

**St. Anselm**

***Catholic School Parent Council Meeting***

**MINUTES**

**DATE AND TIME OF MEETING**

November 7, 2016

**ATTENDEES**

Richard Walo, Bronwyn Gray, Sophia Moore, Rodolfo Lucero, Lucas Caliri, Eric Hayward, Barrig Hayward, Maria Wilson, Angela Napoli, Trish Berry, Allison Harding, Ryan Edwards, Daniel Garcia-Moreno, Bernardo Blum, Susan Leung, Lisaq VanRun, Alise Zela, Cathy Ferguson, Catherina Maughan,

**WELCOME AND PRAYER**

Mr. Walo welcomed parents and called the meeting to order at 6-30pm. Angela Napoli led the opening prayer.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

ON A MOTION made by Bronwyn Gray and SECONDED by Maria Wilson, the evening's Agenda was approved.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

ON A MOTION made by Bronwyn Gray and SECONDED by Rodolfo Lucero, minutes from September's 24<sup>th</sup> meeting was approved.

**BUDGET UPDATE Rodolfo Lucero, Treasurer**

Rodolfo reported that the budget approved as a living document was from prior years. Changes included the following:

- Videographer dropped from spring fundraiser
- Curling night will be held as a social event – not a fund raised
- Movie night – 6 to be held they raise about \$1000 each (PY only 1 held)
- Cobs bread initiative ran – surpassed \$1000 funds raised (New for 2016 – 2017)
- Echo age – budgeted \$2,000 in fund raising. Goal almost reached through summer and past few months. Reminder of echo age to be included in the school newsletter.

- Budget for the scientist in school has been cut from \$5,000 down to \$2,500
- Requests for a Dance Instructor of \$6,000 was not approved instead CSPC approved \$6,000 for visual arts as there is lack of funding in this area
- Welcome back breakfast / curriculum night budget consolidated to try and reduce costs
- Fathers days pick nick budget dropped to \$750 from \$1,000 by eliminating the ice cream truck
- A new logo in the gym floor was requested for \$1,000 – not approved
- School beautification budget reduced from \$1,000 to \$500
- Budget for violins approved in the amount of \$1,500
- A budget of \$750 was requested for gym equipment – CSPC will hold off on approval unless something major comes up

Other Fundraising initiatives under review:

- Flipgive – This is an online web site (<https://www.flipgive.com/>) that allows you to shop while raising funds. Amy DeMelo is looking into this.
- Mable's Labels – provide a kick back to the school. Cathy Ferguson will look into getting this back up and running

Budget was approved as a living document in prior meeting that took place at Chair's house on September 29<sup>th</sup>. See attached minutes – Appendix A.

### **STUDENT COUNCIL PRESENTATION Alise Zela (President) and Allison Harding (Social rep)**

Gym equipment – they have only 2 volley balls and no footballs. They would like some funding for that.

Arts program – not everyone enjoys dance. But students have had good experience with past use of visual arts.

Halloween dance – budget was \$150. They sold candy, pop-corn etc. and made a good profit as a result of this.

Adopt a family program – the students are in the process of organizing this fundraiser again for the current year.

A used battery drive is currently under way for Me to We. Zinc in the batteries can be used to save children'

### **ARTS PROGRAM PRESENTATION Carrie Laureola**

Carrie is the owner of Bamboo Bay. She runs an after school program with an arts focus and is here to present on the opportunity to run a lunch time program or workshop at St Anselm.

They run an 8 week lunch program for younger kids with a different canvas project each week or some clay / ornament making. For older kids they do one large project over 8 weeks.

Approximate cost could be as low as \$4 per child. \$6 per child for craft e.g. snow ball ornament.

Mr. Walo would like any workshop activity to tie to the arts curriculum as there are specific requirements that need to be demonstrated through the art delivered.

Carrie will provide CSPC with a formal proposal for consideration and approval.

### **CHAIR REPORT – Bronwyn Gray, Vice Chair**

See attached minutes – Appendix B

### **PRINCIPALS REPORT – Mr. Walo**

See attached minutes – Appendix C

### **OTHER ITEMS**

Maria Wilson – requested that CSPC revisit the decision around funding of a Dance program. Some research was done to find an appropriate provider. Dance Fit Canada – has put a proposal for Jan – June to provide 30min each month for each of grades 1-6. The aim is that there will be a finished routine to be presented at the end of the year. Cost is \$540 total for full year. CSPC has requested a quote for 30 min twice a month for consideration.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a MOTION made by Bronwyn Gray and SECONDED by Sophia Moore the Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

## Appendix A

**Date:** Sept. 29th, 2016

**Attendees:** Annie O'Leary, Rodolfo Lucero, Ryan Edwards, Courtney O'Leary, Lucas Caliri, Amy Demelo

**Location:** Annie's house

### Agenda items:

1. Budget
2. Boundary Review
3. Student Council
4. Movie and Curling nights
5. Follow up questions for the school / Mr. Walo

### 1.) BUDGET

Budget was reviewed line by line, with discussions about any questionable expenditures, ideas for improvement, new areas to consider, Mr. Walo's 2016/2017 wishlist, etc. Key discussion points included below.

- **Fundraisers** - No major changes.
  - Amy DeMelo brought forth an interesting new idea called [Flipgive](#), which is a total no brainer. Check the site for more detail, but it's basically a cool, no-hassle way to allow you to earn cash back when you're already shopping with some of your favourite brands.
  - Family Fee is on now. I believe we've raised \$4K so far, so a bit of a ways to go. Please remind others that they need to get their fees in.
- **Arts**
  - Based on the fact that Arts only received 6% in the 2015/2016 budget, we discussed the idea of supporting an initiative in Visual Arts this year. On Mr. Walo's recommendation, we're going to look into having artist visits in the classroom. Could include painting, sculpting, etc. Courtney unofficially looking into this.
  - We are opting to decline Mr. Walo's request for \$6,000 for Dance lessons because 1.) we feel there is talent in the school already (students and staff) that help in this area; and 2.) This partly overlaps with Athletics, which we all felt received enough support already. Budget permitting, we're open to looking at this again, but opted to support visual arts over dance to enhance the Arts area.
- **Athletics**
  - We are going to ask Mr. Walo if there are any sports that are underfunded or where we may have teachers that could introduce a new sport into extracurriculars (i.e. soccer, baseball). If this is the case, we may look to spread the budget more evenly to sports that all of the children might be interested. In which case, parents may need to help contribute more to some of the current niche sports that are supported, like hockey.
- **Events**

- There was concern that the welcome back breakfast was exclusionary because it's an event that happens during work hours, making it very difficult for many of the St. Anselm parents to attend. It will be removed for the 2017/2018 budget. If anyone strongly disagrees with this, speak up!
- Father's Day picnic budget was reduced. We all agreed the budget needs to be more closely monitored and one key individual assigned the responsibility. We reduced the budget by removing face painting, the purchase of items for the raffle and the ice cream truck. Bronwyn - Do you know if Len still has some of the items from previous years? Apparently some of the costs this year were to replace things purchased previously.
- Welcome back BBQ - Also discussion here about whether this should be reduced (i.e. either get an alternative to harveys or ask parents to pay for their burgers). We agreed to leave it. Does anyone know where the BBQ is that was purchased a couple of years ago?
- **Miscellaneous**
  - Santa visit - We are going to ask a parent at the school to act as Santa. If someone agrees, then we will be able to reduce the budget from \$700 to \$200.
  - Halloween - We discussed dropping the budget by not hiring a DJ. Upon discussion, people seemed to actually think this was a worthwhile investment because the kids have so much fun. If you disagree, speak now or forever hold your peace :)
  - School beautification - We reduced the budget from \$1,000 to \$500. The shrubs that were purchased last year have died, so while the group agreed the mulch and planters are great, there was a question about whether we can maintain additional enhancements to the yard.

## 2.) BOUNDARY REVIEW

- Mr. Walo and I attended a pre-boundary review on Sept 15th at the school board. It was a 3+ hour meeting and every consideration was discussed, as far as options. Based on feedback from the parent community, I reiterated that our first choice would be to consider leveraging the Church as a short-term solution to capacity issues. I also indicated that there is concern about the long-term impact of newer condo developments and asked whether we could consider some proactive solutions there. Unfortunately, Angela Kennedy left the meeting after a couple of minutes, so there was very little support from our trustee. Since John Shanahan has not attended any of the boundary meetings or engaged in prior discussion, I didn't find him to be particularly supportive either. I've since communicated our disappointment to Ms. Kennedy and indicated that we are looking to her for more support on short-term solutions.
- We left the meeting feeling that there was a long term solution in place, but there are still major concerns about the short term (which has also been communicated to Kennedy.)
- In the interest of making progress rather than reaching a stalemate, Mr. Walo and I both voted "yes" to the following proposed solution. This is what was supposed to be presented to the community on October 5th, but I see that it's now been rescheduled. Again.
- PROPOSED SOLUTION:
  - The school board provided data/analysis on population projections for the next 20 years. Looking at South and North Leaside alone, the school will reach capacity based on the number of school-aged children in the area immediately surrounding the school. Therefore, the official boundary will be updated to include south and north Leaside only, effective for enrolments from 2017 onwards.
  - The current "flex zone" (East of Bayview, South of Eglinton) will remain a flex zone. Their official school is St. Monica's, but they will be allowed to attend St. Anselm if space permits.

- The Hyde Park area (townhomes and condo developments near Homesense and Marshall's) will become a flex zone. Their official school will now be Canadian Martyrs, but they will be allowed to go to St. Anselm's if space permits. (Note: My recommendation was to consider St. Bonaventure, not Canadian Martyrs, but Superintendent Shanahan indicated this was not an option).
  - Students in the Thorncliffe area will officially be redirected to Canadian Martyrs.
  - All children currently at the school to be grandfathered.
- NEXT STEPS:
    - I have requested rationale as to why yet another pre-boundary meeting is needed and why the public meeting has been rescheduled.
    - I have also indicated to Kennedy that we need solutions to address capacity in the short term. Options that have previously been tabled include the Church basement and/or making the boundary adjustment retroactive to families who have been at the school for 1 year or less (or 2 years or less).

### **3.) STUDENT COUNCIL**

- One of the mandates for this year's council is to involve the student council more. We discussed and agreed that we'd like to invite the chair or vice chair to monthly CSPC meetings as the first agenda item (after which point, the student can leave). We would like to assign them specific responsibilities and will invite them to request funding for small projects, provided they present their case to the parent council.
- We would also like them to take on responsibility in the following areas:
  - If there is interest in Dance, perhaps the student council could try to coordinate some of the senior students to form a dance troop that could work with classes in advance of the spring concert. (would need to discuss with the school first to ensure it can be managed in a way not to negatively impact academic time)
  - We would like to council to help us think of charitable ways that the St. Anselm community can give back to people/communities in need. For example, there is currently no charge for pancake Tuesday. Perhaps the student council could coordinate asking for donations, which would go to a community or school in need.
  - We would like them to consider helping with movie night.
  - We would like the student council to be tasked with managing the \$1,100 budget for grade 8 graduation.
  - We would like the student council to consider providing solutions for gardening - could we involve the students in this more?

### **4.) MOVIE NIGHT**

- Rodolfo has sent communication out regarding movie night (Thanks R!)
- We need parent volunteers. A note to be sent out to the school this coming week.
- Based on previous learnings, payment to be organized ahead of time

### **CURLING NIGHT**

- There were no updates on this, but we do need to get it planned sooner than later if it's going to happen.

- Bronwyn - did Len and Carolyn say they'd do it again? Or is it being cancelled this year due to lack of parent volunteers?

## **5.) QUESTIONS FOR THE SCHOOL**

Coming out of the meeting, we have some questions for Mr. Walo. I will pass these along.

- Do we know where the school BBQ is? One was purchased in the past couple of years.
- Was there a reason why the senior students stopped helping the FDK classes with lunch? Parents felt this was a good learning experience for the older students.
- Are there any extracurricular sports that are under-funded? We're okay with the current Athletics allocation, but there aren't sports like soccer or baseball. Is this due to lack of teacher/parent support? Or is funding part of it? The overall Athletics budget is set, but we could consider spreading it out more. (In which case, some of the sports would receive partial funding and parents would also be required to pay as necessary)
- We need storage solutions to avoid losing items that are purchased, as there have been a few things now that seem to have gone missing. Rodolfo asked about putting some shelves behind the stage in the gym. Would this be okay? Or are there any other options? (i.e. Could we consider the Church?)
- Just to clarify, which grades are actually using Raz kids?

## Appendix B – Chair’s Report

People can also submit questions for me to ask at the public meeting on Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>. If possible, we’d prefer the questions go through me so that we can maintain order at the meeting. Plus, there might also be some questions that I can answer in advance, which should save on time for the Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

### 1.) Boundary review

- The Boundary Review committee met twice since September. The objective was to agree upon a proposed solution to address capacity issues at St. Anselm’s.
- The committee was comprised of the following:
  - CSPC chairs and principals from Holy Cross, St. Anselm, St. Monica’s, Canadian Martyrs and Blessed John XXIII
  - Trustees for the included schools (including Angela Kennedy)
  - Superintendents for the included schools (including John Shanahan)
  - Members from facilities and planning at the School Board

In preparation for the meeting, the board put together an extensive binder for each participant with details on the schools including maps, current enrollment, projected enrolment for the next 15 years, catchment/boundaries, planned [residential developments](#), [floor plans](#), etc. [Mr. Walo sent the link out in tonight’s agenda](#). (Approximately 100 page document)

The board also provided analysis on several different scenarios of how the St. Anselm boundary could be adjusted and the corresponding impact to enrollments at all schools.

Together, we reviewed all of the information and had extensive discussions about the information presented.

- As a parent representative, Annie expressed key opinions, concerns and possible solutions that have surfaced from parents in the past couple of years. Some (but not all) of these examples are listed below:
  - Class sizes are a major concern with the current numbers and impact the quality of education our children receive.
  - The newly renovated school library is now divided to allow for an additional classroom. This is not ideal.
  - We would like to explore the Church as a solution, as this may allow us to keep all of the current students.
  - We vehemently oppose a portable, as the schoolyard already has a less-than-ideal footprint.
  - Both the current “flex” zone / optional attendance area and Thorncliffe Park are part of the Church catchment.
  - Including Thorncliffe Park in the St. Anselm catchment provides the school with a more diverse student body, which is valued by our community.
  - Geographically, all of the “flex” zone is within walking distance to the school.
  - While the “flex” zone is technically part of the St. Monica’s school catchment, there are



currently no families who have opted to attend St. Monica's. (i.e. It is assumed the majority of Catholic families in that area are now opting for the public system or private school.)

- We have concerns about the number of large residential buildings going up in the area and the impact on school enrollments. (In addition to other local concerns).
- If boundaries are changing, there are concerns that families may be forced to have younger siblings attend a different school or that kids with a history at the school will have to move.
- If boundaries are changed and all current students are 'grandfathered,' the impact will be longer term. What are we doing to do in the short term to address the issues?

After much discussion, debate and analysis, the following solution is being presented at the Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> meeting:

- A fixed boundary from east of Bayview Ave to west of Laird Ave (aka South and North Leaside)
- Continuation of the 'Optional Attendance Area', located west of Bayview Ave to east of Forman Ave, which means the flex zone will continue to be a flex zone.
- 'Grandfathering' of all current students, which will extend to any younger siblings who aren't yet enrolled.
- **NEW** Families residing east of Laird Ave (Hyde Park and Thorncliffe Park), **WITHOUT** a child currently attending St. Anselm, will be part of the **NEW** Canadian Martyrs fixed boundary.

The proposed solution will not have an immediate impact. We have formally requested a separate meeting with the Trustee and Superintendent to look at other ways to address capacity concerns in the short term. We are awaiting a response with suggested dates for this.

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## PRINCIPALS REPORT – November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### **TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK – NOVEMBER 6-12**

#### **METROLINX INITIATIVE UPDATE**

A survey with regard to method of transportation will be sent home in the new year to determine whether there is a need to look at other ways of reducing congestion.

#### **STAFFING UPDATE**

Welcome to Mrs. McFarquhar, permanent Senior Kindergarten/Grade 1 Teacher  
Mrs. McFarquhar is replacing Mrs. Terrana who transferred this past year  
Thank you to Miss Kemp for her work in the SK/Grade 1 class

#### **ENROLMENT UPDATE**

Currently have 401 students  
Grade 2 – 8 are all at the maximum cap

#### **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

Meeting with Superintendent Shanahan on November 29<sup>th</sup>  
We are focusing on Collaborative Inquiry. The goal is to deepen our understanding of teaching Measurement and Problem Solving  
We will be presenting our school data and our goal of 80% of students achieving a level 3 or above in mathematics

#### **RENEWED MATH STRATEGY**

Ministry of Education initiative to improve achievement in mathematics  
2 Math leads per school to be receive professional development on 'best practices' in teaching mathematics – Miss Napoli and Mrs. Connally are the math leads at St. Anselm  
Principals also receiving extensive professional development in mathematics – over the summer, I had the opportunity to attend a 2-day institute on deepening my understanding of interpreting data/trends and using current methodology (e.g. 3-part lesson, collaborative inquiry) to improve my understanding of best practices in teaching math  
A minimum of 60 minute blocks of math instruction in the class each day

#### **KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

Online registration opens on Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.  
There will be a reminder email to all current parents urging them to register their siblings on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Extended registration to occur on January 18<sup>th</sup> as well.  
New Boundary Policy will be in effect for all new registrations  
All current families will be grandfathered  
Most likely aim for 2 FDK classes