



ST. MARY C.S.S. PARENT COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, March 3, 2020

(Virtual)

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

Attendance: P= Present Ab = Absent R = Regrets

Other Attendees:

Elizabeth Alfarano

Laura Rowed

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 pm

Welcome and Introductions: B. Povolo / S. Duane

Opening Prayer: T. Valookaran

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Approval of Minutes: December 2, 2020 and February 3, 2021 – no changes

Motion to Approve by: E. Povolo

Seconded by: L. DiFrancesco

REPORTS

Principal's Report: S. Duane

Black History Month - February

- Students participated in daily videos shown everyday
- There was a Black history assembly
- The Unity Group sent to the Board how the community is feeling, what is happening, and what needs to be done – the Board was amazed at the professionalism
- Staff members were involved in addressing racism in the school system - Professor at Queens has been engaging with the staff on next steps and encouraging schools to reflect and think what we can do to become a champion for diversity inclusion

Hybrid Students

- There are a number of students on the list to be back into the school classroom
- The students continue to learn on line while the teacher is on Zoom while teaching the class
- There are some classes that cannot be provided virtually - music, shop, drama, etc.

Course Selection

- Course selections for next year have been submitted

Graduation

- A committee is working on graduation this year as the school would like to be able to offer more for a special ceremony
- Currently a “drive-thru” ceremony is being planned due to COVID-19 public health restrictions

OSSLT

- OSSLT is being offered on a voluntary basis
- There are no provincial, board, or school reports
- This is a concern for students in grade 11 as it is not known if the requirement for this test will be waved for graduation and it is difficult when in grade 12 for students to try to fit it around courses – grade 11 students needing to write the OSSLTs are encouraged to write the test online
- There are OSSLT preparation courses starting March 8th and running to April 8th every Monday and Tuesday with sessions at either 8:30-9:30am or 4:30-5:30pm
- The schools will have a week to administer and complete the test
- A Chrome Book will be required for the test
- The school is looking to have the test week at the end of April

Financial Report: E. Povolo

- Current balance: \$10343.02 – \$2000 has been given to the Christmas Outreach and \$2000 has been set aside for graduation and \$800 has been put aside for bursaries – this will leave the budget at \$5543.02
- Currently there are no other requests from the staff
- There has been a request for \$1000 for the mental wellness café – amount has been approved
- The graduation committee is asking if council could provide \$1600 again this year for the bursaries as other donors have been able to provide funds due to the effects of COVID-19 - council has agreed to commit to \$800 (4 x \$200) bursaries and will relook at this request again in May for an additional \$800 (4 x \$200)

NEW BUSINESS

Student Outreach: T. Valookaran / Micaela Lazzaro / Taijah Ramsarran /

- M. Lazzaro and T. Ramsarran are students that are part of the safe and caring outreach program
- The students provided a presentation on the Mental Wellness Café 2021
- The 2021 Café is looking to focus on mental wellness as well as anti-bullying with the hope of supporting members of the community having troubles
- The Mental Wellness Café will be different this year with a website being created that contains resources to allow a safe interaction with the school community
- This event it will be virtual (Zoom) on May 5th 2021 with a speaker, raffles, care packages (75 packages will be handed out on a first come first serve basis)
- The committee is currently looking for donations from companies for the gift baskets and prizes
- A guest speaker has been contacted but not yet confirmed as the committee is determining interest from the speaker and cost
- Asking council if they can support the café with a donation of \$1000 – approved by council

Public Health & COVID-19 School Protocols: Ms. Duane

- Anne Marie Ho – Public Health Nurse was planning on attending the council meeting but was unable to be present
- Ms. Duane provided the school COVID-19 protocols:
 - Ms. Duane and Ms. Ho meet weekly online
 - Students have their hands sprayed and are self-assessed every time upon entering the school – if a student has any symptoms of COVID-19 or arrive at school without a mask, they are immediately sent home
 - When an individual tests positive in the school they are contacted by public health and required to isolate for 14 days – Public Health sends letters home through the school
 - Any students in the same class are also contacted and required to isolate for 14 days
 - Positive students are interviewed to determine the details of any interactions that have occurred - there has not been a transfer of COVID within St. Mary's so no outbreak – it is important to understand that the schools have been deemed an essential service and while classes will be in isolation the school will not be shut down in Durham
- Teachers do not always have to isolate because they are always low risk – teachers are required to wear a mask, shield and keep their distance from others – if there was a case where a teacher removed their mask or shield when they were in close proximity to a positive student, then they would also be required to isolate
- There have not been any variant cases found at the school
- The school will have clinics where families/students who are asymptomatic can be tested for COVID if they wish

Yearbook Investigation Update: S. Duane

- Ms. Duane has had great conversation regarding the yearbook investigation with the School Board Director
- The Director is going to make a statement regarding the investigation which is unprecedented – this is in large part due to the parent council at St. Mary's and the community asking the Board for transparency
- The letter will be sent out to parents
- The transparency will be a great step forward to help the community heal

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned: 8:10 pm

Closing Prayer: N/A

Next St. Mary CSS Council Meeting

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 @ 7:00 pm – Virtual Zoom Meeting