

# St. John Catholic School Advisory Council Meeting Draft Minutes

Monday April 16, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
Eunice Miller Library, St. John Catholic School

**CSAC Member Present:** *Doug Black, Anne Marie Campbell, Ian Campbell, Johanna Carlo Kristen Evans, Karen Gregory, Sharon McLaughlin, Leona O'Connor Clarke, Marg Pafford, Sylvia Pawley, Dianne Ryan, Greg Scian, Amanda Taplin Milberry, MJ Trainor.*

**Community Members Present:** *Linn Baran, Michelle Catchpole, Yvonne Damaren, Madeline Dery Deborah McNorgan Lackey, Peter Petrasek, Susan Reguly, and Dave Steiner.*

## Opening prayer

*Ian Campbell*

## Welcome and Adoption of Agenda

*Ian Campbell*

- Add to the agenda: grade 8 graduation t shirts; funding request for the Library; swim team results; next year's Fun Fair; and Year End BBQ

## Review of February 12 and March 22 Minutes

*Ian Campbell*

- February 12 minutes – add the attendees.  
**Motion to accept February 12 minutes (Anne Marie Campbell, Doug Black) passed.**
- March 22 minutes – figures for roofing and painting costs will be confirmed with Mr. Coady.  
**Motion to accept March 22 minutes (MJ Desousa, Anne Marie Campbell) passed.**

## Principal's Report

*Paul Coady*

- Staffing Model 2007/08
- Results of parent survey on bullying
- Mr. Coady was unable to attend the meeting. These items will be added to May's agenda.

## Other Business

- **Neilson Math Program**  
*Academic Affairs Committee/Paul Coady*
- This item will be added to May's agenda.

## First Aid Update

*Sylvia Pawley*

- First Aid Training for parents and staff was held on March 26<sup>th</sup>. There were 14 people there including one teacher, Ms. Quigley; it is great to have one more first aid trained teacher at our school.
- First Aid Training for the lunch monitors will be held tomorrow. 14 – 16 monitors are expected to attend. Thank you to Ms. Pafford and Dr. Buttignol for helping to organize. The training is supposed to be 90 minutes, however Sylvia plans to give them more time; as much time as is needed.
- In stead of donating her salary back to the school from the parent and teacher First Aid Training, Sylvia has donated 3 pocket first aid masks to the school. These are used to give CPR. They are very easy to use. There will be one on each floor.
- There was an incident on Thursday during cross country training; a student had a severe nose bleed. The child was sent by himself into the school yard where a parent helped him walk around to the front doors of the school. The child was bleeding profusely leaving a trail of blood puddles. One of the parents who recently attended the First Aid Training corrected some advice that the child was given. In future injured children should not be sent into the school by themselves. In addition, it was suggested that the teachers who are with the children have some way to communicate with the school (i.e. cell phone) so that they can call ahead to let the school know that an injured child is coming and so that someone can meet the child in the school yard to open a door. It was also suggested that one of the

cross country coaches be provided with a fanny pack first aid kit. These kits are available for \$15 and are very light and easy to carry. *\*\*Note: At the end of the meeting a parent who was present offered to buy a fanny pack first aid kit for the school so that the cross country coaches will be able to use it during practice.*

## **Finance Committee Update**

*Doug Black*

- Spending is on schedule so far this year.
- Our attention was drawn to the interest we have earned so far: \$700. This is from the \$59000 we have in the bank (about ½ of this is money for the playground). 59000 in bank (about ½ to playground).
- Q: Is there money in the budget for the grade 8 graduation t-shirts? There is \$1500 allocated for graduation, which is enough to cover the cost of the shirts.
- Q: Will there be a Family BBQ/End of Year BBQ? The funds are in place, it will be discussed at the next meeting. We'll be looking for parent volunteers for the event.
- There was a request at the last meeting for playground resources; funds from Athletic Development will be used for this.
- Charitable donations – at the next meeting we'll discuss if board policy allows CDAC funds to be used for this.

## **Funds Request for the Library**

*Susan Reguly*

- Ms. Reguly is the half time librarian who has been at our school since September.
- Mr. Reguly recently received a shipment of books which were purchased with the money raised at the Scholastic Book Fair. \$3400 worth of books was purchased. It was enough to fill 6 small boxes. The majority of books purchased were for grades 6 to 8.
- At our school Ms. Reguly noticed that there were a disproportionate number of kids who weren't interested in reading. Many students did not want to take books from our library. It is no wonder; there really wasn't much for grades 6 – 8. Now that the new books have arrived students are starting to show more interest. The section is well organized and looks attractive with recognizable authors. Students are now asking to reserve books; they are coming in at lunch and after school because they are excited. It would probably take another \$1000 to complete this section.
- A library specialist visited our school recently. She spent 2 hours here and commented that our library is one of the worst stocked libraries in the board. The library specialist also recommended removing all books in the reference section that are older than 20 years because the information in the books is no longer accurate. The library specialist has offered to come and speak at the next CSAC meeting.
- Many other areas of the library are lacking; there are very few books for grades 4 – 5; transitional books (grade 3 – 4) are lacking; and the junior section needs major restocking as well.
- It is a well know fact, backed up by numerous studies, that there is a direct correlation between academic achievement, EQAO results, and literacy in general, and a child's enjoyment of reading; it crosses all subject areas.
- In addition to books, furniture, carpets, etc. are also desperately needed. Currently the graphic novel section (which is very popular) is housed in plastic Ikea bins. Spinner racks cost \$420. At Ms. Reguly's previous school the trustee bought one for the school; perhaps we could speak to our trustee. Ikea's Billy bookcases are only \$89 and it would be nice to have 4 of them.
- Typically hardcover books last 5 years, trade-backs last 2 years, and pocketbook paperbacks last 1 year. Ms. Reguly tries whenever possible to invest in books that will last longer.
- Many of the books Ms. Reguly reads to the primary classes are her own personal books; some of the others are books that are borrowed from the Main Street Library.
- CSAC has budgeted \$500 for the library this year. There is a great book sale coming up, the GTA Library Resource Fair, where librarians have the opportunity to purchase books from many different vendors at 30 – 40% off. Ms. Reguly is requesting more money to purchase books at this sale next week.
- Q: Would donation from parents (of used books) be helpful? Yes.
- Q: Could Ms. Reguly make a wish list of books that are needed so that parents may buy them to donate? Yes.
- Q: Does the board provide funds specifically for library books? No.
- Where might we get additional funds? Angela Kennedy? In future years maybe more CSAC funds

could be allocated to the library.

- Some parents have talked about doing a major fundraiser (like the Silent Auction) to replenish library.
- What happened to the annual donation promised by Eunice Miller's family? The donation has uncomfortably dried up. They donated \$500 the first year but they haven't since then. Ms. Pafford has tried to contact them and has sent them letters but they will not respond.
- Q: Are there families in our community who are good with carpentry? Could we possibly source, from families in our community, some bookshelves?
- There is \$300 left over from scholastic sale, plus there is \$500 from CSAC to spend on the library. Could CSAC give more? Is there money in the present budget? There was much discussion about where in the budget money could be found for the library.
- It seemed that everyone in attendance recognized the urgency of the situation and the need for new books and fixtures. Most parents will probably be shocked to learn of the sorry state of our library.
- Buffer vs. a real urgent need. There is no more important resource than books.
- Q: Since the books are the property of the School Board, they can be reallocated to other schools. If we do decide to do a fundraiser to replenish the library, what is to stop the Board from redistributing the books to other schools? This will be looked into.
- **Motion to allocate an additional \$1500 to the library (?????, MJ Trainor) passed.**

### Committee Report

- **St John Parish Report**

*Johanna Carlo*

- 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Church is coming up, ideas are welcome.
- Fr. John Newman, fell and shattered his arm, it is in a cast.
- Fr. John ???, the other priest, will be celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, there will be a party planned.
- There are a number of new altar servers; the Church is now at capacity. It's very sweet, they range in age from grade 3 to grade 8 and everyone mentors everyone else.
- The Church recently had an audit; the church has no foreseeable major repairs structurally, the organ needs some parts here and there and the doors need to be refinished.
- The Saturday 4:30 mass is very quick!

- **Corpus Christi Parish Report**

*Anne Marie Campbell*

- The Church hall renovations are finished. There is a party this Saturday. There is no charge but please let rectory office know if you plan to attend. The parish hall looks fantastic; it's all new, new kitchen, stove, ranges, icemaker, etc. It is a full industrial kitchen.
- For hall rentals please contact Matt Marshall 416.694.3843.
- The Youth Group Meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month after the 11:00 am mass. The next meeting is May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Holy Hour and Benediction every first Friday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Church. The next is on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Other

- Marne Gamble will be chairing the Fun Fair next year. If you helped out last year you'll get a call soon. The volunteer team should be in place by mid-May. If anyone would like to help contact the school
- Swim Team did very well in the TCDSB swim meet winning the Birchcliff trophy for placing 4<sup>th</sup> overall. 81 swimmers from grades 3 to 8 practiced every Wednesday evening from January until April. Thanks to the parent volunteers: Marnee Gamble, David Steiner, Patricia Landry, Trevor Shin, Gisel Grima, Andrea Hampton, Ann Mc Donough and Anne-Marie Tynan. Special thanks to the teacher supervisors: Saran Martin and Ann DeAgazio. Thanks to CSAC for your support this year.
- St John clothing is on sale now. The order forms need to be back by Friday.

### Closing prayer

*Ian Campbell*

**\*\*The next CSAC meeting is Thursday May 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**\*\*Coffee was provided by Starbucks at Hammersmith and Queen.**