



School Council Meeting Minutes – January 12th, 2016

Agenda:

1. Welcoming and Sign in/attendance for members:

Parent Council Members Present:

1	John Susi	Principal
2	Viviana Varano	Vice Principal
3	Tracey DosAnjos	Co-Chair (Parent) <i>FFN Gift Baskets (Chair), Volunteer Coordinator</i>
4	Bettina Arapi	Secretary (Parent)
5	Christine Kerr	Teaching Staff Representative
6	Christine Baxter	Community/YMC Representative
7	Traci Wansack	Parish Representative <i>Pizza Day</i>
8	Mark Ritcey	OAPCE Representative
9	Stephanie Bressette	<i>Pizza Day, Movie Night (Chair)</i>
10	Bonnie Dey	
11	Lisa White	
12	Sheetal Melino	<i>Movie Night</i>
13	Kelechi Akwivu	<i>Family Fun Night (Chair), School Safety Committee</i>
14	Anishia Fredric	<i>Staff Appreciation Day</i>
15	Kimberley Canestraro	<i>Christmas Wish, Movie Night, FFN Gift Baskets</i>
16	Anna Ceaser	<i>Spirituality Committee (Chair)</i>



2. Opening Prayer - Read by Parish Representative Traci Wansack

(READER 1) "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

(READER 2) Says Our Lord Jesus, "Come to me with a teachable spirit, eager to be changed. A close walk with Me is a life of continual newness. Do not cling to old ways as you step into a new year. Instead, seek My Face with an open mind, knowing that your journey with Me involves being transformed by the renewing of your mind. As you focus your thoughts on Me, be aware that I am fully attentive to you. I see you with a steady eye, because My attention span is infinite. I know and understand you completely: My thoughts embrace you

in everlasting Love. I also know the plans I have for you; plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Give yourself fully to this adventure of increasing attentiveness to My Presence. ~ From: Jesus Calling Devotional By: Sarah Young

(ALL) "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works." Hebrews 10:22-24

3. Approval of Minutes from the November 18th meeting.

(Minutes are a summary of the meeting; they are not detailed...word for word)

- Approve minutes from the last meeting – Approved by ALL present

4. Principal / Vice Principal Report: (30 min.)

a) School Improvement Plan Update

- Need smart goals, measurable goals
- Having measurable goals is more meaningful and fruitful
- Goals need to be aligned in order for everyone to know what they are working towards
- *Tell Them From Me* survey results are the unique story of our school coming alive through data that is refreshed and generated with each new survey, allowing us to keep a finger on the pulse of what's happening in our school, right now.

b) School Data – EQAO and "Tell Them From Me" gr. 4-8 student survey

- Grade 4 to 8 completed a survey in the fall at the school
- Staff have provided their feedback after looking at the data collected; outlining what they found interesting, what stood out, what surprised them
- Council members reviewed the data as well during today's meeting and provided their feedback via TodaysMeet @ <https://todaysmeet.com/QHMilton>
- Our version of the student survey for **grade 7 & 8** measures 51 indicators based on the most recent research on school and classroom effectiveness
 - The report provides highlights based on data from 70 students in this school that participated in the survey between Oct 20th and Oct 30th, 2015
 - The number of students by grade level is: grade 7 – 31 students; grade 8 – 39 students

- Survey categories included Social-Emotional Outcomes; Physical Health Outcomes; Academic Outcomes; DRIVERS of Student Outcomes; Demographic Factors
- Our version of the ***Tell Them From Me*** student survey for **grade4, 5 & 6** measures 29 indicators based on the most recent research on school and classroom effectiveness
 - The report provides highlights based on data from 185 students in this school that participated in the survey between Oct 19th and Oct 23rd, 2015
 - The number of students by grade level is: grade 4 – 69 students; grade 5 – 71 students; grade 6 – 45 students
 - Survey categories included Social-Emotional Outcomes; Physical Health Outcomes; DRIVERS of Student Outcomes; Demographic Factors
- Results are compared with Canadian norms, which are based on last year's results for all students using the TTFM survey at the grade levels found in this school.
- We create an action plan as we use this data in a purposeful way
- **For example**, anxiety levels amongst students were noted and a wellness club was founded as per students' request
 - Students are able participate in the Club in order to sit and relax
 - This is an electronic free environment
 - 'Adult' colouring books, as well as other relaxing activities are available
 - A place to chill out with games for the students
- Are we able to include or create something similar for younger students as well?
 - An expansion will be taken under consideration
 - Some classes participate in Christian Meditation where they sit quietly, chanting a prayer and in prayer reflection

c) Joint Family of Schools Parent Council Meeting on Mental Health

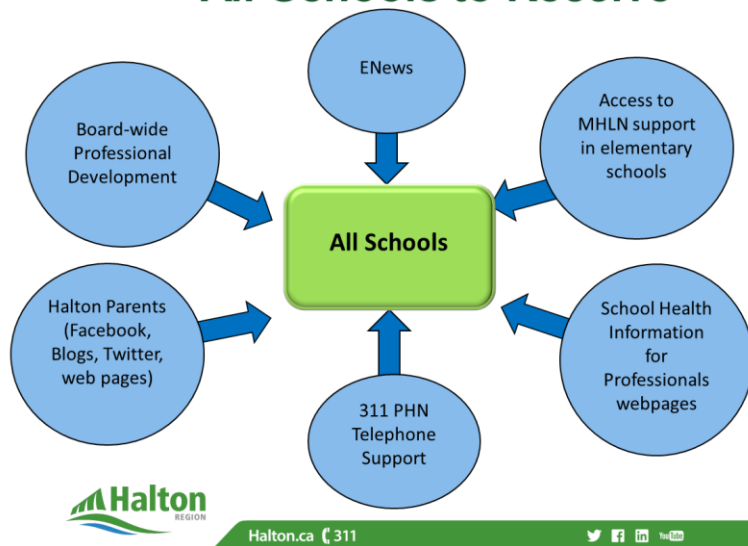
- Rosie, Public Health Nurse, Halton Region Health Department shared with us a presentation on Mental Health in order to connect students, staff and parents to resources available
- Rosie's role is to work with the school community and help connect them to resources. In addition to that, her main role is to help identify, address and plan health programs or initiatives that support a safe and healthy environment. She helps to develop ideas that address groups of students rather than working one to one with students. Some of the topics she has addressed in her role is mental health, healthy eating, bullying, physical activity

- In addition to providing that broad based support, what she wants to highlight is that all schools have access to:
 - 311 PHN telephone support
 - *HaltonParents* website resources
 - School Health Information for Professionals webpages
 - Mental Health Liaison Nurse support for elementary schools
 - School health ENews
 - Support for school staff professional development

Halton Region Health Department

School Support and Services

All Schools to Receive



311 PHN Telephone Support

- Support through telephone consultation with a Public Health Nurse - 830am-430pm
- Available through phone or e-mail haltonparents@halton.ca



- All you need to do is remember 311. If we, the staff, or the families in our school communities have any questions or would like consultation

about curriculum supports, community or parenting supports (e.g. linking parents to workshops, Triple P online), events, resources (e.g. transition to high school), all they need to do is call 311 and they will be connected to a public health nurse who will provide valuable information. They can also be reached via e-mail –

schoolhealth@halton.ca

- As we continue on our discussion about supports for all schools, we move on to **HaltonParents**
- We all know that parenting is key in the healthy development of children and that positive parenting can make a significant difference in the lives of children
- Parenting supports remain important as children enter school and transition throughout their school years. And parent engagement continues to be a critical piece in board improvement plans
- Whether it be a teacher that is looking for supports for a family or parent council members looking for resources, HaltonParents has information for them all
- As previously mentioned we can call 311, however in our ever changing media world they now have 4 online ways you can connect with them
 - **Webpages:** Click on the link and show them the site – especially resources for child/tween and teens
 - **Twitter:** Show site and encourage them to follow it. They have over 5,000 followers
 - **Facebook:** They had a soft launch Aug. 18th and have already 300 followers. Parents of children 0-12 – click on Facebook and show them the site – encourage them to like as a school community or as an individual. If you would like to promote an event, you can post it to their Facebook page on the left and they can share it with all our friends and tweet it out as well. You can access their twitter and blog on their page as well.
 - **Blogs:** Written by PHNs who have expertise in parenting and school health. All the information is based on best practice, even though it's written as a story or conversation. Click on site – it will take you to a list of blogs for teens – choose one to show them what it looks like and how to follow them. Underneath "Join 190 other followers, just put in your email address" to subscribe to the blog. If you would like to copy and paste a blog, click on the title of the blog and copy and paste the link. If you have an interesting topic that you'd like to see a blog written on, send an email request to HaltonParents@halton.org

- These different social media outlets help to building social connectedness among parents who may be experiencing similar parenting journeys.
- These sites are used to connect to our HaltonParents and community members – we often share information, resources and events. This can also be a venue that you can access not only for information but to share events that you would like to promote.



Halton Parents



[Facebook](#)



[Blogs](#)



[Twitter](#)

[Webpages](#)



- In 2014 the School Board and Health Department met to develop a strategy that would focus on enhancing the working relationship between our schools, our families and community partners. The overarching goal was for school communities to collaboratively work together and share ideas and resources on how we can support student development, improve student outcomes, support families and develop a strong sense of community
- In the spring of 2014 our FoS submitted a proposal to have a public health nurse work with our Family of Schools. They were successful with the application and now Rosie

HCDSB & Health Department Partnership

- **Goal: Enhanced Collaboration**
 - Share ideas, resources, develop initiatives that:
 - support student development
 - improve student outcomes
 - support families
 - develop a strong sense of community

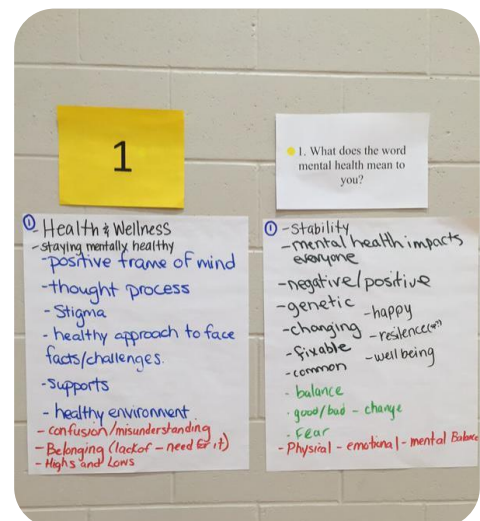
- Over the last year they met bi-monthly and reviewed data and came up with a priority area which is mental health with a focus on mental health promotion and asset building

Jean Vanier Family of Schools Objectives

- **2014-2015**
 - Reviewed TTFM data & identified a priority need/issue in JV FoS
 - **Priority Area:**
 - **Mental Health**

2014-2015 Jean Vanier Family of Schools Joint Initiative

- **Joint Parent Council**
 - **Who:** All Parent Councils (~60 attended)
 - **Where:** Queen of Heaven
 - **How:** JV FoS Parent Planning Committee
 - **Why/What:**
 - ↑ Awareness & Understanding
 - Networking/Small Group Discussion
 - Mental Health Presentation
 - Prevention
 - Community & school resources
 - Individual & group programs/initiatives
 - Newcomers
- **Joint Student Council**
 - **Who:** ~20 intermediate grade students
 - **Where:** Guardian Angels
 - **How:** CYC coordinated event
 - **What:**
 - Discussion: mental health, stress, stressors, coping strategies...etc.



Ms. McLean @mclean_cyc · Sep 30

Queen of Heaven Students promoting positive mental health at curriculum night
@QH Milton @haltonparents



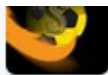
- Developed pamphlets related to various mental health topics
- **Grade 6 Boys Event**
 - **Who:** ~150 Grade 6 Boys - Where: Jean Vanier
 - **How:** CYC Coordinated Event
 - **Why/What:**
 - Enhance Team Work, Coping Strategies, and Communication
 - Guest Speaker - Former Prof. Athlete
 - Community Adult Male Role Models, High school staff & Student Support
 - Activities



- **Social Media**



- **#JVFoS**



Great discussion and learning topics yesterday with [#JVfamilyofschools](#) [@HCDSB](#) [@haltonparents](#) [@OLFMilton](#) - Thanks.



Halton Catholic DSB [@HCDSB](#) · Mar 27

[. @Sudden10 @haltonparents @OLFMilton](#) glad to hear :). Positive discussions & helpful resources for students/families [#JVfamilyofschools](#)

RETWEET

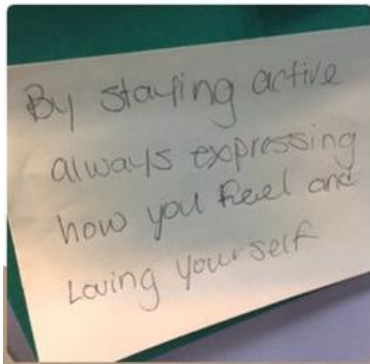
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2014-2015 Jean Vanier Family of Schools Joint Initiative



- Planning another joint Parent Council
- Need 2 volunteers:
 - **Traci Wansack**
 - **Anna Ceaser**

d) How Human Development and Sexual Health in the Health and Physical Education Curriculum will be taught in HCDSB Schools

- Next Steps – month ago school had sent information booklets home to parent, developed by ICE (Institute of Catholic Education)
- A large amount of attention has been given to one specific unit
- Most of the information has already been taught for the least 20 years in HCDSB's *Fully Alive – Family Life Education Program*
- http://iceont.ca/resources/parent-resources/health-physical-education-resources/?utm_source=hcdsbwebsite&utm_medium=parentguideimg%20&utm_campaign=icewebsite

- We are not teaching the *Created Sexual* units until all teacher resources are in place which will be this spring
- A letter will go home to parents in order to explain what is being taught and when
- Timeline is March/April
- An electronic copy will also be sent, as well as posting the information on our school website
- Parents can arrange to speak to the teacher if they should have any concerns
- It is imperative that we as parents are fully aware of what is being taught
- For each Family Life Unit a parent information letter will go home

e) Upcoming school events and activities

January 6th – Epiphany Liturgy at 1:00pm in the gym

January 12th – Vaccinations for gr. 7 and 8 (girls); School Council Meeting at 6:30pm

January 15th – Principal/Vice Principal for the day (including lunch from Swiss Chalet and trading places in the afternoon with Mr. Susi and Ms. Varano attending class and completing school work for the selected students.)

January 18th – Trip to Planetarium for FDK Rooms 103 and 106; MADD presentation in Library for gr. 7-8 at 1:00pm

January 22nd – Staff Vs. Student Volleyball Game at 12:45-2:00 (grade 2 to 8 students are able to watch only); Jersey day (non-uniform day)

January 26th – Grad photos on stage for the day; FDK Registrations

January 27th – FDK Registrations, Liturgy (70th Anniversary United Nations International Holocaust Awareness Day) at 10:45am in the gym for gr. 1 to 8

January 28th – Jr. Girls Volleyball tournament at 4p.m. at QH gym

January 29th – Jr. Floor Hockey Tournament at Jean Vanier

February 4th – Movie Night in the gym, doors open at 6pm, movie starts at 6:30pm

February 5th – PA Day

February 9th – Milton Centre of the Arts trip for grade 5

February 10th – Ash Wednesday

February 12th – NBA Day, 10 students and one teacher going to the All Star Game at the ACC

5. Co-Chair Report: (10 min)

Tracey DosAnjos: School Council Roles and Responsibility Manual

- We have only heard back from the Spiritual and Safety Committee.
- Another template will be sent out to chairs of the other committees.

- We are still in the process of completing our first version of the Operational/Roles and Responsibilities Manual
- The manual should contain processes of all events in order to support future chairs
- This is another request to all current, as well as previous chairs, to forward any information about present and/or past projects to Tracey DosAnjos
- If you require any help putting the details together please do not hesitate to reach out to Tracey for help
- Tracey is also continuing to take care of Volunteer Spot and is available to assist with the organization of volunteers for any event

6. Committee Updates: (5 min)

a. Christmas Wish – Kim Male – Update

Kim is unable to attend the meeting

- Mr. Susi & Ms. Varano were able to speak to the event on Kim's behalf
- The Christmas Wish Event was a HUGE success
- We had a liturgy and collected all the gifts at that time
- We were able to collect at least 20 garbage bags full of gifts and gift cards
- Parents helped to drop off the gifts to Troy's Diner
- The Halton Police came to the school to pick up the toys collected for their 'Toys for Tots' Program and also made time to speak to the kids during the assembly
- As a 'We Day' initiative our intermediate students participated in Caroling for Cans
- The Ambassadors and teachers headed out into the community to sing Christmas Carols and to collect cans and boxed food items for the Salvation Army of Milton Food Bank
- Flyers were distributed a week before to let people know they were coming
- Over 1000 cans of food were collected
- The police had to come back a second time to pick up the food as all items could not fit in the van 😊



b. Movie Night

- Stephanie Bressette & Sheetal Melino are meeting after the council meeting to finalize plans. Movie Night is on Thursday, Feb. 4th. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the movie begins at 6:30.

7. Recycling School Uniforms – Uniform Exchange Policy

- We are looking for ideas for some kind of uniform exchange initiative for our school families
- Families may want to donate items that kids have outgrown and that they no longer need
- Should we let families simply take home items that were donated or should we ask for a donation and/or an item to be exchanged in return
- All agree that donations may be a good idea
- Other schools have in the past handed out tickets per dropped off item, allowing volunteers to organize and display all received clothing before parents came to select items to take home
- Parent volunteers would be required for this
- Clothes were organized by size and gender
- One ticket was provided for each item donated and one item per ticket could be selected to take home. Tickets could not be used the following years and items dropped off would simply be considered a donation
- All agree that it would be better to schedule this for June rather than September
- Drop off could occur for a selected few days, then parent volunteers could organize items received before allowing another few days for pick up
- Again we could set a donation per item amount for parents with no tickets or we could let parents donate whatever they can
- Family in needs, as identified by the school, could receive 'first dips' which could be accommodated with a private showing ahead of time and an advanced sale
- The uniform exchange should occur two weeks before the end of school

- A flyer will need to be drafted, providing all details as to when clothes should be dropped off and when items can be selected
- Separate from the above, the question was raised whether we are able to organize a collection of donations for families in needs at mid-year

8. Update on thank you letter to OLF & OLV for the statue gift to our school - by C. Prentice

- Christine Prentice – not present

9. New Business

- **Mark Ritcey**, OAPCE Representative (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education) & CPIC Representative (Catholic Parent Involvement Committee)
- The Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) is a group of parents, trustees and Board staff who actively support parent engagement and involvement throughout the Halton Catholic District School Board
- CPIC met on January 11th, 2015 to discuss various subjects, such as the upcoming registration for French immersion and boundary changes that will not affect our area
- They are hosting a council of chairs meeting at our school on February 24th, 2016 for 56 catholic schools at Queen of Heaven
- Meetings occur approx. 3 times a school year and are similar to our council meetings but on a much larger scale and hosted by a different school each time
- CPIC provides a regular opportunity for School Council members to network, share, offer input and enjoy informative presentations on a number of education related topics throughout the school year
- CPIC makes parental engagement a priority by providing support on a system-wide basis and promoting dialogue between Catholic School Councils, the Board and members of the community
- **Christian Cepeda**, School Safety Committee (Chair)
 - Although absent tonight, Christian had sent word that he was able to contact Escarpment View School and will provide details shortly

10. Future Agenda Items to be brought up at next council meeting:

- Defunding the Catholic Schools – public special interest groups trying to have one school system

- Why do we not offer Raz-kids, reading practice website, at our school?
 - The school is strongly promoting the love of reading and asking parents not to focus on the reading level at home but rather focus on the enjoyment of reading
 - Parents can read with children together, reading along, asking questions about the content, etc.
 - Keep the love of books in the home and let the school focus on the reading levels instead for instructional purposes

- There is an opportunity to join an after school math and language club for students who require additional help or confidence
- A letter will be going home to selected parents next week in regards to math and literacy for students that have been invited to this after school Literacy and Numeracy support group
- Parents may have already been approached by the teacher of the student
- We have received funding for this one hour after school program

- The big field has been closed down until further notice due to icy conditions
- Play time will only be available on the pavement areas

11. Set Date for the next School Council meetings:

- **Tuesday, March 08th, 2016 @ 6:30pm**
- **Wednesday, May 11th, 2016 @ 6:30pm**
- **Tuesday, June 21st, 2016 @ 6:30pm** (final meeting followed by social gathering)

12. Adjournment – 8:40pm