



St. Dominic CES Catholic School Council

Date | time Monday, May 27 at 6:30 p.m.

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

Meeting held Microsoft Teams Meeting

Council Members

Attendees: Kelly Sam - Co-Chair, Laurie Mendoza - Co-Chair, Shashi Fernando, Christine Morgan, Chris Gojmerac, Betsy Thomas Wohleber, Richard Hui, Michelle Fernando, Vince Chininea (Principal), Paula Durand (Vice Principal), Jacqueline Hart (Teaching Staff Rep), Andrea Ongaro (Non-Teaching Staff Rep),

Regrets: Heather Albertson, Vicki Dempsey, Ashley Pollotta,

Absent: Linda Wheeler, Julia Fesenko, Kellie Allington, Nicole Haughton, Linda Romano, Nancy Tran Lostritto,

Minutes

Agenda item: Welcome – Prayer & Land Acknowledgement **Presenter:** Kelly

Discussion:

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

Kelly said the opening prayer.

Kelly read the HCDSB Land Acknowledgement

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.

Conclusions:

No changes made to the minutes.

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

✓ None

Agenda item: Administrator's Report

Presenter: Paula & Vince

Discussion:

Paula & Vince presented the Administrator's report using the three pillars: Achieving, Believing, Belonging.

Achieving

April Break – switch to remote learning was a smooth transition

May – celebrated Asian heritage month. Focused on celebrating Canadian contributions. Virtual celebrations.

- Presentation was unable to be booked in May and so booked for June 8th.
- K – Gr 3: Rukhsana Khan (author) – writing on social teachings
- Gr 4 – 6: Presentation by Sitar Fusion – movie about a great traveler and the countries to which he travelled
- Mrs. Hart – Grade 1 class: 2 students presented on their cultures. Created power point presentations to share with the classmates.

May – additional presentation for Black history month for intermediate grades. Shauntay Grant, poet, spoke about the writing process: how to write novels from an African lens.

STEAM – HCDSB Committee recommendation is to be focus at schools. Extracurricular activities. Annual plan/roadmap. Elementary school to add STEAM activities (e.g., guest speakers, work with consultants, work with STA to find leads at the school to help lead initiatives and help connect elementary and secondary panel).

Believing

All Sacraments have been postponed.

Catholic Education Week theme was “Nurturing Hope”. Celebrated as a community.

School Liturgy – theme will be equity and inclusion which is linked to Gr 1 human dignity. Father Ranjan has provided pre-recorded messages for the school community.

June 11th – Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

June 21st - Indigenous Person Day

Belonging

Autism – light up blue

Dress Loud Day – acknowledge hard of hearing community

June – Pride awareness programming for all grades

Online Safety – guest speaker for Gr 7 and Gr 8 – issues to be addressed so speaker who has worked with police forces to discuss use of social media

Other

Graduation – not able to gather in person in large groups. Virtual celebrations + drive by at the school Will have music and photo area for families. Graduates will receive their certificates. Organized the purchase of gifts for graduates.

Council By-Laws – developed a mission statement for the school. Further discussion and review and then will distribute to Council for review and approval.

School is slated for a rebuild as part of HCDSB's capital improvement plan. Proposed but no guarantee will be approved. Will be a few years for the capital improvement to be approved by the Ministry. Huge undertaking which includes moving off school property. Nothing to be concerned with for the near future. There is "refresh" scheduled which means, brand new lockers, lighting changes, HVAC systems looked at – adding AC in gyms and one classroom where there is no AC. A "refresh" does not include any classroom improvements.

Outdoor classroom – funding must be used before school funding years is over. Plan is to expand the current space with larger teaching area. To be completed by September. No overhead covering. There were preliminary conversations with vendors, and it will be costly to do a complete overhaul. Year over year improvements can be planned.

Contract Negotiations with teachers – central agreements were signed between MOE and unions. Local negotiations with the school boards. Sanctions have been escalating. Minimal impact on students and classroom learning/teaching. Administration affected. Teachers still meeting with parents.

Paula Durand (VP) is leaving next year. Will be assigned as VP to Sacred Heart of Jesus. With Mrs. Durand, students always came first and was dedicated to student learning. Not much she would not do and made the tough decisions when needed but always focused on students' needs. New VP is Tracey Babic.

Conclusions:

N/A

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ None		

Agenda item: Board of Trustee Motion: Supporting our Diverse Community **Presenter:** Vince/Paula

Discussion:

Proposed motion to fly the Pride Flag as presented was amended and passed.

Several conversations with parent at the school. Varying opinions. There were strong views on both sides of the debate.

Consultation approach: STA family of schools have discussed the issue and approach. Discussed with families at the schools and teachers/staff. Spoken with Father Ranjan and senior Board officials.

Board approach is relying on Catholic Resources for Education.

Reflected on "big picture". How does it affect students at the school? Message of love and inclusion. Welcoming place for all students. Make sure all students have a sense of belonging to be proud of who you are. School's mission won't change – show loving and caring environment and all genuinely belong.

What will be done at the school? Make sure it is purposeful and meaningful. Wide age range and depends on what kids are ready to hear in terms of messaging.

Board planning deeper system response. Will not deviate from lessons in "family life" program.

June 1st is Rainbow Spirit Day – Board wide. Liturgy on equity and inclusion.

June 14th is Pride Awareness Day. Teachers will engage in activities in conversation with Board provided resources. Catholic lens to mirror what is in "family life" teachings. Resources will not be shared with families.

Images on website, Twitter, decals inside the school and D2L. Social media messages from the Board.

Question: how have teachers received this information – do you have a sense from them and how they feel about the response to the proposed motion/amended motion? Response: teachers/staff have been supportive.

Conclusions:

N/A

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ None		

Agenda item: Council Update **Presenter:** Various

Discussion:

Council of Chairs meeting:

- Kelly and Paula attended. Pat Daly spoke. New members to CPIC introduced. Vince is one of the staff representatives at CPIC.
- Breaks out with family of schools to share best practices. Kelly liked the idea of a rotating secretary/person saying opening prayer. One school at the beginning of the year had each class write a prayer and created a booklet of prayers. The prayers are used at the school and the school council uses the prayer booklet in their meetings.
- Virtual school has 4000 students. Number of student surprised Kelly.
- Queen of Heaven parent/student group called iDare. Slide presentation to share what they are doing. Nothing specific was shared on the group. Kelly will pass on contact information if requested.

Plantables fundraiser. Going well. Deadline is next week. Raised \$270. Cheque will come early June. Kelly asked Vince & Paula to connect with the Gr.8 student group about plans for the gardens.

My Life Online: Teaching Kids to Be Safe, Smart and Kind Online – Shashi informed the group about costs Student seminars for Gr 4 – Gr 8 \$1500 + follow up curriculum \$500, K – Gr 3 video learning is \$250, parent webinar – virtual is \$1500. Concern with amounts. Explore possibility for next year.

Parent survey – results were shared in advance. Discussion on low participation rate with Gr 7 and 8 families. Received names for volunteers.

Major fundraiser with the dance-a-thon if permissible. Think about a modified version.

Community facilities – can these facilities be used for extra curricular? Depends on what the activity is and whether the activity can be done at school(s).

Athletic teams and club – participation at the older grade. Staff support intramurals.

Discussed whether staff have to be the person who is in charge of a specific extra curricular activity. Staff required to be attendance for supervision.

Planning for next year: start planning for next year. Meeting in June. Michelle, Christine and Shashi volunteered to help with strategy planning. Note to be sent to ask for additional volunteers.

Year-end: committee reports to be submitted to Kelly and Laurie for inclusion in the report to the Board.

Conclusions:

Strategy session for next year.

Communication via Weekly Update

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

- | | | |
|--|----------------|------|
| ✓ Send note for additional participation in planning for next year | Kelly & Laurie | ASAP |
| ✓ Planning Session | Kelly & Laurie | June |
| ✓ Subcommittee reports to be prepared and sent to Chairs | All | ASAP |

Agenda item: Sub-Committee Updates

Presenter: Various

Discussion:

No new updates to report from subcommittees.

Conclusions:

N/A

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

- ✓ None

Agenda item: Closing Prayer

Presenter: Kelly

Discussion:

Kelly said the closing prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Conclusions:

N/A

Action items

Person responsible

Deadline

- ✓ None