

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES

May 12, 2020

Attendees

Anne Clarke, Tiffany Breaton, Tresa Brown, J. Hohnston, Tamara Johnson, Rob Kardas, Chris Kehoe, Aliasha Murphy, Jay Stewart, Robert Walicki

Welcome, Introductions (C. Kehoe)

Prayer (A. Clarke)

Call to Order

Motion to Accept Agenda by: J. Stewart & T. Brown; Motion Seconded by: ALL
Motion to Accept Minutes by & Motion Seconded: Delayed until next meeting

Regrets: Tresa Brown (C. Kehoe)

- None.

Student Council Update (A. Murphy)

- Student Council is currently at a standstill right now like everything else in the world. Not much we can do right now at home. Everyone's priority is to stay safe and try to adjust to all the new things coming our way.

Chaplain's Update (A. Clarke)

- Prior to the March Break, Anne was able to complete all the grade 9 and grade 12 retreats. Grade 9 retreat theme is about Belonging. Grade 12 retreat theme was about Finding Your Spirituality using a Myers-Briggs connection to various Catholic Spiritualities.
- Shortly after distance learning started, Anne created an Alternate Retreat Assignment for any students who are not able to attend the retreat. That alternate assignment was sent to the grade 10/11 teachers for their retreats for any possible classwork at their discretion along with other resources.
- Was grateful to help out in any way with Student Success meetings and being in attendance at Staff Department Head meetings.
- Also have been preparing Daily Reflections that are going to board items where I am alternating weeks with the chaplain at UCC.
- A couple of weeks ago, I sent out the ability for students and staff to send me prayer requests which can be anonymous or with contact information which is included in daily prayers.
- Today, St. Pat's received a notice that their Life Skills program had put an entry in the Diocese's Dare To Be Different contest for schools and the program received 2nd prize for the secondary panel for their video entry. Beautiful video and great acknowledgement to have.

Board Liaison (T. Brown)

- What happened in March... Before the Covid shutdown, we had a Board Advisory Council (BAC) meeting. The trustee presentation indicated that two-thirds of the top performing schools are from the Catholic Education Board.
- The March BAC was focused on “Partnerships”. A speaker from Liuna (Chad Hogan) came in to talk about the trades and the availability of accessing and using the trades and working with the schools, making more students aware of the opportunities there are in the trades. It became aware to people that there are more pathways in life after school than going to university or college.
- Ideas were discussed for next year about doing pro-grants with the trades and St. Pat’s might want to explore this. Liuna is willing to come in and work with St. Pats regarding pro-grants for the trades.
- As Chair of the BAC, two weeks ago a meeting was held with all the other Chairs in the Province with the directors and Prime Minister to discuss what’s happening in our schools and across the Province and what parents are looking for. In comparison to other boards, St. Pat’s seem to be more ahead and involved than other boards. Parents are looking to find out what is going on in the schools with Government decisions and this virus. More meetings are coming out that are getting parents involved in formats like this meeting here.

Safe Schools Committee (E. Moffat)

- Erin was not able to attend.
- C. Kehoe – we have a very effective emergency response team that is always being analyzed to make our emergency response even more successful and more perfect.
- We moved in a direction to add teachers from strategic parts of the building onto the team so they can be first on a scene, we’ve increased our walkie-talkies compliment because it is more effective than the phone, our compliment of first aid kits were increased as well and updated our existing ones.
- It was always good, but we still look for ways to get even better and fix any issues we have.

Uniform Committee (T. Johnson)

- Budget is being reviewed right now from this year’s uniform support. There is some unused balance in the vouchers we have right now and we are seeing if we can move that to next year. We are not sure if they are limited to just one year or if they can be transferred.
- We are anticipating more students this next September that will need uniform support if we are in school full time.
- Currently, we can support 20 students per year with the vouchers we are given.
- If we can shift vouchers, we can support 30 students next year with two pieces (two bottoms, two tops).
- Principals are already providing names of students who will need uniform support.
- Lots of families donate their gently used uniforms to the school and these are used to supplement any short comings.

- A. Pascavage – is there a way to donate any used uniforms during the school shutdown?
- T. Johnson – if things are relaxed in mid-June, an announcement will go out for the graduating students to drop clothes off at the school. It will depend on if we are back at school or not.

Graduate Acknowledgement Committee (J. Stewart)

- A lot of planning has been going on with Robert Walicki.
- We want a really good tribute for the grade 12 students.
- We were initially considering looking at moving the graduation ceremony to the fall, but we are now considering something more virtual that is a combination of both something fun and more traditional so we can finish out the semester like a typical year. The approach is to basically keep the boat going forward as normal as possible with the understanding that we are always trying to comply the Health Minister rules and regulations.
- We are planning on giving out the graduation cap and gowns.
- On June 14, we are looking at a car parade at the beginning with photos in the grass in front of the school. Then disperse.
- Later that evening, there is a plan to set up a live booth for a radio-type broadcast of our ceremony in a virtual format with all the pictures of our graduates identified in their cap and gown.
- Given our current situation, we feel this is the best way we can recognize our graduating students both as a tribute and a recognition of their achievements.
- Gowns will be deployed and we are allowing the students to keep their stoles and possibly their gowns with a certificate if it all gets approved.
- As of tomorrow, there are 17 valedictorian candidates, which is one of the highest we have ever had. The format for that was a form online as a self-nominee. A ballot sheet will go out online tomorrow and you can vote on the top three. There will be a ranking and a consolidation of the numbers with a winner identified. The winner can do a presentation and a speech.
- **Quick Student Services Updates** – At the beginning of the pandemic, there was concern with grade 12 students staying home and not finishing up their courses and not moving on but a lot of them are completing their courses and planning to go to colleges and universities.

Vice-Principal's Reports

Indigenous Leadership (T. Johnson)

- We had a lot of Indigenous Leadership programs planned for May and June but those are on hold now.
- Our leader in the board office, Courtney Gore, has made sure that our indigenous students are connected and able to continue their studies digitally.

Emergency Response (E. Moffat)

- Covered by C. Kehoe under Safe Schools Committee.

Edsby (T. Johnson)

- Edsby has been sent out email invites to all of our secondary parents.
- If the parent signed up for an account, they would have access to viewing their child's grade book if the teacher has input the data.
- The grades have been published to the Edsby accounts so a parent could view previous grade report cards. It is located under all their Classes there is supposed to be a button for View Previous Report Cards. A printed report card is supposed to pop up.
- Come mid-June, a reminder will be sent out to parents to remind them to sign up.

Updates

Literacy (C. Kehoe)

- The Literacy Test that was canceled in March will be moved to the fall.
- The current grade 10 students who will be in grade 11 will be writing the Literacy Test in the fall.
- The current grade 9 students who will be in grade 10 will be writing the Literacy Test in March.
- There have been a number of graduation requirements waived for students but not this one for current grade 10 students.
- A grade 12 students who did not have that graduation requirement and was unable to take the course would have that requirement waived. I believe there is just one.

Numeracy (C. Kehoe)

- Grade 9 Math Assessment has been canceled and will not be rescheduled for next year.

Student Services (J. Stewart)

- We are working on the student success team with Diane and our VPs and our resource teachers to accommodate students. Conversations are happening and lasting about 20-30 minutes about school and non-school items. Some of the topics include the current situation they and their parents are in. The meetings are weekly and we are making sure we provide for our students
- We are also working on course selections for the fall. We are trying to keep that as consistent as possible. Our numbers look pretty good. Business as usual – our motto.
- Summer online courses are available for students to register online. Can be found online on the school's web page and click on Summer School Registrations.
- Lambton College will offer one course online and possibly another option. With Coop not running now, one will run in the summer to allow students to do some online summer work for credit.
- Starting classes for summer school is July 2. Registration deadline is "loose."

Student Success (C. Kehoe)

- No update. Diane Yurkewich was not present.

Principal's Report (C. Kehoe)

Pandemic Learning Expectations

- Primary emphasis was on connecting with students.
- Goal was a No Harm Policy – Ministry announced that the lowest grade any student can get is that of March 13th. Any assignments given after that can only improve their grade.
- Students have not stopped doing their work. In most classes, 90% of the students are contributing and doing assignments. Students were eager to continue learning. Very impressive.
- There is a guideline of three hours a week of homework. Some do more, some do less. Hard to dial it in to exactly three hours. Feedback received has been positive though.
- No exams for this year. The exam days at the end of the school year will be regular school days, along with any PE days. Learning will continue right up to June 26.
- In place of exams, we would typically have Culminating Activities, which will be up to teacher's professional judgement to decide if it benefits the students or not. We want the students to be prepared for the next level so the priority in some classes might be to learn more/new material given we are missing so many weeks. We do not want new learning to be assigned simultaneously with culminating activities are taking place.
- Vast majority of students are participating. It is very rewarding to see this. Administrators are invited to Edsby classrooms to see the work being done.
- Emphasis on key learning necessary for success at the next level.
- Flexibility must be given with the barriers some students face- technology, home life, etc.
- Less is more in a pandemic learning environment.

Chromebook Deployment and Internet Access

- Hundreds of Chromebooks deployed from St. Pat's.
- Four different Chromebook deployments to date.
- WIFI hotspots delivered to students with no internet or limited internet. Priority was grade 12 students, going down in grade levels. Also prioritized students with no WIFI at all and/or with intermittent or unreliable WIFI.
- Special thank you to our IT staff for their efforts to provide technology to our students.
- Thank you to our Student Supervisors who have been in attendance at our Chromebook Deployments.

Supporting struggling students

- Student supports continue to be in place from the MHAN, Social Worker, Child and Youth Worker, Student Success teams.
- Student Success teams meet every week and communicate daily with students to reduce barriers and support learning. Those teams consist of Vice Principals, guidance counselors, student success teacher Diane Yurkewich, special education teacher, mental health nurse, attendance counselor, social worker, child abuse worker. Huge amount of effort with tremendous success making it work for those in need.
- Good Samaritan fund is also available at St. Pat's to help families with no questions asked if a family is identified and meets the criteria.
- A new addition called EAs are working with special education students at the direction of teachers.

Graduation

- June 14th - working on planned events throughout the day and evening.
- Currently seeking approval from the Medical Officer of Health for those events and for Grad Gown Deployment which will happen before that day.
- J. Stewart indicated they would be able to keep their graduation stoles.
- We want this to be a memorable experience. This grade 12 is a remarkable group and it saddens us to say “Goodbye” this way.
- All details will be formalized and communicated to families and staff upon approval from the Medical Officer of Health.
- Valedictorian Elections are taking place. 17 nominees right now, all of them extremely strong.

Academic, Team and Clubs Awards

- Coaches and Teacher Sponsors for Clubs are being asked to submit names for Club and Team awards.
- Academic Awards - looking at ways to ensure equity while still acknowledging academic excellence.
- “Matilda” was a great stage performance by our school.
- Prior to the March Break we were celebrating the following successful sports:
 - Senior Girls Volleyball
 - SWOSSA Champs
 - OFSAA Top 10
 - Senior Girls Curling
 - SWOSSA Champs
 - OFSAA Cancelled
 - Wrestling
 - SWOSSA Champs
 - Girls Won OFSAA Gold!!!

Items in Lockers - Medical Officer of Health says no right now

- May be lifted later on - principals can go and get necessities for kids.

Thought Exchange: “Together, how can we support the learning journey for our students during this time of distance learning?”

- Remember Thought exchange has three steps:
 - 1. Share - first share your thoughts independently and confidentially;
 - 2. Star - next consider and rate thoughts shared by others;
 - 3. Discover - and finally, we all learn what ideas we have in common and what we can do as a Board to make the learn at home experience better.
- Go to <https://my.thoughtexchange.com/108467305> or <https://tinyurl.com/ybz52f3a>

Admin Portfolio Update - Team A-G Student Success Admin Support:

- May 4-8-Erin
- May 11-15-Tamara
- May 18-22- Erin
- May 25-29 Tamara
- June 1-5- Erin
- June 8-12 -Tamara
- June 15-19-Erin
- June 22-26-Tamara

Motion to Adjourn (R. Kardas)

Future Meeting Dates 2019-2020 June 16 (7:00 PM start)