

**Minutes of Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC)**  
**MEETING OF THE 2006-2007 CSAC**  
**St. Louis Catholic School**  
**February 28, 2007**

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	
Valerie Devine – CSAC Chair	Patrick Robins – CSAC Vice-Chair
Stefanie Dower – CSAC Co-Secretary	Rosanne Morris – Principal
Connie Smith – Teacher	Oriana Bono – CSAC Co-Secretary
Margaret Kalsi – CSAC Information Officer	Claudette Piscione – CSAC Member-at-Large
Maria Tonon	Ida Foisy
CSAC Members Absent: Maya Broglio, Claudia Musetti, Connie Antonacci, Connie Gemma – CSAC Treasurer	

**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 January 11, 2007**

The Minutes from January 11<sup>th</sup> were approved by Patrick Robins and seconded by Ms. Devine.

**Principal’s Comments**

**Kindergarten Registration**

- **enrolment at St. Louis** is currently 258; projected enrolment for September: 248; current registrations for JK = 14 children
- thanks to Ms. Gemma and Ms. Devine for their support with the distribution of flyers throughout the neighbourhood
- **OPEN HOUSE at St. Louis** for kindergarten: February 8<sup>th</sup> was successful
- registrations are ongoing for September
- **May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Welcome to Kindergarten Evening**: bulletin board with promotional “welcome bag” for children and parents is on display in the front hall thanks to Mrs. Sestito; the Ministry of Education is funding this welcome initiative for parents

**Extra curricular Activities:**

- **Primary Girls Soccer** Champions Regional Penant winners
- **Intermediate Girls Basketball** Divisional Winners
- **Intermediate Boys Basketball** played well; invitational tournament at Our Lady of Sorrows
- St. Louis hosted **W5H competition** on February 13th; St. Leo, St. Mark, and Christ the King joined us at St. Louis
- thanks to our **MANY staff coaches** for their ongoing contribution to the extracurricular life of our students
- volleyball, track and field and cross country seasons are upcoming

**Grade 8 Student Leadership:**

- our grade 8s sent 9 boxes of food to the **Daily Bread Food Bank** last week
- **Holy Thursday, Feast of the Last Supper**, will be another collection day for our grade 8s

**Pizza Days**

- thanks to our parent organizers for 2 Pizza days in February

- great source for fundraising

#### Acorn Art Cards

- thanks to Mr. Robins for co-ordinating this effort on behalf of our school this year; much appreciated

#### Our Lenten Global Outreach Project:

##### *Celebrating Our Troops in Afghanistan*

- 3 wonderful articles have appeared in the **Etobicoke Guardian**; one more with the photo of soldiers carrying valentine's cards will be published on Friday
- **CFRB radio coverage**; TCDSB **It Starts in the Schools**
- great thanks to **Mrs. Kalsi and Mrs. Senatore** for their ongoing support in this project; as well to the **Liturgy team** at St. Louis

#### Connections with Bishop Allen and Father John Redmond:

- **Co-op students** from BA, have been working at St. Louis
- **Success for All** inservice for gr. 7 and 8 teachers: encouraging the use of the **"SMART Board"** technology in the classroom
- **Transition planning** with team from BA with gr. 8 teachers at St. Louis
- very positive relationship with our local secondary schools
- ongoing **PLC connections** with the Arts at Redmond

#### Artists in the School:

- we have booked **John Leonard** in the school for the weeks of April 16 and April 23<sup>rd</sup> to create an art wall mural in the gym to celebrate the **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of St. Louis
- **students will be nominated** by their teachers to participate shortly after the March break

#### Ongoing Enrichment Activities at St. Louis:

- **Artist in the School** booked for 4 full days in June with Ms. Smith and Mr. Bell's classes: acrylic landscape painting with renowned Canadian artist, **Rod Prouse**
- see [www.rodprouse.com](http://www.rodprouse.com)
- Grade 5s took part in the **Nunavut Arctic Games** at Michael Power on February 26<sup>th</sup> with Mrs. Varey
- Grade 2s visited **the Science Centre** today with Ms. Micucci
- Grade 7s and 8s took to the ski slopes yesterday at **Horseshoe Valley** with Mr. Finucan, Mrs. DiCarlo and Ms. Pacheco

#### Professional Development Activities:

- ongoing inservice of teachers through the Ministry of Education secretariat: early reading strategy, early writing Strategy, early math strategy
- OFIP Inservices in the area of best practices in Math are ongoing for teachers of grades kindergarten to grade 6

#### Preparation for Sacraments:

- is ongoing with Mr. **John Zurakowski**, pastoral team leader from St. Christopher parish in Mississauga, is ongoing with parents, teachers and children in the classrooms: Mrs. Nocera and Mrs. DiCarlo
- the **parent evening for parents of children in grade 2** went well
- the **parent evening for parents of students in gr. 8**: set for March 27<sup>th</sup> with the students in grade 8 present
- paralyurgy for **Holy Thursday** is scheduled for 1 p.m. on April 5<sup>th</sup>

#### Ongoing Support from the Ministry of Education regarding:

##### Funding for Literacy and Numeracy Initiatives for Students at St. Louis:

- we have just purchased 2 sets of **Assessment tools** for grade 4 and 6 called **Reaching Readers** (cost ~ 1000.00 per set) for each grade
- provides teachers with **common assessment tools** for teaching and assessing comprehension at grade 4, 5 and 6 levels

- also additional **manipulative materials** for mathematics instruction at a cost of ~700.00 for grade K -6 classrooms

#### **Safe Schools Presentation:**

- Ms. Morris shared the board policy and protocols regarding safe schools; a handout was examined
- parents are referred to the website: [www.canadiansafeschools.com](http://www.canadiansafeschools.com)
- the **St. Louis Catholic School Template** was presented and reviewed
- the code of conduct and inserts for the student agenda book are being reviewed and updated currently for publication in the student agenda book for 2007 -2008
- Ms. Morris met with the publisher from Premier Agenda last week

#### **Parent Outreach Grant:**

- Ms. Morris requested input regarding possible topics for speakers to come out to support parents and students
- internet safety and cyberbullying have been suggested

#### **Discussion Forum: Ontario Catholic Schools and Their Future**

- Ms. Morris presented a binder that will serve as a guide for an important gathering of information from the parent community
- **our next CSAC Meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>** will be largely dedicated to this topic
- therefore it will be important to invite as many parents and staff as possible to attend: all stakeholders are encouraged to voice their support of Catholic education and share in these very important discussions
- all information gathered will be collated and sent to ICE on behalf of the St. Louis Catholic School community, and the TCDSB
- **telephone tree and personal invitations** may be important
- **The Institute for Catholic Education (ICE)** is sponsoring the gathering of this very important information in support of the future of Catholic Education in Ontario

#### **General**

Fundraising for next year will be discussed/planned at April's CSAC meeting.

Mr. Robins suggested CSAC consider chocolate sales for future fundraising.

#### **CSAC Chair's Comments**

No comments.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

There was no Treasurer's Report at this meeting.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Silent Auction**

Letters have been sent out to thank contributors.

##### **Acorn Art Cards**

Mr. Robins indicated that last year we received 133 orders. This year, we have only received 86 orders. This could be as a result of the timing of this fund-raiser. Also, Mr. Robins advised that he had to manually match up the orders and provide a spreadsheet to the company to ensure the students had their last years art/picture on the back of this year's cards.

## **New Business**

Safe schools discussion – refer to Principal's Notes. Website information were handed out for "Safe School Plans". Staff will be reviewing template in March. CSAC invited to review and offer suggestions.

### Internet Awareness

Request Police Constable Sheila Richardson speak to Grades 5, 6 and 7 regarding internet safety and invite parents.

There is \$2800 available, which can cover the cost of the speaker. Ms. Morris will investigate a drama (play).

### Parent Outreach Grant

On May 31, 2007, we will be hosting an International Caravan Night. Holy Angels will be invited to this event. Valerie Devine, Maria Tonon and Claudette Piscione are on the committee for this event.

### Discussion Forum – Value and Future of Catholic Education

The future of Catholic Education will be discussed at the March 22, 2007 CSAC meeting. Valerie Devine to prepare a survey.

Ms. Tonon and Ms. Foisy will visit the school to phone parents and inform them of this special CSAC meeting.

### 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plans

St. Louis' 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary is October 20, 2007.

A committee will be established to plan the anniversary celebration. Claudette Piscione and Valerie Devine have volunteered to be a part of this committee.

### Pizza

There have been slight issues with the vendor of our Pizza Days.

Mr. Robins moved to give the pizza volunteers authority to decide on which company to use next year. All present agreed.

### ESL Parents Communication

Brief discussion on communicating with parents of ESL. A suggestion was made that we could ask the teachers for their advice on this issue.

### Ski Trip

\$200 was requested to cover the cost of the bus for the ski trip. Valerie Devine agreed, Claudette Piscione seconded.

### Ottawa Trip

The bake sale raised enough money (\$600.00) to reimburse families \$13.00 for each child attending the Ottawa trip.

**Dates of 2006-2007 CSAC Meetings**

Thursday, March 22, 2007
Thursday, April 19, 2007
Thursday, May 10, 2007
Thursday, June 14, 2007

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**NEXT CSAC MEETING:**

7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 22, 2007 in the St. Louis Catholic School Library.

**NOTE:** The main purpose of the meeting is to welcome parents to break into discussion groups regarding **The Future of Our Catholic Schools**, to provide feedback to the Institute of Catholic Education, as requested by the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

All are welcome.