 - o See if there is a possibility of receiving any type of a discount from Apex
 - o Conversation around funding for the school sound system to continue at the next meeting
- Computer Labs: There are 5 computer labs with 1 room having new computers – would like to eventually upgrade all of the labs – looking to complete 1 this school year
- Christmas Outreach: Donation of \$1500 from council budget
- BINGO: Request to have council cover the cost of the BINGO event in support of raising money for the Christmas Outreach program in the amount of \$550

- SHSM (Auto Department): Request to replace the analyzer that diagnoses problems with the car in the auto department – further information will be brought forward in the New Year
- M. O'Brien to reach out to the Math, Science, and English teachers to assess any needs

OPEN QUESTION PERIOD

- Question around where students can find announcements - announcements are run on the monitors in the school throughout the day
- Question around why the flag is at half mass – All flags are at half mass around the province as it is a provincial wide initiative for the women in the Montreal massacre

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned: 8 pm

Closing Prayer: T. Valookaran

Next St. Mary CSS Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 @ 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.