

## St. Gregory Catholic School Advisory Council — Meeting Minutes for Wednesday November 23, 2011.

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**Attendees:** Adam Grnak, John Shain, Riccardo Agostino, Alessia Ribeiro, Frank Massari, Anna Iwasykiw (teacher rep), Nadine Lustri, Anne Mishko, Jackie Dansereau, Rosie Sarellas, Jack Giacco, Antonella Wild, Father John Bertao, Marianne Williams, Luana Fanelli, Peter Perez, Angie Severino, Gloria Camillari, Gina D'Alessandro, Maria Skinner, Phil Vokins, Vince Arone.

**7:00p.m.** Welcome and opening prayer – Mr. Shain

### Chair Report – Adam Grnak

- 1) The amendments to the **St Gregory CSAC constitution** for this AGM have been made and published. There are copies on the school website and in the school office for anyone interested in reviewing it.
- 2) Local Rep at the **CPIC Conference** held in early November. Some St Greg parents participated. Many activities. Encourage more parents to attend next year.
- 3) **Website updates:** should begin with reorganizing the information, adding team pictures, pictures of the kids, team pictures. If anyone has any additional ideas, please forward.
- 4) **Wish List:** The list came from everyone. There were 20 items included based on suggestions received over the years. CSAC members had been circulated the list and asked to identify their “top 3” for this 2011-2012 school year. The top three items identified by CSAC members included:
  - a) Artist in the school
  - b) Tied: Sound System for the gym/Soccer Net for the Green space
  - c) Update/purchase new musical instruments for the Music Programme.These 4 items will be priced out and presented to CSAC at our next Council meeting on Dec 14/11. Adam noted that the CSAC preferences didn't necessarily represent the final vote on the item, but just a request for input.

- 5) Other items may be shelved until next year.

Comment from Phil: Consider purchasing Plastic/Alloy nets instead of Metal to minimize injuries to the children. Permanent versus Mobile? TBD.

Questions from the floor: Is the school too hot? Unbearable to need AC for the entire school? Mrs Iwasykiw confirmed how hot the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is and confirmed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor is really hot. AC for the entire school was priced out 3 years ago at \$150,000. Mr Shain mentioned that the Board was contacted years ago and something was put over the windows to help with the heat. Is it a Health and Safety concern? Possibly? Adam Grnak will contact the Board again to get another quote and see what can be done. Adam Grnak will report back his findings on Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at the next CSAC Meeting.

- 6) **St Paul Catholic School** — Possible “sister school” for St Gregory's?

CSAC is looking into possibly supporting another school as St Gregory's is a very privileged school and we should give back to those less fortunate than ourselves. Everyone in attendance seemed to be in agreement. Many commented immediately with ideas as how we can help: baskets, hampers, gift certificates, donate our own old computers, technology to these families.

St Paul's Catholic School backs onto Gardiner Expressway. It has 190 students, built in 1954 and updated in 1964. 75% of children come from families on *Welfare*. The St Paul's CSAC meets regularly and raised \$2000 last year. Businesses in the area also suffering and cannot help much.

CSAC is proposing to possibly allocate funds from the May Marathon fundraiser to St Paul's. Everyone is in favour of helping out. Now, we just have to figure out how. The Marathon Team will be meeting on November 24, 2011. Phil to communicate what is discussed at the next CSAC Meeting. Perhaps donating 50% of funds to St Paul's? Father John: St Paul's home church provides a Breakfast club for the children and sometimes that is all these children get to eat all day. The principal at St Paul's says they need technology. There are many ESL, LD and 45 special needs children in attendance at the school. Proposal is to give a percentage of our funds to St Paul's and perhaps it can become a permanent thing?! Many ideas were brought forth from the floor re: how we can help. What's next:

CSAC Subcommittee Meeting to be held on December 7 to address how we can help St Paul's. Details will be discussed at the next CSAC Meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Principal's Report – Mr. Shain

- 7) Grade 8 applications are now finished for high school.

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- 8) In-service on Anaphylaxis was attended by the teachers.
- 9) Parent – Teacher Interviews were well attended.
- 10) Remembrance Day Mass on November 11<sup>th</sup> and the Grade 4s did a Remembrance Day Presentation in the gym which was well received. Some parents came to view it.
- 11) “Don’t hit Judy” Anti-bullying drama presentation was presented to JK-Grade 6.
- 12) Grade 7/8s had a workshop on Cyber-bullying. For example, what NOT to post on Facebook.
- 13) Primary Math night was very successful. About 115 people attended.
- 14) Grade 8s had a religious retreat today, Wednesday, November 23, with Father John.
- 15) The Primary Choir is to sing at the 9am Mass this coming Sunday, November 27 to be followed by Coffee Sunday.
- 16) Primary Soccer House Leagues are running at both recesses.
- 17) Volleyball teams did well at Regionals. Soon Basketball will begin.
- 18) The Chess Club started last week.
- 19) The Book Fair was well attended by both students and parents.
- 20) The Food Drive for St Vincent de Paul will begin on December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 21) Grade 8s may go to Ottawa this Spring.
- 22) Movie Night is scheduled for Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 23) Ginger Bread Night will be on December 13<sup>th</sup> for the Grade 1s.
- 24) JK/SK Concert on the morning of December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 25) Primary Christmas Concert on December 21<sup>st</sup> in the evening.
- 26) **EQAO and CAT4 Results from 2010-2011:** The results are posted on our website.

CAT4 tests determine how well the students know their basic skills: reading, writing and mathematics.

EQAO determines how well the students are able to work with information they are given: problem solving.

The results of these test scores are used to help better develop this year’s curriculum: to help the students that are having difficulty and help all students to do their best.

Overall, the school fared well in both tests. Spelling and Math scores are dropping as the children get into the older grades. The teachers and administrators are working hard to get the kids working harder and developing all skills and to best understand how each child is progressing.

- 27) **School Improvement Team (SIT):** Mr Agostino describes the four pillars: literacy, numeracy, catholicity, and culture, community and caring (CCC). This Team takes a look at the EQAO and CAT4 scores and works to help those who need it most and make sure everyone is doing their part to teach and motivate the students. Literacy is a strength we will continue to develop. Numeracy is weak and will need more work to get the children’s skills stronger. Getting the children to explain HOW they get the answer should help as well. All this information can be found on the school website. The motto is “learning as we go” so there are no surprises as evaluations are handed out throughout the year. **Programs and Pathways:** Our connection to the high schools. SIT meets regularly to re-evaluate what is going on. For example, Michael Power Math teachers come in to the senior grades to show what is expected in high school math. Question from the Floor: Is there a way to run a Rotary system at St Gregory so the teachers can concentrate more on one subject. For example, one teacher specializes in Science and teaches science to all senior classes. Another might teach the language arts, etc. Mr Shain: Extended French makes this difficult but it will be looked into come April 2012.

### **Treasurer’s Report – Frank Massari**

- 28) Interim Financial Statement for period from Sept 1, 2010 to November 22, 2011 submitted to CSAC with the previous year’s open and close value included. The September 30<sup>th</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> bank balance are reconciled with the bank statement.
- 29) The Pizza Fundraiser is now -\$262. Adam will look to see if there was a deposit that was overlooked.
- 30) **BRICKS Sub-committee – Daniela Balsamo**
  - 31) Update will come on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **QSP Sub-committee – Jackie**

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- 32) Net profit to the school will be over \$13,000. This money will be used in the 2011/2012 school year for things like Scientist in the School, Fun Food Fridays, drama presentations and various teams and clubs.

### **Parent Involvement Sub-committee – Anne Mishko**

- 33) Family Skate Night TBD: Canlan Ice Rinks were all booked for January, February and March. In the process of exploring other rinks/options.
- 34) Movie Night for Christmas is scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup>. Forms have been sent home with all the students.
- 35) In Spring, we may do a “movie under the stars” to get the older kids interested.

### **Fundraising – Antonella Wild**

- 36) Fundscript: only 11 families have participated in this round before Christmas.
- 37) Marathon on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Motion to accept the marathon as a CSAC Fundraiser. Motion Passed. A percentage from the marathon may be allocated to help St. Paul Catholic School. TBD.

### **Technology Renewal – Phil**

- 38) Splitters for the screens and speakers have been purchased and installed in all the classrooms.
- 39) 30 new laptops will be purchased for the school this year. 10 have arrived and are being set up. 20 will be ordered shortly.
- 40) Initial allocation was \$250 per laptop. The new cost is \$350 per laptop to meet the minimum system requirements for the software. Motion to take the \$1483 from the schools HST refund from the initial purchase of the LCD projectors to complete the purchase. Motion passed.
- 41) Motion to complete the LCD Projector Project by installing 4 more permanent LCD Projectors in JK/SK Classrooms and in Music Room at a cost of \$4400 total. Motion passed.

### **Pastoral Council – Vince Arone & Father John**

- 42) CSAC Coffee Sunday this Sunday, November 27, 2011. CSAC, Me to We, Student Council, Marathon, Mabel’s Labels, Fitness Club and others will be setting up in the Church Hall between Friday and Sunday AM. An espresso machine is also available \$1 for an espresso or hot chocolate.
- 43) Great initiatives are being made to bring the school and church communities closer together.
- 44) The webpage is being updated.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm