



# ST. MARY C.S.S. PARENT COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, December 2, 2020

(Virtual)

Executive Members	Name	Attendance
Principal	Susan Duane	P
Chair	Beatrice Povolo	P
Vice Chair	Samuel Koroma	P
Secretary	Shelley McMurter	P
Financial Secretary	Emily Povolo	P
Teacher Representative	Melissa Wilson-Clark	Ab
Parish/Non-Teaching Representative	Tomy Valookaran	P
<b>Parent Representatives</b>		
Parent Representative	Adele Sartor	P
Parent Representative	Andrea Szollos	P
Parent Representative	Cordelia Clark Julien	P
Parent Representative	Jill Williams	P
Parent Representative	Keisha Petrolo	P
Parent Representative	Louella DiFrancesco	Ab
Parent Representative	Nancy Barry	Ab
Parent Representative	Rizza Andrade	P
Parent Representative	Samantha McLachlan	P
Parent Representative	Zhora Adatia-McGlashen	P

**Attendance:** P= Present Ab = Absent R = Regrets

## Other Attendees:

Elizabeth Alfarano

Laura Rowed

## CALL TO ORDER

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:10 pm

**Welcome and Introductions:** B. Povolo / S. Duane

**Opening Prayer:** T. Valookaran

## ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

**Approval of Minutes:** October 7, 2020 – no changes

Motion to Approve by: E. Povolo

Seconded by: S. McLachlan

## REPORTS

### **Principal's Report:** S. Duane

#### *COVID Cases*

- 6 cases of COVID have been reported at St. Mary – none were contracted directly in the school – the school is safe
- S. Duane meets with the public health nurse weekly
- Teachers are social distancing and are considered low risk
- Students are tested at the school and sent home when isolation is required
- Cases have not spread in the school due to the strict protocols

#### *Anti-Racism Initiatives in the School*

- Teachers have been taking courses and online learning over their lunch time to learn about anti-racism and inclusion
- The Unity Group has started a “Let’s Talk” monthly meeting to be held with students, parents, and the community – a trial of the meeting has taken place where students were able to register using Eventbrite and then a Zoom link was sent to the registered participant – the meeting went well and students had a forum to discuss racism – looking at using Edsby to send an invitation out to the students, parents and school community

#### *Update from Guidance*

- Guidance has held a number of initiatives, including:
  - Post-secondary workshop
  - College and university application workshops
  - Apprenticeship workshop
  - Workplace pathway workshop
  - Ongoing communication on both potential grads and guidance news Edsby groups
  - Scholarship coaching
  - Grade 12 parent Q&A information session
  - Grade 9-11 post-secondary fact sheet and pathways information sharing
  - How to read your status sheet video
  - Grade 8 visits
  - Planning for Grade 8 parent night – virtual event to be held on January 12, 2021, at 7pm
  - Grade 8 Go-Pro tour of school
  - Promo video created by Grade 12 Comm Tech students
  - Student mental health check-ins – “The First Ten Days” and other conversation starters with classroom teachers
  - Planning for Grade 10-11 Parent Q&A about pathway planning after Christmas break
  - Planning for a Grade 9 parent Q&A regarding “The First Year” after Christmas break
  - Ongoing classroom visits

### **Financial Report:** E. Povolo

- Current balance: \$10343.02 – amount being set aside is \$2800 leaving \$7543.02 in the budget
- The cost for the best buddies system is very costly and will not be able to be provided as the donating gift from the graduating class of 2020 – a 3D printer has been purchased as this was the graduating class’ second request

- A survey will go out to the graduating class of 2021 to obtain input for the graduating gift – suggestion was made to have a cap on the gift amount so it will be consistent year after year - \$2000 will be set aside
- Additional monies set aside will include 4 x \$200 bursaries for a total of \$800
- Requests:
  - Christmas Outreach has requested \$2000 to support the many families in need - approved
  - Vince Sorbilli has requested assistance from parent council for funding to modify the welding area which includes the cost to pipe the gases into the welding bays and eliminate the need for tanks at each of the 5 welding bays at a cost of \$8751.85 – he has received commitment from the Board to facilitate piping the welding gases from outside the shop, decreasing the footprint of each welder in each bay, thus increasing the footprint available to the students in each welding bay (going from 1 student per welding bay to 2 students per welding bay) – Support has been received from the Canadian Welding Foundation, Ontario Power Generation, and the school Board – council has agreed to defer this request until the New Year once it is determined if there are any other requests for funding
  - Have not received any other requests, however, there may be additional requests from teachers to assist with the changes in the school and the transformation of the walls in the New Year

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Yearbook Investigation Update:** S. Duane

- A thorough investigation is being completed by the school, police, and the Board
- The school and police investigations have been completed and the results are inconclusive in terms of confirming the specific individual(s) responsible for this incident. Additional details of the investigation have not yet been released, pending ongoing discussions with the board. Parents requesting further information on the investigation be provided once all investigations are complete.
- The Board investigation is still ongoing – questions raised around the transparency of the Board – B. Povolo will draft a letter to send to the Board requesting transparency on behalf of the parent council and reviewed by the sub-committee
- As devastating as this situation has been, it has been an eye opener for things that need to change in the educational system – need to continue to teach respect and inclusion - a number of initiatives are going on in the school (can go to the school website to see the various groups) – The Unity group has been working with the school community and the Board to have a voice on changes that need to occur – T. Valookaran has also been active with the teachers to address racism in the school
- S. Duane is in conversations with the yearbook company to have the yearbooks reprinted without the graduation quotes
- Parents have raised concerns around the Board transparency – B. Povolo has agreed to draft a letter to the Board requesting an update and understanding of the information that will be shared with the community regarding the investigation – the sub-committee will review the letter and then it will be sent to the Board next week

### **Parent Sub-Committee Update:** B. Povolo

- Provided an overview of the meeting held on November 11, 2020 – see attached meeting minutes



Sub-Committee  
Minutes

### **Christmas Outreach:** T. Valookaran

- Domestic Outreach group which has 52 participating students, is organizing a Christmas Outreach
- Donations can be made via Cash Online or brought into the school – cash and gift cards only as items cannot be accepted due to COVID

- Looking to support 42 families – school has been receiving requests for support from other families in the community
- Asking council to support the program with a \$2000 donation

## ADJOURNMENT

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:50 pm

**Closing Prayer:** All

Next St. Mary CSS Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 @ 7:00 pm – Virtual Zoom Meeting