



ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL, LISTOWEL



St. Mary's Listowel CSAC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday February 23, 2021 7 pm via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance: Jane Hartin, Vicki Dietrich, Tanya Terpstra, Julie Swenson, Brenda Dumond-Novotny, Tammy Fischer, Julie Murtha, Ashley VandenHoven, Cheryl Rust

Regrets: No regrets sent

Welcome Prayer – led by Ashley VandenHoven

Meeting was called to order by Ashley VandenHoven

Attendance and meeting minutes taken by Brenda Dumond-Novotny

Approval of Agenda:

Council was asked to approve the Catholic School Advisory Council's February 23, 2021 meeting agenda. Tanya Terpstra added agenda item to Committee Reports – Parish Report: Tanya Terpstra made the motion to approve the revised agenda and Vicki Dietrich seconded it. Carried.*

Approval of Minutes:

Council was asked if there were any errors or omissions from November 17, 2020 meeting minutes before being approved. Julie Murtha made the motion to approve the minutes as written, and Vicki Dietrich seconded it. Carried.*

Treasurers Report & Business Arising from Report:

Tammy Fischer reported that there was an opening balance of \$2705.43 in the Advisory Council Budget. An HST rebate that was received added in the amount of \$338.12 which brings the current total to \$3043.55 in the account.

Tanya Terpstra approved this information as presented and Brenda Dumond-Novotny seconded it. Carried*

Principal's Report & Business Arising from Report – Jane Hartin

COVID-19 Update – Jane shared the Principals' report is “all things COVID” given the current times we are in. On November 29, 2020 the school was contacted by HPPH (Huron Perth Public Health) about three cases at the school. On December 3, 2020 a classroom was closed along with BUS 13. St. Mary's was the first school in Huron and Perth area to be declared by HPPH in “Outbreak”. According to Public Health, due to confidentiality reasons the case that was linked to the school could not be identified. Jane continued to work with HPPH throughout this time. She expressed gratitude to all the St. Mary's families, students, and staff for working together through that difficult time.



On January 4, 2021 all classes went to Remote Learning. Jane expressed that St. Mary's had a jump on this transition as staff and students were already prepared to make the switch. All Chromebooks were sent home prior to Christmas holidays to be ready for this possibility. Jane shared that various learning resources were prepared and sent home with students as well. She indicated that parents, students and staff did a great job with remote learning during that time. Teachers were very prepared, and using the learning platform was not new as this had been practiced at school with students and teachers. Everyone continues to follow the HPPH guidelines and protocols to ensure safety for everyone.

Jane reported that the new COVID protocols that are being implemented are going well and that the students are showing lots of resilience. Jane expressed how proud she is of the St. Mary's School community.

Church – Jane shared that sacramental preparation is being done in conjunction with the Parish and the Growing in Faith Growing in Christ Program.

Jane reported that the beginning of Lent looked different this year due to COVID-19. Shrove Tuesday's traditional pancake lunch for students could not take place. Ash Wednesday also looked different. The distribution of ashes could not take place, and mass occurred virtually. St. Mary's will continue to observe Lent in ways that can be done safely this year.

Progress Reports – Jane shared that Term 1 report cards were sent home this past Friday. There are a few changes in regards to the time spent on Remote Learning. Following PPM 164, teachers continued their assessment practices which resulted in less I's (Incomplete) on reports cards than in the spring when students were learning remotely. No formal in-person parent interviews will take place, however on-going communication with parents will continue to happen.

Sound System Update – Jane reported that there continues to be ongoing conversations with getting the sound system installed and continues to pursue this. At this time the company that has been hired to do this work cannot get components in order to complete the job due to pandemic related delays. This will be a continued project.

March Break – Due to the changes announced by the Provincial Government March Break will now be moved to April. The break is scheduled to take place April 12-16, 2021.

Upcoming Events – Pink Shirt day is happening at the school tomorrow.

Committee Reports & Business Arising Report –

Safe & Healthy Schools - Julie Murtha reported that at this time there is nothing to report due to COVID-19 restrictions. When things change from the pandemic she will look at the area of safe and healthy schools. Right now all safety concerns are being addressed by the protocols in place by HPPH and the school board.

Julie asked Jane to report on Mental Health Supports. Jane shared that the mental health of all students is being taken into consideration all the time. Jane shared that during remote learning there were some concerns that were raised in regards to mental health, and were addressed. Supports were accessed for those in need. Jane shared now that students are back to in-person learning there is a better pulse on the needs and that supports are available through the CYW (Child & Youth Worker) that is provided by the HPCDSB, as well as support by the Mental Health Coaches that are available through the board as well. Back in November when the "outbreak" occurred the Mental Health Coaches were deployed to the school to support students and were available as needed. Jane also shared that Big Brother and Big Sisters of Listowel recently reached out to the school to seek referrals for children and youth who may benefit from their services and along with the SERT (Katherine Miller) a group of students were identified that may



benefit from this support. Mental health will continue to be monitored at the school and the appropriate referrals or connections to support in the community will be recommended in order to meet student's needs. Jane stated the school recognizes that mental health concerns impact learning and therefore addressing mental health is of great importance.

Jane reiterated that Mental Health is being monitored and is a focus this year given the pandemic. There are supports in place from the board, teachers are monitoring for signs, and referrals are being made as needed for support.

Snack Program - Jane reported that Penny Bajurny continues to purchase for the snack program and then delivers the items to the school. The snack program has become school based. School staff are assisting with the safe delivery of snacks to all students. This is done by admin staff and EA's in the school. Jane shared that the snacks are individual items that can easily be shared out safely such as apples and cheese strings that are individually wrapped. The snack program continues to be once a week on Thursdays, however there is always food available at the school for any student in need.

Fundraising Committee – was not on the agenda to discuss this time as this item cannot be taking place during COVID and will be revisited in the future.

Parish Report – Tanya Terpstra shared that preparation for Reconciliation and Holy Communion for the grade 2 students has begun. Forms are being sent home and will now be returned to the Church. Sacramental records are kept at the church. Tanya shared she will be in contact with families in regards to preparation for this. Families will now be asked to participate with preparation for this at home with their children. This used to be done with Father Morrison at the school. This new expectation is a way to connect, church, home and school. There are books for families to use with their children for sacramental preparation that will be provided. No dates have been set yet for Holy Communion. TBA.

Tanya shared that Father Devas will be moving on from the Parish and we will be getting a new Parish Pastor named Father Ross Bartley. Father Ross Bartley is expected to arrive at the beginning of July, 2021. Deacon Wayne will continue to be with the Parish. It is not known at this time where Father Devas is going.

Tanya shared that all three Churches in the Parish reopened last Sunday for in-person service. Listowel Sunday service is 11am. Service is still being live streamed on Facebook at this time. COVID-19 protocols are in place at the church. Screening will take place at the doors before entering the Church. The church is still only allowing 1/3 of the capacity – so about 30%.

Teacher/Staff Report - Vicki shared nothing to report at this time. Jenny McGrath (teacher representative) not in attendance.

Other Business-

Traffic Study/Safe Crossing – Brenda shared recent traffic study being completed by municipality and how this ties in to the request for a safe crossing at Krotz St. West and Wallace Ave South for St. Mary's students. Currently there is a crossing guard at Hutton and Wallace which does not service the children well in the southern end that take Krotz St. as a direct route to school. A petition was completed by community members and the Municipal Council was presented to in September about this concern of the unsafe crossing. It is hoped there will be some resolution to this in the near future for the children who walk to school now that busing has stopped in this area. Brenda shared concerns with the study being done during lockdown and the pandemic which will not give a true picture of traffic and foot traffic in the area. This concern has been shared by Brenda with the Mayor and Lyndon Kowch, the Municipal staff member leading this study.



Parking Lot/Safety Concerns – Ashley shared concerns regarding the winter conditions of the LEMC (Listowel Evangelical Missionary Church) parking lot for parents who are dropping off and picking up students from St. Mary's. She reported that she spoke with someone at the church who indicated that the salting of that parking lot does not coincide with the times St. Mary's families are using it. As well the walkway needs to be addressed that leads to the parking lot from the school. Jane indicated that she would follow up with both concerns. Jane also shared that parking at the LEMC will be long term as there is no space for parents to park at St. Mary's and buses need a clear path to be able to pick students up and drop students off safely. Traffic has become even heavier with the daycare being onsite as well.

The question was asked if teachers can park at the LEMC instead so parents could access the parking lot at the school, and Jane shared that the teaching staff are not permitted to be parking there all day. The lot is used for short turnover of picking up and dropping off students only. Tanya asked if the school board or school plans to look at another solution and suggested the extension of the parking lot going further back where the portables are currently. Jane will ask the board.

Another suggestion was to have drop off and pick up at different times for children that are different then the busing times, however Jane shared this would not be feasible. This creates other issues. The issue of Kindergarten children being dismissed earlier than the other students was also addressed and both Tammy and Julie indicated that this is cause for concern as these children are entering the parking lot of the LEMC as the parked school buses are beginning to leave to come over to St. Mary's to line up for the other students. Jane will follow up with buses and parking at the LEMC.

Upcoming meeting date is as follows:

- May 18, 2021 at 7pm via Microsoft Teams

Closing Prayer –

Led by Jane Hartin and Ashley VandenHoven (Our Father)

Meeting Adjourned - 8pm

