

**Minutes of Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC)**  
**MEETING OF THE 2008-2009 CSAC**  
**St. Louis Catholic School**  
**\*January 15, 2009\***

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	
Valerie Devine – Chair	Fernando Campese – Parent
Ida Foisy – Co-Secretary	Enzo LoFaso – Parent
Bernadette Aman- Co-Secretary	Anna LoFaso – Parent
Connie Gemma – Treasurer	Maria Brooks – Parent
Rosanne Morris – Principal	MaryAnne Cousineau – Staff
CSAC Members Absent: Joanne Yano - Member-At-Large, Michelle LeBlanc - Member-At-Large; Oriana Bono - Member-At-Large , Connie Antonacci - Member-At-Large Claudette Piscione - Member-At-Large	

**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 June 2008**

\* The Minutes from November 2008 were approved and seconded.

**Principal’s Comments**

**Beginning a New School Year at St. Louis**

- \* we are off to a great beginning this new year
- \* routines, expectations for student behaviour are clearly established

## *Celebrating Our Successes at St. Louis*

### *Megan's Journey—Our Advent Project—“Lift the Spirit”*

- \* Mrs. DaSousa and her family have expressed deep gratitude for the support of the St. Louis community for Megan
- \* \$3095.00 have been collected to support the retrofit of the wheelchair van
- \* Ms Morris read a letter from the Sousa family which will be published in the next school newsletter
- \* The President's Choice Children's Charity has also offered to support Megan's cause and the family is submitting an application for support at PC's request
- \* We are delighted and grateful for the support of our teachers, children and their families in this project
- \* The students have enjoyed a multitude of activities in support of the project with the creative support and enthusiasm of the staff community
- \* Ms Morris expressed gratitude to Mrs Cousineau, Mrs Zimmer, Mr Finucan and all members of the Liturgy Team, and all staff, for supporting the project with parents and children

### *Curriculum Leadership News*

#### **Welcome to Kindergarten**

- \* staff in the primary division hosted teams from 20 schools on January 13<sup>th</sup>
- \* primary division staff at St Louis modelled best practices for preparing and organizing a Welcome to Kindergarten evening
- \* Mrs Sestito sits at the board office, with the Ministry team, to support and promote such events, welcoming children to school. She chaired our team and did an outstanding job with Mrs Cousineau, Mrs Nocera, Mrs Zimmer and Mlle. Mondano
- \* feedback from the Ministry of Education, The Learning Partnership, board personnel, and those in attendance—was that the St Louis team did, yet again, an exemplary job of guiding practices for our region
- \* we should indeed be very proud of our staff for the excellence they promote

#### **Secondary School Learning Network Development**

- \* our intermediate team joined the Bishop Allen team, and 5 other elementary school teams at Bishop Allen on January 12<sup>th</sup> to develop a professional development plan on Differentiated Instruction for all staff at St. Louis for the February 13<sup>th</sup> PD Day
- \* the expanded conversation between elementary and secondary staff will benefit the transition of students from grades 7 through 10

#### **Area 2 Planning for Leading Student Achievement**

- \* staff at St. Louis are key leaders in area 2 for the development of best practices for the Teaching Learning Cycle Pathway promoted by the Ministry of Education for Literacy and Numeracy

- \* Mrs Cousineau represents our school as one of two teacher reps for the region, which is a great honour; Mrs Nocera represents our school for web conferencing for support of the same initiative
- \* Teachers from kindergarten to grade 8 are engaged in ongoing professional dialogue to set specific goals and to share instructional strategies to improve teaching and learning
- \* Again, we should be very proud!

### **Athletic News**

- \* See the attached calendar of events for the winter and spring season
- \* Mrs DiCarlo is our athletic representative and co-ordinator of teams

### **Request for Funding**

- \* Ms Morris is requesting that the \$1500.00 that had been ear marked for new AV equipment be transferred to a request to support the purchase of 20 refurbished computers for the computer lab in the library, and for use in individual classrooms
- \* Ms Morris requested discussion and approval for this request
- \* Again, Ms Morris expressed deep appreciation for the support of the CSAC supporting school needs on behalf of the children, their families and the staff
- \* Ms. Morris requested \$300.00 for buses for the French concert and it was approved.
- \* We earned \$136.85 from The Lunch Lady for November and December.

### **Presentation of Bus/Excursion Costs**

- \* as requested, Ms Morris presented a list of costs incurred for fieldtrips and sporting events as per usual practice
- \* appreciation was expressed once again by the Principal

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

### **Old Business**

- \* PRO Grant application was filed however we have not received funds yet
- \* Special thanks to Mrs. Piscione with respect to the Silent Auction. This fundraiser made \$1017.00. New ideas are being discussed which include having the Silent Auction on a different night than the Christmas Concert. There are still items that will have to be picked up and paid for.

## **New Business**

CSAC is hosting a free (Wellness) seminar and aside from the cost of refreshments (which should be minimal), there will be no costs charged to CSAC or the school for this presentation – as the presentation is being done free of charge. CSAC has agreed to only pay for the cost of light refreshments (drinks (coffee, tea, water) and sweets (cookies). \$50.00 will be committed to this event.

- \* 7:00 pm, February 4, 2009 – Healthy Homes, Healthy Families

### *Healthy Homes, Healthy Families*

This session is designed to create awareness of toxins and carcinogens in everyday products that we use. There will be a focus on specific chemicals to avoid, and the links to ADD, allergies, eczema and more. Attendees should leave the session with thoughts about long-term health and wellness, and a motivation to no longer take their health for granted. They will be reading ingredient lists from this point on. 1 in 2 Canadians are expected to get a cancer in their lifetime. This program may help you change those odds in your favour.

*About Ward Sullivan : Environmental Health Advocate. After years of research into toxic homes and the effects on the family, Ward is now one of the most requested speakers in the area on these topics, and a contributing writer to newspapers and health periodicals. A regular speaker in the GTA at wellness centres, pre-natal clinics, fitness centres and schools and corporations; Ward speaks in terms that anyone can understand and relate to, and takes the mystery out of the ingredients lists. For more information on detox advice, feel free to e-mail Ward with your name, phone number, and your question at [Melawellness@sympatico.ca](mailto:Melawellness@sympatico.ca) <<mailto:Melawellness@sympatico.ca>>*

## **Treasurer's Report**

- \* \$3,000 GIC is available for next year's council.
- \* CSAC approved \$1,500.00 for 20 refurbished computers. These funds had previously been committed toward an improvement in the A.V. system in the gymnasium and as these funds are no longer needed for the A.V. system, the funds have been re-directed toward the purchase of the computers.
- \* Various bus expenses approved

### **Dates for CSAC Meetings**

- \* February 19, 2009
- \* April 23, 2009
- \* May 28, 2009
- \* June 2009 (to be determined)

### **Adjournment**

- \* Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.