

Minutes of Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC)
MEETING OF THE 2007-2008 CSAC
St. Louis Catholic School
February 21, 2008

| ATTENDEES | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Valerie Devine – Chair | Rosanne Morris – Principal |
| Connie Gemma – Treasurer | Joanne Yano – Member-at-large |
| Ida Foisy – Co-Secretary | Giulia Di Carlo |
| Maria Soccorsa Tonon – Co-Secretary | |
| CSAC Members Absent: | |
| Margaret Kalsi, Connie Antonacci, Claudette Piscione – Member-at-large, Bernadette Aman, Oriana Bono, Mary Anne Cousineau, Stefanie Dower, Adelina Santaluce | |

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 welcomed all in attendance.

Approval of the Minutes from January 17, 2008

- * The Minutes from January 17, 2008 approved by Ms. Devine and seconded by Ms. Gemma.

Principal’s Comments

Student Projects

- * **Catchya Doing Something Good Project**—culminates in an assembly tomorrow
- * All students will receive a ***Be the Change Virtue Wristband***
- * 30 students will receive a ***Be the Change t-shirt*** to be presented at an assembly in honour of the Catchya Project and the Lenten project—“**Project Harambee**”
- * means “***Pulling Together***” in ***Kiswahili***
- * in support of our partner community in Kenya, our families will be invited to contribute to the creation of school kits and health kits during the Lenten season
- * Mrs. Wiley’s daughter, Margaret, will share her experiences as a volunteer in Kenya, tomorrow at the kick-off assembly
- * Grade 8 Students: Kiss A Grams for Valentine’s Day raised \$238.00 for ***Street Kids at Covenant House***

Ash Wednesday Paraliturgy

- * a very meaningful celebration of prayer with Father Frank
- * creation of The Courage Tree in the front foyer
- * creation of the Catchya Bulletin board with photos of children

St. Louis Teachers are Curriculum Leaders

- * PD day focussed on Transition Years for grade 7 and 8 teachers at Bishop Allen Academy, particularly Lesson Study
- * PD day focussed on The School Effectiveness Framework for teachers of k-6; St. Louis hosted principals and teachers from Our Lady of Sorrows; St. Leo and St. Mark—very successful day
- * PD in-services are ongoing to develop best practices for instruction in the classrooms at St. Louis based on initiatives promoted by the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat at the Ministry of Education, Ontario

Safe Schools

- * February 12th – we had a successful Lockdown practice at school
- * We have a new security system at the front door
- * All doors are locked from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the exception of recess when the gym door is open
- * the buzzer system has distinct advantages and disadvantages
- * School Safety Survey for grades 6,7 and 8 is now complete
- * Will be integrated into the School Learning Plan
- * The Safe School Team will meet April 22nd at noon in the Library to review the report and make any necessary updates

Class Sizes

- * This is the time of year when staffing considerations begin for next year
- * the contract between teachers and tcdsb prescribes class sizes as of Sept. 30th :
- * **bolded numbers** listed below are the actual numbers in classes at St. Louis--
 - JK—21
 - SK—24
 - JK/SK split a.m.—23 (**21 actual**)
 - JK/SK split p.m.—23 (**23 actual**)
 - Gr. 1—25 (**18**)
 - Gr. 2—25 (**21**)
 - Gr. 3—29 (**23**)
 - Gr. 4—32 (**17**)
 - Gr. 5—32 (**18**)
 - Gr. 6—32 (**31**)
 - Gr. 7—32 (**26**)
 - Gr. 7/8—32 (**24**)
 - Gr. 8—32 (**30**)

- * The Ministry has promoted a class size from k-3 as an overall average of 20 students per class. The St. Louis average is 21 students overall in the primary division. This is the goal of the Ministry and the TCDSB for 2007-2008. More news will come forward in the month of March for expectations for the 2008-2009 school year.

EQAO Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary and Junior Divisions: May 26 to June 6, 2008 is the timeline set out by the Ministry of Education for this year.

CSAC Chair's Comments

- * Mrs. Yano provided the update regarding Uniforms for Catholic Schools.
- * She presented Minutes of Trustees minutes whereby a decision is going to be made for Uniform Policies in Elementary Schools effective September 2009;
- * There are different view points on uniforms
- * Central Banking Survey presented to Ms. Connie Gemma who filled it in
- * Discussed Green Project Program - Valerie Devine to read the documentation and see if this is worth doing as it seems it might take a lot of effort
- * Dance-A-Thon on May 2, 2008. Grade 8s will DJ and we will use our own sound equipment. The theme will be a Beach Theme and the prizes will be \$75.00, \$50.00 and \$25.00.
- * We will commit a maximum of \$150.00 for prizes and \$50.00 for water (Total: \$200.00)
- * Valerie Devine will host Junior Achievement, the Economics of Staying in School

Treasurer's Report

- * We reviewed last year's financial statements
- * We received \$1,300.00 and paid Acorn Cards (Approved by Valerie Devine and seconded by Maria Soccorsa Tonon)
- * Discussion of Closing of Raffle Account – to be determined after we speak to Stacey Corey (Partnership Development Officer—TCDSB)
- * Renewal of GIC
- * We have a total of \$2,260.00
- * Ms. Morris to follow up with board re bill for Welcome to Kindergarten Bags

Old Business

- * Not Discussed

New Business

- * None

Important Dates

- * May 21, 2008 – Welcome to Kindergarten Night
- * See list of dates in the February Newsletter, posted on the school website at www.tcdsb.org; also sent home to all families

Next Meeting

- * April 17, 2008 –Next CSAC Meeting at St. Louis

Adjournment

- * Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.