

Catholic School Council

Minutes for meeting 6 October 2020 virtually via MS Teams

Present: Lisa Gorrell, Pat Rampp, Mathew Snowdon, Brian Hearn, Lori Giacomuzzo (chair), 3 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

- Council has had 2 meetings this year
- Talking about spirit wear and a spirit week at end of October
- Trying to make the best of the COVID-19 restrictions
- First planning meeting is this week
- Overwhelming amount of students applied to be grade reps this year
- More students have expressed a need to be engaged this year than past years and they want to be involved and engaged
- More interest from students this year in being a grade rep

Principals report

- School has settled into octomester designed schedule as layed on them by the School Board
- Octomester provides the best opportunity for keeping staff and students safe
- Days are long for students and teachers
- Teacher prep time has been altered and adjustments are being made and time shared amongst teachers
- This Thursday 8 October is last octomester teaching day
- Some teachers are having exam/summative exercises on Thursday which is allowed
- Friday 9 October is officially exam day and only students who have an exam are required to report to class that morning. Friday afternoon, no students are required to report to class
- Normally there is 88 instruction days and 5 exam days
- Now there is 22 days in an octomester followed by an exam morning
- Teachers take the afternnon after exams to mark exams and prepare final grades/reports for this octomester

- Reports will be done for each octomester and the report will grow and be added to each octomester
- Recap of last school messenger/email sent to parents and reiteration of the importance of attendance being accurate and honest. Reasons are due to requirements to know accurately if students are in the school learning in class or at home learning each day to assist with COVID 19 protocols for contact tracing and notifying
- Board wide rebranding of printed materials and vision/mission for ALCDSB
- SIPSAW (3 pillars) has been a work in progress. Amendments to the plan made this year at first September PA day to accommodate COVID 19 restrictions and protocols
- Grade 7-12 model update: *Come Alive Outside* plan for outdoor space revitalization is underway with local Landscape Contractor Scott Wentworth who will partner with Ministry of Colleges and University (Landscape Design students) on the project
- A new feature of School Messenger which allows for the proactive reporting of student absenteeism will be enabled in the near future

Chaplaincy Update

- Matthew Snowdon was invited to provide parents with a short personal background
- Many activities such as school mass and grade retreats cannot happen at this time due to COVID 19 restrictions
- Matthew is in process of engaging students individually with the goal of building personal relationships and connections
- He has been meeting with students individually. Asking them a few short questions just to get to know them. On a scale of 1 to 10; 1 being strong faith and 10 being an atheist, where do you place yourself and why? And what is your definition of love, without using the word love? He has met with several classes now
- He has had a few liturgical services (about 30 min). Met with mixed reactions, some classes enthusiastic and students said they learned more in those 30 minutes than they would have going to mass.
- He had a challenging talk with grade 10 class regarding the Catholic Church's role in Residential Schools

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
- Shop class for example has to keep distancing, masking and constant sanitizing of high touch surfaces and tools and equipment
- Kitchens are particularly challenging in areas of stoves and sinks but students have done very well with the protocols

- Curriculum is difficult to teach in such a compressed time frame since it is challenging for the information to sink in and still have the time for students to do the hands on work
- Students are challenged realizing that these type of hands on classes are not the same as they have been in past years
- Very impressed with students being ready to learn, on time and respecting COVID 19 protocols and remaining on school property

Chair update

- School Board is seeking to design and implement new secure parent/guardian student portal. A survey to collect information for the design phase will be sent to chair and input may be sought from parents in the coming weeks
- If a parent would like to volunteer to take meeting minutes that would be welcome
- Agenda items welcome from all members at any time via email to the chair
- New parents always welcomed and encouraged
- Next meeting, Tuesday 24 November 2020 6pm via MS teams. Lisa Gorrell to send invite and Lori G. to send agenda to all

Adjournment 1920 hours

