

**Minutes of Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC)**

**St. Louis Catholic School**

**May 25, 2006**

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	
Patrick Robins – CSAC Co-Chair Connie Gemma – CSAC Treasurer Valerie Devine – CSAC Co-Secretary Rosanne Morris - Principal Mary Anne Cousineau – Teacher Ann Andrachuk - Trustee	
Connie Antonacci Stefanie Dower	Margaret Kalsi 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 and Ms. Morris:

- welcomed all

**Approval of the Minutes from March 23, 2006**

The Minutes from April 27<sup>th</sup> were approved by Mrs. Kalsi, seconded by Mrs. Dower

Motion carried

**Principal's Comments**

"At the board meeting last week it was announced that I would be reappointed, effective September 1, 2006 to Our Lady of Peace Catholic School. Yesterday it was announced that the Director has approved my reappointment back to St. Louis Catholic School, and I am delighted. A number of factors influenced the Superintendent's decision to reappoint me originally. And a number of factors influenced his choice to reverse the decision. I would like to thank the parent community for the groundswell of support that I have experienced in this process. I can assure you that the community of St. Louis Catholic School: parents, teachers, staff and most important of all, the children—are ready to move forward in the ongoing co-creation of an exemplary school.

There is much to report.

Since last meeting in April, exciting new curriculum initiatives and activities have been ongoing at St. Louis:

**Curriculum Initiatives:**

*Mathematics:*

- Ongoing inservice for teachers across all divisions: primary, junior and intermediate Nelson Mathematics
- Parent Forum on May 24<sup>th</sup> for Nelson Mathematics was a great success; 25 families from St. Louis and St. Leo came to our library to attend an experiential workshop lead by Loredana Sposato, TCDSB Mathematics Resource teacher; feedback was very positive

*Literacy Initiatives in the Primary and Junior Divisions:*

- ongoing divisional meetings with Ministry Funded supply teachers have taken place both in and out of school
- topics: Grade 2 Differentiated Learning; Grade 5 Share Reading

- target is to improve literacy scores through EQAO by the end of 2007 by focussing on what is called identified “high yield” strategies for decoding and comprehension

#### *Success For All in the Intermediate Division:*

- Mrs. Di Carlo and I have attended a number of Ministry sponsored workshops with elementary and secondary teams from across our region to identify supports and practices to help “At Risk” students who do not fit the normal educational pathways
- we will be enhancing the current supports at St. Louis by identifying and implementing what we know to be best practices to help students achieve ultimate success
- our grade 7 and 8 teachers will shadow grade 9 teachers at BA; our grade 9 teachers from BA will shadow our grade 7 and 8 teachers

#### *Resource Services Expansion for the Intermediate Division:*

- Mrs. Johnson now has the support of Ms. Sardina to develop support services for children with special needs in the intermediate division
- We now have an Intermediate Resource Room that parallels the services at secondary school
- an information afternoon will be held at St. Louis in June with the staff from BA and students from BA who use resource support services; current BA students will share their stories of success, as will graduates from BA with learning disabilities who have moved on successfully to colleges and universities
- a similar evening will be planned for the Fall for parents and their children in the intermediate division
- TESTING at St. Louis: CAT-3 is now complete for gr. 2/5/and 7. EQAO for gr.3 and 6 will finish on June 9<sup>th</sup> for 2006.

#### Enrichment Activities

- the Acorn Art Cards were delivered May 2<sup>nd</sup> to the children and their families; the project was a stellar success; much thanks again to Mrs. Belair and Mr. Robins for their efforts
- Fort York History Fair was held May 4<sup>th</sup>; our students did very well
- Destination Imagination: Mr. Finucan is in Tennessee with 3 teams from St. Louis Gifted Centre
- Queen’s University SEED program is the next destination (next week) of students in the Gifted Program with Mr. Finucan
- Harlem Slam motivational team came in on May 8<sup>th</sup> to visit grades 4 – 8 thanks to the CSAC
- “It’s A Girl’s World” special presentation series was offered this month to our grade 4s in a series of 4 workshops by our school social worker and guidance counselor
- Father Garcia, from the Missions, will present to our students on Monday at 9:30 a.m.
- Finally, our Dance-a-thon was a huge success: Thank you to the dedicated and hard working parents involved and to the grade 8’s who decorated the gym for us

#### Liturgies and Sacramental Preparation at St. Louis

- First Holy Communion was celebrated on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. at St. Leo’s Church
- Confirmation for Grade 8s was celebrated at 7 p.m. on May 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Leo’s Church
- Confirmation Retreat took place on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Bishop Allen, facilitated by Ursula Cybylko, Chaplain at Father Gates Secondary School and OISE
- many thanks to the teachers—Mrs. Gula, Mrs. DiCarlo, Mme Smith, Mrs. Cousineau
- Mrs. Zimmer made the beautiful banner: We Come To Your Table for the church
- many thanks to all of the parents and especially Father Sultana for his love and support
- our End of Year Mass will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> at St. Leo; the children will say good bye

#### Volunteers Appreciation Tea at St. Louis

- There are currently ten adult volunteers in classes and the Library
- There are also four Co-op students from Bishop Allen in various classes
- We will celebrate with our volunteers on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 p.m. in our Library with a Volunteer Appreciation Tea. Invitations will be forthcoming.

Banking Report for St. Louis Catholic School – see attached summary.

*Ms. Morris provided a hand-out which showed a bank balance of \$2,237.72 at the end of April and a bank balance of \$3,903.38 as of May 25<sup>th</sup>.*

#### St. Louis Athletics...

- Thanks to our dedicated teacher coaches!
- Upcoming sports events:
  - May 30<sup>th</sup> Track and Field at Centennial Park: Coaches—Mrs. DiCarlo and Mme. Smith
  - June 5<sup>th</sup> Track and Field Regionals at Centennial Park
  - June 8<sup>th</sup> Girls Softball: Coaches—Mrs. McIntyre and Mr. Bell
  - June 9<sup>th</sup> Boys Softball: Coaches—Mr. Bell and Mrs. Zimmer
  - June 13<sup>th</sup> Track and Field Cities—Mrs. DiCarlo and Mrs. Radi
- Play Day will be held on June 26<sup>th</sup> at St. Louis

#### Public Health

- There is a current outbreak of chicken pox at St. Louis; 11 cases have been reported
- Letters have gone home to families

#### Graduation Exercises at St. Louis

- June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:30 a.m.—Senior Kindergarten Graduation with Mrs. Hamelin
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12 noon—Graduation Luncheon and Dance for the Gr. 8s at The Canadiana
- June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 p.m.—Graduation Ceremony for Gr. 8s in the Gymnasium

June 28<sup>th</sup>—Report Cards go home

June 29<sup>th</sup>—Last Day of School for 2006-05-25”

#### Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Gemma provided the following report:



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COMMITTED.xls

- As indicated by the attached statement, there will be \$3,000 available for next year’s CSAC.
- The \$881 from the Ministry of Education will have to be used in this school year to help St. Louis increase involvement of parents in the school, to ensure that diverse parent voices are heard
- CSAC agreed to commit \$1,900 to the school to be used as needed (perhaps toward another bench (\$1,000) for the school yard and a parachute for the school yard).
  - Ms. Devine approved the commitment. Mrs. Dower seconded it.  
Motion carried
- CSAC agreed to commit \$150 to buy water and freezies/popsicles for the students for the Play Day
  - Mrs. Dower approved the commitment. Ms. Gemma seconded it.  
Motion carried
- It was suggested that no ribbons be handed out for the Play Day. This would not only save CSAC \$200, but it would also mean that the Play Day would not be experienced as a competitive day, and rather, it would be experienced as a fun day.
  - All present agreed to this suggestion

#### Old Business

- Dance-A-Thon
  - The Dance-A-Thon was held on Friday, May 19, 2006
  - Everyone enjoyed themselves

- Every student was given a prize for participating
- The Grade 8s did a super job of decorating the gym – to reflect the ‘Disco Days’ theme
- Pledge monies and Sponsor sheets were to be collected on two dates:
- Thursday May 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and it seems we have only collected approximately \$1,400 so far. This amount is much lower than the approximately (net) \$4,000 normally collected in past Dance-A-Thons. The reason for this drop in funds-raised could possibly be attributed to the fact that we have had a number of fund-raisers (Baby Footsteps, Acorn Cards, Dance-A-Thon) over the past couple of months.
- Fall Election Committee
  - At the last CSAC meeting, Mr. Robins indicated that we will have to form a Fall Election Committee prior to this school year end
  - This Committee will exist to assist the Principal in informing the Parent Community about the CSAC elections
  - An election will be held if there are greater than 8 nominations
  - If there are fewer than 8 nominations, the nominees will be acclaimed into their positions
  - Mrs. Dower and Ms. Devine have agreed to form the committee with Ms. Morris
- 2006-2007 Fund-raising Plans
  - Although two confirmed fund-raising projects for the 2006-2007 school year were decided at the April CSAC meeting (Acorn Cards in the Fall and Dance-A-Thon in the Spring), with the amount of funds raised for the Dance-A-Thon, CSAC discussed many fund-raisers – with the hope that whatever was decided, would not tax parents and students
  - A suggestion was made that the Dance-A-Thon should be held at Halloween and instead of collecting funds, the students collect canned food – which could then be donated to the Food Bank in time for Thanksgiving
    - The down-side to this is that St. Louis would not benefit from Dance-A-Thon funds
  - Another consideration for the Fall is that our fund-raising activity should account for the Terry Fox Run – which has been booked for September 29, 2006. Funds raised at the Run are all given to the Canadian Cancer Society
  - Possible fund-raising activities that will have to be decided by the end of this school year are:
    - *Chocolate sales*
      - PROS:
        - raises a lot of funds
        - would be a nice pre-Christmas fund-raiser
      - CONS:
        - extremely hard to manage as students take chocolates and pay for them after they sell them
        - we lose money as many times, we do not get funds returned after the chocolate sales are over
        - if this is held in the Fall, it would compete with the Terry Fox Run and any other Fall fund-raising activity we decide to hold and this activity may not raise as many funds as predicted
    - *QSP Magazine sales*
      - PROS:
        - The last time this was done at St. Louis (1999/2000 school year), we raised \$3,294.76 in revenue and there was no associated expense.
        - Would also be a nice pre-Christmas fund-raiser as subscriptions could be given as Christmas presents

- Once the school registers with QSP, if other magazines are ordered throughout the year, the school would get the credit for the orders
    - CONS:
      - This would have to be carefully timed so that magazines are delivered just after Christmas
      - if this is held in the Fall, it would compete with the Terry Fox Run and any other Fall fund-raising activity we decide to hold and this activity may not raise as many funds as predicted
  - *Acorn Cards:*
    - PROS:
      - Very easy to manage as the cards are paid for before they are ordered
      - As students draw the designs on the cards, these are wonderful keepsakes for family and friends
      - If we continue to do this fund-raiser over the next few years, the students will have a record of their drawings from past years
      - The fund-raiser brought in (net) \$1,100 this year
    - CONS:
      - This would have to be carefully timed so that cards are delivered before the Christmas mail deadline (so that parents can mail out cards) or before Valentine's Day or Easter
      - if this is held in the Fall, it would compete with the Terry Fox Run and any other Fall fund-raising activity we decide to hold and this activity may not raise as many funds as predicted
  - *Dance-A-Thon*
    - PROS:
      - The whole school is involved and has fun at the Dance-A-Thon
      - In the past years, this fund-raiser has brought in approximately \$4,000
    - CONS:
      - if this is held in the Fall, it would compete with the Terry Fox Run and any other Fall fund-raising activity we decide to hold and this activity may not raise as many funds as predicted
- Information Officer Position
  - CSAC is still looking for a parent to assume this new position
  - Duties would include:
    - Maintenance of the CSAC Bulletin Board – with CSAC-approved communication/items
    - Writing the monthly CSAC Newsletter
  - This position has not yet been filled, however Mrs. Kalsi has agreed to continue to maintain the CSAC Bulletin Board with only CSAC-approved or Principal-approved items

### New Business

- A discussion was held on how to spend the \$881, presented by Ms. Morris to CSAC from the Ministry of Education which should be used to assist school councils to plan and implement a strategy to involve more parents at the school level to ensure that diverse parent voices are heard

- Based on the Minister's policy, release December 2005: Ontario Parent Involvement Policy:  
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/partnership/developing.html>
- A related URL is <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/involvement> which contains a check-list to review our current parental engagement activities and to stimulate discussion and ideas for future activities and events
- CSAC decided that it would be great to use some of the \$881 to host a Spaghetti Social where all families would invited for a free Spaghetti dinner and CSAC could show-case who we are and our role at the school
  - The Spaghetti Social has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.
  - Mrs. Piscione will lead the committee which organizes the social portion of this evening and she will be helped by Mrs. Dower and Ms. Devine
  - Mr. Robins and Ms. Morris will work together to gather information for an Information Package to be given out at the Spaghetti Social
  - The two groups (social and the information) will meet on June 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss progress
  - Ms. Devine will update the CSAC Newsletter and add a flyer informing parents of the Spaghetti Social
- Mrs. Andrachuk suggested that we could plan a similar 'food' night on the same night as Curriculum Night, in the Fall
- Mrs. Andrachuk also suggested that we could use the Pizza Form to ask parents to provide their e-mail addresses so that CSAC could contact them. A disclaimer would have to be clearly stated that the e-mail is only to be used by CSAC, for school purposes as the School cannot provide this information to CSAC
- A portion of the \$881 can be used to translate some of our communication into the different languages spoken by parents

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

### **NEXT CSAC MEETING:**

7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 15, 2006 in the St. Louis Catholic School Library