



Minutes
Catholic School Council Association – West
October 17, 2018

In attendance:

Karen Shannon	Superintendent of School Effectiveness
Sean Kelly	Trustee
Kristine LaHaye	St. Mary, Trenton
Anne Marie Barrett	OLOF
Brad Reitzel	Sacred Heart, Batawa
Anna Young	St. Michael
Terry Marques	Holy Name of Mary and St. Mary, Read
Jen May	St. Michael
Lori Giacomuzzo	NCC
Colleen Murphy	Holy Rosary
Maddie Barker	St. Mary, Read
Tracey McGinnis	St. Mary, Read
Lydia Nahtigal-Hannan	Sacred Heart, Batawa
James Kirby	OLOF
Chris Wright	St. Paul, Trenton
Tracey Clarke	Georges Vanier
Jessica Couture	St. Mary, Trenton
Sylvia Miniaci	St. Michael

Welcome and Introductions

Karen Shannon opened the meeting and prayer was recited.

Discussion Items

- 1. OAPCE – report from Chris Wright, Regional Director, Ontario Association of Parents for Catholic Education (OAPCE)**
 - Chris is the Regional Director for ALCDSB with the Ontario Association of Parents for Catholic Education. He has compiled a list of 30 best fundraiser and is willing to share with the group. An OPACE provincial meeting was held in Toronto in September. The spring Conference will be the 80th and will take place in Toronto. Attendance is highly encouraged for parents across the system.

2. PIC Chair

- Parent Involvement Committee Co-Chair – require one representative from the East and West sides of the school board
- Two Catholic School Council Chairs were nominated and stood for election as PIC Co-Chair. Jen May of St. Michael Catholic School, was elected to represent the West Catholic School Council Chairs for the 2018-2019 school year.

3. BIPSAW

- Four Chairs from various schools and Chris Wright, OAPCE representative participated with Principals, Administrators, Teachers, and Early Childhood Educators at the BIPSAW working day, June 6th at the Board office in Napanee.

4. New Director of Education Profile

- A Chair of the CSCA participated in an interview style session to share their perspective from a School Council view about the desired attributes for the New Director.

5. Change in Ministry of Education responsibilities, Eastern Ontario Office

- Doug Tateishi has retired and current MOE Officer responsible for Parent Engagement is Natalie Daoust.

6. Parent Involvement Base Funding

- Each school has received \$500.00 to be used for Parent Involvement.

7. Focused Learning Conversation with an expert. Potential topics for teleconference.

8. Round Table Sharing

Georges Vanier:

Decided to try a later meeting time to get more people out. Moving to 6:30 pm seemed to bring more people out. We are looking at some new fundraising ideas. Parents are talking to students/aspirational questions to get their input in making the school better for them.

St. Mary, Trenton

Learned a lot from last year and have a strong council this year with 17 people at the first meeting. I personally invited parents to the meeting and many showed up. There are some strong community connections which will benefit the school community. There will be a Hallowe'en dance next week and a fresh from the farm fundraiser. Inclusion and equity are our big focus. We are trying to engage with families who do not traditionally come forward. Question of, 'who's voice are we not hearing?' has caused us to reach out to many parents and this influenced them in coming out to the meeting. The faith element is also at the forefront. We are having a club at the school which is providing catechism support for children at lunch and recesses, teaching the traditions of the

church, prayer devotions, etc. Parents want to repaint games on the pavement and revitalize the playground. There are some challenges around vandalism on the yard. There is a wellness hum at the school where families can access resources. There is a comfort closet with toiletries and clothing for those who may wish to use them. Fundraising is not going to be a priority this year but engagement of the community will be our focus. We are looking for quality over quantity. We are considering reaching out to Knights of Columbus, Squires and Catholic Women's League to partner with us and help us with fundraising.

St. Mary, Read

Fundraising has begun with a Poppa John's fundraiser and the Eco Team does a popcorn fundraiser. We will try also to personally invite parents to join the School Council. Last year we began to focus on just a couple of fundraisers and put our energy into community events to welcome and build community. We want to strengthen the community.

St. Michael

We will be using the Christmas Calendar again this year. We will also do the Christmas tree fundraiser. Last year we sold about 40 trees. We post our meetings on Facebook to encourage increased participation in Catholic School Council. We will try the personal invite approach to parents in the community.

St. Paul, Trenton

There were 9 parents out for CSC meeting in September. There was a clothing sale in June and resold items this fall. Profits were good. Once parents are willing to volunteer for a single time at the school, they are more likely to engage in Parent Council.

Holy Rosary

We also have similar challenges getting people around the table. We have difficulty recruiting younger parents to join the committee. There was a very successful BBQ at the opening of the year with many, many, new parents and families participating. There will be a Hallowe'en dance and families all come together. It is a big event for the school. We have a smaller council but a very energetic group. A Chapters fundraiser will be in November and a Crispy Cream Donut fundraiser will be in the spring. There will be another musical this year and the one last year was extremely successful. There are a lot of things happening in the school. We have a 'Blessings in the backpack' program for families in need. I love the idea of the comfort closet.

Sacred Heart, Batawa

There is also a challenge getting people out although we had about 18 in attendance for the first meeting. We did a fresh from the farm fundraiser and it went really well. We don't want to over-do the fundraisers and give the impression that this is all we are about. We offered baby-sitting/child care during the meeting. We are going to have a social media policy for our school council. We are expecting that there will be some changes in membership as long standing members prepare to leave the Council. We want to review our mission statement in light of this. We are looking at student engagement as well. We have a wellness program and have access to the trails at the

Batawa Ski Hill. We have purchased snow shoes and are looking to increase the number available. The Bata Corporation is extremely responsive to any need expressed by the school.

NCC

The School Council is in need of parents. There is currently only one parent member on the Council. There were two previous parent members last year. It was a great experience last year despite the extremely small group. Tomorrow night is Parent/Teacher Conferences so it will be a good opportunity to meet parents and encourage participation in Catholic School Council. We are thinking of doing a Christmas tree fundraiser to provide support for the Wellness Club who are doing amazing initiatives in the school. Last year, T-shirts were purchased for every member of the community by Student Council to ensure everyone was recognized as belonging. Our last meeting looked at the SIPSAW and sought parent input. A big focus on mental health and wellness is a priority at the school.

Our Lady of Fatima

Last year we sang at a Senators game, and did a number of fundraisers. We want to revitalize the playground. We want to set our priorities and goals as a Catholic School Council. Our spiritual goals will look at engagement in our Catholic faith as a community. We has a BBQ in September and we had over 100 people in attendance.

Trustee Kelly

We talk about partners in education all of the time and I really appreciate the work and effort all of you put into our school communities. Current collaboration with Loyalist College in marketing, helping students develop campaigns which may help Catholic School Councils achieve their goals. It provides a real application for the college students and can benefit Catholic School Councils without any obligation to do anything.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:55 pm