

## ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL COUNCIL

**MINUTES:** May 17, 2021

7:00 PM

VIRTUAL MICROSOFT TEAMS

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Peter Bertrand
<b>MINUTES RECORDED BY</b>	Titsa Starogiannis
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Annie Gojmerac, Christine Stollberg, Franca Parsons, Peter Bertrand, Amanda Calla, Inka Ellenbrand, Titsa Starogiannis, Giuliana Sam, Jonathan Wylde, Kelly Mahony, Luis Iratchet, Milka MacFarlane, Norela Avila, Sara Baillie, Stephanie Galvan, Caitlin Norton, Lauren Wallis  <u>Regrets:</u> Jason Tadros, Tricia Dantes, Maria Sousa, Sibel Yardimoglu

**PRAYER:** read by Norela Avila

### AGENDA TOPICS

<b>APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:</b> Feb. 1, 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Moved by: Sara Bailie</li><li>Seconded by: Norela Avila</li></ul>	PETER BERTRAND
<b>PRINCIPALS' UPDATE</b> <b>Achieving:</b> Meeting the needs of all learners <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>return to virtual learning<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>smooth transition is a testament to staff, student and family resilience!</li></ul></li><li>D2L is being used by most of our classes</li><li>PA Day April 23<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Faith Day &amp; a focus on Equity and Inclusion</li><li>continued work on our school focus of anti-black racism</li><li>presented with board document for Equity and Inclusion: Responding with Faith, Hope, Love</li></ul></li><li>2021-2022 School Year<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>in the process of creating class lists (tentative assignments for teachers)</li></ul></li></ul>	ANNIE GOJMERAC

- growing by one class
- tentative number is 430 students
- virtual school will be up and running next year, as per Ministry guidelines
- Currently have approx 50-60 students in
- survey sent out in March and another will be sent out in June asking families to indicate if their children will be returning to in-school or virtual school in September
- a small number of students are indicating that they will remain online

**Believing:** Celebrating our Catholic faith & aspiring to be models of Christ

- Catholic Education Week – Nurturing Hope
  - continuing to keep the spirit alive in each of our classrooms
  - sub-themes each day of the week
- Walk with Jesus
  - virtual this year
  - link was shared with families in weekly update
  - families walked in their neighbourhood
- OGCE (Ontario Graduate Catholic Expectations) awards
  - Catholic Graduate Expectation focus per month with student student awards

**Belonging:** Embracing relationships & sustaining safe, welcoming schools

- Mental Health Awareness Week
  - Mental Health Lead and CYC continue to share resources with teachers for classroom use
  - we will continue to explore ways we can support families during this lockdown time
- Student Ambassadors
  - continue to help plan spirit days and explore ways our students can get involved during remote learning
- Kindergarten Family Orientation
  - brochure and school pptx was created and shared with families during the second week of May
  - we welcome approximately 20 students to our school community
- Outdoor Education Funding (grant from the government)
  - school activity centre items purchased (yoga mats, stability blocks, pylons, exercise cards)
- Equity & Inclusion
  - Dress Out Loud Day (Deaf and Hard of Hearing) on May 14, 2021
  - Rainbow Spirit Day on June 1, 2021 to kick off Pride

month

**Foundational Elements:** Optimizing organizational effectiveness

- New staff
  - Ms. Jennifer Quinn Dias (PTM) started in the first week of April
  - Gilbert is our new nighttime custodian
- Outside Garden Beds
  - work will begin this week
  - cost of mulch (labour and supply) will be covered by facilities, along with the trimming and clean-up of our outside garden beds
- Outdoor classroom
  - school will be receiving a new area at the side of the school, close to the kindergarten yard
  - will be a rock garden with trees
  - trees will be planted this spring and summer
- Air Conditioner in Gymnasium
  - new air conditioner will be installed
  - cage and fence will be installed to protect it, as it will extend out into the school yard

**Other Business:**

- Mental Health Supports
  - engaging with School Mental Health Ontario website:
    - <https://smho-smso.ca>
  - site is updated often with resources to support schools
  - will continue to work in this area to support our students, particularly as remote learning continues
- Grade 8 Graduation
  - currently in a lockdown until June 2
  - unsure if we will be returning to school before the end of the school year
  - will host a Virtual Grad and Graduation “Drive-By” on June 23 for our school community
  - using template that the board has provided us with
  - will make it as special as possible for our grads!
  - 12 virtual Gr 8 students will be joining us
  - awards and scholarships will occur as usual (prerecorded) along with a presentation from Father Allen (parish priest at St. Matthew Church)
  - last year we did not charge our grade 8 students; hoping to not charge students again this year (last year cost was approx \$2800 for lawn signs, rosaries, swag bags, plaques for awards, flowers, decorations, treat for the grads etc)
  - hoping Catholic School Council will offer financial

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ support for grad this year</li> <li>○ council agreed to providing funds for graduation (cost will be approx \$3000)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Supporting our Diverse School Community           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ motion to fly the rainbow flag during the month of June was not approved by trustees               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ an amended version was approved that includes: mandatory staff training and education; raising community awareness; and ensuring resources and supports are in place for students in all HCDSB schools</li> <li>■ motion provides a long-term strategy to creating and maintaining safe and inclusive learning environments in HCDSB schools where all students and staff can feel welcomed and accepted</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ board will take steps to raise awareness for 2SLGBTQ+ and Pride Month through a variety of initiatives:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Rainbow Spirit Day (board-wide) on June 1</li> <li>■ Resource Kits will be sent to each school to support students and teachers (will include guides and positive space posters/decals with the theme “We All Belong in our Catholic Schools”)</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ St. Matthew is taking a positive and proactive approach alongside Loyola and our Family of Schools to ensure we have a nurturing, safe, and inclusive school</li> <li>○ admin has met with Father Allen to review our plan</li> <li>○ Stephanie Galvan mentioned that other schools have created a letter to present to the board indicating that they intend to fly the flag this June               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ direction from the board is that the flag will not be flown this year</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ parents can send an email to the principal with any concerns/questions about this issue</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>CHAIR &amp; CO-CHAIR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● nothing to share at this time</li> </ul>	<p>PETER BERTRAND AMANDA CALLA</p>
<p><b>SOCIAL JUSTICE &amp; OUTREACH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lenten Kits for Kids           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ lenten kits were delivered to Kerr Street Mission</li> <li>○ received overwhelming feedback from them</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>MARIA SOUSA (Amanda Calla provided information)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ many families participated this year!</li> <li>○ new initiative to send the kits to a local charity - so many families in our community need our help, so this may be something we can consider moving forward for the next couple of years until people get back on their feet</li> <li>○ Maria Sousa and her family put 200 kits together with items that were purchased last year</li> </ul>	
<b>MARKETING/COMMUNICATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● unable to create a yearbook this year as we did not have school photos taken this year</li> <li>● idea to create a memory book for the grade 8 students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ possible if a slideshow is created</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	TITSA STAROGIANNIS
<b>EDUCATION &amp; HEALTHY SCHOOLS: Halton Food for Thought</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● nothing has changed - hoping all our wonderful programs are up and running again in the fall</li> <li>● money and memorandums have been used to support families in need with grocery gift cards</li> </ul>	GIULIANA SAM
<b>FINANCE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● healthy carryover of approx \$14000 (minus the \$3000 for graduation that was approved of this year)</li> <li>● minimal expenditures this year</li> <li>● board provided tech for remote learning (not a school expense)</li> <li>● biggest spending was for cohort equipment</li> <li>● there will not be any other major expenses this year</li> <li>● if we do come back, it would be nice to have a Freezie or Cookie treat for our students (will be a minimal cost)</li> <li>● Terry Fox Run (in misc section) has to be reclassified - doesn't change the bottom line number</li> </ul>	INKA ELLENBRAND
<b>OTHER BUSINESS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Is it necessary to have a June meeting this year? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ we have had the required 4 meetings this year</li> <li>○ voted - majority feel it is not necessary to have a meeting in June</li> </ul> </li> <li>● on behalf of Catholic School Council, Peter extended our</li> </ul>	PETER BERTRAND

<p>sincere thanks to the staff for everything they have done and continue to do for our school community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annie thanked council for supporting the school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ suggested that we review our policies and by-laws so we are ready for the new school year</li> <li>○ we should reach out to our school community to have more parents join our Council</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Parent Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ we will need someone to head Parent Partners next year!</li> <li>○ if you know someone or are interested please let Peter and Amanda know</li> <li>○ we will share a brochure with our community so parents know what the role entails</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:</b> September 2021 (hopefully in person!)</p> <p><b>MEETING ADJOURNED AT</b> 7:54pm</p>	