

St. Anselm School Council Advisory Meeting

CSPC MINUTES

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING

May 9th, 2016, 6:30pm

ATTENDEES

Brett Purcell	Alyssa Macedo	Jennifer O'Leary
Bronwyn Gray	Paul Byrne	Courtney O'Leary
Bernardo Blum	Stephen Casey	Jennifer Sullivan
Sophia Moore	Rodrigo Cayalcanti	Patsy Lam
Annie O'Leary	Andrea Norton	Scott Pliska
Maria Silvestre	Claudia Georgopoulos	Louis Pahis
Joy Porras	Strati Georgopoulos	Len Corkery
Michelle Raino	Leima Magliocco	Michelle Koscec
Cathy Ferguson	Trish Berry	Chris Murray
Luciana Serrati	Eric Hayward	Andre Teixeira
Jo-Anne Ryan	Daniele Fantini	Arlene O'Neill
Rodolfo Lucero	Roberto Ribeiro	Sue Osborne
Maria Wilson	Gabriella Bergamo	J. Ge
Bonnie Phillips-Brophy	Natash Sacht-Pepe	James Corcoran
Mike Brophy	Brigid Nousianen	Nancy Henderson
Noemia Doody	Katherina Oraa	Richard Walo
Patrick Wong	Juan Macario	Colette Bright
Bernadette Chik	Ryan Edwards	Mario de Silva
Gregory Zimmer	Barrig Hayward	Trustee Angela Kennedy
Barbara Escoto	Paul and Lisa Van Run	

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Annie O'Leary welcomed parents and called the meeting to order. Mr. Walo led our opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a Motion made by Annie O'Leary and seconded by Rodolfo Lucero, the Minutes for the meeting held March 3rd, 2016 were approved.

BUDGET UPDATE

No material changes to budget at this time.

EVENTS/ FUNDRAISING UPDATES

Spring Musical

This is an important fundraising initiative for the school. 50% of the operating budget comes from this one event. Volunteers are still needed and people interested in helping are encouraged to contact Bronwyn Gray or members of CSPC. An email will be circulated to the school community later this week.

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Staffing

A new .50 Special Education position has been added to our current staffing model. Maria Wilson will join the staff as our new half-time Special Education teacher.

Baseball Tournament

As mentioned earlier this year, a junior softball tournament to be known as the “Leaside Cup” has been organized. St. Anselm will be participating alongside teams from our neighboring schools Bessborough, Rolph Road, Bennington Heights, NorthLea and OLPH. The Tournament date has been set for June 17th and will be held at both Rolph Road and Bennington Heights.

CSPC is being asked for \$300 to cover tournament fees.

Parent volunteers will be required to assist with umpires, refreshments, ribbons/ trophy.

Track and Field

This year our team representatives will be taking the TTC to and from the track and field meet at Varsity Stadium. The TTC cost is approximately \$300 in comparison to roughly \$1,040 for buses representing savings of \$740 for the school.

Jump for Georgia Initiative

St. Anselm was approached by Jillian Walsh whose family is undertaking a significant fundraising initiative which will look at a major capital improvement to Trace Manes Playground. The mandate of the initiative JUMP FOR GEORGIA is to ensure that the epicenter of communities (our parks) are continually improved and are inclusive and safe. With the community’s assistance, it is hoped to be able to construct a \$1.2-million-dollar state-of-the-art Trace Manes Playground, to be completed Spring 2018. To date, 12 schools in the Leaside Area have agreed to participate in some fashion. On June 9th, members of the fundraising campaign will make a presentation and jump rope activity at the school. More information will be forthcoming in newsletters.

SK Graduation

This year a decision was taken to look at purchasing the graduation gowns. The gowns are approximately \$1000. The CSPC budget initially allocated \$700 towards gowns. CSPC is being asked to consider an additional \$300 for the purchase of the gowns as an investment. An additional \$200 is also being requested for refreshments for the ceremony. Graduation to be held Thursday, June 16th.

BOUNDARY UPDATE

Annie O’Leary provided background and timelines with respect to communication and meetings between members of the CSPC and the Board and Trustee regarding the ongoing boundary issue dating back to at least three years (attached to these Minutes).

The following questions were posed to Trustee Angela Kennedy:

1. Why did the boundary review not take place as promised?
2. Why were the other schools removed from the boundary review process?
3. Can you address the problem St. Anselm is now facing about dividing families?

Trustee Angela Kennedy confirmed that the boundary review was delayed due to deaths of staff members family and budget constraints. Trustee Kennedy confirmed that St. Anselm was elevated in priority above 30 schools to number 2. Trustee Kennedy confirmed that an expedited boundary review would take place on May 30th, 2016.

Rodolfo Lucero posed the question as to why or who made the decision to exclude the different schools within our area from the boundary review process. This question was left unanswered by both Trustee Kennedy and Mario de Silva.

Mario De Silva spoke about our need for operational relief and long-term accommodation. He spoke about the permanent nature of boundaries which have long-lasting effects. He spoke about the original mandate was to look at the flex zone and the current occupancy of our school which called for an expedited review.

He spoke about two things which would be forthcoming in the future: formalizing the flex area in a boundary review to take place on May 30th and producing a Report to the Board with respect to the new development occurring in Leaside and school jurisdictions in connection with those developments.

Many questions and concerns ensued amongst the parent community. Tensions arose particularly with all the uncertainty created around boundaries and who might be affected. Some questions which were posed were if the flex boundary gets sorted would St. Anselm then be deemed non-priority? Mario de Silva confirmed we would continue to remain a priority and we would not have a change in our priority status. Another question was posed about how equitable is it that schools surrounding our school are under capacity when we are oversubscribed. Mario de Silva answered that the Board looks carefully before possibly pitting one community against each other. He stressed various times that our school community should be wary of going down the road of boundary review. He said the Board could look at options such as splitting our school so that it would only go until Grade 5. Another question which came up was having assurances from the Board that the zoning for the new developments not include St. Anselm as the school. Another question posed was what solutions were being looked at for the numbers for the school year 2016/2017? Mr. Walo responded that 10% of the primary classes in the board are permitted to be at 23 students and that all of our primary classes are at 23 students.

Mr. Len Corkery spoke as previous chair regarding a report he held in his hands in which the Board was asked to resolve the current over-population situation at St. Anselm. Mr. Corkery noted that all of the proposed solutions posed to the Board were parent driven and the Board offered no solutions nor a real demonstration of putting forth any kind of action plan to address this need years back. Despite numerous emails and discussions the Board would only oppose any solutions being offered up by the parent community such as utilizing the church basement or building up.

Trish Berry spoke as a parent with over 13 years history at St. Anselm about the history of the boundary problem pre-dating 3 years as well as the impact FDK has had on the student population. Ms. Berry also noted that the request for the boundary review goes back many more years than the last three. Ms. Berry also questioned who the 13 children who according to the map provided at the meeting appear to live out of boundary. Mr. Walo replied that he believed the data to be incorrect and that there are no children currently attending the school from out of boundary. However was willing to have those difficult conversations with those families should he be advised by the Board if there were families outside the boundary.

After fielding concerns from the parent community Mario de Silva spoke about re-visiting the boundary review to include other schools. It was stressed that this would have no immediate impact until next enrolment in January 2017 at minimum.

Mr. Macario spoke about his particular situation being that his JK child would have to go to another school while his Grade 2 child remain at St. Anselm. Angela Kennedy stated that no siblings would be turned away and after speaking with Mr. Walo confirmed that she directed Mr. Walo to admit his child and the child of another family in a similar situation tomorrow.

In conclusion Annie O'Leary asked for a Next Steps.

May 30th was booked for a Boundary Review Meeting. Location tentatively St. Anselm's, but still to be confirmed. This meeting will include only St. Monica. From this meeting the Board will then decide the need to involve the other schools.

OTHER ITEMS

On the 26th of May its National Wear Pink day in support of Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. The students, staff and parents are encouraged to wear pink and donate \$5.00 to receive a "Get Pink'd" button. More information on this will be sent home next week.

ADJOURNMENT

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