

St. Gregory Catholic School Advisory Council

Minutes of meeting for Tuesday January 18, 2011.

Attendees: Daniela Balsamo, Frank Massari, Adam Grnak, Riccardo Agostino, John Cassidy, Vita Peri, Michelle Niedbala, Jeanine Larmour, Anne Mishko, Angela Severino, Debbie Pinto, Kathy Stafford, Vince Arone, Tina Hall, Nadine Lustri, Jackie Danserau, Curtis Skinner, Maria Skinner.

7:05 – Welcome and opening prayer – Mr. Cassidy

- 1) Anne Marie McCarthy of Brand Networks provides information about St. Gregory spirit wear that would be allowed under the new Appropriate Dress Code. This is a business run by a family in our school and church community. They already provide spirit wear for many of our teams and functions. This is a wholesale provider and the prices reflect that.

Sub Committee – Health and Safety – Jeanine Larmour

- 2) CSAC to approve the information distributed to parents about the Appropriate Dress Code as compiled at the two Health and Safety sub-committee meetings earlier in the month.
- 3) Michelle Niedbala raises a concern about the students who are going into grade 8 next year. Many of the noted suppliers do not carry the uniform items in adult sizes, therefore they need to purchase more expensive items in adult stores. If these students then choose a Catholic high school they are then expected to purchase a whole new uniform one year later. This may prove too costly for most families. She will contact the board about a more lax code for the grade 8s this year.
- 4) Vita Peri advises she contacted the board with her concerns about them spending valuable time on the students clothing and not on academic issues. She has not had a response back from them.
- 5) We are advised that compliance will be handled on an individual basis. Any issues with the code will be dealt with on an individual basis.
- 6) Motion to accept dress code as presented for September 2011 – Jackie Danserau. 2nd Anne Mishko. Passed.

Chair's Report – Adam Grnak

- 7) It has been proposed that CSAC separate the annual Curriculum BBQ into two events. One social – the BBQ – and one event for the information. This discussion is held over until the Feb meeting.
- 8) The Teacher Luncheon has been scheduled for Friday February 25th 2011.
- 9) LCD projector project update: Chocolate sales earned \$16,753.67 and a cheque was written to the school on June 21, 2010 for this amount. A private donation of \$500.00 was received from a parent. A corporate donation of \$100 was received this year from TD Canada Trust. It was decided to outfit each classroom (25) with a ceiling mount and outfit each grade (8) with a projector. This work plus labour cost \$17,223.46. The school now sits with \$30.21 towards future projector purchases. The fundraising for this project will continue this year and it is expected that each classroom will be outfitted by next Sept. It is also noted that the board has paid for the electrical connections in each classroom.
- 10) Jackie Danserau advises that Kidssentials has sent us a chq for \$713.00. This is \$0.25 per meal that they served at St Gregs this year. These funds will be put towards the LCD projector project.
- 11) It was suggested that we have a “project thermometer” in place in the school and on the website to keep the parent community aware of the activity. And a reminder to have a demonstration for the parents so that they understand what this technology can do in the classroom.

Principal's Report – Mr. Cassidy

- 12) As this is his last CSAC meeting Mr Cassidy thanks the school community for their support. He enjoyed himself while here and would like to caution parents about maintaining their vigilance about Catholic education. He reminds us all about his philosophy for education “Happy kids learn and sad kids don't”.

Treasurer's Report – Frank Massari

- 13) Frank has provided the Interim Financial Statements (Un-audited) for Sept1 – Dec31/10.

Curriculum Presentations & Programs – Vita Peri

- 14) All requests for lab materials are due by the end of January. All should be purchased by the end of February.
- 15) A new teacher survey has been created with more room for teachers to make comments. This is due by Feb 4th.
- 16) The French Immersion program is being reviewed. Input from the parents and students to be collected to help make improvements. There is no room for expansion at St. Gregs but they would like to address the gender imbalance and dropout rate.
- 17) The EQAO results meeting was postponed due to low attendance. The presentation was made available on the school website as well as a link to the board information. In an effort to draw parents to the Feb 15th CSAC meeting this presentation will be added to the agenda.
- 18) The Music program as of now is: vocal for primary and junior and instrumental for gr 5 to gr 8. Parents are suggesting a choir with a dedicated instructor. A change of venue for the Christmas concert was also suggested. These will be reviewed.

Fundraising – Angela Severino

- 19) The Swiss Chalet lunch has been initiated for Jan 27th. We will earn \$1 per lunch ordered.
- 20) The earnings from the Fundsript program will be mailed after Jan 21st - \$1622.70. We will have one or two more this year.
- 21) Suggestions about fundraising during the upcoming Bingo night include silent auction, raffle and class gift baskets.

Parent Involvement – Anne Mishko

- 22) The Fun Skate has been booked for Sun Feb 6th from 2:15 to 3:15. We are assured that no one will miss the Superbowl.
- 23) The Bingo Night has been scheduled for Thursday April 14th.

9:00 pm – meeting adjourned.