

St. Ann Catholic School Council Minutes
Monday, March 1, 2021
6:30 p.m.
Remote Via Zoom

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

Guest: Brendon Linwood, CYO representative re: CSC Retreat being held at Camp Marydale.

Prayer: M. Tapp provided the opening prayer.

January Minutes: were approved and posted to the HWCDSB website.

Parent Council Goal: Parent Communication and Engagement with Faith Focus

Parish Rep's Report:

- No report at this time.

Community Rep's Report:

- M. Weatherston advised that she had sent an email with an attached letter to Mr. Daly on February 1st advising him that St. Ann School Council is still very much interested in exploring ways to improve the playground situation. The letter provided information about the possibility of purchasing the Polish Hall as one suggestion. Mr. Curto will obtain the contact information for the Polish Hall and ensure that the HWCDSB is apprised of this.
- The proposal has gone to Mr. Ramelli re: property purchase at HWCDSB.
- J. Curto advised that due to Covid 19, all property purchases are on hold at this time. The Council is hopeful that this initiative can go forward in the near future. The addition of greenspace would be very beneficial to the students at St. Ann School.

Chair Report and Current Business:

- Parking on the streets and in front of the school continues to be an issue especially after a snowfall. J. Curto asked to be advised of any issues going forward.
- St. Ann School received a \$2500 grant from the Bishop Ryan Foundation. The funds are to be used to support initiatives/programs that strengthen the bonds between school, home and parish. Thank you letters from the School Council, students and school were sent to Bishop Crosby and Mr. Pat Daly.
- OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education) have several workshops scheduled for March. The speakers will be: Paul Davis, Anthony Perrotta and Wes Williams, aka Maestro Fresh Wes. More information can be found on their website:
<https://www.oapce.org>
- The 28th Annual Parent Conference 2020-2021 was held virtually on February 3rd. The guest speaker was Sara Westbrook. M. Tapp advised the conference was highly informative and provided a great deal of information. Resources and contact information were provided afterwards. Any requests for information can be sent via email to M. Tapp.
- Parents Engaged in Education (<https://www.parentsengagedineducation.ca>) have a DREAM TREE banner in the shape of a tree with 150 leaves and is available for purchase. The banner is perfect for every school to encourage parents, students and educators to write their dreams

as it stands as a living positive example of a school where everyone DREAMS BIG and works towards all students achieving their goals. M. Tapp has reached out to them for further information and cost.

- M. Tapp received a copy of **Together in Faith: Home. School. Parish. A Collection of Catholic School Board Practices** from the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association. This is a newly created resource published by OCSTA. The booklet has a lot of information for council members. M. Tapp and J. Curto have copies if anyone is interested in reading it.
- Education Week will be May 2-7 and the theme is: Nurturing Hope.

Principal's Report:

- Bishop Ryan Foundation grant of \$2500 can be used for possible parent retreat at Camp Marydale. The focus of the grant is to build a relationship between school, parish and home. Choosing Camp Marydale as a location would be able to meet all of the retreat needs.
- For a fundraising initiative, J. Curto suggested the students paint or do crafts with an exhibition set up for outside of the school for family members to see and possibly purchase. The items could be sold with the proceeds going to the church.
- J. Curto also suggested as a good will gesture for the community, the unsold crafts or paintings can be donated to long term care homes in the area. The funds from the Bishop Ryan Foundation could be used to purchase the craft materials. Mrs. Sheahen suggested a silent auction of the items as a fundraising initiative. J. Curto will reach out to the Hamilton Art Gallery for a donation of artist's time and/or materials.
- Brendan Linwood, CYO representative, advised that Camp Marydale is an excellent choice for a retreat and is used throughout the year by many schools as an outside camp experience. The location is more reachable for the students and parents. Once the weather gets warmer, there will be more options available for activities. Hiking, canoeing, nature explorations, archery and many other activities that are offered to the children during camps could be available for the parents as well. Under current Covid 19 restrictions, food cannot be catered by the camp and will be the responsibility of the attendees. The dates available from the camp will be considered by the council. A day outside for the council members and parents would be an opportunity for members to communicate and do activities outside our comfort zone. B. Linwood will follow up with J. Curto with available packages for the retreat.
- Grade 8 Fundraiser: selling popcorn to the students. A week dedicated to the sale of bags of popcorn at the school. A local supplier has been located for the popcorn. The graduation celebration is being planned as an outside event at the school. The grade 8 students are also planning to sell Freezies in the spring.
- Friday, March 5th is a PA Day.
- Covid 19 testing has taken place at the school with approximately 36 staff members having been tested in a 2-week period. Cathedral High School will hold a testing day this week.
- Yes, I Can Award - 2 students will be nominated from the school.
- Toonies for Tuition – fundraising will be held on March 12th.
- St. Patrick's Day will be on Wednesday, March 17th and fun activities will be planned for the students.
- March Break will now take place on the week of April 12th.
- Black History Month posters were amazing works of art from the students.
- Spirit Wear orders will be completed shortly.
- Spring Fling will be an outdoor activity this year with movement/dance/physical activity being the fundraising component. The students will collect donations from family members. The

Thursday before Victoria Day (May 20) will be the chosen day with Friday (May 21) being the rain day. The online families can donate money and/or prizes.

Prayer for meeting: Iryna Holovatska will provide the opening prayer.

Next meeting date: Monday, March 29th at 6:30 p.m. It will be via remote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:47p.m.