

**St. Ann Catholic School Council Minutes**  
**Monday, September 28, 2020**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Remote Via Zoom**

**Attendance:** Joseph Curto, Principal; Mrs. Sheahan, Vice Principal; Maggie Tapp, Iryna Holovatska, Maureen Weatherston, Debora Rebelo, Natalia Jaramillo, Colette VanBodegom

**Prayer:** I. Holovatska provided the opening prayer.

**June Minutes:** were approved as previously circulated.

M. Tapp introduced the returning members to council: I. Holovatska and M. Weatherston.

Members were acclaimed in the following positions:

Chair: Maggie Tapp

Vice Chair: Iryna Holovatska

Secretary: Maureen Weatherston

Council Members at Large: Debora Rebelo, Colette Van Bodegom, Natalia Jaramillo

**Parent Council Goal: Parent Communication and Engagement with Faith Focus**

After discussion, it was decided to keep the council's goal since it continues to provide direction for the council's work. Communication will continue to be transparent. Communication to the parents from the school council will be included in the school newsletter. The council minutes are posted on the HWCDSB website.

**Parish Rep's Report:**

- Fr. Oehring was unable to attend tonight's meeting but would like to contribute where needed.
- Families are to contact Fr. Oehring to make arrangements for their children to receive the Sacraments.
- Monthly liturgies will be undertaken and Fr. Oehring will participate when possible.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Last September's School/Family Barbecue raised \$1040.00. As per Catholic School Council guidelines, a charitable donation has to be made from the proceeds. The council agreed to donate 25% which is \$260.00 to the CYO. The remainder will be held for discretionary use of the school council.

**Community Rep's Report:**

- M. Weatherston advised that on July 30<sup>th</sup>, members of the school council: M. Tapp, I. Holovatska and M. Weatherston with G. Pizzoferrato, principal of St. Ann's, met virtually with City Hall staff and N. Nann, councilwoman for Ward 3 to discuss the playground expansion project. The school council and principal's presentation included an introduction, history of St. Ann's School, research that had been undertaken into the demographics and rewards from improving the students' play experience.
- City Hall Staff advised that the Beechwood Avenue property owners have an established historical usage of the area in question.
- We were informed that our application was denied on April 6, 2020.

- Going forward, the school council has requested assistance from the HWCDSB via their legal department, to send communication to the property owners advising of our intent to access the property in question.
- J. Curto advised that P. Daly, Chair of HWCDSB and T. Perri, School Trustee, visited St. Ann School in early September to view the proposed playground expansion. With the untimely death of Mr. Perri, we will wait until a replacement has been announced in order to continue aiding us in this matter.

### **Chair Report:**

- Due to Covid 19, the following items were put on hold:
  - **Parent Retreat with Fr. Oehring in collaboration with school council** – the retreat could possibly go forward in the Spring of 2021. If an outdoor venue is needed, Camp Marydale may be available.
  - **PRO Grant Guest Speaker: Jean Clinton** – this event will need to be rescheduled to a later date
  - **Sourcing for Spirit Wear** – all students, including virtual learners, will be included in this initiative. The students will have an opportunity to submit a T-shirt design in a contest with students voting electronically on the submissions. Parameters will be set re color and design details. I. Holovatska will source out vendors and cost.
  - **Alternate lunches** – Pita Pit can provide an individually wrapped pita for \$5. M. Tapp will look into the online order form that is needed. J. Curto will confirm with the school superintendent if this is feasible at this time.

### **Principal's Report:**

- J. Curto thanked the families and students for the warm welcome he and Mrs. Sheahan have received. He reflected on the unique school community and long history St. Ann School has had in Hamilton.
- To promote the school community, Mr. Curto suggested organizing a career day to recognize the positive impact that graduates of St. Ann have made in Hamilton.
- Another suggestion was to create a Wall of Fame that celebrates the accomplishments of St. Ann School alumnae.
- School entry, handwashing, mask wearing and physical distancing are all going very well.
- Face shields were purchased by the School Board for students to wear when in close contact with teachers and staff.
- All students are having 2 outside breaks every day.
- There are approximately 100 students that are participating in remote learning with 230 students in classrooms.
- Students will be recognized for their hard work in the monthly awards. They will be notified in their LMS student school site.
- There is a vacancy on the Parent Involvement Committee at the HWCDSB. Anyone interested is to contact J. Curto with any questions.
- J. Curto advised of the need for fundraising to purchase new technology for the students. Many of the devices are old and incapable of having the software updated as needed. The replacement project would be a 2 or 3 year plan. One fundraising idea is for the students to sell a box of greeting cards for approximately \$30 with \$10-\$15 profit going to St. Ann School. Another suggestion was to approach the manager of No Frills on Main Street to enter into an agreement

with the school wherein a percentage of the total the school families spend at No Frills is donated to the school. J. Curto will speak to the manager at No Frills regarding this idea.

- M. Tapp advised that in the past, fundraising goals were achieved by charging for parking for Ti-Cat football games on the school and church property. Unfortunately, there are no games scheduled in 2020.
- I. Holovatska advised that a portion of funds raised has to be earmarked for a charitable donation. She also advised that a committee will need to be struck for fundraising purposes.
- It was suggested to send an email to the school families to advise them of the dire need to replace old, outdated technology that the students are using and ask for their fundraising suggestions.
- A suggestion was made to reach out to St. Ann School alumnae for their support in this matter.
- The possibility of corporate sponsors will need to be vetted through the School Board for their approval.
- Fundraising will be on the agenda for the October meeting.

### **Other Business**

- I. Holotvatska asked Mr. Curto to explain the supports in place for children who are quarantined at home for 14 days. Mr. Curto advised that the students can access school work through their LMS classroom learning. A communication will be sent to all parents with this information. Parents can email Mr. Curto with any questions or concerns.
- The annual fundraiser, Spook a thon, which would have taken place on October 30<sup>th</sup> will need to be cancelled this year. In its place could be a Spring event. This will provide more time for the necessary planning.
- As the annual Thanksgiving food drive cannot be held at St. Ann School, parents can donate money to Food for Kids online.

**Prayer for October meeting:** Maureen Weatherston will provide the opening prayer.

**Next meeting date:** Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. It will be via remote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.