

MINUTES OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
February 24, 2015

Present: Renee Rozon, Natalie Trottier, Carolyn Bernard, Carolyn Cormier, Kellie Levis, Kristen Somerville, JoAnn DaSilva, Lauren Krol-Webster, Karen Torrie-Racine, Karen Harquail, Sandra Lavallee, Laura Marie Leclerc (Student rep) **Regrets :** Tia Foster-Scott, Divina Fraser, Dan Curtis, Kim Blanchet

1. Prayer and welcome-*Renee Rozon*
2. Approval of Agenda- Moved by *Karen Harquail* and seconded by *Carolyn Cormier*
3. Approval of minutes from November meeting –Moved by *Kristen Somerville* and Seconded by *Joanne DaSilva*
4. **Principal's report**-*Renee Rozon* shared the following report:

“As always, we have lots happening here at Holy Trinity as we focus on academics, celebrate our faith, excel in athletics and share our creativity in the arts.”

- CPLCs (Catholic Professional Learning Communities) continue to take place as discussions focus on student learning. Meetings have been held and discussion regarding math teachers who are focused on closing the gap from grades 6 to 7 and 8 to 9. Our French teachers are meeting to discuss the new curriculum as it relates to student needs in our school. Grade 9 and 10 Religion teachers are imbedding literacy units into the curriculum, led by English and Religion program leader *Liz Spagnolo* with support from Curriculum Consultant *Nancy MacIntyre*. We also have a team that continues to meet as a learning network with three of our elementary schools in support of student achievement. Our next meeting is Friday of this week (February 27, 2015). Next year, our grade 10 students will have the opportunity of writing the OSSLT electronically and as a result, as a preparation, our grade 9 students will take a mock electronic test in March (one booklet of 75 minutes). This must occur prior to the March Break and will be noted in the March Calendar. In terms of this year, our grade 10 students will be well-prepared as there is ongoing preparation including a literacy lunch for students whose mock tests last year revealed additional support in certain areas would benefit. *Renee* shared that she has received positive feedback from the teachers about this.
- In regards to staff changes, we welcome the return of *Mindy Gibbs* and welcome *Greg Light*, who is replacing *Kim MacLennan*. Also *Matthieu Lalonde* is replacing *Trish Longtin*. A very special welcome also goes out to *Lauren Krol-Webster*, our new chaplain, who is joining us here tonight and *Lauren* who will be sharing some of the great things happening in our catholic school.
- We at HT recently hosted our feeder school visits for our grade 8s and our grade 6s will be joining us next week. The students are very enthusiastic about coming to HT. We recently held our annual Open House with a great turnout despite the weather and we have noticed many

students from all four boards visiting us here at HT. Our registrations continue to come in and there has been lots of positive feedback about our school.

- We have excellent news about our track project. The new Board policy has been changed to allow for signage at the track and this opens up many opportunities for fundraising. This is huge for us and the committee's next steps have been to meet with a number of potential community partners. To date, we have almost \$100,000.00 in pledges and donations. These potential new partnerships will be significant in making our dream of an 8 lane rubberized track with turf become a reality. Also, as a fundraising gift to HT, the Glen Walter Fire Department is hosting a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday March 29th with proceeds going to the track project. *Renee* shared that they are hoping to have a model built to show what they hope to build including a few extras we can now plan for such as a storage area, shower room etc. *Carolyn Cormier* said that as a former Volunteer Firefighter with the Glen Walter Department, she suggested HT as the recipient from their fundraising and was pleased it was accepted. Mark your calendars – we are hoping to have as many HT families there as possible! Spread the word so that as many HT families and friends attend as possible. *Kellie Levis* said she is aware that the new Frozen Yogurt restaurant “Menchie's” would like to run a fundraising campaign in May 2015 with the proceeds going to the HT Track fundraising.
- Our HT athletes continue to excel and we have now added a gymnastics team to our list of teams. Their first competition is tomorrow and we wish them success. A couple of recent successes include the boys curling team winning gold in the finals and the senior boys basketball have made it to EOSSA and play this week. Also our girls Volleyball team won the regional finals and had their picture in the paper.
- We learned today that the student video created by *Mr. Papps* class in grade 7-8 has won the video competition held by the Boys and Girls Club in their anti-bullying day campaign. The video is wonderfully done and it will be put on the school's website for all to see.
- In regards to the Arts, the performances of the Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe run this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:00p.m, here at HT. Cost for the tickets is only \$5.00 and can be purchased in advance at the attendance office or at the door. The show runs 45 minutes and is well-worth seeing! The costumes are amazing and our students have worked very hard to make this performance a quality production.
- On another note, we will be focusing this semester on our “empower” app by having a group of students from our school council and student senate visit the classrooms to explain what it is and how to use it. The “empower” app is linked to all of our schools and is an easy way to anonymously share positive news or a concern with the school principal. (See hand out provided by *Renee Rozon*). Although the app has been in place for a year now, we feel classroom visits and discussions with an opportunity to load the app will be the most effective way to ensure awareness of the app for students. It continues to be part of HT's willingness to acknowledge and address any bullying or other concerns to keep our school safe.

- *Renee* shared another handout in regards EQAO online, which can be accessed to keep up to date with changes and so on with the Education Quality and Accountability Office.
- Last of all, HT recently held both a grade 7/8 dance and a grade 9-12 semi-formal during charity week which was the same week as Valentine's Day. The students had a great time and combined with other activities that week; \$1100 was raised and donated to Cornwall Hospice. This is a tremendous gift from our HT family. Our next event will be pink t-shirt day in support of anti-bullying awareness tomorrow, February 25, 2015.

5. **Chaplaincy leader's report-** *Lauren Krol-Webster* shared the following report:

- Our Ash Wednesday Liturgy was held on February 18th. *Fr. Marc Piché* presided; all went well. Our next service is scheduled for April 2nd, Holy Thursday, at 11am.
- We had our monthly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament today (February 24th) and had 3 grade 6 classes in attendance. Our next one is March 6th. Anyone is welcome to join the classes in prayer.
- Members of the SHOUT team will be volunteering at the Agape Centre this Thursday the 26th to help with the Hunger Heroes lunch program. Students will have the opportunity to help prepare lunch for approximately 100 people, and then will serve it to community members in need.
- On March 3rd we have guest speaker *Dorothy Quattrocchi* coming in to speak about her son *Mark's* cycling journey for Free the Children. *Mark* is cycling around the world, from China to Canada, raising awareness and funds for Free the Children. This will be a great tie-in for We Day on April 1st in Ottawa, ON at the Canadian Tire Centre. We Day is a day put on by Free the Children, and our school has been given 30 tickets to attend. *JoAnn DaSilva* asked how the students were selected and *Lauren* said that in past years, the Shout members were first offered a ticket and after that, recommendations from teachers enable for the rest of the group selected.
- Our Mission Team continues to fundraise and is doing extremely well. We have a Celtic Concert planned for March 1st at the St. Anthony's Parish Hall in Apple Hill at 2pm. The show will include the MacCulloch Dancers, the Murray Dancers, the Mini Music Makers, the Glengarry Girls Choir and the MacLeod Fiddlers. Free will offering at the door, all are welcome – this event promises to be a good one!
- There is a breakfast happening at Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall on March 8th which benefits the Mission Trip. All are invited to attend from 8am – 12pm.
- The Mission Trip is fast approaching – March 13th – 20th. Please keep all students and staff in your prayers as they embark on what I'm sure will be an enlightening and faith-filled journey!

6. **Committee reports**

a. CEC- report/Bishop Cup-*Karen Torrie-Racine*

The Catholic Education Coalition (CEC) has not met yet this academic year and things appear to be moving slowly this year from the Board's perspective. It is unclear if an event will be held. *Renee* mentioned that the "Clothesline" event at the Art Gallery is to be held. *Karen* said that perhaps this will be the CEC event. As always Catholic Education figures prominently in our community through a number of events such as the annual Bishop Cup to be held in March 2015.

The Bishop Cup organizing is coming together for another exciting challenge scheduled for Wednesday March 11, 2015. The pucks have arrived and other preparations are coming together. *Karen* mentioned that she will again need some parents from the Catholic School Council to help and is aware that *Carolyn Bernard* has already committed. She asked that other parents let her know if they can help. Any volunteers should be at the Civic Complex between 5:15 and 5:30pm to cover the doors. *Karen* asked that *Renee* remind the student population that as in past years, no backpacks or bags are permitted into the arena area. The suggestion is not to bring one and if you do, be prepared to leave it outside. The cost is again \$2 a person or two perishable food items. *Renee* mentioned that this is a dress down day with Spirit wear day and students who contribute their \$2 to dress down will receive a ticket to the game. *Renee* said she and St Joe's Principal *Natalie Cameron* have also consented to being on the radio again with *Dan Allaire* to promote the event. The cost of advertising that is officially done is covered by the Parishes and we thank them again for their help.

“Thank you to *Thom and Karen Racine* for all their time and attention to this wonderfully organized event.”

b. Parish Report- *Divina Fraser*- as read by *Carolyn Cormier*

“*Divina* wished to announce some Good Parish news, in that our Principal *Renee Rozon* is the newest Eucharistic Minister at St. Peter's Parish! Congratulations *Renee*, and God bless you on your new role.”
Thank you everyone & God bless you all.

- The HT CCSS Mission Trip group have successfully fundraised at St. Peter's Parish on January 17 & 18, 2015.
- St. Peter's Parish has a new secretary, *Ruth Tyo-Larose*. She works part time on Mondays and Fridays 9 am to 12 noon and Tues to Thurs 9 am to 3 pm.
- We have two week day masses during Lent, Tues & Wed evenings at 6:30 pm in addition to the regular week day masses in the mornings Tues to Fri at 8 am.
- Lenten obligation – Good Friday and all Fridays during Lent are days of abstinence (not eating meat) for those who are 14 years of age or older.

7. **Student Council report**- *Laura Marie Leclerc*

Laura Marie shared that she spoke to *Ms. Dixon* teacher rep to the Student Council, prior to the meeting and learned, as had been shared by *Renee Rozon*, that the Student Council had a successful Charity Week in February and raised \$1100 for the Cornwall Hospice. There was a cupcake making event, dance, dress down and numerous other events. *Karen TR* mentioned how nice it was that the Hospice received the money raised and that the students understand its role in the community.

8. **New Business**

- School transportation cancelations- *Carolyn Bernard*

Carolyn wondered about some of the decisions made this year in regards to “Snow days” and asked if a better understanding could be known in regards to decision making. As an example, there was an occasion early in the season where the buses were pulled off the roads in SD&G despite a beautiful sunny day, however the weather was bad in Ottawa-Kemptville area that day. Then approximately 1.5 weeks later, there were horrible and dangerous weather conditions in Cornwall or the southern part of the Board with blowing snow and freezing rain and Ottawa’s weather was fine. The buses remained on the roads throughout the Board and there were reports of buses ending up in the ditch in SD&G. *Carolyn* shared that she had heard many complaints from parents trying to understand how this could occur. Students are missing school time when not necessary and then on the roads when dangerous. *Carolyn* shared she was aware that there had been several complaints made directly to the Board office or STEO and noticed there appeared to be an improvement recently, however wondered about this decision making process. The board region is large one and there are concerns that decisions for such a large Board are being made by a central authority in Kemptville-Ottawa. It was agreed by several on the council that this can be a challenge and that concerns have been raised in the past as well as now. Several on the council shared that there is someone from the STEO in SD&G who will monitor the weather notices and also drive around before a determination is made. They will then advise the STEO who will make the call.

- Spaghetti dinner- track fundraiser- *Kellie Levis*

Kellie wondered about organizing a Spaghetti dinner as a fundraiser for the track committee or other ideas for fundraising. *Renee* mentioned the committee had discussed this idea and then the Glen Walter Volunteered Firefighters offered to do the breakfast so the committee decided to see how that did. Everyone agreed that a Spaghetti dinner was a big venture and a lot of work. Given this is a very busy fundraising season, some worried the timing would not be good. Other ideas were discussed such as a comedy night. *Renee* mentioned the Golf Tournament, which the Student Council was taking the lead on. It was agreed that when the Breakfast was done, we would look at a possible Fall Fundraiser.

- Update on CSC Web Page- *Kellie Levis*

Kellie and other parents asked about this. *Renee* mentioned that *Kellie*’s name was now on the web page in the parent section. Also the minutes of the last meeting was there. Other suggestions were given such as the CSC’s mission and objective, who we are and when we meet. *Karen* mentioned an opportunity to enhance the school-home-parish link . *Renee* said that *Dave McCabe* was the school’s representative with someone assisting from the Board office and she would pass the message along.

- My Blueprint- several parents

Several parents asked for understanding of the “My Blueprint” which is a link for the students to understand better their time at HT. Students have passwords and are able to log on to see their successes, experiences, for guidance in course selection, and in planning for their future. This is used primarily by the guidance department and also in the grade 10 careers class. The guidance department will also spend some one on one time with the students to help them understand how to use it. *Renee* said she would put something in the Monthly newsletter about this as she realized several parents did not know about it.

- A discussion was held in regards to some parents becoming aware that meat had been on the menu on Ash Wednesday, as well as Fridays during Lent. *Renee* said she would speak to the Cafeteria Staff about this.

8. Comments and questions

- *JoAnn DiSilva* asked if there were any school courses to teach strategies for test taking. *Natalie* said that the GLS course in grade 8 focused a lot on strategies, prior to entering high school. *Karen Harquail* asked if there was anything to assess whether a student is a visual learner or another type and again it was mentioned that this was done in the GLS course which had a large individualized component. *Renee* and *Nathalie* said that if they see a student struggling, there are several mechanisms in place to step in, assess the situation and assist the student.
- *Karen Harquail* asked if the grade 9 students completing the mock grade 9 EQAO computerized test will get any feedback about this. *Nathalie* said that the Mock test given to grade 9's annually will garner results for the school to see where they need to help so the student is successful. There will be an option next year for computerized or written test.
- *Karen Torrie-Racine* will not be able to attend the Pancake breakfast and sent her regrets early. *Renee* and *Kellie* said that they would check with the organizers to see what help may be needed. *Carolyn Cormier* said that she believed that the organizers would like to have student representation to help out such as clean up and table setting.
- *Laura Marie Leclerc* mentioned that she really enjoyed the "Harvest Dance" that the Glen Walter Firefighters once hosted and thought that this might be a nice fundraising event for the Track committee.

9. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 21, 2015 at 6:30pm

10. Adjournment

Minutes completed by *Carolyn Bernard*, and reviewed by *Kellie Levis* and *Renee Rozon*