

**MOTHER TERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL**  
**2019-2020**



Principal: Teresa Dodwell  
Vice Principal: Christopher Gencarelli

Chair: Paul Brioux  
Vice Chair: Andrew Sutton

**Catholic School Council Meeting**  
**Agenda**  
**Wednesday, May 20, 2020**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
7:00 p.m.	1. Opening Prayer	C. Gencarelli/T. Dodwell
	2. Review minutes	Paul Brioux
	3. Correspondence	Paul Brioux
	4. Graduation	Teresa Dodwell
	5. Outstanding budget allocations	Paul Brioux
	6. Reports:	
	a. Chairperson	Paul Brioux
	b. Treasurer	Liseanne MacDonald
	c. Parish Rep	Michelle Illiescu
	d. Community Rep	Cheryl Dorey
	e. Support Staff	Makenna O'Neil
	f. Teacher Rep	Tish Ball
	g. Principal	Teresa Dodwell
9:00 p.m.	7. Adjournment	Paul Brioux

## **Mother Teresa Catholic School**

### **Principal's/Vice-Principal's Report – May 20, 2020**

#### **Discipleship**

Our Grade 2 First Communion celebration has been put on hold. Father Amato sent a lovely letter out to families and we will be connecting with them as soon as we are able to advise them of our new date.

Catholic Education Week was celebrated a little differently this year. The mass from Toronto celebrated by Cardinal Collins was enjoyed by many across our system. His message about the importance of our faith-based education was poignant.

We appreciate the participation of families for our morning announcements and prayers. There is something very special about hearing our students' voices leading our prayer (just as they do at school). We especially appreciated Father Amato's contribution on the May 8<sup>th</sup>. His connection to our parish was special. We continue to welcome any families who would like to do the announcements for us.

#### **Scholarship**

Our online learning opportunities for students during the pandemic have continued to develop. We are incredibly proud of our teachers who jumped right in and developed the learning activities for their students. We have all reflected on the learning that has occurred because of the necessity of this virtual learning and we know that, professionally, the things we have learned will be very beneficial moving forward. Of course, we all agree that the online learning is not a substitute for the in-class experience.

We fully appreciate the participation and support of our parents throughout this time. Parents have been an integral part of the success of their children to stay connected and participate in the learning from home. We thank parents for their patience and understanding as we navigated through some bumps and blips along the way. As we move to introduce some "live" learning options, we know that we will be "on the learning curve" again and thank parents and students in advance for their patience as we embark on this new opportunity together.

It is very important that all parents respond to the consent form (link sent on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>) to give permission for their children to participate in the "live" sessions.

#### **Assessment and Evaluation**

The Ministry of Education is providing all school boards and educators with the guidelines for online learning. As mentioned previously with all parents in our community, any formal grades on the June report will be reflective of work done from the Term 1 report card to March 13<sup>th</sup>. For reasons of equity, we are not to formally evaluate any work done from home during the school closure. Teachers will use their professional judgment when they see that work done at

home is demonstrating POSITIVE progress by students and may “adjust” the mark accordingly. Because the pandemic has presented with many challenges for families and because the online learning is not based on the entire curriculum there will be some parts of the report card (possibly certain strands or subjects) that will not be reported on. We are waiting from final information from the Ministry of Education to clarify this and we will share information with parents as soon as we can.

We continue to stress to parents that the most important feedback that our students receive in any learning activity, is that timely and descriptive feedback that they get from teachers. As we continue through the school closure, the students’ participation in activities will continue to be beneficial for them as they grow as readers, writers, mathematicians, etc.

### **SIPSAW – School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being**

As you know, our school develops this plan every year. We outline goals and success criteria that help us to map out our steps along the way and how we will monitor our progress. We are embarking on a review of our SIPSAW goals over the next few weeks and have been asked to develop our 2020/2021 plan by the end of June. To that end, we will likely be seeking some input from you, our parents, as we formulate our next steps. Stay tuned!

### **Stewardship**

During school closure, our focus in this area has been to look after the well-being and mental health of our entire community. There is no doubt that this pandemic has created a situation for all of our students, staff and families of unrest. We continue to try to share resources that can be used by parents at home with their children. As a staff team, we check in weekly to pray together, discuss our work and to connect and socialize. We all miss our students and each other terribly! We have a “Staying Connected” page on our Staff Communication page where we attempt to continue to share stories and experiences, and even the odd recipe or “at-home” project.

### **Other news**

All other organizational tasks continue to happen remotely. As administrators, we meet as a group with our senior administration team bi-weekly to be updated on all important information. We are proceeding with plans for the new school year as per usual, of course waiting for information from our provincial government. Please know that as news becomes available we will share that with you.

## **Parent Council Meeting May 20, 2020**

1. Opening Prayer with special intentions.
2. Review Minutes
  - a. Motion to adopt by Paul Brioux. Seconded by Andrew Sutton. Carried.
3. No correspondence that we know of.
4. Graduation - Teresa Dodwell
  - a. We were waiting to hear what the ministry's announcement would be yesterday. Now that the schools are closed for the year we're told to tentatively plan for a fall celebration. All will be dependent on the virus and where the community is. Planning to meet with the intermediate teachers on Friday. Plan to recognize our children virtually. Teachers had 15 minutes to grab whatever they felt they needed for online teaching. Waiting to see if kids can go back to the school to get their stuff. No idea at present of the logistics with respect to social distancing. Memory book to be constructed and mailed to children. Same with diplomas. Kids might send 30 second videos to be in the video. Looking into access to the church for a service/gathering.
  - b. Floor opened for thoughts and questions.
    - i. Drive by graduation party? Honk and wave signs. Perhaps centrally located.
    - ii. Businesses to put together gift baskets that can be delivered.
    - iii. Staff considered driving to graduate's houses.
    - iv. School board will likely be a hard no as far as social distancing.
    - v. Social Media gets all kids to record a congrats video.
    - vi. Photos taken for memory books will be used to recognize two kids per day.
    - vii. Money set aside for Grad \$1400. Decorations, DJ (Maybe School)
    - viii. Composed group photo from individual photos taken. Perhaps take photo while kids pick up their stuff.
    - ix. Teresa and Teachers to meet, consult students, and seek approval for our ideas.
5. Outstanding Budget Allocations
  - a. 3,436.97 left after allocated funds.
  - b. Gatorade still in Paul's garage.
    - i. Could be donated to the Foodbank.
    - ii. Could be donated by LionHearts, youth shelter, etc.
    - iii. Could be used for gift baskets for grads.
    - iv. Motion by Paul Brioux to refund Vik for Gatorade purchase for soccer canteen pending credit card bill. Seconded by Mike Healey. Carried.
    - v. Leaves \$2500 to give out. Consensus is to hold onto the funds until the fall.
6. Reports
  - a. Same class sizes next year as this year. System isn't receiving as many children as expected. Perhaps not a priority.
  - b. Remainder - n/a
7. Adjournment until June 17, 2020.