

St. Ann Catholic School Council Minutes
Monday, November 29, 2021
6:30 p.m.
Via Remote

Attendance: Mrs. Tina Fricano, Principal; Steven Docherty, Principal Assistant; Maggie Tapp, Iryna Holovatska, Maureen Weatherston, Colette VanBodegom and Vicki Amato

Prayer: M. Weatherston provided the opening prayer.

October 25, 2021 Minutes: were approved and posted to the HWCDSB website.

Parent Council Goal: Parent Communication and Engagement with Faith Focus

Parish Rep's Report:

- T. Fricano advised that Fr. Oehring will continue with individual classes attending at the Church for the rest of the school year.
- Fr. Oehring is continuing to provide the celebration of sacraments to the student population for First Communion and Confirmation.

Community Rep's Report:

- T. Fricano will follow up with the Superintendent on the lack of green space around the school and how this is being addressed at other schools.

Treasurer's Report:

- No report available at this time.

Chair Report and Current Business:

- Parents Engaged in Education – Dream Tree – was ordered, follow up on delivery and display. T. Fricano will check to see if the Dream Tree has been delivered to the school and advise M. Tapp.
- PRO Grant (Deadline Nov 29th) last year's application resubmitted with the funds earmarked for a council retreat possibly in the Spring. The fund is focused on parent engagement. Another consideration for the funds is to have a speaker attend the school. Suggested speakers are Jean Clinton, Paul Davis or Sarah Westbrook.
- Supervised Consumption Site – Board letter, parent information. The council discussed the ramifications of the Safe Consumption Site being situated near the school. M. Weatherston will contact city councilwoman, N. Nann's office for further information regarding the Safe Consumption Site proposed near the school so that the council can make an informed decision regarding the location.
- Diocese of Hamilton Survey – Towards a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission – the Diocese of Hamilton has invited everyone to participate in a survey to inform the Synod of Bishops in Rome to be held in 2023. The theme of the Synod is: Towards a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission. The survey link is https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/Hamilton_Diocese_Synod
- Outdoor Retreat – cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, possible reschedule in the Spring. Rising Stars will be contacted for the meditation session that will take place at the end of the retreat.

- Discussion ensued re the lack of social gatherings due to the Covid restrictions and how this affects students and parents.

Principal's Report:

- T. Fricano introduced herself as the incoming principal, replacing J. Curto who has accepted a secondment with the HWCDSB.
- Chosen students will be reading the Advent liturgies over the PA system on a weekly basis from now until Christmas break.
- Advent celebration activities will include Joy Day, Santa visiting the classrooms and the purchase of Candycane o'grams will also be undertaken.
- The focus of the Daily School Route (DSR) has moved from access to bikes to how else can we support our students in actively and safely riding or walking to school. In an effort to brighten the alleyway that children use on their walk to school, the Board will donate \$500.00 for a student art work project that will be hung along the alleyway. A friendly competition with another school for the students to graph their trip to school, i.e., walk or bike riding is another consideration.
- Fundraising update – Parking for the Ti-Cat Football Games continues to be a successful opportunity for the school to raise funds.
- OPHEA Healthy School Certification – T. Fricano described the process in order for the school to receive recognition for the positive things the students are doing. The school's goal is to achieve the gold status.
- Online bullying form will be included in the monthly newsletter.
- Pita lunch will be looked at in the Spring as a special lunch event for the students.
- Art Curriculum at the school – T. Fricano advised that the challenges the program faced for the last two school years due to Covid has been difficult for the students and noted the Arts program is important to the staff as well as the students. The implementation of music instruments was discussed. Mrs. Kandalis, the Drama, Arts and Music teacher for the school, provides instruction to the classrooms throughout the year.
- All classrooms are equipped with devices and the students can listen to music with their earphones while working or when work is completed at the discretion of their teacher.
- New clothes drive is going on at the school with students donating hats, mitts and socks. Proceeds will be given to a charity that will ensure the items go to the homeless in our community.

Prayer for meeting: M. Tapp will provide the opening prayer.

Next meeting date: Monday, January 31st at 6:30 p.m. It will be via remote.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.