



ST. MARY C.S.S. PARENT COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, May 5, 2021

(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	Ab
Parent Representative	Jill Williams	Ab
Parent Representative	Keisha Petrolo	Ab
Parent Representative	Louella DiFrancesco	R
Parent Representative	Nancy Barry	Ab
Parent Representative	Rizza Andrade	P
Parent Representative	Samantha McLachlan	Ab
Parent Representative	Zhora Adatia-McGlashen	P

Attendance: P= Present Ab = Absent R = Regrets

Other Attendees:

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: March 3, 2021 – no changes

Motion to Approve by: E. Povolo

Seconded by: Z. Adatia-McGlashen

REPORTS

Principal's Report: S. Duane

Catholic Education Week and Mental Health Café

- An online mass was held during Catholic Education Week
- The Mental Health Café was hosted by 3 students – it showcased student talent at St. Mary's and All Saint's – there was a guest speaker who was amazing – the event was a huge success with a large turnout
- There is a growing concern around the mental health of the students – many students are anxious which causes concern around the return to school – the school recognizes that this will be a change in routine but feel everyone is ready to get back into the routine

Student Groups

- Alliance for Compassion Group (2SLGBTQ+) – held a meeting with other high schools to discuss creating a safe place for students – students had a short amount of time but did a great job – other schools have reached out to the group to ask for help within their school
- Unity Group – held a meeting to change the face of the school so that students will have a representation of themselves on the school halls – this group will design what goes on the walls – there will be flags from around the world and a large map which is planned to be completed by June
- Girl's Empowerment Group – created a Mother's Day video which had teachers and parents talk about the importance of motherhood

Distinguished Catholic Educator Award

- Congratulations to Melanie Cayford

Easter Drive

- Students collected money and dropped off gift cards for families in need within the community

Month of June

- June is indigenous history and 2SLGBTQ+ month

Graduation

- Graduation plans are underway
- Looking to have a more festive event than last year due to the additional planning time this year
- The event will be virtual

School Next Year

- A new course will be offered next year – Anti-Black Racism course for dismantling anti-black racism which will be offered for grade 11s
- De-streamed math next year – applied and academic – teaching mid-way – for students struggling in math – offering one for grade 10 and 11
- Start Sept in quadesters – minister has said there will be remote learning but St. Mary's does not want a virtual school – remote learning would be within the school – hybrid model – before pandemic there was talk about having remote learning – people may be hesitant to send their children to school in September

COVID-19

- Teachers are currently in the process of receiving their first vaccine (for those that chose to)
- All teachers, who want the vaccine, will have received their first shots before the end of the month

Used Uniform Sale

- St. Mary's is thinking about the roll out of used uniform sales – may be able to do something in late June depending on the return to school schedule or there may be a potential to have an appointment schedule to limit the number of people getting together

Financial Report: E. Povolo

- Current balance: \$7343.02 – \$1000 has been provided to the mental wellness café and \$2000 to the Christmas outreach
- There is \$2000 set aside for the grad gift and \$800 for the bursaries (4 bursaries at \$200 each)
- A request to double the bursary amount has been requested – this would be an additional \$800 (4 bursaries at \$200 each) – council has approved

NEW BUSINESS

Yearbook Investigation Update: S. Duane

- It was felt that the presentation from the Board did not address parent council's concern on how the yearbook incident happened
- The school has a tight process for the yearbook where a teacher is hired by the Board to oversee the process, there is also a committee of 5-6 people to oversee the quotes, and Ms. Duane also vets all of the quotes. The process in place was not followed.
 - A secured platform (Board approved) should have been used where all submissions would have been able to be traced to the individual submitting the quote
 - Identified inappropriate quotes during the vetting process should have been removed
- Unfortunately, the tight process was not followed last year
- There will be a yearbook this year with a couple of pages dedicated to the grads – requests have been made to parents and students for submitting selfies – the Board has indicated there will not be any grad quotes going forward

Distinguished Parent Volunteer Award: B. Povolo / S. Duane

- Congratulations to Keisha Petrolo
- Ms. Duane also thanked the parent council for their ongoing support

Mental Wellness Café: B. Povolo / S. Duane

- Parent council received a letter from the student organizers of the Mental Wellness Café thanking them for the generous donation – the evening was well attended and a great success

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned: 8:02 pm

Closing Prayer: N/A

Next St. Mary CSS Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 2, 2021 @ 7:00 pm – Virtual Zoom Meeting