

## PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Jan 16, 2018

### Attendees

Tressa Brown, Rob Ciccelli, Bruno D'Andrea, Lynne Ducharme, Judy Hubbard, Rob Kardas, Lori Kraayenbrink, Phil Kraayenbrink, Christine Monteiro, Joseph Palko, Nick Parks, Amanda Pascavage, Chantel Prasad, Isabelle Rossi, Jay Stewart, Frank Torti, Rob Walicki, Linda Zoccato

### Welcome (R. Kardas)

### Prayer (J. Palko)

### Call to Order

Motion to Accept Agenda by: C. Monteiro; Motion Seconded by: J. Stewart

Motion to Accept Minutes by: C. Monteiro; Motion Seconded by: J. Stewart

### Student Council Update (N. Parks, I. Rossi)

Christmas assembly update – went well.

New focused elections. Will be polling on what to keep vs change. Application will be done online – can be reviewed. Will remove the 1 yr prerequisite and open up to everyone. Will encourage more students to become involved. To reduce stress broadcast debate – take 'safer' approach. The gym could be disheartening/intimidating. Smaller group meetings – 7 positions vs 17-18 which is more difficult to manage. 1 per month delegation to present or request support they can come to the meeting. Other positions remain in advisory non-voting roles. Student trustee remains; Gr 12 PM, ministers for various areas. Changes believed to lead to a more effective, smoothly run and better attended council. Scheduling 2x per month meetings.

Rob C – thanked and recognized Nick and Isabelle for their service to council (this is their last meeting) and for their service and leadership to the school.

### Chaplain Update (J. Palko)

Consecration event was moving. The whole community came together. Challenge was put to the council – view the work here through Christ post consecration. See ourselves in this light. Should lead to fulfillment.

Council was commended – staff and student ways to bring Christ into our life. Assembly was unbelievable positive proponent of faith – well done!

### Updates

#### Literacy and Numeracy: New accommodations (F. Torti)

Numeracy: Th/Fri of this week EQAO math. Academic (5% of grade) still have final while applied 15% with culminating total of 30%. Students have prepared all year; same format with multiple choice, open format. There is some window for makeup next week if needed. This will repeat in second semester. ~ 1 week before exams in June. [not required to graduate]

Literacy: April 10 Grade 10 all write at same time. Required for graduation. Change to allow extra time for all students with or without IEP. Meant to reflect normal classroom practice and not have testing be too 'different.' Rooms available for those we believe need extra time. Some logistics coordination to ensure things flow well. Students cannot take a lunch break in between. Test is administered in the morning. Most will finish in allotted time of 60 min. They are given up to 2x extension to 120 min total. Literacy will remain handwritten exam vs computer. If we see than many need extra time, we can adjust for the next year.

**Student Success Team: child and youth worker, mental health and addictions nurse (L. Ducharme, L. Zoccano)**

Success can be defined in many ways. Academic, spiritual, social.

Introductions to Lynne and Linda. Lynne has 20+ years as a child and youth worker; had been part of St. Pats for 6 years. Role is to work with students one-on-one as needed; students are identified as at risk through various ways; can connect with outside agencies for assistance; suicide assistance protocol. Lynne is on site M, T, Th, Fri. No other school has onsite resource. On Wed she rotates to other locations. Can visit and discuss anxiety issues. During that time on Wed, the school is covered by another child and youth worker ie we are always covered at St. Pats.

Mental health wellness – high school conference held. Information was then shared down to elementary level. Presented example activities that were student led. Suggestion to do a wellness week – ie with preventive focus. Wellness committee sponsors events like PJ day, promoting healthy sleep, healthy eating. Money raised has done t fidget toys (not spinners).

Suggestion of picnic tables for front area – paint with art department is an option.

Sidewalk chalk was used with positive messages; coping strategies encouraged – high five a friend, 5 things you like about them. Good message – illness to wellness...replace the 'I' with 'We'  
Want a member of the committee to interact with council – drive family atmosphere.

iMatter program/committee – basics about mental health presented. Grade 9 religion class – try to stomp out the stigma, educate others to help them come forward; give a gentle ear to listen. If more help is needed, referred to outside agency.

Linda – 5<sup>th</sup> year at St. Pats; mental health nurse; 2 for Sarnia Lambton to cover all school in county. If someone sees any form of mental health issues or drug concerns, she can help. Again, referrals can come from many different sources; To speak to the nurse, no parental approval as the support is confidential – but the school must get parental approval to have the student leave class to meet with her.

Role is to help transition kids from treatment; may monitor results from medication.

At St. Pats M, Th, Fri; sometimes T, W. Generally spends a lot of time at St. Pats along with all associated elementary schools. That allows for consistency as students move up. Shared a

comment – ‘this school and staff are amazing.’ Gave thanks to both for the very important work that is being done.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Board Liaison** (T. Brown)

Nothing to report.

### **Safe Schools Committee / Sabrina/Ryan’s Laws** (C. Blair)

No report.

### **Uniform Committee** (E. Moffat Sharpe)

No report.

### **Pro Grant Committee** (C. Monteiro, C. Prasad)

My BluePrint focus and OSAP last year.

More emphasis on OSAP this year. Suggested event ~ 2 yrs to make more hands on. Feb 15 brochure will be needed, a large number of grade 8’s attended last year.

Share information with elementary school parent councils. Elementary schools can put on their websites. Need to select a date for the evening – depending on size, will consider splitting group into multiple areas to keep smaller group setting.

Suggested April 12 to include dinner. Judy/Jay will provide staff support.

### **Graduate Acknowledge Committee** (M. Williams)

No report.

## **Principal’s Report** (R. Cicchelli)

Fighting Irish family open house – Feb 15

Flyer shared. Want the web site to share the story of St. Pats. There is now a tab for parents ‘future Irish.’ Goal is to retain all grade 8s. Retention is ~ 80-84% right now. Telling parents about the great faith filled environment and how to transition effectively; link leaders other programs available. Promote academic excellence – offering broadest spectrum of classes. Overall message – the school is faith filled, values academics and social justice.

Support the school and encourage people to come see us. Parents try to attend to better share our experiences as part of parent council. Generally, 70-100 non-Catholic students will choose us.

Student achievement and programming – Semester 1 & 2

Will soon be going into final exams; provide feedback to students. Students can see their exams on first day of semester 2 for ~ 10 min so they can see results. Positive message on attendance for semester 1. Very strong attendance compared to recent years. Regular attendance leads to success. Will collect data and present information to encourage students there are many options

here for you ie school to work or college or university. All options have dignity, there could be another fit.

Staffing changes – Semester 2

5 long term postings coming out semester 2; highly qualified applicants are expected.

Knights Break – Shrove Tuesday Feb 13 and Scholarship options

Knights will provide Shrove Tuesday Knight's breakfast in cafeteria. Pancake breakfast with revenue to fund scholarships. One recognizes male virtue on and off the field. Considering adding second to a female either through sport or chaplaincy efforts. Also consider award for student attending Catholic college or university. Final decision to council (\$300 available). We are grateful for this work and support.

Feb 10 – Knight's Valentine dinner 6:30 pm. They are considering backup day if weather is poor.

Summary from Provincial Symposium on Catholic Education in Ontario

BYOD – bring your own device program handout provided.

Summer youth employment opportunities will be coming to home email. Website will also have a link.

Symposium update – really positive experience; demonstrates the value of Catholic schools, fosters and strengthens our communities.

What will we do to continue to support Catholic education? Groups given a series of questions to list strengths, challenges and how we can improve. Consolidated summary will be available in spring. Can use as a guide. Walked away encouraged with an energy of appreciation and feeling of how fortunate we are. We have a lot of people working hard to preserve our Catholic school community.

Ending Prayer

Motion to Adjourn by: Group

Future meeting dates: Mar 27, May 29 (dinner provided)