

## St Scholastica Catholic School Council Meeting 3

Monday, January 25th, 2021 @ 7pm

### Council Members:

Erin Sweeney-Hurd	Principal
Lisa MacLennan	Vice Principal
Jennifer Leung	Teaching Rep
Tanya Palermo	Co-Chair/Parent Rep
Lisa Paulo-Alberto	Co- Chair/Parent Rep
Natalia Gorska-Anderson	Secretary/Parent Rep
Deepa Dey	Parish Rep/Parent Rep
Elaine Cowan	Community Rep/ Parent Rep
Francine Fonseka	Parent Rep
Kristina Stajduhar	Parent Rep
Justene Thrasher	Parent Rep
Kristina Farris	Parent Rep

### Agenda:

Agenda Item:	Owner:
Welcome & Opening Prayer, Introduction	Lisa
Mr. Marvin Duarte (Milton Trustee)	Mr. Marvin Duarte
Minutes Approval	Lisa & Tanya
Principal's Report	Erin
Committee Updates: a. Parish Update b. Community Rep	Deepa Elaine
Virtual Family Advent Celebration Recap	Natalia
Donation Drive Update	Erin
Policy and Procedure that govern Catholic School Councils and Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Input	Tanya
Spring Fundraising Ideas	Lisa & Tanya

### Future Council Meeting Dates:

Monday, March 29th @ 7:00pm

Monday, April 26th @ 7:00pm

### Meeting Minutes

Jan. 25, 7 pm

## **Council Members Present**

Erin Sweeney-Hurd	Principal
Lisa MacLennan	Vice Principal
Jennifer Leung	Teaching Rep
Tanya Palermo	Co-Chair/Parent Rep
Lisa Paulo-Alberto	Co- Chair/Parent Rep
Natalia Gorska-Anderson	Secretary/Parent Rep
Deepa Dey	Parish Rep/Parent Rep
Elaine Cowan	Community Rep/ Parent Rep
Francine Fonseka	Parent Rep
Kristina Stajduhar	Parent Rep
Justene Thrasher	Parent Rep
Kristina Farris	Parent Rep

All members present.

Minutes from last meeting will be approved via email.

### **Trustee: Mr. Marvin Duarte**

- Milton is growing at a rapid pace, and we need more schools
- Government has approved one secondary Catholic school, and one elementary Catholic school
- Plans have been sent to the ministry
- Milton #10: ministry has given approval, and has agreed to release funds
- Shovels should be in the ground soon
- School has looked very different this year
- Mr. Duarte's focus has been on student success. Lots of progress in new programs and availability (French Immersion)
- Looking for long term solutions to program growth by setting up a boundary review, and looking at long-term strategic plan
- Mr. Duarte is the Chair of Halton Catholic Children's Foundation: helps families in need
- Asking Council to spread awareness of the foundation; help is available for those who need it

## **Principal's Report**

### **Catholic School Council Meeting #3 – January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

#### **ACHIEVING**

- Face to face learning was occurring alongside the operation of the HCDSB virtual school prior to the Christmas Break.
- Remote learning and our virtual school have been running alongside each other since returning from the Christmas break due to this period of closure for in-school learners.

- The main change from the remote learning that was happening in the Spring of 2020 is that the minimum, asynchronous (live) teaching minutes have been dictated by the Ministry of Education. Teachers must provide 225 minutes of live teaching per day from Grade 1-8 and 180 minutes per day in Kindergarten. These minutes can be comprised of whole group instruction, small group instruction and/or one-on-one time with students.
- Teachers and students are adapting and learning new ways to teach and to show what they know.
- All Special Education intervention programs and student supports, run through our Special Education team, are continuing (being done virtually).
- Reading program is also running virtually
- The most recent “Change in Learning Environment Survey” which closed on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> has not seen the “change over date” occur. This will happen once we return to face to face learning.
- Teachers are preparing to enter report card writing. Many workshops and “drop in office hours” have been provided to teachers to receive extra support in writing reports during this period of virtual learning.
- Term 1 report cards will go home to parents on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- There have been new, recent decisions at the board level regarding the accommodation of the Early French Immersion program for the 2021-2022 school year. We have just learned that 2 classes of Grade 1’s will be at Scholastica and 2 classes of Grade 1’s will be at St. Peter’s. Students from the lottery will be placed based on their home Family of Schools (Either St. FX or Bishop Reding).
- A big shout out goes to all of our parents who have been doing such a phenomenal job supporting their children at home, all while trying to work and take care of other responsibilities.

## **BELIEVING**

- Our New Year’s/St. Scholastica Feast Day Liturgy will be happening virtually this upcoming Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> and it will be led by our French Immersion students.
- First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation forms will be going home soon to get ready for these sacraments to take place.
- Last year’s Grade 2 students (current Grade 3’s) will be included in the sacrament of First Communion this year.
- There is still so much uncertainty with the government and diocese protocols. Once we have a clear direction from the diocesan authorities and the government, we will be able to set up ceremony dates and times.
- There may be a guest restriction (as in number of guests permitted) for these sacraments if there are restrictions for numbers of people in the church – just me thinking out loud.

- St. Benedict Parish Church is still awaiting the go-ahead for occupancy from the inspectors with the Town of Milton.

### **BELONGING**

- We are looking to do some spirit days during this period of remote learning.
- Teachers are really working to keep students' spirits up during this time of school closure.
- Teachers planning for Bell "Let's Talk Day" this upcoming Thursday (supports and activities provided to the teachers).
- Teachers are also planning for Black History Month in the same way. We are hoping that we will be back together for part of February and that we will be able to incorporate some student announcements as we journey through February together.

### **COVID Re-Opening Protocols**

- COVID protocols were continuing to go well for our students and staff (albeit time consuming) up until the Christmas Break.
- We had a number of closed classrooms in the month of December (3 in total).
- In all of our confirmed COVID-19 cases, the affected students had contracted the virus through community spread and not school spread (i.e., no outbreaks).
- Since re-opening in the Fall we have had four cases at our school resulting in four classrooms that were closed for a period of time. Again – all were cases of community spread.
- Hand washing will need to be reviewed and still needs to be strictly reinforced once the students return to face to face learning
- New procedures have been added to our COVID re-opening Protocol as directed by the Ministry of Education. These include mask wearing in the hallways when students are on the way to outdoor play, during outdoor recess play and in the hallways once returning inside from recess. These will come into effect when we return to face to face learning.
- DPA can still be done without masks as long as the classroom teacher can enforce physical distancing.
  - o This can be applied to mask breaks, with strict supervision
- Locker procedures were going well before Christmas and we anticipate lockers remaining open for outdoor clothing only (following the protocols for number of students in the halls at a time etc.)

### **Questions**

Elaine: do masks during recess apply to kindergarten yard as well?

- Awaiting more direction on this. May be different if it is only one class at a time; will get clarification on this as more directions come down

#### Committee Updates

- Parish Update - Deepa
  - Not many updates at this time
  - No update on occupancy date for church at this time
- Community Rep Update - Elaine
  - Have heard some feedback from parents: feeling disconnected from school community
  - Students are hoping for social time
  - Hoping for some more community building events
  - Ideas for teachers to build community: talent show, showing pets, scavenger hunts

#### Virtual Family Advent Night Recap - Natalia

- Lots of families attended
- Maybe this is something we consider doing for Easter to build community

#### Policy and Procedure that govern Catholic School Councils and Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Input - Tanya

- Request that all council members be aware; opportunity to provide input and submit input by Friday

#### Donation Drive Update - Erin

- Wearing signs worked: increased fundraising amount to over \$3000
- Prizes for event still needs to happen upon our return to school

#### Spring Fundraising Ideas - Tanya and Lisa

- Some restrictions due to COVID
- Some ideas developed for cookie decorating kits, craft kits, or box of cards
- Trying to build sense of community through events
- Could look at an event for the children, or a night that brings families together
- Dress down days once a month to raise funds
- Potential of partnering with a pizza company, and doing a trivia night, with a percentage of proceeds going to the school
- We could do the danceathon outdoors, in cohorts, potentially with masks if needed, as a fundraiser
- We will schedule chocolate fundraiser for fall (assuming we're able to do that, at that time)
- Going to look at Teams Meet Live as an option for the Kahoot game broadcast
- Going to form subcommittees for the three events
- Setting a date for the spring trivia/pizza night
- Trivia will be tied to Disney: Feb 12th for trivia/pizza night
- Bell Let's Talk day will be linked on the school website

Next meeting dates:

- Monday, March 29th @ 7:00pm
- Monday, April 26th @ 7:00pm

Raquel Mangat: new to the school community, willing to offer help with parent council, and to jump in on any subcommittees.

Meeting adjourned at 8:18