

Our next CSAC meeting will be held on Monday April 16th at 7 p.m. in the library. Babysitting is available. See you there! Please find below the minutes from our last meeting.

**St. John Catholic School Advisory Council
Agenda**

Thursday, March 22, 2007, 7:00 p.m.
Eunice Miller Library, St. John Catholic School

**** Complimentary coffee for the meeting was provided by Starbucks at Hammersmith and Queen ****

CSAC Members Present: Doug Black, Ian Campbell, Paul Coady, Greg Dolenc, Kristen Evans, Tom Horn, Stephanie Horning, Siobhan Keogh, G. Manion, Leona O'Connor-Clarke, Dianne Ryan and MJ Trainor

Community Members Present: Marty Bazinet, Maureen Glynn, Jane McLeod, Caroline O'Connor and Dave Steiner

Opening prayer
Paul Coady

Adoption of Agenda and Minutes of the February 12, 2007 Minutes
Ian Campbell

- Minutes of the February 12, 2007 meeting will be reviewed at the next CSAC meeting (April 16, 2007).

Principal's Report
Paul Coady

The past number of weeks have been a busy period at St. John with numerous initiatives...

- The *Laps for Lungs* event raised more than \$5,000 for the Canadian Lung Association. St. John will receive \$900 for staging this. Thank you to Cindy Hood for organizing this event.
- A Bullying: The Power of One seminar will take place shortly involving students from Grades 1-8. This seeks to involve bystanders and includes role playing, etc.)
- The Reptile presentation on February 28 was very well received by students. A very successful event.
- Grade 2 students will be going on a retreat in preparation for their upcoming First Holy Communion.
- The Safe Schools Committee will meet on March 29. Students will participate in online surveys next week. Parents and teachers have already been surveyed.
- A CPR "Link to Life" Safety Course will be held on March 26 in the school gym (the cost is \$31.80).
- The Scientists in the School presentations were wildly successful, incorporating both fun and science. The sessions were closely linked to teaching strands and very appropriate for the curriculum.
- Grade 8 students will be going on a Retreat on April 4 in preparation for Confirmation.
- Stations of the Cross will be held at the school on April 5.
- The school play will be presented on April 17 for students and April 18 for parents. Parents will be notified in the "Week at a Glance."
- Mr. Coady is building the staffing model and will review this with parents at the next CSAC meeting.
- Information packages on St. John Catholic School were distributed to 55 families at the St. John Open House in February. Thank you to the organizers of this popular event. Almost everyone attending this event based their decision to attend on favourable word-of-mouth feedback from parents with children enrolled in the school.
- Attendees discussed the Balanced Literacy Program that had been in place at St. John a few years ago.

This program is not being reintroduced.

- There was discussion as well on changes to EQAO testing that have been taking place Board-wide over the past number of years. The tests and standards are evolving and now more closely model the curriculum. Parents were cautioned not to use test results to compare schools -- static test results do not properly reflect the dynamic process of change that is underway.
- Significant (TCDSB-sponsored) repairs will be made to the school over the summer months -- including \$250,000 to fix a leaking roof and \$400,000 to paint the 2nd and 3rd floor hallways and staircases.
- Attendees discussed enrolment at St. John and prospects for future years. Mr. Coady stressed that St. John is not at risk of closure in the event of a new school accommodation process in future -- the TCDSB would not be making such significant investments in St. John (including playground improvements) if this was to be the case. Attendees discussed initiatives to attract new students to St. John.
- Attendees discussed the benefits to students that would flow from significant investment in materials/resources for the Library at St. John. With the playground improvement process now underway, it was suggested that fundraising efforts in 2008 be directed toward Library resources at St. John. This could include another dedicated fundraiser at the Balmy Beach Club. It was suggested that the Finance Committee forecast our needs for next year and then determine what fundraising work is required. Significant volunteer support from parents would be needed to ensure the success of the above event.
- Attendees discussed student use of cell phones. Students found to be using these during school hours will have the phone confiscated (and returned at the end of the day). Parents are notified in such cases.

Finance Committee Update

Doug Black

- Attendees reviewed changes to the St. John CSAC Budget since the last meeting (February 12). This includes: an increase in TCDSB Parental Involvement funds (\$550) ; Newsletter funding (absorbing production costs to the end of the year); and funding for Grade 6 buses (\$2,000).
- Motion to allocate an additional \$750 to the Principal's Discretionary Fund was approved (Motion: Tom Horn; Seconded: Greg Dolenc).
- Mr. Coady will seek to replenish playground resources at St. John through the Athletic Development funds (\$1,000 available).
- Attendees discussed possible uses for the Charitable Donations funds (\$500), including support for: Free the Children school-building program and Habitat for Humanity initiative in our school community.
- A revised Budget will be presented at the next CSAC meeting.

Elections/By-laws Committee Update

Stephanie Horning

- The Committee will seek to clarify appropriate uses of monies raised by CSACs, as outlined the TCDSB policy. This will enable CSAC to come to a decision on use of the Charitable Donations funds.

Playground Committee Update

Greg Dolenc

- Improvements to the St. John playground will be made shortly. Site enhancement work will start at the end of April. A tender has been issued for the purchase of playground equipment.

Communications Committee Update

Dianne Ryan

- Ward 11 TCDSB Trustee Angela Kennedy wrote to CSAC to commend the Committee for its fine work on the school newsletter. The Committee welcomes contributions from all members of the community -- ideas, suggestions and/or prepared articles.

Other

- Attendees discussed protocols in place at St. John to combat the incidence of pediculosis. This includes controls over the induction of students who have been treated for the problem.
- The St. John Fun Fair will take place on Saturday, September 22, 2007. September 4 is the first day of school.
- Mr. Coady will conduct his presentation on the Nelson Mathematics K-8 Program at the next CSAC

meeting (April 16).

Safe Schools

Parent Marty Bazinet had requested an opportunity to lead attendees in a discussion on the issue of bullying. He provided handout materials and suggestions to address problems encountered at St. John. Considerable discussion followed. It was agreed that time is needed to prepare/analyze results of the recent student, teacher and parent surveys on this issue. It is important that the extent of the problem is determined before an appropriate solution is developed. In the meantime, St. John staff members are actively monitoring this issue and addressing situations as they arise.

Closing prayer