

Regional School Council Meeting – January 6, 2016

Mother Teresa Catholic School

In attendance: Karen Shannon, Terry Shea, Jackie Edwards, Carmine Minutillo, Wendy Gallant, Lisa Bickerstaffe, Joanne Lyons, Dianne LaFortune, Teresa Dodwell, Robert Gilmour, Sherry Lachine, Kelly Moore, Karen Moran, Jessica Sammon, Sarah Mignault; Paul Breault

Discussion Items	Karen opened the meeting with a prayer and we introduced each other
PRO Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$15 000 Grant across our board; Dianne LaFortune shared that we applied for a regional grant 3 years ago; the second year that the grant was received the plans changed; this year the plan was to try to expand to the west side of our board; want to “split” the \$15 000 between the two sides of the board; committee has put together their plans thus far for consultation; hope is that they would have three parents from each side to take over and plan the event; three events – parents would shadow the existing committee for the first event, share responsibilities for the second event and then take over the planning for the third event; • School Council chairs are going to bring back the information to their home school councils for discussion to see if there are parents interesting in joining the planning committees moving forward • Page on Catholic School Council tab on the board website that shares events that are for parent involvement so that parents can see what is available in all areas of the board
School Calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One additional PA day to be inserted into this year’s calendar (as per MOE – between January 1st and April 15th); looks like it will be prior to the March break- somewhere between Feb. 29th to March 4th (as per discussions with HPEDSB and LDSB) • Also a PA day will be added to the next year’s calendar • Proposal for 2016/2017 school calendar must be submitted to Ministry by March 1st – there is discussion around the Christmas holiday – Christmas Day is on Sunday; MOE suggests that students be off from Dec. 16th to Jan. 2nd; our board and our co-terminus boards are proposing that the holiday would be from Dec. 23rd to Jan. 9th; • Karen asked for people to comment on the proposal to do Dec. 23rd to Jan. 9th; one parent says that the 23rd makes sense from what was decided ten years ago; one parent commented that some families might need to travel prior to the 23rd and so some students may be absent during that week before Christmas;
Accessibility Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board has to report every two years on accessibility compliance; how we are meeting legislative requirements for students, staff, visitors etc. ; report has just been completed; • A committee exists who meet to discuss accessibility and inclusivity in our board
Catholic School Council Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen shared the policy at last meeting and asked for people to share any questions via email with her office • The policy will be re-evaluated this winter and spring as per board review of policies and procedures
PIC Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All School Boards are asked to identify chairs and co-chairs as per MOE • PIC Chairs are invited to a forum for parents (in the spring) and also asked to respond to surveys, etc. from the MOE • Jackie Edwards shared that when she filled the position she communicated mostly via email; she felt it was a valuable experience for learning about board and ministry initiatives; this position was not very labour intensive

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joanne Lyons was nominated by Lisa Bickerstaffe and Joanne accepted the nomination; Karen called for other nominations; no others were taken; Joanne accepted the position
OAPCE Conference for 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jackie Edwards shared that she is on the provincial group for OAPCE; shared mission to promote and protect Catholic Education • ALCDSB may host the conference in 2017; • Jackie asked if she could consult with School Council chairs when the decision is finalized to connect and plan for our conference in 2017; • Suggestion to have Regi as the host location as it is the oldest Catholic high school in Ontario
OAPCE Conference May 6 & 7, 2016 – Toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toronto hosting this year’s conference • Link to OAPCE is on the board website; invited to log on to see information about the conference • Funding provided to support parent attendance • Sherry suggested that some of our parents attend this year’s council to help planning our conference for next year
Health Unit Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our local health unit is interesting in engaging with parents to blend their education mandate with public health mandate • Want to know if our School Councils would want presentations from Public Health • Parents would like to see a list of topics at our next meeting • Karen Moran shared that at St. Martha that they had presenters from the Health Unit at their “wellness night” • St. Lawrence College are also interested in presenting to parents to share opportunities for students at the college
School Council Round Table sharing	<p>Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One leadership team will be the School Council Team; Use the team to help with School Council initiatives and events; Team will come to present to the Council to get ideas • Our School Council ran the canteen at the soccer tournament through parent volunteers • Our Council have identified events for the year • Three or four new members on our council this year • Working to keep the meetings at one and a half hour; Principal’s Report sent out ahead with agenda so that members can read ahead of time so that discussion during the meetings are focused on next steps <p>St. Paul Catholic School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two new members • Use of person to be the “timer” to keep meeting discussion on track • School is focused on gold certification for ECO School and achieved that last year • 91% of families receive newsletters via email or website • Christmas Tree pick up- January 3rd – 130 trees collected; \$10 per tree • ROE (roots of Empathy) in the school • Spookathon • Cake Walk • Rink almost ready to open; prepared by parents

- Syrian refugee family were attending the school but have moved to Quebec City

Mother Teresa Catholic School

- 25th Anniversary for the school; planning for celebration; April 16th – Saturday; 3km walk/run for morning; mass at St. Paul at 2:30 followed by an open house reception at the school until 5:30 or 6:00pm; yearbooks; clips of plays etc.; classrooms will show pictures of previous years; formal invitation to all past staff members; share via Facebook
- Change in administration – Rob Gilmour moving to Loyola Adult Continuing Education Centre; Sue Conway-Williamson returning
- Spookathon
- Opened outdoor education classroom
- Looking for creative use of paved area on the yard

St. John XXIII Catholic School

- Fun Fair moved to the fall this year instead of in June; good turnout; it was a positive change; plan is to continue
- Christmas Sale
- Aboriginal dancers in to teach dancing with the students
- Working towards school yard improvement plan (e.g. soccer fields, courtyard vegetable garden)
- Want to work at communicating with our community
- Three new members this year
- Student Council elected – with Prime Minister, Social Justice Minister; Environmental Minister;

Regiopoli Notre Dame Catholic Secondary School

- Not focused on fundraising
- Three parents at the meeting
- Trying to recruit for parent involvement
- Parents want to know the value for being on the Council
- Mary Poppins presentation
- OPHEA certification; key for mental health awareness

Archbishop O'Sullivan Catholic School

- School Council to support a refugee family
- Spookathon
- Advent mass – School Council hosted social after mass
- Q Mac and Just Fly – international dunk champions
- Review of constitution; went through the policy and ministry document; new constitution will be shared with Council in January
- Purchased volleyball nets
- Technology purchases for Learning Commons
- Literacy Day – planning – parent volunteer organizes for community partners to come in and read to the students

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrating the arts- IA Teacher will speak at school council to share her vision • Partnership with Queen's Art and Drama department • SIPSAW shared with School Council • Feb. 16th – Sammy Jo Small coming to speak • Lollar rink <p>St. Martha Catholic School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After school movie on December 15th • Student Voice on Caring and Safe Schools Committee to review Positive School Climate Plan • Valentine's Day dance • During advent and lent students will attend mass in the church • Singing O Canada at Fronts game on the 15th of January • Resource that schools received – Inspiring Your Child to Learn and Love Math; meant as a workshop; includes brochures for each division • Next meeting – how to spend fundraising dollars <p>Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing of information on School Council • Completed a grad survey to determine options for large groups – 32% said 4 seats; 31% said 6 seats; 30% said over 6 seats • Sammy Jo Small coming – Feb. 16th – HC will run a mass day schedule; speak to HC students at 9:30 then she will speak to students at 12:30; Grades 5 – 8; 7pm she will speak to parents; HC School Council will prepare promotional materials to share with our schools to promote the event; her topic is "Wellness" (spiritual, mental, physical) <p>St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Catholic School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 to 25 members • Wizard of Oz presentation this year; first week of May • Supported the refugee family at the advent mass; attendance this year was much higher • Family Literacy Day – January 26th – visitors from our community to come in • Flag – created by the school; Flag day in February – celebration on January 12th – invite Sisters of Notre Dame • Sir John A MacDonald day – January 11th
Next meeting:	February 24, 2016 Mother Teresa Catholic School