

Minutes of Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC)
MEETING OF THE 2006-2007 CSAC
St. Louis Catholic School
November 16, 2006

ATTENDEES	
Valerie Devine – CSAC Chair	Patrick Robins – CSAC Vice-Chair
Connie Gemma – CSAC Treasurer	Oriana Bono – CSAC Co-Secretary
Stefanie Dower – CSAC Co-Secretary	Rosanne Morris – Principal
Mrs. Cousineau – Teacher	Debra Zimmer - Staff
Margaret Kalsi – CSAC Information Officer	Connie Antonacci – CSAC Member-at-Large
Claudia Musetti – Member-at-Large	
Maria Soccora Tonon	Ida Foisy
CSAC Members-at-Large Absent: Claudette Piscione, Maya Broglio	

Prayer – For Catholic Education

O, Holy Spirit, source of truth and grace for those entrusted with the Christian development of children, enlighten our minds, strengthen our will, fill our hearts with generosity so that our homes, our parishes and our schools may co-operate effectively with You, and with one another in the mission of Catholic Education. We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Devine and Ms. Morris:
 ➤ welcomed all

Approval of the Minutes from October 26, 2006

The Minutes from October 26th were approved by Mrs. Kalsi and seconded by Mrs. Zimmer. Motion carried.

Principal’s Comments

This has been a very busy month at St. Louis, with a variety of events:

- * **Report Cards are due to go home on December 5th** therefore teachers are busily collecting assignments, tests for assessment purposes.
- * **Parent Reaching Out Grant Proposal:**
 - a great thank you from me, and from our superintendent, Mrs. Tovey-Shackleton to Ms. Devine and Mr. Robins for their efforts in putting together a terrific package for the Ministry of Education. We’ll hear more about this later in the meeting. I am enthusiastic and hopeful that our proposal will be accepted thereby building the network of our parent community.
- * **Professional Development Day:**
Ministry of Education Provincial Priorities
 - see the attached summary of the focus for our PD Day November 27th
 - focus is on Leading Student Achievement for Literacy and Numeracy
 - St. Louis is benefiting from additional resources from the ***Ontario Focussed Intervention Project*** (OFIP): A mathematics resource teacher on Mondays, Mrs. Christine Zeltway; and a pre-service teacher who is a math tutor at St. Louis on Fridays.

* **EQAO Results for 2005 – 2006 for St. Louis**

- see attached summary of results for St. Louis
- our goal is to move to 75% of all students in levels 3 and 4 by 2008
- go to www.eqao.com for more detailed summary of results
- St. Louis teachers are focussing their discussion in divisional conversations, to examine data carefully, and to improve instructional practice, so students can attain best results.
- go to www.cpcoc.com and click on **Leading Student Achievement**, for more information about the project and focus for student learning

* **Enrichment Activities:**

- * October 31st Hallowe'en Dance-a-thon
 - a terrific success!
 - a thank you again to all of our parent volunteers who created such a wonderful day for our children
- * Nov. 7—The Alphabet Show and Too Much Garbage were 2 shows by Tom Vandenberg which were well received. Thanks to the CSAC for funding this.
- * Nov. 10th – Remembrance Day Celebration and Paraliturg
 - was a tremendous success due to the leadership of our staff, and respectful participation of our children
- * Nov. 22 – The Great Canadian Songbook with Mike Ford will take place for students in grades 4 – 6 in the St. Louis gym. Again, thanks to CSAC for funding.
- * Nov. 24th – Sports Day at St. Louis: Students may wear a uniform of choice of a favourite sports team, and bring in a canned food item of choice for the Daily Bread Food Bank, collected by our gr. 8 students

* **Requests for Future Enrichment Activities:**

* **St. Louis Wall Mural Project**

- 3 renowned local artists: John Leonard, Karen Morgan and Susan Dain, from the Neilson Park Etobicoke Arts Group, and The Toronto School of Art, have offered to come to St. Louis for 5 days in the spring to work with students in grades 4 -8 to create a wall mural
- students with artistic talent would be selected by classroom teachers to participate on a rotation basis for one week
- the cost: \$1000. for the artists' time; and \$500. for materials

* **First Communion Friend Sticks**

- a local artist, Toni Calderone, has offered to come to St. Louis to work for a morning with our grade 2 class to create "Friend Sticks", little works of art with carvings, stones and wood burning
- the cost: \$200 for one half day, including materials

* **Partnership Agreement with Beverage Vending Machines:**

- at the last meeting there were questions about the partnership agreement with TCDSB and schools
- I contacted Mr. Coray for a response and this is what he shared

The landscape with respect to beverage vending has changed dramatically since its inception in 1998. As we know, volume expectations were not met (not even close), although there was a perception that consumption levels were brisk; consumption was extremely low, and volume expectations were not met.

So, along with consumption levels and other qualitative issues confronting beverage vending in schools, we knew that the TCDSB would not get the deal it had; however, we hoped we could find a "middle ground".

The negotiations with Coca-Cola Bottling and Pepsi Bottling went on for about one year, and the final offers were not acceptable. Their proposals were consumption-based and not guaranteed. If you recall, staff were trying to produce a guaranteed, non-consumption based agreement.

As a result, schools would have been required to accept a fraction of the commissions received from the previous Coca-Cola Bottling agreement. For example, if we had accepted any one of the proposals, St Louis may have achieved \$100.00 in commissions annually. In the previous agreement, St Louis averaged more than \$700.00 in commissions annually.

As a result, Director's Council agreed with staff's recommendation not to renew the agreement and allow the agreement to lapse. Although the Board of Trustees was aware of the negotiation, its approval was not required and/or requested to allow the agreement to lapse.

There are 174 schools, including St. Louis that would like to have a beverage vending agreement. Staff and the Board of Trustees are aware of this. As mentioned, the landscape in terms of beverage vending has changed dramatically since its inception, and there are issues and concerns other than financial that need to be addressed that weren't on the "radar screen" in 1998.

Hopefully, you'll recall recent communications outlining the protocols with respect to beverage vending. Also noted in those communications was information acknowledging that the Partnership Development Department is aware of the requests from schools for beverage vending and working to complete a beverage vending arrangement that benefits all stakeholders as quickly as possible.

For your information, staff intends to provide its recommendation with respect to beverage vending to the Board of Trustees at its Dec A&CSC meeting in private session. Of course, staff recommendations are subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.

As part of the current landscape, there are qualitative concerns with respect to the bottled water provided to schools through beverage vending that also needs to be addressed.

*** Invitation to Participate in Budget Consultation**

- see attached notice from Mr. Kobus, our Director of Education and Mr. Carroll, the Chair of the TCDSB for details
- all parents are asked to go online to complete a survey:
go to www.tcdsb.org and follow the links
- a community consultation meeting will take place at Don Bosco Secondary School on Dec. 9th at 9:00 a.m. for all parents of Catholic students in Etobicoke

*** Safe Schools Policy**

- St. Louis will have a Lockdown Practice tomorrow as per board policy; a letter went home to parents yesterday with full details
- go to www.tcdsb.org for more information about safe schools policies for our board
- a Safe Schools presentation will take place at the January CSAC meeting for interested parents on January 11th, 2007

General

Hallowe'en danceathon was successful. The Treasurer's Report will be included in future newsletters, to advise parents how the funds raised are utilized.

A parent mentioned that there is not enough soap in the school washrooms. Ms. Morris will investigate.

CSAC Chair's Comments

Ms. Morris and Ms. Devine will be meeting on Monday, November 20th to finalize the St. Louis application for the Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grant. This application has to be post-marked by

November 21st. A decision was made by Holy Angels and St. Louis to submit separate applications/proposals to the Ministry – with the hope that at least one of the applications would be accepted, thus benefiting both schools.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Gemma indicated we had approximately \$18,618.34 in the account, with approximately \$16,000.00 and change committed. There is approximately \$2,600.00 available; however \$2,000.00 is required for activities previously requested. Approximately \$3,000.00 is required to be set aside, as we are currently at the limit for funds. We have approximately \$500 remaining.

Old Business

The Dance-A-Thon went ahead, as scheduled, on October 31, 2006 and was successful.

Ms. Morris provided information with respect to the removal of the water vending machines.

New Business

General

The St. Louis Christmas Concert will be held on December 21, 2006.

Future Fundraising

A suggestion was made to conduct a silent auction. Mrs. Maria Soccorsa-Tonon has volunteered to co-ordinate the auction.

Dates of 2006-2007 CSAC Meetings

Thursday, January 11, 2007
Thursday, February 8, 2007
Thursday, March 22, 2007
Thursday, April 19, 2007
Thursday, May 10, 2007
Thursday, June 14, 2007

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

NEXT CSAC MEETING:

7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2006 in the St. Louis Catholic School Library.
All are welcome.