

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2019

Attendees

Lori Barbato, Cynthia Blair, Mathew Blayney, Tiffany Branton, Tressa Brown, Ann Clarke, Tamara Johnson, Julie Johnston, Chris Kehoe, Erin Moffat, Jay Stewart, Diane Yurkewich

Welcome, Introductions (C. Kehoe)

Prayer (A. Clarke)

Call to Order

Motion to Accept Agenda by: T. Brown; Motion Seconded by: A. Clarke

Motion to Accept Minutes by: Minutes not available from last meeting

Role and Importance of Parent Council (C. Kehoe)

Council Elections if Required

- School Council Chair – Rob Kardas
- Community Representatives attending three BAC meetings
- (Nov. 13, Feb. 27, Apr. 27, May 27 @ 7:00 pm start) – Tressa Brown
- Council Secretary taking minutes – AL Pascavage

Student Council Update (M. Blayney)

- Volleyball tournament before March Break was a successful, good event enjoyed by all.
- School dance last school year was a failed event. Although there were good intentions with the event, there were not enough ticket sales. The same theme will carry over to this year.
- St. Patrick's Festival (SPF 2019) was successful and is the second year for the event. Entertainment, food, arts and games occurred. It went well.
- Grade 9 elections took place during lunch to maximize the voter turnout. Last year there were only 3 people running. This year there were eight.
- Homecoming is considered a controversial topic for student council. They are hoping for the "green light" to commence planning. It is considered their #1 priority.
- Halloween will be celebrated with a Haunted Classroom. It has been 2 years since the last celebration.
- Christmas Assembly has not been planned yet.
- Future items being considered right now by student council are charity events, PSA events and educational events.
- Group suggested we look into becoming a WE school. C. Kehoe confirmed we currently are not a WE school. Offers were made to help get this going at St. Patrick's.

Chaplain Update (A. Clarke)

- Grade 9 Homeroom visits took place. Discussed what chaplaincy has to offer students, reassured that any student with any background is welcome, and wants to push the students to “grow”.
- Chaplaincy Theme is “Dare To Be Different” #beasaint. Idea is to challenge students to be a saint. What does it take? BeAttitudes is a focus. Pope Francis’ letter “Call To Holiness” is the message this year.
- An Instagram account was established – SPHCHAPLAINCY
- Disciple in the hallway recognized their first student; 1 per week.
- Knights of Columbus will be supporting school scholarship annual award at the St. Pat’s Academic Awards night. One for Chaplaincy Award (\$200) and one for Catholic Youth Award (\$300 for male, \$300 for female).
- There will be a Grade 8 Faith Day in October 22&23 and November 19&20. More info to come.

Committee Reports

Board Liaison (T. Brown)

- BAC meetings listed above. Located in Wallaceburg.
- Purpose is to discuss what is happening at the board level. There is no theme established yet. But it will be faith and academic based.
- Nov. 13 next meeting

Safe Schools Committee (E. Moffat)

- Bullying and harassment reporting system is in place on the school’s website. We need to make the Grade 9 students aware.
- Students being bullied are encouraged to seek out a Safe Person (an adult) before the situation gets out of hand.
- It is the student’s and staff’s responsibility to report unsafe items to the school’s staff.

Uniform Committee (T. Johnson)

- Grade 9 spirit shirts are “Welcome Irish” designed by St. Pat’s and are available in the school store.
- Money for students in need of uniform clothing is running out. During final exam time, those students in need can swap out the old/outgrown clothes.
- Non-compliance is the biggest problem with the uniforms. The students roll up the legs of the shorts and pants.
- Nov. 1 ends uniform shorts being worn to school. There is no limit on wearing capri pants.

Pro Grant Committee (?)

- No update.

Graduate Acknowledgement Committee (D. Yurkewich)

- This committee works as a team.
- Head Start Program had 60 kids in attendance and only one student lost credits.
- For lost credits, there are credit recovery classes.
- Grade 9 is supported by such things and helping interpret their time tables. Feedback was sought by visiting their classes.
- Goal is to connect the students with their desires and support students at risk.
- Homework support is also available for science and math.
- More in-class support is also available for students to allow them to work in small groups during the class.
- C. Kehoe – caring is big here! We need to make the extra steps to help and improve the student's days. Students who have good days allows a school to have a good school culture.

Vice-Principal's Reports

Indigenous Leadership (T. Johnson)

- There is a trip for students to Brantford, ON to tour a museum.
- 23 to 25 students this month attended.
- 40-50 parties collaborated with the school to promote cultural awareness.
- Orange Shirt Day is at the end of September.
- Nov. 4 begins Treaty Recognition Week
- Jun. 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day
- Jun. 27 is Canadian Multiculturalism Day

Emergency Response (E. Moffat)

- Student folders are being updated with information on students with medial needs. Big undertaking.
- Staff meetings on fire drills, lock downs and anaphylaxis awareness.
- Fire drill happened today, Sep. 17. Grade 9 students did well. Fire marshal was happy with the overall response.
- Emergency response team is being updated.

Class Sizes and Course Selections (C. Blair)

- There is a push for 28 to 1. This is an average.
- Work development and applied classes are smaller.
- Open and academic classes have some over 30. 34-35 to 1 in some.
- Teachers are not being replaced. Survival by attrition.
- Course selection went well this year.
- There is a cap on some classes and some are closed like tech classes, foods and phys ed.
- Class timetables are reported as being reasonable.

Edsby (T. Johnson)

- Report cards are coming to Edsby.
- There is an app for Edsby.
- It is a great communication tool.
- C. Kehoe – privacy for students was an issue for documentation of student’s learning. It is a positive communication tool.

Updates

Literacy (?)

- Mock literacy test to be administered to identify areas of work and to be administered between Sep. 18 & Oct. 10.
- Information will be generated for teachers to respond to.

Numeracy (?)

- Covered in Principal’s Report – Demonstration of Learning.

Student Services (J. Stewart)

- Oct. 17 is Academic Awards Night.
- Catholic Parent Advisory Council Award will be presented for faith, attendance and academics.
- Staff nominate students, nomination is seconded by the staff, and admin oks the nomination.
- Three students are on the list currently. Students can be any grade level.
- As always, graduated students are invited to attend as before.

Student Success (D. Yurkewich)

- No update.

Principal’s Report (C. Kehoe)

Strategic Plan

- Strategic Plan 2019-20.PDF will be found online at school website at future date.

Catholic Graduate Expectations & Catholic Social Teaching

- Ontario Catholic School Graduation Expectations (OCSGE) can be found at Institute for Catholic Education website (iceont.ca).
- The Principles of Catholic Social Teaching can be found at Development and Peace website (devp.org/en/cst).

School Startup

- Everything went well.
- Bus updates were good and mailings went to parents.
- Head Start/Link Day was very successful and helpful to grade 9 students.

- Grade Assembly gave admin a chance to go over school rules for each grade separately. “Think before you act” and “Is it school appropriate” were stressed to the students.

Academic Awards Assembly

- Event to be held October 17, 2019. See Student Services Update above.

Demonstration of Learning

- Arts, Social Science & Phys-Ed can partake in the demonstration of learning.
- The purpose of the demonstration of learning is to push the student to do better work through the school year.
- Grade 9 math was added this year to demonstration of learning (not Grade 10, 11 or 12 math).
- All students are required to write the exam unless they meet the criteria for exemptions. The exceptions are as follows:
 - Final Course Mark for the semester work must be a minimum of 75% or Level 3, which is the Provincial Standard.
 - Students have missed fewer than 12 classes throughout the semester (INCLUDING school related absences).
 - All major assignments/task/performances have been completed, including the culminating activities.
 - Students must achieve “Good” or better on their learning skills.
 - Culminating Activity must be at least a Level 3 (Provincial Standard).
 - Students must continue to attend classes and maintain learning and motivation until the date of the final exam.
 - No suspensions from school.

Facility Updates

- Emergency response radios were increased by quantity of four. More will probably be added in the future.
- J. Stewart – front gardens project was an Indigenous inspired project consisting of plants from this area. A medicine circle with wood chips was added.

Motion to Adjourn by: Group

Future Meeting Dates 2019-2020: Nov. 12, Jan. 14, Mar. 24 (7:00 PM start)
May 26 (5:30 PM start with dinner)