



ST. MARY C.S.S. PARENT COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER, 2016

<http://stmary.dcdsb.ca/index.php/2015-02-24-19-14-32/common-parents-council>

Executive Members	Name	Attendance
Principal	Mike O'Brien	P
Chair	Beatrice Povolo	P
Vice Chair	Nancy Sgro-Carpenter	P
Secretary	Anne-Marie O'Brien	P
Financial Secretary	Lisa Cairns	P
Fundraising Coordinator	Daniella Ortiz	P
Teacher Representative	Melissa Wilson-Clark	P
Teacher Representative	Vivian Riva	R
Parish Representative	Tomy Valookaran	P
Parent Representatives		
Parent Representative (Grade 9)	Julie Roberts	P
Parent Representative (Grade 10)	Louella DiFrancesco	P
Parent Representative (Grade 11)	Lisa Allison	P
Parent Representative (Grade 12)	Cathy Hadley	Ab
Parent Representative (French)	Frances Quinn-Ford	P
Parent Representative	David Dias	P
Parent Representative	Allison Jocko	R
Parent Representative	Lesa Joshua	P
Parent Representative	Kathy Miller	P
Parent Representative	Andrea Seivwright	R
Parent Representative	Jill Williams	R

Other Attendees:

Keisha Petrolo	Giselle Sicchia	
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CALL TO ORDER

- called meeting to order at 7:10 pm

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Our Father
Welcome and Introductions

Approval of September Minutes – Approved: L. Cairns Seconded: F. Quinn-Ford

NEW BUSINESS

St. Mary School Uniform G. Sicchia

-3 suggestions for modification to current uniform are being put forward:

1-Second Layer Requirement (navy sweater, vest etc.)

-request to make second layer optional

-second layer is currently a requirement from Thanksgiving until May 1

-some students find second layer is too warm

Nov 15-March 15

2-First Layer – Offer in Navy (currently white only)

-request to offer first layer in navy, in addition to current white version

-current white shirt greys/stains easily, navy option could help avoid this issue

3-Ladies Tights Requirement

-Tights are currently a requirement from Thanksgiving until May 1

-complaints that tights tear/run very easily

-request to make tights an option year round

-above options have been brought to Curriculum Chairs – ok with all 3 suggestions

-open discussion about proposed uniform modifications

-M. O'Brien reviewed ideas – concerned with evolution of uniform - becoming more "casual"

-this is a concern as the uniform is a unique representation of Catholic Education

-M. O'Brien – agreed to adjust timelines – as school deems appropriate

-M. O'Brien reviewed uniform infraction process

-Class Teacher often starts process – student sent to office

-Options for student:

1-borrow a uniform piece

2-call home to get from parent if possible

3-student is sent home (multiple infractions/no cooperation)

-student uniform infractions are recorded, repeated infractions are taken seriously

-Parent Council's view on 3 modifications are as follows:

1-Second Layer Requirement (navy sweater, vest etc.)

-leave Second Layer as mandatory but, condense timing to @ November 15 - @ March 15

-shorts can be an option for this extended time period as well

2-First Layer – Offer in Navy (currently white only)

-agreed to look into offering 1st layer in navy as additional option to current white

3-Ladies Tights Requirement

-leave as is, condense timing to @ November 15 - @ March 15

-suggested uniform modifications have to be brought to other stakeholders: St. Mary Staff, Students etc.

Fundraising Discussion

D. Ortiz

- D. Ortiz discussed idea of raising additional funds for specific, targeted need(s) of school (i.e. new sound system)
- ideally, get students more involved in this process
- D. Ortiz will ask for ideas via email, if contact info can be provided, she will follow up with that individual directly to get more information
- D. Ortiz will summarize ideas and provide feedback at next meeting
- concerns over duplication of efforts between Council and Departments and students
- school does a lot of fundraising already for various needs
- open discussion about some possible ideas i.e. Valentine Dance for community/parents, held at church hall etc.

REPORTS

Principal's Report M. O'Brien

Shop Services

- a reminder from Vince Sorbilli - shop services are available to parents
- inexpensive and provides experience for our students
- if interested:
 - 1-Email: Vince.sorbilli@dcdsb.ca
 - 2-Leave a message at the school

OSSLT - Online

- OSSLT Online test failed
- both staff and students had frustrating day
- Ministry has stated that it was due to cyber attack
- backup plan was always to write OSSLT during traditional time period in the new year
- it is expected that the test will be offered in both online and written formats

Breakfast Club

- a reminder that St. Mary offers a Breakfast club on Tues-Wed-Thurs
<http://stmary.dcdsb.ca/en/parents/Breakfast-Club.aspx>

Post-Secondary Fair

- held in October
- great turnout
- fair provides opportunity to sit in on 3 sessions of school of student's choice followed by fair in our gym featuring representatives from majority of Universities, Colleges and Apprenticeships from all over Ontario

October – Indigenous Month

- a variety of events were held to raise awareness of Indigenous issues:
 - Red Dress Campaign
 - Stickers on lockers
 - Aboriginal Presentation
 - First Nations restaurant – brought food samples

Grade 9 to Work Day

- Grade 9 students were out visiting various workplaces with their parents/guardians
- St. Mary hosted orientation for Grade 8s from feeder schools

Thanksgiving Food Drive

- raised/gathered considerably more than usual at St. Mary

-in addition to providing food to Holy Redeemer Church for distribution we also were able to send to St. Phillip in South Oshawa

-Thanksgiving Assembly featured a very moving talk by former Teacher, Mr. Schneider which focused on the theme of "Gratitude"

Athletics

-congratulations to Jr & Sr. Boys Soccer – LOSSA Champions

-X-Country – 2 runners going to OFFSA

-Senior Tennis – won 2 Silver and 2 Bronze medals at LOSSA

-Jr Girls Basketball – undefeated to date

Fall Musical – Thurs Nov 24th, Fri Nov 25th and Sat Nov 26th

-Bye Bye Birdie

-tickets are on sale now

Semi-Formal Dance - November 17th

-run by Student Council

Report Cards

-will go home November 11

Remembrance Day Service

-will take place on Friday November 11th during Periods 1 & 2

-parents are encouraged to attend

-Mr. Zimmer and his team organize a beautiful service every year, attended by local dignitaries including our Mayor, MPP and Trustee

Christmas Concerts

Thursday Dec 8th – Instrumental concert

Thursday Dec 15th – Vocal Concert

Thursday Dec 22nd – Dance Showcase

3rd Annual Dodgeball Tourney & Talent Show

-schedule for last day prior to Christmas Break – Friday, Dec 23rd

Welcoming Party

-committee formed to welcome students new to our region

-this year that included @ 40 students in Grades 11 and 12

-event for new 9's and 10's will be held in November

Parent Teacher Interviews

-excellent turn out

-reminder that though you may not be able to book a time on that evening, you can call and leave message for your child's teacher to set up phone call of possible meeting at another time

-query as to whether St. Mar would be able to book P/T Interviews on line?

-M. O'Brien advised not at this time but will look into further

Update on Financials

L. Cairns

-current balance is: **\$16,077.22**

Significant Disbursements

\$904.00 for Automotive Dept. – approved last year and disbursed

\$300.00 for REACH Team approved last year but is still pending?

-L. Cairns will follow up with Gail directly

Significant Credits

\$50.00 from Used Uniform sales

Staff Requests for Funding

3 requests have been received to date:

1-Mrs. Minardi - "Beyond The Hurt"

<http://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/violence--bullying-and-abuse-prevention/educators/bullying-and-harassment-prevention/bullying-and-harassment-prevention-programs>

-training program for @ 10-12 students on Dec 21-22

-will be doing fundraising themselves

-total cost is \$1200

-more details required by Council

2-Microwave for Cafeteria

-Council purchased an industrial microwave for student use a number of years ago

-request is to purchase a second one

-B. Povolo confirmed with G. Sicchia that this has to go through approved vendor

-Council requested further information:

-when was last one purchased? Cost? Type?

-G. Sicchia will inquire through Gail

3-St. Mary Statue

-follow up from last year

-school does not have statue of our Patron

-M. O'Brien to research further

-may be possible that former statue at St. Marguerite Bourgeouys may be available

4-Used Uniform – Laundry Supplies

-used uniform inventory is being laundered by special needs students

-laundry detergent and hangers are required

-council approved request

-M. Wilson-Clark to confirm actual dollar amount

Open Q & A

-K. Miller inquired if St. Mary has or is willing to start a Ski Club?

-anyone can start a club if they have approval and staff moderator

-K. Miller will pursue

-B. Povolo asked if we could get more information on "Growing Success" document put out by Ministry?

-B. Povolo first heard about a Regional Council Meeting

-in essence, this is the "rule book" for K-12 in Ontario

-parents are invited and encourage to read document on line:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/cps/CreatingPathwaysSuccess.pdf>

-inquired if it would be possible to provide the link to the Growing Success document on our website

-M. Wilson-Clark will confirm and report back

UPDATE:

M. Wilson-Clark confirmed that our Website Moderator, M. Cayford has made some enhancements to the St. Mary "Parent" home page that will direct them to other pages in the website:

Example: "For educational resources from the Ministry of Education and the Durham Catholic District School Board, please visit our Student Success page: <http://stmary.dcdsb.ca/en/parents/Parents.aspx>

Then on the Student Success page: "Educational Resources" section for the Growing Success has been added, Creating Pathways, and Secondary Education

<http://stmary.dcdsb.ca/en/programs-and-services/Student-Success.aspx>

-Council members are encouraged to review our website for all the information it has to offer

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned 8:13 pm

Closing Prayer Hail Mary

Next St. Mary CSS Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2016 @ 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.