

Catholic School Council

Minutes for meeting 6 April 2021 virtually via MS Teams

Present: Lisa Gorrell, Graham Stewart, Mathew Snowdon, Brian Hearn, Lori Giacomuzzo (chair), 7 parents, and 1 student representatives

Call to order at 1800 hours

Opening Prayer

Welcome from Chair Lori Giacomuzzo and Principal Lisa Gorrell followed by short introductions

Student Rep update

- Spirit wear arrived on time
- Contest “what have you done” with prizes was a great success
- Spirit days, valentine hearts, random acts of kindness, door decorating and flower fundraiser for retirement homes were all very successful
- Planning an event for the last 2 octomesters
- Striving to involve junior more since their first year of high school during COVID has been challenging
- Student council working with chaplaincy to compose the morning prayer once a week
- Working on student council selections for next year’s positions

Vice Principal Update

- Come alive outside plan is progressing
- Meeting with Scott Wentworth today to discuss plan
- Back part of NCC property which is now asphalt will be renovating with large tree remaining as a focal point, L-shaped stadium seating, basket ball area, removal of pavement
- “Quad” area (upper) to become an outdoor classroom
- NCC contributing \$100,000, Schoolboard contributing \$50,000 and Scott Wentworth and partners such as uni lock will be providing some gifts in kind in form of both labour and materials to maximize the amount of funds available for the project
- St. Michael’s outdoor project is also progressing
- Work will occur this summer along with the indoor renovations for the grade 7/8 wing
- Grade 7 and 8 class has been visited by Lisa and Graham

Principal Update

- Literacy testing for grade 10 and 11 still occurring and scheduled for first week of May
- Some grade 9 EQAO testing has occurred and some still to be done. Not all Grade 9 testing has been possible due to the limitations of the current scheduled octomester system
- 1 current confirmed positive COVID case in school has meant on line learning for 1 class and 1 teacher as they self isolate. Class consisted of 17 learners with 4 being remote
- This Friday is half day and remainder of day is for teachers to prepare assessments
- Octomester reports will be ready on 23rd April
- All student belongings to come home prior to start of 12 April spring break

Chaplaincy Update

- Matthew Snowdon, Chaplaincy Leader worked with students throughout lent including classroom discussions, Friday examination of conscience, social justice awareness exercises, student lead recorded good Friday liturgy and fundraiser for Hospice Quinte

Motions

- Chair made motion for NCC Catholic School Council to provide funds in the order of \$200.00 in support of Hastings and Prince Edward Learning Foundation. Food for Learning; a part of this initiative, has long been of assistance to NCC students and families experiencing food insecurity particularly during COVID. Motion voted in favour by all attending.
- Chair made motion for NCC Catholic School Council to reimburse the school for funds in the order of \$200.00 which were already provided on 3 February 2021 to support the Catholic Education Foundation fundraiser. This organization is instrumental in assisting NCC families meet occasional extra-ordinary needs. Motion voted in favour by all attending.
- Principal reported that (note the council has no treasurer at this time) balance of NCC Catholic School Council bank account is \$3000 before these donations

Other issues

- Parents encouraged to remind their learners that they must remain masked during washroom visits and only use the washrooms that are assigned to their class; not meeting up with students in non assigned washrooms as this is an important COVID protocol for health and safety

- Principal discussed the issue of vaping on school property (in washrooms) by students
- She remarked that it is a very real and present issue that she is deeply concerned about for various reasons including the danger to health of students, the current COVID spread, the addictive nature, quickly evolving vaping instruments, the young age of students and the difficulty of enforcing rules in the face of the pandemic in which the weight of each day of the current octomester system is about 4 instructional days, thus making suspensions extremely punitive
- Parents agreed that a letter should be sent from the school to all parents bringing this important and urgent matter to their attention
- Plans to organize a virtual parent/student engagement session featuring a panel of experts to speak on the issues concerning vaping will be organized. Two parents volunteered to work with both Lisa and Graham to begin to organize

Next meeting, Tuesday 18 May 6pm via MS teams. Lisa Gorrell to send invite and Lori to send agenda to all. Any agenda items can be sent to Lori or Lisa at any time.

Adjournment 1940 hours