



Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School
School Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 28, 2021
Virtual on MS Teams 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

ATTENDEES:

STAFF:

Principal – John Susi

Vice Principal – Darren Cochrane

Teaching Staff Representatives – Lisa Messom

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Co-Chairpersons – Adele Bagnoli (and JoAnn Toomath - Regrets)

Parish Representatives – Stephanie Sage and Maryam Farahani

OAPCE Representative – Adele Bagnoli

School Council Members - PRESENT:

Adele Bagnoli	Jennifer Doyle	Maryam Farahani	Valerie Foster
Melanie Gaddi	Victoria Gagne	Heather Gaudet	Krista Hinsperger
Kyra Mancini	Jelena McFadyen	Jess Mitchell	Ivonne Pineda
Raffaella Profiti	Stephanie Sage	Nancy Taddeo	Laura Van Dyk

School Council Members - REGRETS:

Aileen Baretto

Julie McLaren

Rose Molfetta

Rachel Petch

JoAnn Toomath

Vanessa Van Moorsel

1. Meeting Commencement at 630pm.
2. Opening Prayer – Stephanie Sage
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Approved by Kyra Mancini, seconded by Jess Mitchell.
4. Principal and Vice Principal's Report – John Susi and Darren Cochrane

- a. John mentioned that the staff and teachers are missing the students at school. John and Darren alternate working from the school and home. Some special needs students and Educational Assistants are working in the building.
- b. Catholic Education Week (CEW) 2021 – The theme this year is Nurturing Hope. This year, each teacher celebrates CEW in his/her own way. Teachers will communicate their classroom activities directly with parents and students. We will begin the week with Morning Liturgy on Monday. The official CEW song will be played, as well as a recorded Gospel reading and homily by Bishop Crosby. On Wednesday, May 5, the Grades 4 to 8 students will attend a province-wide mass led by Cardinal Collins. On Friday, there will be another school-wide liturgy. There will be some videos and prayers, plus another message from Bishop Crosby. Darren will send more info to parents with links and other suggestions in the next email communication.
- c. Another way, we keep our faith in our schools is through the monthly liturgies. The last liturgy for Lent was led by Mme. Gowan's and Mrs. Moseley's class. Link for virtual liturgies are posted in the SHOJ YouTube channel. During Lent, we had weekly rosary prayers for the whole school.
- d. Celebrating our Faith (Sacraments, Virtual Liturgies, Rosary) – All celebration of sacraments has been postponed. We are waiting for church direction and provincial regulations so they can be resumed.
- e. HCDSB Student Award of Excellence – Special award recognition given each year to one student per school by the school board. Normally, the awardee will be invited to a special event with his/her parents with the school superintendent, trustees and intermediate teachers. Mass is typically celebrated by the Bishop. Unfortunately, we cannot hold the event again this year due to the pandemic. Instead of a virtual event, the board has decided that each school will recognize their student in its own way. The school has announced the award this week and will also be recognized as one of the annual graduation awards. The Student of Excellence exhibits the following qualities: exemplary Catholic values, Christianity is evident in his/her school and home life, connected in school and parish, acts with personal integrity, conscientious student and admired by other students. Congratulations to Jeremy Gaddi, this year's Student of Excellence awardee.
- f. Update from the Join the J – Joseph Brant Hospital Foundation Fundraiser. We have raised \$1500 as well as awareness. We had an opportunity to educate our students about the hospital, COVID, and the work our front-line workers do. Three different doctors were able to connect to our students, one each for primary, junior and intermediate. Students had an opportunity to submit their questions. The speakers spoke in age appropriate way. There were lots of excellent questions and we received great feedback from the students and teachers. Students also created Thank You cards for front line workers. The cards were put on display at the hospital and we received very positive feedback from them. The school also celebrated Hero Day, also called Not All Heroes Wear Capes. Students dressed up as their favourite hero. Heroes are

people who do good things for the community: i.e. doctors, nurses, firefighters, teachers, parents, Walmart greeters, farmers, etc. Some students wore Batman, Wonder Woman, Superman which was great and fun too.

- g. Provincial School Shut Down – No update yet. All staff will do their best and we continue to learn and develop our teaching practices regardless of whether we return to the classroom or continue remote learning.
- h. Technology Update – Families are borrowing school computers. About 120 computer devices lent out, about the same number as during previous school closures. All families have computers, but some families need an additional computer. Several computers needed per family because almost everyone needs to be on a device at the same time. We still get requests now for different reasons (computer breaks down, needs change, etc.) and we still accommodate them.
- i. Graduation Celebration – Planned events. Graduation this year will likely be identical to last year. There is a committee on the board that made recommendations for each school to follow. School formed a committee of intermediate teachers and before the school closure, met with student representatives. We are limited to what we can do so most likely, we will do a live graduation ceremony through MS Teams. There will be recorded messages from Father Ed, Pat Daly and a school liturgy. There will be a live principal's address, live valedictory address and live presentation of all awards. A slideshow of the students' photos through the years will be shown. It will end with a parent and child graduation song, including the traditional parent and student dance. After the ceremony, the grads will drive by to the front of the school. Intermediate staff will be at the front of the school building. Student can receive graduation certificates and awards and there will be an opportunity for photos with teachers and family keeping social distances and masking. This year, we are hoping to do an outdoor dance similar to the Halloween Dance-a-thon. Everyone will be wearing masks and will mingle with their own class cohorts. We will have to check in June what Covid gathering restrictions will be in effect, to find out if we can do an outdoor dance. More details to come.
- j. Financial Update – Projecting approximately \$31, 173 Income, including the carryover from last year. We did not get to spend a lot for expenses due to the pandemic and school closures. Halloween Dance-a-thon earned \$17K. Sacramental Recognition gifts will be put on hold, until next year. Graduation dollars (\$2K) are usually spent on the DJ for the graduation dance. This year, we will likely use that money to purchase graduation lawn signs for each graduate. We will also provide a Tumbler cup gift with school and Class of 2021 logo, and a graduation cross medallion with graduation prayer. We will spend on these gifts plus the annual awards and plaques. We also purchased 10 computers and smart projectors. We have money set aside for staff appreciation in June. Last year, the staff appreciation committee sent virtual thank you cards plus \$10 Tim Hortons gift cards to the staff. We also purchased outdoor recess play equipment that was used throughout this year. We also spent some money for

the 2 additional trees for peace garden. Lastly, we have School cash online fees which is 3% including \$1000 carry over from last year. Net, we have \$20500 in expenses. We will be within budget with a little bit of carryover for next year. Adele asked if we need to spend any monies for virtual learning ideas. None right now.

- k. Uniform Policy - Stephanie asks about non-McCarthy navy dresses and jumpers for girls. Can we purchase from different suppliers? John is not sure if McCarthy's sell them as crested. Darren is not sure if that is considered a bottom. John will look into it and let us know.
- l. Food for Life Update – Food for Life sends weekly food bags for students who are in need. Any time the schools are closed, they transition to grocery gift cards. \$50 dollars in gift cards per month are provided for those families in need. They have a new fundraiser called Flowers for Mom that Darren will include in next Weekly Update.
- m. HFFT Update - HFFT has been supporting our Salad Bar and Healthy Snack programs all this time. They continued to provide funding for grocery gift cards that we distribute to families in need. HFFT supplied \$2500 donation for purchase of grocery gift cards this year. They also partnered with another organization and every week provides a healthy snack bag (3 nutritious snacks) to any family in Halton who is in need.

5. Upcoming events

- a. Catholic Education Week
- b. Monthly Liturgies
- c. Graduation in June

6. School Council Co-Chair's Report – Adele Bagnoli and JoAnn Toomath

- a. CPIC Nominations – Based on the submitted votes from parent council members, we have a tie with Burlington CPIC representative vote to be submitted so we need to do an online vote to break the tie. Adele shared the bios of the top 2 choices and asked everyone to submit their vote on the Teams chat. Jordan Crans get the most votes. School council will submit the final vote to CPIC.
- b. Recognition for Father Ed and Father John who are moving – Stephanie to speak to this in Parish update

7. Committee Reports:

- a. Fun Scrip School Fundraising – Adele – Because of COVID, there is lack of momentum for this fundraising. Currently, we are near \$200. Fundscrip just announced that they are adding Uber Eats as one of the options which may become popular with many. Darren will include their May promotions flyer in next weekly update.

- b. Parish Update – Maryam and Stephanie – Clergy moves have been announced and are effective June 30th. Father Ed will become pastor of St. Mary of the Visitation Parish, Cambridge. Father John will move to St. Anne Parish in Ancaster. A seminarian named Daniel Naim will be assigned to St. Paul's for the summer. He will arrive in mid-May and will be ordained as traditional deacon by summer. Not sure if Deacon Brian will stay or not. Since April 19, all masses are cancelled. 9am mass continues to be livestreamed in FB and then the video is posted in the parish's YouTube channel. The parish office is closed but Father Ed or Father John will answer messages. E-transfers to support the parish can continue via their Cogeco email address (paul22@cogeco.ca). One Heart, One Soul campaign is drawing to a close. There was a phishing email using Father Ed's name that people should disregard. Call the parish office if you get a suspicious email from Father Ed.
- c. Gifts for Father Ed and Father John – We heard that they mentioned that no gifts are needed. An idea they suggest is to donate to Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA). This agency provides funds to ensure the Eastern churches and devoted religious sisters — who run clinics, schools, orphanages and other sanctuaries — have enough money to do their vital work. John shared that traditionally, during the last mass of the year, we give a gift basket to the parish staff that they can share. In the past, we had bought gift baskets that cost around \$75. Maybe we can invite both priests at the year-end Teams liturgy to recognize them and then drop off the gift afterwards. Maryam, Laura, and many others agree in the chat. John can get this from school council funds. Members agreed to give a gift donation of \$125. John will write a cheque to CNEWA.
- d. Maryam shared that our new priests are Father Peter Nguyen (Pastor) from Cambridge and Father Gregory (Assistant Pastor).
- e. School Yearbook – Krista is doing the yearbook again this year. Not sure what will look like yet. Krista is in touch with John and some of the Grade 8 Moms. Email Krista with any suggestions. John shares the following ideas: collection of photos throughout the year from special events. No school photographers can go into the school yet. If we return to in-person learning, class pictures can be taken outdoors near the rock garden. If not, we will use a variety of photos from teachers. Teachers will forward to Krista. Teachers will collate Grad quotes, favorite memories and share with Krista.
- f. Graduation individual photos. Parents will submit individual photos in place of traditional graduation photos. There will also be an opportunity to take family photos during the drive by. Lisa mentions that Teams has a "Together" mode and you can take picture with a cute background, that looks like everyone is together. Lisa will email other teachers to ask them to take a picture and send to Krista. Teachers can also do collages.
- g. Grad outfits belong to photography studios, not to the school. Laura will reach out to Edge Imaging what our options are if parents want grad photos in grad attire and let John and Darren know. Laura will check if we can have a

composite done at a photography company. Melanie volunteers to do a composite and will coordinate with Krista.

8. School Council Discussion and Feedback – John Susi

Synchronous Learning as of April 19, 2021 – Feedback and Discussion

- a. John shared previous feedback to teachers. Lots of good ideas are stemming from those discussions.
- b. Jess Mitchell – We are all used to remote learning. We have changed some of the ways we do things. We added Google classroom. Students are no longer encouraged to printing or writing on paper. Google Classroom completes sentences for the kids. Quite a few teachers use it. Google Classroom may not be suitable for younger kids.
- c. Lisa mentions many benefits of Google Classroom, which is why many teachers moved to it. It is very user friendly and allows parents to save on printing. It is easier for students to submit work while it was harder to submit in D2L. D2L required a lot of parental help whereas in Google Classroom, it takes one button to turn assignments in. It is great for live teaching. Teachers can see the students working in real time. Need to find a balance that is good for the class.
- d. Jess follow-up: We need to be mindful of age groups that use it. Jess needs to print the lessons for her kids.
- e. Jelena agrees with Jess. It is difficult to learn a new platform. Students need to learn to type on top of reading and writing. Maybe Google classroom is not appropriate for younger kids. It would have been nice to stick with D2L. It can be confusing and frustrating.
- f. Laura echoes the same issues. Different teachers have different platforms. Some platforms work well on Chromebook, others do not. Students are going back multiple times to resubmit. Not user friendly. Last transition to remote learning was easier for kids in her opinion.
- g. Ivonne mentions mental issues of remote learning. Daughter says she cannot share with friends what she is thinking. Teacher told her to disconnect after the class. Students are looking for online play and connection with classmates as well as more free time during online class. Teacher still uses D2L. Teachers must be commended for being very prepared as they sent all duotangs home.
- h. Stephanie supports the previous comments. She had a similar experience. Her daughter's class is still using D2L. Wondering as to the number of cameras teachers have. Some teachers are unaware where to face and are not facing the students directly. Printing is great for one teacher. Well prepared. Teacher even prepared new duotangs that the parents picked up.
- i. Melanie mentions that her son's teacher has significantly enhanced the Remote learning this time using Google Classroom. Teachers had a parent letter before remote learning started. They prepare a daily schedule that included even the links to the lessons so that kids can follow along even if they get disconnected from the call. Grade 3 students are used to Google Classroom as they have used it since last time and even during in-person learning. Even quizzes are done via

Google forms and parents have visibility to their quiz marks and even the actual test paper in Google forms so they can discuss.

- j. Kyra has Grade 5 and Grade 3 students who have been bringing devices to school before. Emphasis on technology has made a huge difference. Kids really transitioned well. Feedback is coming quickly from teachers.
 - k. John mentioned that teachers have been getting students comfortable with the technology during in-person so that if and when we transferred to online, it would be easier.
 - l. Melanie shared that Grade 3 teacher encouraged the class to write their assignment on paper and then present using FlipGrid, so writing/ printing is still being done in class.
 - m. Laura asks about the expectations of cameras being on. It is important for students to keep camera on. It keeps them engaged and accountable. John says that in many cases cameras are on. John says to ask teacher about this directly. Laura mentions it is understandable to be a bit bored looking at circles if cameras are off. John says to email him privately regarding the teacher.
 - n. John says to email teachers as they are open to feedback. Teachers recognize that this Remote Learning can be challenging not only for students and teachers but parents too.
 - o. John will forward comments to teachers.
9. New Business – Jess mentions the Fly the Flag motion and asked John what is the school's position and who gets to decide, as more and more schools are posting in social media. John explained that this is a popular topic now and in the previous board meeting, they moved that there will be more training for staff for education and providing safe spaces for students. There will be education for students as well on ensuring safe spaces (more HS focused). There will also be education and communication from the Board to the community. John mentioned that we will await more direction from the board on this topic, as we need to follow board policy. John has added that we have supported other issues in the past and the Catholic faith is all about inclusion. People want to see what schools are to do. We will wait for direction on how to show support. Jess added that even other schools in Burlington, who had the same directives, have shown their support online. Victoria shared to keep an eye on social media. Krista saw one school is doing a Spirit Day in June. Rafaela is offering support for fly the flag movement. John said we will soon get direction from the board about how we will recognize and implement this in June.
10. Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 16 (Last meeting for the year). More likely, no end of year social this year but Adele said to keep it as an option in case pandemic situation changes in June.
11. Closing Prayer – Maryam Farahani
12. Adjournment at 8:08pm