

## Catholic School Council

Minutes for meeting 24 November 2020 virtually via MS Teams

Present: Lisa Gorrell, Pat Rampp, Mathew Snowdon, Brian Hearn, Lori Giacomuzzo (chair), 5 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

- Mental health and wellness week was last week
- Events were held and had a positive response especially meditation with Chaplain Matt
- Spirit wear is now for sale till Friday via link sent home to all parents
- Planning for some Christmas activities
- Christmas sharing will happen this year
- Chalice project will be new
- Council seeking input and advice from students of Aboriginal heritage on engaging students on issues such as Treaty recognition, land recognition and use if Indigenous Language O Canada

### Principal Update

- Multi 5 Year strategic plan, the Annual Pastoral Theme (All are Welcome in This Place), new Mission, Vision and Values Statement for the school board are all available on the boards web site for interested parents
- Come alive outside project has moved ahead
- First planning day with students and staff from both schools, Scott Wentworth Landscape, and horticultural and landscape design program students from Sheraton and Seneca College
- There were and continue to be many challenges to this project as a result of COVID-19 restrictions
- All activities have been virtual
- Lisa hopes that parents and students will be able to view the resulting three landscape proposed plans some time soon as the deadline is the first week of December
- Lisa continues to work with the administration staff at Come Alive Outside to facilitate communication of the proposed plans to the staff, student and parent school community and notes that it has been a challenge
- In a non COVID world, the presentation of the three proposed landscape plans would be a big in person event for all stakeholders and culminate with the announcement of the winning design

- Designs will incorporate outdoor learning spaces, interior court yard, Indigenous ancestry, seating areas and the saving of one existing tree
- School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well Being (SIPSAW) is moving ahead this year in the three pillars of Discipleship, Scholarship and Stewardship
- Discipleship focus includes social/emotional learning skills work, student leadership and increasing their faith voice with the help of Chaplaincy Leader and students leading morning exercises
- Scholarship focus includes continued work at decreasing at risk learner numbers and work on EQAO both numeracy and literacy which are both taking on new formats for this year as per Ministry of Education changes
- Stewardship focus includes ongoing pathway planning and the use of my blueprint both of which have seen unique challenges due to COVID 19 restrictions. Also of interest is work towards increasing awareness of Indigenous land acknowledgments and local poverty concerns including Gleaner's food bank drives, Christmas Sharing and the new Chalice initiative
- The board initiated project to join St Michaels grade 7 and 8 with NCC is still ongoing with a target date of September 2021. Many ongoing consultations and changes are in progress
- Octo-mester has changed to be 22.5 days with one half day break until the start of the next octo-mester
- December 16,17,18 are the first three days of octo-mester 4 which are the three days prior to Christmas break which will be a challenge for students and teachers
- Hastings and Prince Edward Learning Foundation and the Algonquin Catholic Education Foundation will both be looking for support for programs over Christmas or in the spring silent auction
- School history project is on the back burner now due to COVID and other priorities

### Chaplaincy Update

- Matthew Snowdon, Chaplaincy Leader has been active in visiting each class at least twice this school year so far and meets with students one on one to provides resources for their faith journeys
- November, being the moth of all souls and all saints; a book of remembrance has been used this moth to remember and pray for all deceased family and friends and has been particularly helpful for those who have lost loved ones in this time of the pandemic
- First week of Advent is next week, Advent wreaths for each classroom
- Matthew has been helping students to link school curriculum such as History, English and Science with aspects of our Catholic faith
- Linking Advent with Social Justice in a new project to sponsor a few young students through the Chalice Charity program
- Matthew will be publishing an Advent Newsletter for families with helpful resources for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season

Brian Hearn (teacher update)

- Classes involving Science, Technology and Physical education have probably been the most affected by the challenges of COVID 19 protocols
- Students and teachers are doing a tremendous job at adapting however he notes that into this third octo-mester students are showing some signs that they are tired due to the increasing restrictions and he said Christmas will be a welcome break for staff and students

Other items

- A parent who has a daughter at NCC and at St Michaels provide a brief update to say that St Michaels is looking to have some fund raising for the Come Alive Outside project and wanted to inform NCC parents in an effort to draw support for their initiatives
- A parent wanted to know about possible school shut down due to COVID after Christmas and Lisa indicate that at this time she is not aware of any immediate plan to move to 100 percent virtual learning after Christmas

Next meeting, Tuesday 24 November 2020 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 1925 hours

