

St. Ann Catholic School Council Minutes
Monday, March 7, 2023
3:30 p.m.
School Library

Prayer: The St. Ann Catholic School Council prayed the Catholic School Council Prayer together.

Attendance: Mrs. T. Fricano, Principal; Steven Docherty, Principal Assistant; Maggie Tapp, Maureen Weatherston and Iryna Holovatska

Parent Observer: Colette VanBodegom and Nicole Stone

Guests: Tim McClemont, Executive Director, AIDS Network and
Julie Angiolillo, Superintendent, HWCDSB
Julie Prieta, Public Health
Melissa Biksa, Public Health

Parent Council Goal: Parent Communication and Engagement with Faith Focus

March 7, 2023 Minutes: were approved and posted to the school website.

Community Rep Report:

- Tim McClemont, Julie Prieta and Melissa Biksa presented on the proposed Consumption and Treatment Services Site. A report was distributed to the committee for their review. Mr. McClemont provided an overview of the AIDS Network. Selection of site was based on statistics reviewed re: the number of overdoses and hospital emergency visits that occurred in the area. The landowner of 746 Barton Street East advised that his property was available for the Consumption and Treatment site. The project will be funded by the MOHLTC. Questions from the committee members were addressed by Tim McClemont. The process for individuals to use the facility was explained on how they will be met and vetted at the front door. The staffing component will be trained for violent outbursts and de-escalation. The number of people using the service is estimated to be 20-25 per day within a 12-hour portion of the day. Mr. McClemont advised that ideally two security personnel would be on site (by a paid private company). Statistics need to be compiled re: needles found, number of school lock-downs. This information will be important for the schools going forward. Building trust with the community is an issue. The facility will also track the types of drugs being used by their clients.
Next steps can be discussed in the Fall at another meeting. The school stressed: security presence on the street at bell times and that continuation of communication between AidsNetwork/Security and the Principal is imperative.
At this time, the St. Ann Catholic School Council is not prepared to write a letter of endorsement to the AIDS Network re: the proposed Consumption and Treatment Services site at 746 Barton Street East.

Parish Rep Report:

- **Sacraments and May Crowning:** Grade 2 students celebrated their First Holy Communion and the Grade 7 students received Confirmation. Fr. Oehring shared May Crowning with the

children in the Church. The children were reverent and quiet during the entire Mass, the Eucharist, and the Crowning of Mary.

Treasurer's Report:

- **Funds from Meet the Teacher BBQ:** The proceeds will be used to purchase ice-cream cookie sandwiches for the entire school on June 23rd following the Staff vs Student Volleyball game. The balance of \$379.12 will cover the estimated costs of \$378.00. These are from Terra Cotta Foods and are both nut and gluten free.
- **Balance from home/parish/school grant:** \$125.43 suggestions for use? A suggestion to purchase rosaries for children that can be given out in the Fall was proposed.

Chair Report and Current Business: No report at this time.

Principal's Report:

- **Garden:** The space in front of the school has been cleared weeded. A grant was used to add Indigenous plants to this plot. The Health Action Team (HAT) and Eco Team worked on this project. In addition, those teams built a flower garden along the front wall of the school. These spaces have made the front entrance more welcoming and has provided opportunities for students to learn about stewardship through hands-on experiences. Also, watering and working in nature is therapeutic for our students learning to regulate their emotions and behaviours.
- **Technology:** The school furnished seven classrooms with whiteboards and projectors. Two more classes are ear-marked for replacement for next school year. It was identified that iPads in the kindergarten classes need to be purchased.
- **Sports:** The school teams were very active during the spring school season. The newest sport is cricket that the Grade 6-8 children will enjoy.
- **HAT:** The team planned a Mental Wellness Fair. These activities were appreciated by all while allowing the student event organizers an opportunity to rise as leaders.
- **Daily School Route** project is ongoing. Art will be mounted on the neighborhood fences.
- **STEM:** Scientists in the classroom was completed in all classes. Grade 5/6 and Grade 6 had Coding lessons led by a McMaster Student. Grade 8s will be introduced to Microbits.
- **Art:** Music therapy is being undertaken in two classes with ukelele lessons provided for the students. Two additional small groups comprised of students with special needs is also receiving Music Therapy.
- **Transition Planning:** Up-dated staff changes will be forthcoming in the near future.
- **French Café:** was a success with the students and many parents participating in the day-long event.
- **Breaking Bread:** The council members enjoyed a year-end dinner together.

Next meeting date: October 2nd at 3:30 p.m. in the School Library with elections being held. The proposed date for the Meet the Teacher Barbecue is Wednesday, September 27th.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.