

St. Gregory Catholic School Advisory Council

Minutes of meeting for Tuesday January 18, 2011.

Attendees: Daniela Balsamo, Maria Skinner, Fatima Martin, Lucy Pastor, Debbie Pinto, Vince Arone, Teresa Coelho, Riccardo Agostino, Nadine Lustri, Jack Sacco, Jeanine Larmour, Anne Mishko, Nancy Barone, Vita Peri, Adam Grnak, Heidi Hanna, Michelle Niedbala.

7:05 – Welcome and opening prayer – Mrs. Martin

EQAO Parent Presentation – Mr. Agostino

- 1) EQAO is a test that is administered to grades 3,6,9 and 10 (grade 10 is a literacy test)
- 2) The School Learning Improvement Plan is created in part using the data collected from the EQAO, and is available on the school website.
- 3) St. Gregs is using the data to try track the cohorts through their years at school.

Sub-Committee – Curriculum, Programs and Presentations – Vita Peri

- 4) The teacher survey has been completed and the results are being tabulated. They will be presented at the next CSAC.
- 5) Lab equipment is being purchased as per last year's teacher survey.
- 6) They are looking into creating a school choir.

Chair's Report – Adam Grnak

- 7) Parent teacher interviews are this Thursday and Friday. CSAC coffee table is well received and planned for Thursday evening.
- 8) Rick to look into setting up the smart board in the school lobby to have an example for the parent community during interviews.
- 9) Teacher luncheon planned for Feb 25th. Volunteers are welcome.
- 10) Fundraising thermometer is up on the website. Will include information about purpose and how much more is needed.
- 11) We will keep the Kidsential funds separate until it can be decided what to allocate the money to.
- 12) We will plan a spring BBQ on May19th with a raffle and silent auction, to close out the school year. Motion to approve Jeanine Larmour. Second Vince Arone.
- 13) The September Curriculum BBQ will occur, but with more emphasis on planning. (ie available seating, more time to eat, and perhaps one more session with the teachers) Motion to approve Vince Arone. Second Vita Peri.

Principal's Report – Mrs. Martin

- 14) Mrs. Martin advises council that she is a retired principal who had covered these types of absences before. As she could not come to us in September she and Mr. Cassidy agreed to split the time so that we would not require a third temporary person. She is committed to staying until the end of the school year if necessary.
- 15) The principal guidelines have been adjusted. Now council must extend an invitation to the trustee.
- 16) There is a draft concerning the dress code for September and the disciplinary actions that will be taken for non compliance. They follow the standard discipline code.
- 17) The report cards that were sent home today are much more personalized. There is even room for the kids to make comments.
- 18) Information about uniform vendors that have been submitted to the school have been passed to CSAC.
- 19) Our junior W5H team will advance to the next round.
- 20) Soon a call-out to parents for any old/unused books will be going out. These will be used for classroom libraries.
- 21) York University and CAMH have advised the school that they are running a longitudinal study on drug abuse and mental health awareness. This study will be an anonymous survey directed towards grades 7 and 8. There will be a parent presentation, they will provide information and support and the students will be reimbursed for their time with a \$20 gift certificate.
- 22) To date science purchases total \$500.00.
- 23) The library is looking to stock books to address literacy for boys. These include bold print graphic readers, as well as daily newspaper delivery for the 7s and 8s.
- 24) They are compiling a flyer for the parents that lists many websites that might be helpful.
- 25) Over the next two days the school will practice lockdown procedures.
- 26) The Juniors will be having a spring concert during education week. The band, some instrumental performances and the drama club will be included.

Health and Safety – Jeanine Larmour

- 27) Fun Food Fridays are being planned again by Angie Severino, Mrs. Ceddia and Mrs. Pires. They will focus on healthy breakfasts. It will cost about \$700.00 for supplies. All classes will be included.
- 28) On March 10 the Food Share program will kick off with a school wide apple crunch.
- 29) The committee needs to approve a vendor for the uniforms. We can no longer grandfather the requirements for 7s and 8s as next year it will be mandatory.

Fundraising – Jeanine Larmour

- 30) Angie would like to plan one or two more Swiss Chalet lunches as it was a hit. We raised \$368.80
- 31) She will start another Fundsript session to end March 28th. We raised \$1600.00 with the last one.
- 32) It was suggested that we look into Mabels Labels as a fundraising partner, especially with the new blue and white dress code.
- 33) It was suggested that we might have the children put on a show of some kind to help raise funds.

Community Involvement – Anne Mishko

- 34) The 2nd skate party was on Feb 6th. We had about 130 people attend. There was a \$2 admission fee with free coffee and cookies.
- 35) Suggestions included another skate party or a school ski day. Adam will investigate the ski day.
- 36) Bingo night prize donations are now being collected.

Pastoral Council – Vince Arone

- 37) The council is looking into religious education and bible studies.
 - 38) Social initiatives include Coffee Sundays. On the first Sunday of each month in the church basement there will be coffee served for the community. Each month could be run by a different group. CSAC will host the May 1st coffee social. Motion to accept Jeanine Larmour.
Second Adam Grnak.
 - 39) A new outreach program is being discussed.
 - 40) Would suggest council looks into events where parents could come to swap or sell old unused equipment.
 - 41) A reminder that St. Gregs is registered with the fundraising website Canada Helps. This allows people to make donations to various initiatives via the internet.
- 9:05 – meeting adjourned.