# Minutes of the St. Andrew Catholic School Council

**Date:** March 7, 2018

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Location:** Library, St. Andrew Catholic School

**In Attendance:** Lorraine Boulos, Emilia DeSimone, Elisabeth Michienzi, Christine Krueger, Susan English, Kelly Williams, , Mary Soler, Nancy Harrison, Marion Bastiampillai, Simone Jez

**Regrets:** Kendra Paiement, Patricia Nadal-Droog, Louisa Oliveira, Kelly Williams (VP), Marguerite Murad Fuoco

**Greetings and Opening Prayer**

Susan E. opened the meeting, by welcoming all. Lorraine B., led us in the opening Prayer for Lent

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion put forth by Christine K, second by Kelly W.; motion carried.

**Business Arising from our last Meeting:**

1. Dress Code Results: Lorraine B. and Susan E. outlined the process involved with counting the dress code votes in order to ensure confidentiality as well as accuracy. 427 families were eligible to vote and 86% exercised their right, and 2% of the votes were deemed invalid. The family names on the ballot were folded over by the principal and VP, so that the counters could not see the family names on each ballot. Ballots were recounted to ensure accuracy. **The decision was 54% in favour of maintaining no uniform at St. Andrew School.** No vote on this issue can reoccur for 3 years.
2. Lunch Box Orders: Kelly W. reported that we have had 75-100 participants thus far. Parent volunteers have been on hand to unpack the boxes received and the students transport the lunches to the classrooms. Students have since been trained to unpack the boxes and the entire process is running smoothly. We will continue this test for a few more months to survey the level of support as well as satisfaction. We only require 2-weeks notice if ever council wishes to cancel the program
3. Community Events/Parent Engagement:
   * 1. Feb. 22’18 Tribal Vision-supported with funds received from our PRO Grant: Lorraine B. reported that the presentation was excellent, but unfortunately only 99 people attended
     2. Due to mixed opinions regarding the viability or success rate of scheduling the 3rd parent engagement night, it was decided that funds originally planned for this will be used instead to fund a different engagement activity to be decided at a later date. A motion was put forth by Mary S. , second by Susan E. to not use of council funds from the original plan for a 3rd parent engagement evening.
4. PRO Grant: Many ideas were tabled regarding how we would proceed with our Parent engagement event and the application for this grant for next year. There were suggestions to partner with other schools or our FOS, to invite keynote speakers or family engagement event. Council members were asked to submit any ideas or suggestions to Chair Susan E. by end of March so that co-ordination of our plans could begin in time for the application deadline.
5. BBQ Review: May 31, 2018: Kelly W. confirmed that Main Event has been booked and that the BBQ committee meeting has been set for Tues. Mar. 20th at 6:30 pm, to which anyone wishing to volunteer, as well as student council will be invited.
6. Student Council Updates: Lorraine B. advised they received a $1,700 Speak Out Grant to support hands on learning. The funds will be used for 2 initiatives: 1: To expand our Makerspace-our student council members will be visiting Jean Vanier school in Milton to learn more about it. 2) to plant a vegetable garden, there will be 4-5 vegetable bins as well as a pumpkin patch. She also advised that the students are all doing such an amazing job.
7. Council of Chairs (Feb. 28’18): Susan E., Christine K., Kelly W., and Lorraine B. all attended and shared some of the salient points:
   * 1. Father Francis Salizar spoke about we need to be more serious about our faith and to monitor how we are rating with our Catholic Education
     2. Catholic literacy books are available for parent councils regarding parent engagement for protecting innocence in the internet
     3. Christian mediation was discussed regarding how it has been received in various schools and that it is an inclusive form of prayer. The segment was closed with a 5 minute meditation period
     4. Indigenous Education-the committee meets monthly to discuss
     5. Parent Retreat-scheduled for Apr. 5
     6. Camillo Cipriano, our Superintendent of Education, discussed how the new cannabis legislation in Canada may affect our schools. The overall feeling is that there should be little or no impact as all of our students will be under the legal age.

**Administrators’ Report/ Lorraine B. see Appendix A**

Lorraine B. reported

**Financial Report**

Emilia D. –one point of note is that our treat lunch costs have increased due to the market cost increase of mozzarella cheese on the pizza.

**Selection Criteria for School Principal**

Susan E. submitted our ranked criteria to the board by Feb. 12’18

**Upcoming Family of Schools Joint Council Meeting**

Mon. Apr. 9 2 6:30 pm at Holy Trinity-please plan to attend, it will be followed with a presentation by Chris Vollum regarding social media safety.

**New Business for Future Meetings:**

* BBQ review
* PRO Grant Application
* FOS meeting update
* Parking issue (north parking lot)
* HCCEF Charity Golf Classic donation
* Lunch Box Order review

**Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was led by Lorraine B.

**Adjournment**

Since there was no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**Next meeting Date: Wednesday, April 25th, 2018**

**Location: Library, St. Andrew Catholic School**

**Appendix A**

**St. Andrew School Council Meeting**

**Administrators’ Report for March 7, 2018**

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| **Item** | **Information** |
| **Catholicity** | **Currently in Season of Lent** – Prayer, Almsgiving, and Fasting  Fasting: Encourage students to fast from screen time.  Prayer: Christian Meditation during lunch time and in classrooms  Almsgiving: Collection for HCCEF and The Holy Childhood Association (Pontifical Mission) http://www.missionsocieties.ca/educational-materials/   * **Valentine’s Day and Pancake Tuesday** – went very well, Grade 5 students in Mrs. Vukovic’s class took the lead and distributed pancakes. Would like to consider making pancakes for students next year to have more of a community feeling. * **Ash Wednesday Service** – well-attended by parents, lovely liturgy by grade 6 students * Grade 2 Communion Lunch – April 23rd in the gymnasium – parent volunteers who would like to support are very welcome! * Grade 7 Confirmation Lunch – April 24th in the gymnasium * Grade 2 Retreat at Parish – April 20th * First Communion will be taking place at MMOG at 1:00 PM on Sunday April 22nd. * Our **Rosary Apostolate** are continuing to visit us, we are now in the process of planning our Spring Marian celebration * Our **OCGE Awards** and **Grit Awards** were given out at our most recent Assembly last week. The next OCGE we will be working on is being a ***Caring Family Member*** |
| **Curriculum** | **School Improvement Planning**   * Report cards went home on February 22nd. There was no formal interview dates for the Term 1 reports, however, parents and teachers are always encouraged to conference, often with the student, whenever there are any concerns. * As we continue to work on self-regulation as part of our school improvement plan, our focus is narrowing to look at accountable talk. Mrs. Williams has been gathering evidence of student talk during Math class with a focus to develop strategies for educators that encourage accountable talk at school amongst learners to support deeper understanding of concepts and promote self-assessment. * We continue to build our skills in Technology-Enabled Learning. We have purchased 22 additional Chrome Books bringing our total to 26. These new Chrome Books were added to our Junior classrooms. Teachers and students are learning how to leverage the technology to support student learning and collaboration. Once we get feedback from students and teachers on how impactful they are, we will consider our next technology purchase. * On Wednesday and Thursday February 7 and 8 we had members from our Curriculum department create a large Makerspace in our Learning Commons to which the Grade 4 teachers brought their students, one class at a time, to spend two hours at a time working on STEM challenges. This was a learning opportunity for both staff and students and was very successful * Mrs. Chiarotto continues to run a Reading Intervention program, as Term 2 begins, she has adjusted which students she is working with according to student learning need. * Our Lexia program has turned out to be highly successful. We now have groups of students coming to school at 8:15 each morning for extra reading intervention with our Educational Assistants. Many of the students have been advancing in their reading at a quick rate. * Mr. Mulé continues to work with students who require intensive Phonics instruction * Our BBBS Homework Club continues weekly after school * Les Chefs à L’école took place for our Grade 7 students and it was very well-received by our students * The Board has granted us approval for our Learning Support Programs for students in Grades 3 and 6 and they will begin after the March Break. Mrs. Penwarden, Mrs. Mihalides and Mr. Smith will run these programs before or after school. * Regional English Public Speaking will take place on March 21st and the French Concours Oratoires will take place on March 22nd. We have one speaker from Grade 8 with a speech on Social Media representing us for the English Competition and we have 3 students, 1 Junior, 1 Intermediate, and 1 Extended French representing us for the French competition. |
| **Culture and Community** | **Equity and Inclusion**   * The number of visible minorities in our school is growing, but it has come to light that many of these students are feeling marginalized. As a staff, the focus of our last PA Day was on Equity and Inclusion. This was Ministry Mandated and occurred throughout the province. * We had a large emphasis on Black History Month with students providing announcements each day about a famous Black Canadian, African American, African, or Caribbean who has contributed to the betterment of society. We will now be having a challenge for classes to see who has learned the most. The winning class will be given a set of books for their classroom library written by Black authors. * As a staff, we are going to be more diligent in ensuring that the teaching resources we use are culturally representative of our student populations. * We would like to enlist volunteers and guest speakers who are visible minorities to visit our classrooms so that our marginalized students see adults who look like themselves more frequently * We are going to teach students, as developmentally appropriate, about microaggressions and how damaging they are.   **Family Engagement Events**   * Speak Up Grant – Tribal Vision on Feb. 22, 2018 – 99 people attended (including members of Student Council), 150 had said they would attend (43 families out of 427, i.e. 10% of school community). It was an excellent performance and the feedback from those who attended was very positive. * School Uniform Information Evening was attended by 67 people – the most significant concern voiced seemed to be the single service provider – ISW. * Uniform Vote was completed as of March 1st – 86% of the ballots were returned, 162 (44%) were YES in favour of uniforms, 199 (54%) were NO, not in favour of uniforms, 7 ballots (2%) were invalid. Mrs. Sprano from the Dress Code Committee and Mrs. English, Chair of Parent Council, Kelly Williams VP, and Lorraine Boulos Principal, counted ballots together. As a result of the vote, we will NOT be having school uniforms at St. Andrew School. We cannot vote on this issue again for another three years. * HT had canceled their traditional dance for Grade 7 students this year. Our students were quite disappointed. We are considering hosting a spring dance for them here at the school on April 20th.   **Student Voice**   * Student Council Speak Up Grant was approved for $1700. Students have put in a proposal for student engagement through real-world problem solving. They are in the process of, with Parent Volunteer Mr. Ferguson, creating student vegetable gardens on the East side of the school. In addition, they will be purchasing more materials for our Makerspace in the Learning Commons.   **Student Safety, Health and Well-being**   * Our FOS Social Worker is working with our CYC to develop a program specifically tailored to support students in Grade 7 in our Gifted Program to deal with stress and anxiety. This will begin after the March Break * We are going to begin a campaign, after the March Break, to reduce Absenteeism and Tardiness at the school. The Ministry is now auditing attendance at schools and research has now provided evidence that students who have frequent lates and absences are less likely to succeed at school. Our campaign will be about decreasing the percentage of absences in a class so no child will be targeted and we can take into consideration those students who do not attend for reasons such as illness, outside classes, tournaments, * Team Unbreakable is a running team to support mental health and well-being. We have a team comprised of over 20 Intermediate students. They run with their coaches Mrs. Chiarotto, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Moseley-Williams and Mr. Scott, and in addition they have weekly lessons on promote mental health run by Mrs. Manuel We will be conducting fundraising for the event, which is a run at Spencer Smith Park on Mother’s Day at a cost of $40 per runner.   **Kindergarten Registrations**   * We received approximately 45 Junior Kindergarten registrations, approximately 20 less than currently, however, we expect more registrations in August and we continue to get inquiries daily.   **School Teams**   * Both our Boys and Girls Basketball teams are well into their season and they are each doing very well.   **Grade 8 Graduation**   * We have begun to plan our Grade 8 Graduation. One of our parents looked into renting LeDome Banquet Hall at $30 per student. Past tradition has been for students to go bowling the day before and then have a luncheon at the Mandarin at a total cost of $40 per students. Students voted on either having their graduation ceremonies at LeDome, and not going to the Mandarin, or going to the Mandarin and having the ceremonies and dance in our school gymnasium. They opted to maintain the status quo. * The Grade 8 graduation will take place in the school gym (which looks much better because it has been painted) on Friday, June 22, 2018. * Louisa Oliveira has agreed to head up a decorating committee for the ceremonies and dance. We will enlist grade 7 volunteers to put up and take down the chairs.   **Intermediate Ski Trip**  Due to potential inclement weather conditions and potential bus cancelations, the trip was postponed until Wed. March 7, 2018  **Swiss Chalet-** We have about 75-100 participants on a given Monday. Participants seem to be enjoying the meals.  **FOS Joint Council Meeting-** As part of our collaborative work between our Family of Schools (FOS) and our Mental Health & Wellness work with our Halton Health nurse, Gemma Simon, our School Council has been invited to participate in a joint council meeting. We will gather with the other School Council members from our feeder schools at Holy Trinity on April 9 @ 6:30-8 p.m. The plan is to have time to share common concerns around Social Media safety and the wellness of our students. They have planned for guest speaker, Chris Vollum, to share parent information and tips for Social Media Safety, with time for dialogue after. If you have any specific questions or issues you would like addressed by the guest speaker please let Kelly Williams VP know asap. |