

Minutes of Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC)

St. Louis Catholic School

October 13, 2005

ATTENDEES	
Patrick Robins – CSAC Co-Chair Sara McDonald - CSAC Co-Chair Valerie Devine – CSAC Co-Secretary Connie Gemma – CSAC Treasurer Rosanne Morris - Principal Mary Anne Cousineau - Teaching Staff	
Connie Antonacci Nicholas Belmonté Blanca Gonzalez Margaret Kalsi	Theresa MacLean Deborah Lorens/Osmanski Claudette Piscione

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

Mr. Robins:

- once again welcomed Ms. Morris, our new Principal
- outlined CSAC's role and purpose:
 - CSAC main role is to represent the parents of the students attending the school, in meetings with the Principal and staff members and to openly communicate and work together for the benefit of our children
- indicated that the best way to communicate with parents is via the monthly newsletter which is sent home with the students

Approval of the Minutes from September 20, 2005

The Minutes from September 20th, were approved by Sara McDonald

Principal's Comments

Ms. Morris:

- echoed Mr. Robins' view of the importance of communicating and working together
- shared the *Vision for the School Year*:
Our spirituality is the foundation of our guiding principles: holism; life-long learning; equity; excellence and the dignity of each child; collaboration; accountability; reflection and reconciliation
- indicated that it takes a village to raise a child
- extended an invitation to parents and children: to get involved, to make a difference, to contribute in some way, to attend meetings, to have a voice.
- indicated that children are accepting this invitation, day by day
- indicated that there are great plans for the school year and she spoke in greater detail about:
 - Collaboration – this staff works well together, they are very caring, excellent teachers; St. Louis is a real community in action
 - Excellence – in teaching, inservice professional development is ongoing (early Math strategy, Literacy development, Faith development, Mentoring of teachers new to teaching), student performance
 - Accountability – evidence based school improvement/testing, teacher performance appraisal, safe schools, behaviour: ownership/accountability/ consequences, parent feedback
 - Reflection and Reconciliation – sacramental preparation is underway, liturgical calendar, masses, Father Sultana and parish connection

- Community Building – Grade 8 trip to Mansfield Outdoor Education in November for a full week: Mrs. Di Carlo and Ms. Pacheco will be on that trip, programs/bridges in place with Bishop Allen and Fr. Redmond and St. Louis, success for all initiative Grade 7 and 8
- outlined the many events that have occurred since the first week of September:
 - Terry Fox Assembly and Run
 - Approximately \$6,000 raised for Cancer research
 - Pizza Lunches
 - Two Pizza Days have happened since September
 - Teacher Inservices for Professional Development are ongoing
 - Girls' Intermediate Soccer Divisional Tournament – our girls did very well
 - Sports scheduled: intramural volleyball for boys and girls, basketball, primary soccer, junior volleyball, softball
 - Enrichment activities to be scheduled: trips into the community, Young People's Theatre, Artists in the Schools
 - Grade 8 presentations: a message of community building presented to various classes in the school in student developed presentation: -- "Don't Be A Victim"
 - Community Relations Officer/Public Health visits
 - Lockdown Practice: on Friday, October 28th ... to deal with internal threats, external threats. More information will be sent to parents in a separate letter. Ms. Morris indicated that the Lockdown Practice will be done in a way to ensure students are not alarmed. The Lockdown Practice is being done to enable students to be 'full of assurance instead of fear' in the event a threatening situation occurs which necessitates the 'lockdown' of the school
- discussed the School Block Budget by referring to a (pink) hand-out:
 - the available balance is \$21,525 which is to be used for textbooks, audio/visual articles, photo-copies, telephone expenses,
 - these funds have to be managed very carefully and if additional funds are required, the school will have to submit a request to the Board
 - the available balance of \$21,525 will be increased by \$4,023 from the milk machine sales – as these funds have not yet been credited to the St. Louis account
- discussed other items:
 - Requests from the school for this year:
 - please see **Treasurer's Report**
 - School Web-site:
 - it would be great to have a parent who can design a web-site for our school; see Ms. Morris if you are interested and able to support website development
 - School Yard:
 - a meeting will be held on October 19th with the Principal, the Co-Chairs and Mr. Deighan, the Board Facilities Manager, to discuss the playground (lines, games area, benches, trees, ...) and a report will be provided at the next CSAC meeting

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Gemma:

- provided a hand-out of the Treasurer's Report
 - Operating account balance: \$1,681.32
 - Raffle account balance: \$ 55.40
 - GIC (matures 11/3/05) balance: \$5,000.00
 - TOTAL: \$6,736.72
- indicated that the \$6736.72 does not include the profit from the latest Pizza Day

- indicated that not all teachers submitted receipts for the amount of money committed to them last year
- asked for a decision on whether or not to cash in the GIC and with the 2005/2006 commitments made for the funds. All present decided to cash in the GIC on its maturity date
- CSAC committed the following amounts for this school year:

○ 1 Bus (@ \$200) for each class (14) for school trips:	\$2,800
○ Anti-bacterial hand-wash for each class	\$ 300
○ Agenda books – outstanding balance owed to company	\$ 425
○ Partial funding for students who cannot afford Grade 8 trip	\$ 300
○ Prayer Plaques for the outside of every classroom	\$ 300
○ Enrichment activities TBD (e.g. artists, drama, speakers, ...)	\$1,000
○ Teachers	\$1,500
- Indicated that as we have not yet received the Wish List from the Staff and as funds are short, Staff should still submit a Wish List and if additional funds become available, the Wish List could be discussed at future CSAC meetings

Committee Structures

- Fund-raising Committee
 - a number of fund-raising ideas were documented by Mrs. McDonald.
 - these activities include: Pizza Day, Spook-A-Thon, Christmas Gift Magazine Drive, Dance-A-Thon, Freezie Fridays, Hot Dog Sales, 50/50 Draws, Family Bingo Night, Silent Auction, Tombola
 - other ideas (Chocolate sales, Cards, ...) are welcomed
 - Mrs. Kalsi kindly agreed to continue to organize the bi-weekly Pizza Days for the students
 - Mrs. McDonald also provided a Committee Volunteer Sign Up Sheet to be used to solicit volunteers
 - A Fund-raising Committee was formed, led by Mrs. Piscione. Committee members include: Mrs. Gonzalez, Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Lorens/Osmanski and they will solicit help from other parents when needed
- Social Committee
 - will be discussed at the next meeting due to lack of time at this meeting
- Playground Improvement/Greening Committee
 - will be discussed at the next meeting due to lack of time at this meeting

New Business

- As he lives across the street from the school, Mr. Belmonté indicated that he has noticed young people hanging about in the school yard late at night/early in the morning. He is wary of approaching the young people in the school yard as he is concerned that they may do damage to his property. Ms. Morris has asked Mr. Belmonté to act as a Community Watch Officer on behalf of the school and to report unusual activity to Intertec Security. Ms. Morris will provide the number for the security firm to Mr. Belmonté.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

NEXT CSAC MEETING:

7:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 24, 2005 in the St. Louis School Library