



# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, LISTOWEL



## **St. Mary's Listowel CSAC Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday May 18, 2021 7pm via Microsoft Teams

**In Attendance:** Jane Hartin, Brenda Dumond-Novotny, Vicki Dietrich, Tanya Terpstra, Julie Swenson, Sam Bajtos, Tammy Fischer, Jenny McGrath

**Regrets:** Regrets sent by Ashley VandenHoven and Julie Murtha

**Welcome Prayer** – led by Jane Hartin

Meeting was called to order by Jane Hartin

Attendance and meeting minutes taken by Brenda Dumond-Novotny

**Approval of Agenda:**

Council was asked to approve the Catholic School Advisory Council's May 18, 2021 meeting agenda. Tanya Terpstra made the motion to approve the agenda and Vicki Dietrich seconded it. Carried.\*

**Approval of Minutes:**

Council was asked if there were any errors or omissions from the February 23, 2021 meeting minutes before being approved. Sam Bajtos made the motion to approve the minutes as written, and Julie Swenson seconded it. Carried.\*

**Treasurers Report & Business Arising from Report:**

Jane Hartin and Tammy Fischer reported that there have been no changes to the current total of \$3043.55 in the account.

Brenda Dumond-Novotny approved this information as presented and Tammy Fischer seconded it. Carried\*

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

Jane shared that it continues to be an interesting school year as the students continue in Remote Learning at this time. She indicated that students and teachers continue to work very hard and that there is a lot of effort from the teachers, students and parents/caregivers during remote learning. She shared that the student engagement is good and that everyone is doing their best in what is a difficult situation. She shared that it is often underestimated how much times it takes to provide the online content, and everyone is working so very hard to make this successful.

Chromebooks that are having any issues are being dealt with very quickly by Colleen Pletsch and Laura Johnston who is the new Library Technician for St. Mary's.

Jane reported that there has been no word on return to in-person learning at this time. Everyone would love to be back in the school; however the school board is waiting for decisions that will come from the government regarding return to in-person. Mental Health supports continue to be available to St. Mary's students through the CYW from Huron Perth Centre.

Reminder that June 11, 2021 is a PD Day

Term Two Report cards will go home on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Last day of school is June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 is a PD Day.

Jane reported that all Chromebooks will need to be returned to the school to be housed over the summer. There is no plan in place yet as to how these will be returned to the school, however there will be information to follow once that is decided and then it will be shared out to families and students on how to do this.

Jane shared that Kindergarten orientation will be virtual again this year, and this will launch on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Jane is hopeful depending on COVID restrictions that it may be possible to welcome some new students for an in-person tour of the school in late summer.

Climate Surveys were sent out today to students, families and teachers. This a great opportunity to provide feedback, ask questions and raise concerns. The school is hoping for a high participation rate as this helps to inform what is going well and possibly what changes may need to be looked at.

Jane announced a new service that will be provided to students and their families who are newcomers to the area. The program is called Settlement Workers in Schools (SWIS). The role of the support person is to be available to newcomer students and families to provide assistance navigating the school system and access community resources. This is a welcomed new role for the school, and will be helpful for many new students in our school community.

Jane expressed she wanted to follow up on the following items from the last CSAC meeting. They are as follows:

**Parking Lot** – Jane shared that the parking lot fits the needs of the school at this time and therefore there will be no expansion. If there needs to be a change in future, this can be readdressed.

**Buses** – Jane followed up with the bus company as to why they were there so early in the church parking lot adjacent to the school. They have been getting there earlier in order to complete the cleaning measures due to COVID prior to the St. Mary's students boarding the buses at end of day. This may need to be addressed in September again, however that will also depend on what protocols are in place at that time around COVID 19.

**Walkway** – This has been addressed and the custodian will continue to make sure it is well maintained.

**Kindergarten students being released early** – Jane addressed this with teachers and there were two reasons for this. 1. They were making sure that the youngest students were safely on buses, and 2. The youngest students that were being picked up were ready when parents arrived. It was discussed that it was a bit too early and this matter has since been resolved.

Jane also shared that Grade 8 graduation is once again a virtual graduation. She shared they are hopeful to plan a graduation mass. It will likely be a drive by graduation similar to last year however this will be determined by protocols established by HPPH and the government.

Jane also reported she is not aware of any updated information on the traffic study and the intersection of concern at Wallace Ave. South and Krotz St.

### **Committee Reports & Business Arising Report –**

**Parish Report** – Tanya Terpstra shared that we will become a Family of Parishes in July when Father Ross Bartley arrives. Sacramental preparation has had to pivot due to COVID restrictions. The plan is to hopefully continue with this on June 4<sup>th</sup>, and June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 should the Provincial Stay at Home Order end. First Holy Communion Sundays are scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup>, June 13<sup>th</sup>, and June 20<sup>th</sup>. Tanya shared that there has been some concern regarding safety of taking Holy Communion, and so there is no pressure on anyone to feel that they have to do so in June. She indicated that the church is looking at an alternative time in the fall. No one is currently at in-person Mass. Mass continues to be streamed live on Facebook. The only people present is the Priest, music person if available, and the live stream camera person. Sacraments will be live stream so extended family members and friends can watch livestream on Facebook.

Tanya shared that the Parish is at a standstill. Recently she shared her family held a pork fundraising event that was successful. Meat will be coming and pickups will happen in a drive thru manner.

Tanya shared that parents of grade 2 students are free to reach out to her if they have any questions. She also shared that Confirmation will happen in the fall. This will take place with Father Moss. At this time grade 6 & 7 students have had packages sent to them at home and they are doing preparation with their families for this at home.

**Safe & Healthy Schools** – Jane Hartin reported that at this time there is nothing 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 and the school board.

**Snack Program** - Jane reported that due to Remote Learning the snack program is not running, however OSNP has directed schools to provide gift cards (such as grocery store cards) to families in need at this time. Funds are being used as needed. Families continue to be well held.

**Fundraising Committee** – Nothing to report

### **Teacher/Staff Report -**

Vicki Dietrich shared nothing to report at this time.  
Jenny McGrath shared nothing to report at this time.

### **Other Business-**

No other Business

Upcoming meeting date is as follows:

- **Tuesday September 21, 2021 at 7pm via Microsoft TEAMS**

Prior to closing prayer, Jane took a moment to thank all the members of the CSAC for attending over this past year, and for participating throughout a difficult time as we all faced the uncertainties of COVID-19. She shared her appreciation for everyone's efforts and bringing forth concerns and feedback that help inform these meetings. Everyone was wished well, continued good health, and to stay safe.

**Closing Prayer –**

Led by Jane Hartin (Our Father)

**Meeting Adjourned – 7:30pm**