

St. Paul Catholic School Catholic School Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 24th, 2020

Present: Stephen Amos, Suzanne Braithwaite, Phil Carney, Joan Famisan, Karin George, Nickie Harrison, Madonna Howell, Lori McCaw, Donna Power, Cathy Pye, Terry Quade, Lisa Romano, Pat Sukha, Victoria Vajda

Approval of September Minutes

Motion to approve put forward by Donna Power

Seconded by Pat Sukha and Suzanne Braithwaite

Treasurers Report

Balance of the account – \$8774.48

Principal's Report

Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) video shown to CSC in order to ensure that Council is aware of the board's directions

Ministry of Education initiative – new Ontario Mathematics curriculum for grades 1-8

- Video presentation by Maria Morris, Special Assignment Teacher and Sarah Patterson, Intermediate Teacher at St. Paul
 - Changes include Social Emotional Learning Skills, Financial Literacy, Coding and some shifts in expectations from one grade to another
 - Spiraling explain to Council – working through all “strands” of Math throughout the year, rather than working through one complete unit at a time
 - One mark for Mathematics, rather than a mark for each separate strand
 - TVO Mathify – access to certified Ontario teachers for after school Math help, Sunday through Thursday, for students in grades 6-12
 - Grade 9 Math being de-streamed in September 2021; not much information about this yet

Director DeSantis putting together a committee to review uniforms and uniform policies. A student trustee has already reached out for representatives from St. Paul Student Council. If any parent is interested or has questions/feedback, reach out to Ms. Romano or Mr. Carney

Academic Awards – certificates have been handed out to classroom teachers, who are handing them out to students in recognition of the hard work that they did last year. Remote learners can pick up their awards with their report card at the end of the octomester.

School picture day is scheduled with Lifetouch on Wednesday, December 2nd. There will be no class photos this year, just individual shots. No mixing of cohorts will occur – one class at a time. Students will be able to remove their masks for the photos if they prefer. A video explaining the companies' protocols is available on the Lifetouch website. Remote learners and other students who are outside of school for Co-Op can make an appointment at the Lifetouch studio at a time that is convenient for them.

More information to come regarding a photo re-take day.

History of Schools – pre-pandemic, the board was involved in the History of Schools project. Each school was compiling records, photos, anecdotes and other little gems that illustrate their history. The pandemic halted things, but it is ramping back up again. Schools will be designing a web page that will be embedded into the school website, including photos, videos and text. If any parent is interested in heading up this project, or in being part of a team working on this project, please reach out to Ms. Romano or Mr. Carney.

Educator D2L pages and remote learning – should we need to go to a remote learning situation again at any point in time, educators are working to populate, monitor and use the D2L platform with their classes on a regular basis. This has changed how we do business – students who are absent for an extended amount of time (waiting for testing, inclement weather days, etc.) will have access to their classrooms.

- Question about a parent portal – it is out there in ‘beta,’ but is not available just yet
- Question about asynchronous learning provided on inclement weather days – this is indeed optional. Students will not need to be logged in all day, participating in live meetings. Work will simply be posted and available to kids. On inclement weather days that only cancel a few buses, students who are impacted may request a link to a synchronous session with their class, if they choose to do so and if it’s available.

Roll-out of parent-teacher communication through the School Messenger app. More information is coming soon.

Thank you to Catholic School Council for the support of purchasing additional cameras for the school hallways.

Student devices – students are unable to share devices at this point. There is a lot of cleaning involved, in order to move a device from one student to the next. Requesting support from Catholic School Council to purchase 5 more laptops for the school, in order to increase the compliment of devices available to students.

Advent Celebration – combining St. Mary, St. Peter, Sacred Heart and St. Paul. Prayers, readings, a homily, a Jesse Tree and an explanation of Christmas Sharing, Mitten Trees and other initiatives will be part of this collaborate celebration. Each school will record their part, and Mr. Carney will combine the parts and share the finished video through School Messenger.

Teacher Rep Report – Nickie Harrison

Chaplain has started to organize Advent prayer sessions

Food for Learning buy-out raised over \$700 last week

College & University applications are on-going between now and February. Mrs. Harrison and Mr. Devenish are available to support kids with this.

The “23rd Day” (half day of expected attendance at the end of each octomester) was a virtual event. Students who attended that day explored career options, worked on college applications, etc. The next will focus on financial literacy, with more details to come.

Learning Commons and other shared spaces are booked by classes, with proper sanitization taking place between each group

Ms. McGilly is doing great work in the Life Skills Development Centre. Students are choosing between different centres (Halloween, Remembrance Day and likely Christmas!)

Mr. Lombardi has secured Co-Op placements for all students, despite the restrictions and challenges that we are facing with COVID19

Student Council Report

Student Council members from the 2019-2020 school year who remain at St. Paul have been asked if they would like to continue with Student Council for this year, as they didn't get to finish what they started. We are hoping to have a Student Council rep by our next meeting.

Catholic School Council Business

Gym clothes

- There have been some challenges with students in grade 7 & 8 wearing their uniform clothing for Phys. Ed. Students' uniforms have been ripped, and have needed to be replaced, which is costly for parents
- Similarly, students who wear kilts are expected to participate in Phys. Ed while wearing a kilt and pantyhose (sometimes with shorts underneath)
- Options presented about students in grades 7 & 8 wearing more comfortable clothing to school for the full day on their gym days. No decision reached.
- Similarly, students are not usually allowed to wear boots with their uniforms during the day. However, since students do not have lockers this year, they will be allowed to keep their boots on for the duration of the day if they choose to do so

Christmas sharing will continue as usual. Motion to provide \$250 for funding from Catholic School Council toward Christmas Sharing baskets put forward by Cathy Pye and seconded by Suzanne Braithwaite

Motion to spend \$3000 now on laptops as requested by Mr. Carney put forward by Cathy Pye and seconded by Donna Power.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 20th at 6:00 pm

- **Please contact Ms. Romano or Mr. Carney if you would like to join the virtual meeting**