



ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Date: October 26, 2021

St. Mary's Listowel CSAC Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Tuesday October 26, 2021 7pm via Microsoft Teams

In Attendance: Jane Hartin, Erin Stewart, Julie Swenson, Brenda Dumond-Novotny, Julie Murtha, Cheryl Weishar, Sam Bajtos.

Regrets: No regrets sent

Welcome Prayer – led by Erin Stewart

Meeting was called to order by Erin Stewart

Attendance and meeting minutes taken by Brenda Dumond-Novotny

Approval of Agenda:

Council was asked to approve the Catholic School Advisory Council's October 26, 2021 meeting agenda. Sam Bajtos made the motion to approve the agenda and Brenda Dumond-Novotny seconded it. Carried.*

Approval of Minutes:

Council was asked if there were any errors or omissions from the September 21, 2021 meeting minutes before being approved. Cheryl Weishar expressed a spelling error of her name in the minutes. This will be corrected going forward. Julie Murtha made the motion to approve the minutes as written and corrected, and Erin Stewart seconded it. Carried.*

Review of the 2021/2022 CSAC Executive & Committee Positions

Positions were reviewed at the beginning of meeting. Erin Stewart is still looking for a co-chair. All are encouraged and welcome to attend the CSAC meetings and can express interest in volunteering with any of the committees. Many hands make light work ☺

Treasurers Report & Business Arising from Report:

Jane Hartin shared on behalf of the treasurer that currently there is a total of \$3043.55 in the Advisory Council Budget. This has remained the same since the last council meeting. Brenda Dumond-Novotny approved this information as presented and Julie Murtha seconded it. Carried*

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

Math and Literacy Assessment

Jane reported that there are a few highlights to share in regards to things taking place at the school. Jane expressed that there have been Board Teams in for the primary grades to complete diagnostic assessments in both Math (Early numeracy screening) and Literacy (phonological assessment). These assessments provide valuable information to support and guide teachers for next steps in learning.

New Pilot Project – LEXIA Program

Currently St. Mary's is part of a board wide pilot project using Lexia. This program has been embedded in the programming for grades 1-3. LEXIA is an adaptive blended learning program that accelerates the development of literacy skills for students of all abilities, helping them to make the critical shift from learning to read to reading to learn. The LEXIA program is responsive to

student's needs. Ms. Amanda Balon (SERT) is spearheading this for both teachers and students. The results of using this program will provide important information that will guide teachers with next steps in literacy for students.

Upcoming PD Day

Jane shared that Friday November 5, 2021 is a PD day. All teachers will be taking part in Literacy and Math training for half the day, and then the second half of the day will be to work on completing progress reports. EA's and OA's will also partake in professional development activities this day as well.

Progress Reports – Jane shared progress reports will be sent home with students on **November 19, 2021**. No in-person parent interviews will take place, however there will be information sent out on how parents and caregivers can book virtual interviews with teachers. Look for this in upcoming WAAG emails.

Terry Fox Run/Walk

Jane expressed that the Terry Fox run/walk was a great success. She noted it was so great to see such high school spirit. There were lots of encouraging pictures posted of this great event, and it felt like it had brought back some “normalcy” with everyone coming together for such a great cause. Way to go St. Mary's for reaching the fundraising goal!

Mass/Celebration Update

Jane shared that they are currently waiting to hear back from Deacon Wayne to see if Mass will occur. Jane is hopeful this will be confirmed for the beginning of November. The hope is that Mass/Celebration will be offered every other month and will remain virtual at this time.

Father Bentley and Deacon Wayne are now allowed back in the school as of last week for in person visits.

Sound System Update

Jane reported that the previously quoted company that was to install the sound system can no longer fulfill the request due to parts not being able to be obtained. A new company called McNain Communications was contacted and will provide a quote for the same job. Just waiting on the quote to come through, and hopeful that they can proceed with this project.

Fundraising Update

Jane shared that the board has approved that fundraising can go ahead again this year after being halted because of COVID-19 last year. This will be at the discretion of the fundraising committee. There can be up to two fundraising activities. There has been a lot of talk about trying to fund raise for a larger scale item such as an accessible playground and an addition to the current playground. This may require saving over several school years to raise these large funds in order to make such a purchase. The committee can look at beginning to fundraise or can also choose to plan for next year. See further notes in committee section.

Committee Reports & Business Arising Report –

Safe & Healthy Schools - Julie Murtha reported that at this time there is nothing new to report due to COVID-19 restrictions. When things change from the pandemic there will be work to look at once again in the area of safe and healthy schools. Right now all safety concerns are being addressed by the protocols in place by HPPH (Huron Perth Public Health) and the school board. Jane shared that this year the school board has provided St. Mary's with access to mental health supports provided by various providers. Currently Erin Dietrich CYW and Lindsay Durst (Social Worker) are providing in house supports to meet student needs. Mental health is a huge focus at this time. Melissa Lewis (Nurse) from the LIHN (Local Health Integration Network) is also providing mental health support to students as well. In addition to these professionals the school also has access to Social Emotional Coaches. Jane shared she is confident that students are getting the supports they need at the school level and referral information is being provided if additional community support is needed. She also shared that Mrs. Katherine Miller (SERT) has been great at connecting students and their families to the supports and community resources needed as she identifies needs while working with students. Jane reiterated that Mental Health is being monitored carefully and is a focus this year again given the pandemic. All teachers are monitoring for signs, and referrals are being made as needed for supports.

Snack Program - Jane reported that Penny Bajurny continues to purchase for the snack program and delivers the items to the school (thank you Penny!). The snack program continues to be 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 the snacks are individual items that can easily be shared out safely such as apples and cheese strings that are individually wrapped, as well there are individual containers for all students for items such as grapes etc. There are individual bins for each classroom to deliver the snacks. 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. The funding for this is provided by OSNP (Ontario School Nutrition Program).

Fundraising Committee

CSAC and fundraising committee members discussed if we go ahead and proceed this year or just look at planning for next year. Discussed the high cost of a new playground and that this would require fundraising over time to be able to acquire the amount needed. Discussed the possibility of looking at an Interactive Outdoor Play area. Cheryl Weishar suggested that at the next staff meeting that teachers and staff be asked if they have any items for a wish list that fundraising can help with and that maybe these smaller projects can be looked at for this year. CSAC members agreed this was a great idea and will wait for school staff to generate a wish list. This will be discussed again at the next CSAC meeting. It was also discussed what fundraiser activities in the past were easy for families and generated a good return for the school. Some examples were Domino's Pizza and the Metzger Meats fundraiser. A dance off where students are sponsored was another idea that was presented. This being an activity that could take place at the school similar to the Terry Fox Walk/Run. It was noted that at this time of year many families are being asked to fund raise for extracurricular activities and that starting one now may not be the right time. We will wait on the list from school staff and then further discuss next steps and what may be doable for this school year.

Parish Report

Nothing to report at this time.

Tanya Terpstra not in attendance.

Teacher/Staff Report

Cheryl Weishar (staff representative) shared nothing to report at this time.

Jenny McGrath (teacher representative) not in attendance.

Other Business

It was discussed that some parents/caregivers are having trouble accessing the WAAG information from certain devices because the link does not open. It was requested that the WAAG report be put into the body of the email rather than in a link to a document so it can be read easily. Parents/caregivers can then access the additional links attached when they are at a device/computer that allows them to do so. This has been happening mostly with people trying to use their cell phone to open the WAAG link and have been having trouble. Going forward Jane will put the WAAG report in to the body of the email to see if this is more helpful. Links to additional information and resources will still be part of the WAAG emails.

Upcoming meeting date is as follows:

- November 23, 2021 7pm via Microsoft Teams

Closing Prayer –

Led by Erin Stewart (Our Father)

Meeting Adjourned – 7:57pm

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