

St. John Catholic School Advisory Council Meeting Draft Minutes

Wednesday October 18, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
Eunice Miller Library, St. John Catholic School

**** Complimentary coffee was provided by Starbucks at Hammersmith & Queen ****

CSAC Members Present: *Amanda Taplin Milberry, Ian Campbell, Margie Buttignol, Tom Horn, Sylvia Pawley, Anne Marie Campbell, Karen Gregory, Gerry Manion, Siobhan Keogh, MJ Desousa, Doug Black, Johanna Carlo, Stephanie Horning, Sharon McLaughlin, Leona O'Connor Clarke, Dianne Ryan, Greg Dolenc*

Community Members Present: *Richard Tulres, Edith Pearson, Rosina Ross, Benny Bruni, Marty Bazinet, Kellie Berardi, Inge Riendeau, Rick Tino, Allyson Panksep, Victor Figueiredo, Siobhan Gray, Deborah McNorgan Lackey, Anne Marie Tynan, Lisa McCourt, Caroline O'Connor, Simon Milberry, Roxana Aspiazu, Roland Aspiazu, Yvonne Damaren, Cindy Hood, Michelle Catchpole, Brian McLaughlin, Shelley Brennan*

Opening prayer

Dr. Margie Buttignol

Adoption of Agenda

Ian Campbell

- Add Fundraising Chair under other business. Motion to adopt agenda (Tom Horn, Doug Black) passed.

Review of September 28 Minutes

Ian Campbell

- No additions or changes. Motion to adopt minutes (Stephanie Horning, Doug Black) passed.

Financial Report

Doug Black

- The budget is revisited each month.
- Compared to last year, the budget is very similar with a few minor changes.
- The swim team overspent last year, CSAC covered this and will be reimbursed this year. We are still funding the swim team 500.
- The Principals Discretionary Fund was not required last year; this year we will need it all. This fund is for those families who have difficulty financially with programs and event; its purpose is so that no child will be left out.
- Scientists in School will be brought in for all classes.
- CSAC requires some supplies: a new coffee maker and a new cd player.
- Playground we have almost \$52,000 to spend on the playground renovation.
- We currently have about \$51,000 in the bank and we are planning to spend about \$52,000; we still have the walk-a-thon and pizza days to come.
- Any questions? Q: The Halloween Dance budget decreased from last year. Last year we got some freebies and other deals. We don't think this will be enough money this year. Could it be increased by \$100 to bring it up to \$400? This shouldn't be a problem. Motion to increase Halloween Dance budget (Greg Dolenc, Tom Horn) passed.
- Q: How much will the registration for the swim team be this year? They have to raise 3100 this year. Will all of this come from registration fees? The Principal's discretionary fund can help parents who find the cost of the registration fees difficult financially. Parents will know the costs upfront; a letter will go home. Swim team gear will be sold separately.
- Last week there was a Finance Committee meeting, not many people attended.
- The biggest expenditure, ¼ of what we raise, goes to classroom materials.
- Class trips – busses are funded by CSAC
- At the Dance-a-thon we are hoping to raise \$7000 to make the budget balance.
- Motion to adopt the budget (Doug Black, MJ Desousa) passed.

Principal's Report

Paul Coady

- There were two teachers present at the meeting, Ms. Gregory and Ms. Manion.
- Mr. Coady will be using part of the discretionary fund to offset cost of science program, 'You Can Do It'. The cost is \$15; Mr. Coady would like to subsidize it so the cost is only \$7.50.
- There are two new PD Days; they have been added by the Ministry.

- Q: Can you talk about DPA (daily physical activity) and if all students are getting it? Students should be getting 20 minutes together of DPA. If they're not, please let Mr. Coady know.
- Learning should be adapted to learning ability each individual; no more one size fits all. The previous program congregated children of similar abilities. An entire morning was devoted to it, it was very labour intensive and many volunteers were needed to keep the program going. This is not a criticism of the previous program; it is just a different approach. Mr. Coady's approach is based on inclusiveness. Some concerns with the previous program were: teachers could not schedule other subjects in the morning; the morning was completely taken up with language arts. Library, Core French and music all had to be in the afternoon; thus the afternoon was in constant disruption. In addition, the program forced teachers to split other subject areas. Mr. Coady is not a believer in congregating all children with similar abilities in the same classes. Kids also need consistency with a teacher; with the same teacher, the teacher and students get to know each other. With the previous program the group would only be together in the afternoon; this is not a good way to build community together. Some children were saying, "So I'm not going to have five different teachers this year?" Some parents were confused. If a child in grade 4 had learning difficulty they were getting no help; there was no room for children who need extra assistance. This was not sitting well with Mr. Coady. Ms. Manion was working out of a knapsack; she had no room and no computer. Ms. Manion was absorbed all morning with level 1 children. This doesn't work for children with specific problems. The previous program allowed movement from level to level but in reality it didn't actually happen; children got locked into program all year long; children in the low end were not around children who were in a different level, children who can help to stimulate them. This was something Coady thought long and hard about; the decision was not made lightly. He wanted the program to serve all kids; high level through to low level.
- Mr. Coady will speak about EQAO at the next meeting. In the meantime parents can view our school's results at www.egao.com.

Committee Reports

- Playground Redevelopment *Greg Dolenc*
We are waiting to hear that the \$60,000 from the Board has been approved. We should hear next week
- St John Parish Report *Johanna Carlo*
The 5:00 Saturday mass is being changed to 4:30.
Training is going on now for new altar servers
- Communications Committee Report *Dianne Ryan*
Each family should be receiving one copy of the Newsletter (the youngest child in each family should be receiving it). If you're not getting it or if you're getting more than one please let us know. We're always looking for articles from staff, parents, and students.

Other Business

- Pizza lunches: should pop be an option; is there a healthy alternative? There was a discussion about whether or not pop should be an option on pizza days or not. It was decided that we would solicit feedback from parents and make a decision about this at the next CSAC meeting. Several attendees recognized the hard work of Sandra Ruth who organizes pizza lunches. A few volunteers have come forward to help with pizza lunches and to assist with any additional work that potential changes would bring.
- Laps for Lungs (www.lapsforlungs.ca) was proposed as an option for a charity fundraiser in the spring. This idea was well received.
- Bus issues – Mr Coady has set a meeting for Thursday, November 26 regarding problems with the bus service; parents who want to attend should contact Mr Coady.

Closing prayer

Dr. Margie Buttignol