

**MINUTES OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**November 25, 2014**

**Present:** Renee Rozon, Natalie Trottier, Carolyn Bernard, Carolyn Cormier, Tia Foster-Scott, Kelli Levis, Kim Blanchet, Dan Curtis, JoAnn DaSilva, Gordie Van Putten, Karen Torrie-Racine, Karen Harquail, Sandra Lavallee, Karen McClenaghan, Laura Marie Leclerc (Student rep) **Regrets :** Divina Fraser

1. Prayer and welcome
2. Routine Items:
  - a) Approval of Agenda- MOVED by *Kim Blanchet* and SECONDED by *Joann DaSilva*
3. Approval of minutes from September meeting – MOVED by *Carolyn Cormier* and SECONDED by *Karen Torrie-Racine*
4. Principal's report – *Renee Rozon*

Focus at this time on our School Improvement Plan includes literacy and numeracy across the curriculum. *Liz Spagnolo* (Language), *Gabe Richer* (Math), and *Andrea Stang* (Grade 7/8) are meeting a number of times to analyze data and focus on plans to support all students across the curriculum. Program Leaders are providing input and feedback as well to provide a whole school approach. The goal is to ensure that Literacy and numeracy is embedded throughout all programs.

Students in Grades 7-12 are in the process of taking the Resiliency Survey. A team from the school will be meeting at the Board office this Friday to review data from last year and plan areas to focus on as a school this year. The results will be provided to the Board, so that there can be a comparison to last year's results and to analyse. *Renee* was asked about the students' reaction to the survey and she shared that most take it very seriously and understand the impact it can have on services. She feels that the students for the most part understand the process and allows the Board and school to plan better.

To date, we have raised in \$90,000.00 in donations and pledges towards our new track. Our next event will be our Market Sale on December 4<sup>th</sup>. *Renee* reminded everyone to attend. She said that *Renee Carriere* and *Angela Pilon* have done an amazing job at organizing and that 80 vendors have confirmed to participate. She wondered if there would be any volunteers from the Catholic School Council who could help and *Tia Foster-Scott* said she would be available to help. Others are encouraged to let *Renee* know if they can help.

Our new website is up and running and we have been able to link it now from our old one. A Chaplaincy tab is being added on the front page and there will be a link for Catholic School Council. Our monthly newsletter and calendar can also be found on this site. If you have not already had the opportunity to view our new site, please go to [holytrinityfalcons.cdsbeo.on.ca](http://holytrinityfalcons.cdsbeo.on.ca). There are currently three ways to access the site: through the Board site link; through the old site which will re-direct you; and the address as provided to all families. *Renee* said that the Board is helping with

maintaining the site and this is proving to be very valuable. It looks good and is running well. There will also be a link to the School Catholic Council and the Chaplaincy, with more to come.

Our school has now fully transitioned to Windows 8. Feedback from staff and students overall has been very positive. This has been particularly easy for the 7-8 students who used this program in the elementary system. The system is slower across the board at this time but they are working out the glitches.

Our first school dance was held on November 14<sup>th</sup>. It was well-attended and students looked like they were having a great time! The students dressed up and looked great. Once again no concerns reported and it was a fabulous event. *Tia Foster-Scott* said her kids loved the event and asked if any parents have ever held chaperoning duties, which is something she would be interested in for the future.

Our athletics department and team sports are going strong – Sr. Boys Volleyball made it to EOSSA and lost in the finals and Senior Boys Football made it to the semi-finals. The newspaper had some wonderful write-ups of the event.

We will be performing *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* this week for our feeder schools. They have had two dress rehearsals on November 25, 2014 and the show looks amazing. The students are excited

Sara White, one of our grade 10 students, has won the CHEO Telethon Logo Competition. Sara's logo will be the official logo for all 2015 Telethon promotional materials and Bear Wear clothing! CHEO has decided to launch the campaign here at HT, given Sarah won the contest. This will happen in February 2015. Exciting news for Sara and the school.

Parent Teacher interviews are this Thursday from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

We are partnering with the Optimist club to support their annual Toy Drive, as is St Joseph's Secondary School. Students are welcome to bring in a new or gently used toy before December 12<sup>th</sup>. We will have a dress down day on Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and all money collected will be used to purchase gift cards for the Toy Drive through our Mission Trip gift card fundraising campaign. The school is also welcoming toys to be donated. The Parish Bulletins will advertise this news as well.

Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of December – the teachers will be having their Christmas Concert.

Student Council planning for Spirit week- "Five Days of Christmas" with lots of fun planned. This will commence December 12-18, 2014.

Our annual School Christmas concert will be December 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00p.m. More information to be found on the school website.

5. Chaplaincy leader's report- *Gordie Van Putten*

- Our Advent Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. Bishop Marcel will be presiding with Fr. Marc con-celebrating. All are welcome to join us.
- Our monthly day of adoration will be happening on Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:50 a.m. All are welcome to join our classes this day to pray to our Lord Jesus. Classes attend for scheduled 20 minutes slots
- Our SHOUT team will be running our first Christmas Angel program from Nov. 17-28 to help children who belong to our feeder schools. Various classes will receive an angel to buy a gift for and the gifts will be delivered to our feeder schools in time for Christmas. The money raised will buy a gift for the angel selected and each class can do this.
- For those who are unaware, the SHOUT team is a group of students helping others unite throughout the school. The students meet every Wednesday at the lunch hour and cover all grades from 7-12.
- Christmas Food Drive runs from Nov. 24 to Dec. 5 with all proceeds benefitting St. Vincent de Paul Society in Cornwall. We will also be a part of the Stock the Studio campaign with our local radio station. We are having a class competition for an ice cream to the class that takes in the most food per student. One prize for high school and one prize for the elementary wing. This is running this week and next and will occur in conjunction with the local Radio Stations who are doing a “stuff the studio” event and will broadcast live. This is great for HT and benefits a good cause.
- Chaplain’s Movie Series: This month on Dec. 10 and 11 we will be showing “The Nativity Story.” Students are invited to bring their lunch and enjoy a free film during lunch hour. November was the Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe and was a success.
- Annual Staff Advent Retreat is happening on Dec. 10 after school. All staff are invited to participate in this year’s theme: “The Call of Christmas.”

**Mission Team News:**

- HT will be hosting a Christmas Market at Holy Trinity on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 8 p.m. The Mission Trip participants will be working at this event.
- We also have our Fundscrip gift cards that are available for purchase. The deadline to order them is Nov. 26 and they will be delivered during the first week of December. *Gordie* has the forms or they can be found on the Chaplaincy link of the website.
- Our online magazine fundraiser is still ongoing. You can order or renew magazines at the following web address: [www.efundraisingonline.ca/ccssmissiontrip](http://www.efundraisingonline.ca/ccssmissiontrip).
- There is a breakfast happening at Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall on Sunday, Nov. 30 which benefits the Mission Trip. All are invited to attend from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- We are also now selling Holy Trinity reusable bags for \$5.00 each or 2 for \$8.00 as a new fundraiser for the Mission Trip. They will be launched at the Christmas Market event on Dec 4.

You can see any member of the team to purchase yours. They fold nicely into a pouch for easy



carrying around or put in your vehicle.

- The mission trip participants are fully into fundraising mode right now and excited by this.
- We also have a website called [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) where people can donate to the Mission trip also. You can also access all the information and forms on the HT Chaplaincy website at [www.htchaplaincy.weebly.com](http://www.htchaplaincy.weebly.com). We also accept donations if you prefer. Charitable tax receipts are available for donations made over \$20.00. You can mail any donations to the school to the attention of *Gordie Van Putten*, Chaplaincy Leader.
- *Karen Harquail* said that her daughter went last year and still sees this as an incredible experience she had, which was a life changing event. She remains in contact with the foster child at the orphanage.
- *Gordie* was asked when students apply and he explained that at the end of the school year, all students can apply. There is a detailed selection process that involves interviews. There are 4 students selected from HT, 6 from St Joe's and 2 from St Mathews.

## 6. Committee reports

### a. CEC- report – Karen Torrie-Racine

- *Karen* explained that she spoke to John Cameron, the Board's new Superintendent at the school's wine and cheese and asked about a meeting soon. She said she suspected the next meeting to be in January 2015
- The Board has not agreed that the Bishop Cup is a regional event and as such there may be a need to have another event soon. *Karen* said there is more news to come.
- The Bishop Cup date is in March, after the break with more details to follow.

- b. Parish Report –*Divina Fraser* ( report read by Committee Secretary *Carolyn Bernard*)

St. Peter’s Parish Council had their meeting on Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> 2014:

- *Divina Fraser* as our Parish representative, informed the Parish Council of the New HT website
- Also mentioned to the council was the CCSS Mission Trip and the need to fundraise. *Mr. Van Putten* has already talked to Father Matthew about this and they are working on the schedule.
- The Mission Trip is personally important to *Divina*, given this is the second year one of her children is participating. The costs have increased from last year’s \$500 participation to this year’s \$600. *Ms. Fraser* suggested to *Mr. Van Putten* that he request the parish for time to “fund raise” at the parish, but also to speak to the parish about the mission itself. *Divina* mentioned her daughter *Deanna* had just received a “letter” from her sponsor child from last year and perhaps this could pre shared as part of the presentation. *Divina* also asked if other members of last year’s Mission participants could also share some of their experience, such as “witnessing / evangelizing”.
- The Parish council also discussed the St. Peter’s Parish & St. Peter’s CWL Bursary. It was noted that only of the two students’ recipients of the Parish Bursary, (*Joel Fillion*) sent a “thank you note”. Some on the council expressed disappointment about the choices in terms of the selection of recipients and the council has offered some recommendations to change/modify the criteria on who qualifies. They are asking that the following apply: “ Students who are **actively participating in the liturgies & parish activities**” would be the recommended new guidelines.

*Karen T-R* mentioned that the recommendation could be slightly discriminatory in terms of the selection process and that the \$100.00 might make a real difference in a student’s life. She said that all aspects of Faith are important and not just attending mass. Choosing to send your child to HT and then a student remaining and participating in school faith based activities is just as important. Many members of the council agreed and expressed the same thoughts. Also mentioned was that “thank you notes” are reflective of older generations and “thank you” can be shared again in a number of manners, with many today turning to Social Media. We have to recognize generational differences and accept that the recipients could be just as thankful. If a student has not been taught to send notes, then it is difficult to expect them to know to do so. There was a suggestion that perhaps the school could look into having some cards, envelopes and stamps available and encourage the students to send a note, as mentioned, a “teachable moment”.

Other Parish Notes:

- **Christmas Masses:** Will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 5:00pm and 8:00 P.M.; then again on Christmas Day at 10:00 A.M..
- **New Year’s Masses:** Will be celebrated on New Year’s Eve at 5:00 P.M. and New Year’s Day at 10:00 A.M...
- **The Christmas Musical** – The Parish Youth Choir will present a Christmas Concert to be held on Dec. 14 at 2:00 P.M. with any proceeds or donations given to the Pro-life group.

- With *Principal Renee Rozon*' permission, *Divina Fraser* has requested if possible to mention the "Field Track Fundraising" at the next Parish Council meeting scheduled for January 5<sup>th</sup> 2015. **Divina Fraser has asked if she can be advised by Principal Rozon if this is okay.**

7. New business

- December meeting- Christmas Pot Luck December 8, @ 6:00pm at *Carolyn Bernard's* home- details on invite sent out. Suggestion is to bring a small appetizer to share and *Carolyn* will have some wine, soft drinks, coffee and tea. PLEASE RSVP to *Kellie* before December 1, 2014.
- *Kellie* asked about the Breakfast Club situation and shared an example she was aware of. The group discussed suggestions that could be implemented to encourage students to seek out assistance should they not have had breakfast or lunch. It was important for the student to feel positive about asking, and it was agreed that it can be a difficult request to make. *Renee* said she would discuss a plan with *Gordie*, who has agreed that he can be the contact for the students, should they be worried or shy about attending the office to ask for food. *Gordie* said he believed he could keep an eye on the situation, to see if there are patterns. *Renee* and *Dan Curtis* also said that in making their rounds over the lunch hour, they sort of check and see what is going on. The school has an obligation to report child protection concerns to the CAS, but may also be able to help families network with other community resources if there is a need.

8. Comments and questions- none

9. Next meeting set for Tuesday February 24, 2014

10. Motion to adjourn *Karen T-R* and seconded by *Kim Blanchet*