**Holy Rosary Catholic School Council**

MINUTES OF MEETING – November 7, 2016 – 6:30 p.m.

**Chair: Cathy Choma, Principal**

**2016-2017 Council Members**

Michelle Bradshaw Julie Ruston Sonya Tonkovich

Briana Hamlet Rose Ryan Kim VanNieuwkoop

Cathy Hope Julie Ruston

Tiana Arruda Newns Sarah Sheehan

Parish Representative: Bonnie Sparks

Teaching Representative: Tara Wilson

Non-Teaching Representative: Ann Marie Nicholson

Community Representative: Sheila Slattery-Ford

**Absent – November 6**

Sheila Slattery-Ford Briana Hamlet Sarah Sheehan

**MINUTES**

1. **Welcome and Opening Prayer**
2. **Approval of Minutes and Agendas – Approved by Rose Ryan**

Last meeting we discussed the importance of keeping the meetings on time while respecting each other’s ideas and comments.

Agenda times will be noted and Tara Wilson will be the timekeeper to keep meetings flowing in a timely manner.

1. **Strategic Plan and Goals (Cathy Choma)**

All HCDSB councils across the board developed a new strategic plan for 2016-2021. Placemat was handed out and reviewed with a powerpoint presentation. Parents, teachers, support staff were involved in process last year. The plan was created from responses to focus questions with children always at the core of all decisions.

As a Council, it is important to set our goals based within the pillars of the Strategic Plan – Achieving, Believing and Belonging.

**Goals**

**Achieving**

The curriculum improvement plan will focus on reading and math. Teachers will be including games to improve communication and promote the “love of math”. Our math texts are old and not necessarily relevant in today’s world, but the Board is currently reviewing the curriculum so there are no pans for new books at this time.

To help increase reading levels, reading instruction should include level texts. Last year the school purchased lower level texts for beginner readers. Students in grades 6-8 with lower level text need books that appeal to their age group and interest. We currently have 12-15 students that are ESL. These students are assessed when they come to us, but they are at different levels. We share an ESL teacher with another school as it is not a large issue at Holy Rosary.

The students in the Tech Dept. are making a cross and altar with the school covering the costs.

**Believing**

* Father Martin has been a very visible presence at the school coming in regularly to meet the children and fostering the relationship between home, school and parish.

**Belonging**

* Continue tradition of school events that bring school, home and students together.

**4. Principal’s Report (Cathy Choma)**

## **Believing: Catholicity**

* School Mass – Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 12th.
* Remembrance Day Liturgy on Friday at 10:45am
* Grade 7’s visited St Joseph’s Motherhouse for Confirmation Retreat as well as the Good Shepherd in Hamilton for community service
* Confirmation is Wednesday at 7pm with Bishop Miehn, reception to follow in the school gym
* Father Martin visiting all classrooms
* Reconciliation with Grades 3-8 in December
* Faithful Fury Team: We Day-initiative, will be attending the HCDSB Bullying Prevention launch this month

**Achieving: Curriculum**

***School Improvement Plan:***

* School Improvement Plan team met on November to analyze EQAO, classroom data and other data sources. We identified strengths and areas of focus and will meet again on to establish our goals and revise our School Improvement Plan for the 2016-2017; plan will be created and be available on website
* Focus on reading and growth mindset in math

***Progress Reports and Interviews:*** ***Grade 1 to 8***

* Parent/teacher interview request forms due today
* Progress Reports go home November 22nd
* Parent Interviews November 25 & 26
* Kindergarten observations will begin next week

**Belonging: Community / School Culture**

* Halloween Dance a thon…huge success!
* Varsity Volleyball teams have finished the season the boys have a 7-1 record and will advance to the playoffs. The girls team had a lot of fun and learned about the game. Boys play their first playoff game tomorrow night at St. Gabriel, the boys and girls participated in the Catholic Cup tournament
* Pizza day, Lunch Lady Thursday, stamp club once a month for students in Grade 3-8
* Mad Science began, there are over 45 students in the program
* Homework club for Grade 6-8 runs at lunch hour
* Junior intramurals-permission forms went home and were due last Friday…theywill begin November 9th for Grade 4-5 during lunch recess
* Team Unbreakable for Grade 6-8
* Lego Club- Grade 1 and 2- Tuesday and Thursday
* Battle of the Books grade 3-5 and grade 6-8 has begun
* BRAVO program for our Grade 6 students ends with a graduation on Dec 1st at 10:30 in the gym
* Tree of Hope will be up beginning November 21st-December 9th
* Poinsettia of Hope sales begin November 14th. Delivered and picked up on Dec 8th

Michelle inquired about the Indigo fundraising initiative. Mrs. Choma will get back to council with figures.

**5. Breakfast with Santa (Tiana Arruda Newns)**

Tiana has been meeting with Briana to review the files from past events and a lot of items are already in place. Cathy Choma passed on a list of parent volunteers who will assist the Grade 7 and 8 students with this event. Volunteers will be contacted to ensure that they are clear on what their role is that morning. Letter and tickets are ready to go. Event will be mentioned in “Week at a Glance” as a “Save the Date”. Online payments and cash or cheque will be accepted.

It was suggested that it would be nice to have coffee for volunteers who show up at 7:00 a.m. Knights of Columbus have already been contacted to help with cooking and parent volunteers will work with them. Griddles will be set up in classrooms after school on Friday to help. During the Parish Update it became apparent that the Turkey Roll event on Friday, December 2 would delay setup for breakfast on Saturday, December 3. Tiana would ensure that as many volunteers and prep work would be done to enable both events to run smoothly.

**6. New Uniforms (Cathy Choma)**

A new provider for school uniforms has been selected with pricing pretty well the same or less. We do have the option of adding a third colour to the uniform items. A sample sweatshirt was also shown which can be added to the list of items available. Cathy Choma will have a mock sweatshirt made up with the school logo so we can discuss further. Michelle Bradshaw wanted to know if we wanted to do another uniform swap in January/February. Cathy Choma suggested we have collection in January with swap in first week in February. Will contact Sheila Slattery-Ford to discuss.

**7. Parish Update (Bonnie Sparks)**

* Confirmation – Wednesday, November 9
* Book of Life
* Advent Wreath – looking for families to light the Advent wreath
* Chalice Program – Canadian, Catholic sponsorship program to help destitute children and seniors at 56 mission sites in 15 developing countries.
* Catholic Woman’s League Christmas Dinner will be held Monday, November 28th at 6 p.m.
* Turkey Roll & Silent Auction will be held Friday, December 2
* Christmas Eve Pageant will be held at the 5:00 p.m. service on December 24.

**8. Community Update (Presented by Michelle Bradshaw)**

* HR POLICE Toys for Tots program‎ is returning to the hub this Christmas. Families who are struggling with the extra expenses of the season can register with the hub as of now.
* Alderfest will be held late summer likely and the planning starts in February. We are looking for new members on the planning committee. With new ideas. We were fortunate to have had Briana Hamlet on board for this fall's event.
* Partnering Aldershot newspaper will be delivered the week after Nov.24.
* The annual tree lighting will be held on Saturday, Nov 18 in the parking lot across from Pluckers from 3-6 pm. Great family event. Hot chocolate, ‎a food truck and a children's choir.
* Sports 4 You,‎ the free program for 9-12 year olds has started again at Ecole St-Philip on Francis Rd. Ongoing registration until April. Thank you to Mrs Choma who helped to get the word out.

**9. Closing Prayer**

**Next Meeting - Monday January 16, 2017**