



St. Dominic CES Catholic School Council

Date | time Monday, March 29, 2021 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, Christine Morgan, Richard Hui, Nicole Haughton, Linda Romano, Nancy Tran Lostritto, Vince Chininea (Principal), Paula Durand (Vice Principal), Jacqueline Hart (Teaching Staff Rep), Andrea Ongaro (Non-Teaching Staff Rep),

Regrets: Heather Albertson, Kellie Allington,

Absent: Linda Wheeler, Ashley Pollotta, Chris Gojmerac, Michelle Fernando, Julia Fesenko

Minutes

Agenda item: Introduction & Opening Prayer

Presenter: Kelly

Discussion:

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

Kelly said the opening prayer.

Land Acknowledgement: Vince shared the HCDSB video on Land Acknowledgement. The video includes students from across the Board reciting the acknowledgement to Indigenous lands.

Vince stated that the video will be shown to students at the school on a regular basis.

Roll call was done by Kelly.

Conclusions:

N/A

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ None

Agenda item: Approval of Previous Meeting's Minutes

Presenter: Laurie

Discussion:

No discussion. No comments received. No changes made to the minutes.

Conclusions:

Kelly moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on January 25, 2021. Vicky seconded.

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ None

Agenda item: Youth Climate Group Special Presentation **Presenter:** Grade 8 students + Mr. McPhail

Discussion:

Vince introduced Gr 8 student leaders who have been active on environmental issues. Mr. McPhail has been encouraging these students with these student-led ideas to “green” the school.

Ideas presented included planting additional trees, plants, and vegetable gardens. The students had various drawings/maps of areas to consider with “greening” initiatives and research on suggested plant materials.

Encouraged to mentor younger students to continue with the what the group has started.

Students were asked whether they had specific short-term and long-term goals they would like help with. They were encouraged by the idea of an outdoor classroom. They were surprised by how quick a bike rack is to be installed at the school. Planting in the front yard/entrance to the schools was considered a possibility in the short-term. Fundraising idea of a no uniform day once a month to buy plant material was suggested. No specific asks from the Council. Though student ambassadors would be the group to help lead initiatives.

Students were thanked for their presentation and participation.

Discussion on what we could do to help drive something for these students. Wanted to try do something this year that would celebrate their initiative and would be in remembrance of their leadership in “greening” the school. Planting shrubs, flowers, in the front entrance way was seen as an achievable goal.

Conclusions:

N/A

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ None

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

Discussion:

Paula presented the Administrator’s report using the three pillars: Achieving, Believing, Belonging.

Achieving

Transitioning from remote learning to in person after the Christmas break has gone really well. Everyone has transitioned well.

Primary celebrated 100 Days of School with various activities. Twitter feed included activities from 100 Days of school.

Grade 8 graduation photos in progress. Covid protocols in place so photos are being done over 2 days.

Grade 8 classes had a presentation from the Simon Wiesenthal Centre including speaking to a survivor as part of their holocaust studies. The presentation was well received and had a tremendous impact on students.

April 23rd – PD day.

Equity training sessions have been completed by all staff. It is an important first step in starting conversations. Continue to consult on equity issues.

Equity and Inclusion plan continuous development.

Catholic Education Week: May 2nd to 7th. School level Walk with Jesus. Planning a family trivia night. Live liturgy during the week.

Technology: purchased laptop for each classroom to bolster each classroom to support the current software being used. Allows for participating in virtual events. Vision moving forward is to increase the devices in the classroom (per student ratio). Blueprint for technology.

Believing

Lenten initiative: requesting donations of canned vegetables, fish and meat for Kerr St. Mission. Deadline is Wednesday because Kerr St. Mission picking up on Thursday. Overwhelming response from the community. Students are excited to drop off canned goods and see the pile growing. Thanked parents for their generosity.

Grade 8 classes prepared Easter cards for St. Dominic parishioners.

Grade 4 classes organized and planned Holy Week liturgy. Liturgy was pre-recorded and will be shared. Liturgy is on Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.

Intermediate grades organized the Stations of the Cross presentation. Presentation will be Thursday at 12:30 p.m. Video link will be shared by email.

Grade 7 Confirmation proceeding. One evening for each class on April 28, 29, and 30.

Grade 2 First Communion and First Reconciliation proceeding. Sign up through the Parish. Dates are full and working with Parish for additional dates/times.

Belonging

February 24th – Pink shirt day. Anti-bullying campaign. Message bullying will not be tolerated and focus on speaking up.

March 17th – St. Patrick's Day celebrated with students wearing green. Variety of themed activities took place in classrooms.

March 22nd – Rock Your Socks celebrating World Down Syndrome Day (March 21st). Celebrated with 3 students at the school. Students excited to decorate their socks and hang across clothesline.

March – Safe Schools lockdown and bomb threat practice drills. Drills were successful.

Family Science Night – successful sign up. Great participation from families. Event is sold out. Students were curious about event and wanted to participate.

General discussion

Question on why no school liturgy in the church. Explanation is that Halton is in red zone limited capacity at 30% and if the school is together, 30% capacity limit exceeded. Also, cohorts are required to be maintained.

Youth Minister not as active in the school community this year because of the restrictions. In a more typical year, the youth minister with Fr. Ranjan would be working with the school as in prior years.

Coding curriculum – slow implementation. Teachers are implementing as best they can and still implementation is in transition. Typical supports for curriculum are not there so the roll out is slower. Explained that for younger grades that it is not the technology (devices), it is also about learning the fundamental language (e.g., left, right, above, below).

Math curriculum – similar. New and using available resources. More work to be done.

Teacher champions for STEM and Lego programs? What can parents do to support?

No school photos this year.

Council By-Laws update: pausing until next meeting. Paula and Vince to have another look to ensure compliance with the Education Act.

Conclusions:

N/A

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ None

Agenda item: Council Update

Presenter: Laurie & Kelly

Discussion:

Parent Survey: No comments from members. Survey to be distributed this week. Hope is that the survey will provide information for community interests and help with planning. Suggested to send out twice to maximize the capture rate. Ask teachers to include in D2L announcements.

Fundraising: additional fundraisers for the year? Kelly provided examples.

- Terra Cotta cookies – lucrative fundraiser. Distribution could be challenging. Refrigeration required as frozen cookie dough are delivered frozen. How to manage with Covid-19 protocols?
- Purdy's Chocolates – Shashi raised for Easter but did not move forward. Logistical issues for delivery and distribution. Consider for next year.
- Vesey's – seeds. Kelly has not looked into this.
- Dance-a-thon – historical fundraiser.

Christine suggested that since April is Earth month, for Earth Day, school could have a “no uniform day” to generate funds to purchase plant material. Earth Day is April 22nd. Cash on-line not the best tool for generating funds. Agreed that \$10 donation would be suggested from families to buy a tree. As students enter the school, they would drop the cash into a rain barrel or recycling bin. Request the student climate group to prepare a video and poster to raise awareness of the “greening” initiatives. Richard volunteered to take the lead on this initiative and meet with Vince & Paula to plan.

To plan for next year, list of possible fundraising ideas to be sent to Kelly before the next meeting.

Catholic School Council Corner in Weekly Update: weekly communication started this week. More substance in other weeks. Start to having more communication. If there are events or

resources of interest, send to Laurie and she can include in the weekly update. Plan for a newsletter in the future. Parent survey will provide information for communication plan.

Conclusions:

Parent survey – send out.

April 22nd - Earth Day fundraiser “No Uniform Day” for purchasing plants, shrubs for school entrance way.

Additional fundraising ideas.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Parent Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial push out ▪ 2nd push out ▪ D2L announcement 	Kelly & Laurie with Admin	April 1 st + TBD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Earth Day fundraiser planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ video and poster to raise awareness ▪ weekly newsletter item ▪ post in D2L announcements 	Richard with Admin	ASAP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fundraising ideas – submit to Kelly before the next meeting 	All	Before next meeting

Agenda item: Subcommittee Updates

Presenter: Subcommittee Chairs

Discussion:

Social Justice & Outreach

- No report
- Initial planning idea to have parent virtual social check-ins

Finance

- SGF101 - deferred to next meeting
- Technology purchase – update in Administrator’s Report

School Events

- No report

Healthy Schools

- Outdoor classroom – Vince indicated that funding from Board available to build a outdoor classroom. Preliminary discussions and planning with the Board. Amount to be confirmed. Timing – must complete by end of August. Board is expediting the process. It is a good start. Improvements can be made year to year.
- Nothing more to add or report.

Education & Safe Schools

- Science Night – good response. Scheduled for this week. Think about another session for the Spring.
- Programs to enhance curriculum – Shashi provided Junior Achievement as an example. Financial Literacy part of curriculum can do something similar to schools in the Yukon.

Mrs. Hart said in prior years, the school had Christmas Bazaars and children enjoyed going and shopping and buying raffle tickets. Learning about money and spending and how much they could buy.

- Survey teachers and staff about curriculum enhancement or how they want support? Vince suggested open ended question may not be best approach. Provide examples of programs to gauge interest.

Conclusions:

Ask teachers how CSC can support learning and enhancing curriculum.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Teacher survey questions	Shashi	Before next meeting

Agenda item: My Life Online: Teaching Kids to Be Safe, Smart and Kind Online. **Presenter:** Shashi

Discussion:

Program previously presented and discussed. Due to pandemic restrictions, program offers virtual live and pre-recorded learning. Parent seminar/webinar and student program with follow up classroom learning. Direct relationship with safe school initiatives (cyberbullying, online safety), and media literacy curriculum (digital citizenship, social media use). Other school boards have offered the program. Decision to be made is whether the program would be beneficial at the school and plan for sessions.

Vince indicated that he and Paula had spoken to Dave Anderson (Program Founder) after the previous discussion. They had indicated to Dave the follow up classroom learning may not be feasible.

Christine said program offering is a life safety skill and we should try to plan something in the school.

Laurie said we can't just keep discussing the program and pushing the decision off. Should be part of the planning discussions for next year.

Discussion on costs – range \$1200 - \$1500. More details required (how many participants, classes).

Conclusions:

Get additional information on program (e.g., costs, format)

Add to planning agenda for next meeting.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Additional details on pricing.	Shashi	Next meeting

Agenda item: Other items

Presenter: Kelly

Discussion:

Job action – Vince said not sure what is currently going on so nothing to report. Board will communicate.

Conclusions:

N/A

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ None

Agenda item: Closing Prayer

Presenter: Kelly

Discussion:

Kelly said the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Next meeting is May 31, 2021

Conclusions:

N/A

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ None