

St. Anselm School Council Advisory Meeting

CSPC MINUTES

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING

March 3, 2016, 6:30pm

ATTENDEES

Catherine Ferguson, Sophia Moore, Mike Brophy, Annie O'Leary, Barbara Escoto, Stephanie Woloviec, Bronwyn Gray, Ed Abdou, Chris Burkett, Richard Walo, Maria Wilson, Caroline Craig, Colette Bright, Tricia Berry, Nancy Henderson, Michelle Raino, Carla Finlater, , Eric Hayward, Paul Byrne, Daniel Garcia-Moreno, Karen Dobrucki, Preston Stringer

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Richard Walo welcomed parents and Annie O'Leary called the meeting to order. Maria Wilson led our opening prayer. Chris Burkett welcomed special guest speakers Karen Dobrucki from Evergreen and Preston Stringer from Earthscape to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a Motion made by Annie O'Leary and seconded by Bronwyn Gray, the Minutes for the meeting held January 26th, 2016 were approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following addition to be added under Other Items: milk bag mat initiative (Brownyn Gray)

On a Motion made by Annie O'Leary and seconded by Tricia Berry, the evening's Agenda was approved.

BUDGET UPDATE

Nothing material to report as of this time.

PLAYGROUND REVITALIZATION UPDATE

Annie O'Leary recognized the tremendous work and effort which has been made to date by the Playground Revitalization Committee.

Carolyn Craig as member of the Playground Revitalization Committee provided an update with respect to the findings of the playground survey which was disseminated to the parent, student and school community in early 2016. It was felt that the survey provided a good representation of the desires of the community and student body with over 200 responses received from students alone.

Some of the key findings of the survey indicated that a large percentage (45%) of the student body are not happy during their recess time. Some of the responses indicated a feeling of loneliness which the school will try and address through different programs such as initiating a PAL program. Many of the responses expressed the students feeling unsafe in the playground. In this regard the students mentioned anxiety about getting hurt by falling on the cement surface, collisions with other students, getting hit by a ball, the gate not being locked and proximity to a busy street.

The wish-list submitted from the children falls in line with the desires expressed by the parent community. A desire to formalize play areas (lines, nets), soft surface, nature and shelter, open spaces to run.

As previously recorded, a design plan for the playground is being contemplated through Evergreen. Karen Dobrucki, Evergreen School Ground Design Consultant at Toronto Catholic District School Board addressed the meeting and provided an overview with respect to how she would assist St. Anselm in the conceptual design of the playground as well as provide direction and guidance in connection with procuring different sources of funding for the project.

Preston Stringer, representative of Earthscape, provided the meeting with samples of projects they have completed on various schools within the TCDSB. Earthscape is a design-build company which has been designing custom structures and play spaces for 10 years and have a close partnership with Evergreen. Their projects follow the company philosophy that playgrounds should offer opportunities for growth and play for children of all ages, abilities and play styles. Natural materials are at the heart of their playground designs.

As next steps for the project, the committee will work with Karen to consolidate a common vision for the playground as per the results from the survey. After budget considerations, Earthscape will complete a 3D computer model of the playground.

BOUNDARY REVIEW

Annie O'Leary reported that Mario Silva, Comptroller of Planning and Development Services for the TCDSB, confirms that the report on boundary reviews is on tract and will be produced mid to late April with changes to take effect September 2016.

ECHOAGE

Annie O'Leary reported that Echoage was off to a good start raising over \$300 for St. Anselm.

COBS

In connection with Easter, St. Anselm will once again participate in an initiative with COBS Breads on Bayview whereupon 15% of the proceeds from individual sales made by St. Anselm families will be donated back to the school. Cathy Ferguson has secured buttons for the COB's employees stating "Tell me if you're from St. Anselm" to generate more sales on our behalf.

A huge thank you is extended to COBS Breads for supporting us and proceeds from this initiative will go towards our playground revitalization project.

OAPCE

The Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) will hold a conference on May 6 and 7 at Madonna Catholic Secondary School. OAPCE through various workshops is promoting parent engagement by providing parents with tools to identify areas where parents can assist/support student achievement. The conference is open to any parent interested in attending.

SPRING FUNDRAISER

The date for the Spring Fundraiser has been set for June 17th. Bronwyn Gray will be stepping down as Chair. A volunteer is needed to assume this position. Bronwyn will continue to be involved in this undertaking as consultant and will provide support for the new chair.

PRINCIPALS REPORT

ENROLMENT UPDATE

As of March 3rd, 400 students are registered at St. Anselm. No further registrations will be accepted for the current school year. Once again, the school is requesting that if your child is not returning in September 2016 that the office be notified immediately as this greatly impacts the projected staffing model.

DAYCARE UPDATE

If you're interested in having your child attend the Before and After Program, please contact Leaside Daycare. Parents are encouraged to contact the daycare as soon as possible. The information is very helpful in terms of planning rooms and staff for the upcoming year.

2016 TENTATIVE STAFFING MODEL UPDATE

The September model is based on 15 classes which is in line with the current number of classrooms in the school. Based on projections St. Anselm will not surplus any teachers. The 2016 Staffing process is currently underway.

WATER BOTTLE FUNDRAISER

In connection with the water awareness campaign, the Eco-Team has sold 140 water bottles. There was a profit of \$500, which has been put towards the purchase of 2 new Water Bottle Filling Stations which will be installed in the very near future. The Gasparatto family has kindly covered the remaining \$1500 for the cost of the stations.

UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AT ST. ANSELM

Initial interest in the Martial Arts program was quite high. However over time the students were becoming less interested and attendance waned. Possible options could include shortening the sessions by a few weeks.

TRACK AND FIELD UPDATE

We have confirmed Leaside High School for our 2016 St. Anselm Track and Field Meet. The Principal at Leaside High School has graciously allowed us to use their field. The date is set for May 2nd/ Rain Date: May 3rd. Parent volunteers would be needed for this event. The school is asking CSPC for \$500 to provide ribbons and refreshments for the event.

Due to lack of quorum at the meeting, a vote will be held at a later date in connection with the fund request.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Mr. Figiel has requested \$500 to purchase new instruments. Mr. Weisenblum has agreed to help our school by providing the instruments at cost.

Due to lack of quorum at the meeting, a vote will be held at a later date in connection with the fund request.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The student council ran a very successful Spirit Week last week raising over \$1000. \$750 of the funds raised has been earmarked towards "Feed The Children". The funds will help feed 30 children for a year.

MUSIC NIGHT

School is requesting approximately \$1000 which covers rental costs.

Due to lack of quorum at the meeting, a vote will be held at a later date in connection with the fund request.

JUNIOR BOYS AND GIRLS SOFTBALL TEAM

Mr. Kennedy, Principal at Rolph Road was contacted last Friday on the possibility of having a Junior Baseball Tournament for Girls and Boys. Schools in the local neighborhood would be invited to participate in a 'Leaside Cup'. The tournament will be held at Rolph Road School). To date, schools that have confirmed their interest: St. Anselm, Rolph Road and OLPH. Mr. Walo will be contacting Bennington Heights and Bessborough to determine interest. Parents volunteers will be required to assist with umpires, refreshments, ribbons/trophy. Tournament Date: Early June

OTHER ITEMS

Brownwyn Gray spoke about an initiative underway at the church in connection with the collection of milk bags to make sleeping mats.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The date for the next meeting has been set for April 5, 2016

ADJOURNMENT

On a Motion made by Annie O'Leary and seconded by Maria Wilson the Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm