



St. Dominic CES School Council

Date | time Monday, January 25, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting called by Kelly Sam & Laurie Mendoza (Co-Chairs)

Meeting held Microsoft Teams Meeting

Council Members

Attendees: Laurie Mendoza - Co-Chair, Kelly Sam - Co-Chair, Vicki Dempsey, Shashi Fernando, Betsy Thomas Wohleber, Ashley Pollotta, Chris Gojmerac, Richard Hui, Kellie Allington, Michelle Fernando, Nicole Haughton, Linda Romano, Vince Chininea - Principal, Paula Durand - Vice Principal, Jacqueline Hart - Teaching Staff Rep, Andrea Ongaro - Non-Teaching Staff Rep

Regrets: Heather Albertson, Christine Morgan

Absent: Linda Wheeler, Nancy Tran Lostritto, Julia Fesenko

Minutes

Agenda item: Introduction & Housekeeping and Opening Prayer **Presenter:** Kelly

Discussion:

Kelly started the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Heather sent her regrets. Kelly asked for a volunteer to take minutes. Shashi volunteered to take the minutes.

Kelly said the opening prayer.

Conclusions:

N/A

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ None

Agenda item: Approval of Minutes

Presenter: Laurie

Discussion:

Laurie asked for the approval of the minutes from previous meeting (Nov 2, 2020).

Richard requested amendments to the minutes. Specifically, under the Administrator's Report to move the point on progress reports to be under the "Achieving" pillar. Additionally, to record who made the motion and seconded the motion for the action item related to the by-laws.

Clarification on procedures during meetings to be discussed. Kelly and Laurie will discuss with Vince and Paula.

No changes made to the minutes from the November 2, 2020 meeting.

Conclusions:

Motion: Approval of the Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2020.

Moved: Laurie. **Seconded:** Chris. **Motion carried.**

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Rules of procedures at meetings	Kelly & Laurie	N/A

Agenda item: Administrator's Report **Presenter:** Vince & Paula

Discussion:

Vince provided the Administrator's report using the three pillars: Achieving, Believing, Belonging.

Achieving

Remote learning extended on various platforms. There have been struggles with technology, but everyone is doing their best. There is a continued focus on well-being and teachers are focused on curriculum during this period and will assess students as best as can be done in a remote environment.

Term 1 report cards will be sent home on Feb 24th. Report cards will see changes due to COVID-19 and impact of classroom teaching vs remote learning and learning practices. Assessments will be weighted to period of in-person learning. Information will be gathered during remote learning for the assessments as well.

Term 2 begin soon after.

New math curriculum learning continues. Teachers are doing their best navigating through the curriculum expectations and guideline.

Incredibly thankful to staff for efforts during transition and to parents for support during this time.

Believing

Confirmation: Grade 8s was done in December. Cancelled last year.

All sacraments (First Communion, First Reconciliation, Confirmation) for the current year have been postponed until further notice.

Advent: Angel Tree and Hat & Mitten Drive very successful. Various families in our community were helped with the donations

Acts of Kindness (Appreciations): recognizing and celebrating acts of kindness in school. Demonstrate living out graduation expectations. Started this just before the Christmas break.

Holocaust Memorial Day: Board wide on Wed, Jan 27th. Grade level liturgies will take place virtually. Discussion in all classes will be age appropriate. Gr 8s will have a more in-depth learning on the subject. Programming planned (virtual presentation) with Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies on Feb 2nd and a Holocaust survivor will visit with the students on Feb 4th.

Lent: Ash Wednesday (Feb 17th) – TBD with the Parish distribution of ashes. Liturgy will be led by Student Ambassadors will take place. March 31st Liturgy (before Holy Week): Gr 4s will be leading with Lent and Focus on Faith themes.

Belonging

Code of Conduct assemblies (Safe Schools): review discipline and school mottos with all students. Will either be done virtually or when return to school. Behaviour expectations continue while remote learning.

Bullying Prevention Week: November and included Diversity Day (Nov 18th). Activities in all classroom will continue with the same messages during the year.

Bell Let's Talk Day: mental health discussions (age appropriate in all classes). Mrs. Jankowiak, Child Youth Care Worker leading this initiative. Poster challenge for all students.

Black History Month: February. Integrate with classroom learning. Highlight prominent Canadians. Equity and Inclusion seminar by a spoken word artist for Gr 4 to 8 classes.

Continued focus: Celebrating each other's differences

Family support: continue to support families during the lockdown.

X-Movement: information sent home to families. Encourage participating. Videos – different ways to celebrate cultures through dance and movement.

Spirit days: Student Ambassadors continue to meet and plan and explore ways for students can be connected while remote learning.

Conclusions:

N/A

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ None		

Agenda item: Parent Survey **Presenter:** Kelly

Discussion:

Kelly introduced the idea of having a parent survey to request feedback. Purpose of the survey to find out what parents want. Possible questions to include in the survey deferred as it could come from sub-committee needs.

Include a confirmation/opt-in to receive emails from School Council in the survey.

Send out link to survey in the Weekly Update.

Everyone agreed with was a good idea.

Conclusions:

Proceed with developing questions.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Develop questions for survey	All	ASAP
✓ Discuss including survey link in the Weekly Update with Vince & Paula	Kelly	

Agenda item: Sub-committee updates **Presenter:** Kelly & Subcommittees

Discussion:

Kelly asked each subcommittee to provide a report.

Social Justice & Outreach: Richard provided the updates. Discussed initiatives that were initiated at school (i.e., Angel Tree and Lenten initiatives) and how parent community can be of assistance. Cyberbullying discussions taking place at school – details on what is being presented not available. Look at other forms of teaching/learning about this topic. Parent survey – determine agenda for initiatives. Reach out to the larger community (e.g., videographer).

School Events: Kellie provided the report. Indigo initiative – decided against it this year. Plan for next year. With pandemic measures challenging to plan events. Discussions included asking questions to gauge interest for virtual events and what types of events the community is interested in having.

Healthy Schools: Betsy provided the report. Discussed painting games on pavements similar to another school. Summer safety campaign. Concerns with mental well being and connectedness, increased screen time, outdoor time drastically reduced. Additionally, challenge is not knowing available budget to plan something. Discussion on outdoor classroom initiative was raised by Kelly. Everyone agreed that this initiative should be pursued and brainstorming ideas and include a question on this topic on the survey and develop an action plan (vision) to discuss at the next meeting. Meeting with facilities required (understand parameters). Look at available grants for these types of projects. Discussed targeted fundraising campaign and commit to building. Look for resources from the school community to help.

Education & Safe Schools: Richard provided the report. (1) Recognition of certain days should be in the school calendar on the web. Question whether this calendar is up to date. Vince said they will review to look at the dates but sometimes announced at the Board but not disseminated to schools. Subcommittee to connect with school administration and work together to update the calendar. (2) STEAM initiatives – looked at various programs. Challenging to implement this year but will continue to pursue these initiatives to plan for next year. Concern with having teacher engagement for these initiatives. (3) Email to use when contacting organization. Use personal emails and use shared folder to upload documents and plans. (4) STEM conference (virtual) focus on increasing women in technology hosted by UTS for girls in Gr 6- 8. Conference is free. Vince asked that the information be forwarded, and they will look into sending students to this conference.

Finance: Shashi provided the report. (1) Student Generated Funds – includes fundraising by the School Council plus other funds. School council makes spending decisions on the amount fundraised. Current budget is \$22K - \$24K. Reports are available on school website. (2)Technology purchases: Vince & Paula had expressed need for technology in the classroom. Each classroom equipped with an interactive whiteboard and document camera. Classrooms do not have a laptop as a teaching tool and some teachers are using their own devices. New applications are being used in the classroom and current fleet of laptops needs to be upgraded. Decided to equip each classroom with a laptop as a teaching tool. These laptops will not be used for students during remote learning. The laptops are for use in the classroom (teaching tool) and when not being used as teaching tool students would be able to use it for research etc. Vince confirmed that to make the technology purchase will look at Board allocated funds as well so that there is a carryover of some funds for the next school year. (3) Fundscrip (gift card program) – launch program. Continuous fundraising opportunity that requires change in habits. Need to be focused in launching the program.

Conclusions:

N/A

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Develop questions for parent survey	All subcommittees	ASAP
✓ Outdoor classroom – develop plan	Healthy Schools subcommittee	Next Meeting
✓ Meeting with Facilities	Vince	
✓ Send information on UTS conference (Gr 6 -8 girls) to Vince & Paula	Richard	After the meeting
✓ School calendar – update to include all recognized days	Education & Safe Schools Subcommittee with School Administration	ASAP
✓ Technology purchase	Vince & Paula	ASAP
✓ Fundscrip Program – registration & launch	Finance Subcommittee	ASAP

Agenda item: Council Membership Requirements

Presenter: Laurie

Discussion:

HCDSB Trustees requesting comments on membership requirements for Catholic School councils and CPIC detailed in HCDSB Procedure No. VI-84. HCDSB has received feedback that the policy is (1) too restrictive as it limits the number of non-Catholic participants and it could make it difficult to fill school council positions, (2) not reflective of an inclusive environment and (3) should maintain a majority Catholic membership reflective of the Catholic school system.

Feedback was requested on the following questions (1) Do you feel the current policies are too restrictive? And (2) Should the policies include restrictions for parents/guardians? If so, what changes (if any) would you like to see made to the Procedure, or how should the board decide on appropriate restrictions?

Kelly said 7 members responded to the survey. All 7 indicated that the current policy is restrictive. Membership in School Councils should be open to non-Catholics as well. Comments included Chair should be Catholic and if there are co-chairs at least one should be Catholic.

Not certain whether this policy is solely HCDSB or whether it is similar across all Catholic boards. Richard said based on quick review TCDSB did not have the restriction in its membership requirements. Focus on inclusion in schools and Catholic values. When register, meet the requirement to register so no need for additional requirements to participate. Need to engage the best people for the role/job. Anyone should be welcomed to participate from the school community so that all students are represented.

Conclusions:

Provide feedback to the Board. Policy is restrictive and non-Catholics should be able to participate on school councils and CPIC.

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ Comments to be sent to the Board

Laurie

ASAP

Agenda item: Approval of By-laws

Presenter: Laurie

Discussion:

Additional feedback received. Separate meeting to focus on the review of the current draft. Members interested in participating in the review of the current draft to email Laurie. Working document – annual review.

Conclusions:

Meeting to discuss and review current draft of bylaws.

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ Email Laurie if you want to participate in drafting the by-laws

All

Friday, Jan 28th

Agenda item: School next steps (return to school)

Presenter: Vince

Discussion:

Return to school: Wait and see approach. Decision to be made by the Ministry of Education. Board will inform administration and the message will be sent to families.

Safety measures: Will likely be changing. More information to come. Masking might be all day (no mask breaks) – province wide mandate. Rapid testing may be implemented (voluntary basis) – public health decides not the Board.

Ventilation: Board has advised that schools meet requirements. No known issues. Relying on Board for compliance.

Conclusions:

N/A

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
---------------------	---------------------------	-----------------

✓ None		
--------	--	--

Agenda item: Closing Prayer **Presenter:** Kelly

Discussion:

No other matters discussed.

Next meeting – to be confirmed. Plan for February/before March Break.

Kelly led the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Conclusions:

N/A

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
---------------------	---------------------------	-----------------

✓ Next meeting date	Kelly & Laurie	
---------------------	----------------	--