

**MINUTES OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**September 23, 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 **Regrets :** Divina Fraser

1. Prayer and welcome
2. Routine Items:
  - a) Approval of Agenda- MOVED by Carolyn Bernard and SECONDED by Tia Foster-Scott.
  - b) Principal Renee Rozon introduced herself to the Catholic School Council. Members present then introduced themselves.
3. Approval of minutes from May meeting – MOVED by Tia Foster-Scott and SECONDED by Carolyn Cormier.
4. Principal's report
  - Great start to the school year.
  - Enrollment is up and the numbers are strong. We are at the highest we have ever been at 720 students. This has led to a staffing increase of 2.18 staff. One will be in the elementary wing in a 50/50 capacity, Nicole Desjardins. And then 1.8 in the secondary, a prep relief position for the Living and Learning program, Natalie Dawson-Kroll. Marie Josee Martel also on board and another position to be hired with interviews coming. Also in June we had lost a .5 secretary position and this has been reinstated.
  - Renee reminded the parents that with the new anti-spam legislation the school is asking for the parents emails so that the newsletter may be sent by email. A form will go home for families to sign.
  - Orientation BBQ very well received
  - Student Success/Transition Team – weekly meetings(calling all new students, supporting students). They had a meeting on Wednesday morning (24<sup>th</sup>), and have sent a memo to staff explaining the focus at this time and to discuss issues to ensure students and families are engaged. For example this year the School staff called all the families of students in grade 9 to see how the transition to secondary went. This was well received by the families and most appreciated the chance to assist those students feeling lost, or with some anxiety.
  - Board Improvement Plan and School Improvement Plan (data and EQAO Grade 9 Math and Grade 10 OSSLT analysis meeting held with Board consultant– we are above provincial standard and a significant number of students who were not achieving the provincial standards in Grade 3 and 6 are now achieving provincial standard in Grade 9).

We are scheduling CPLCs in Departments and as a SIP planning group to review data and plan specific goals to achieve this year. Numeracy and literacy across the curriculum is the focus at this time and they are taking current initiative and data to help move forward. By looking at past results they are focused on success. Also doing learning networks, where they are matching with feeder elementary schools to help the transition to HT.

- Learning Networks will take place with three of our feeder schools throughout this year with an emphasis of Literacy across the curriculum. An emphasis is focusing on students strengths and interests – what CAN a student do and how can we support areas of weakness and continue to support students to reach their full potential? The focus is to help integrate math and literacy into all aspect of learning- a cross literacy learning.
- SERT/DI Inservice was recently held in Kemptville. Focus on a student’s strengths and interests to help learning. They are hoping that IEP’s will be accessible to all teachers soon so that they will READ the document early and offer input or suggestions for students to have the tools to be successful. They are hoping to start with grade 9 Math.
- Encouragement for all students to become involved (Announcements, Screen in Atrium, new bulletin board – Falcon Funtivities. They are videotaping events to show. Also there is a bulletin board outside of guidance department where Falcon events and activities will be posted so nobody misses anything. The information needed is there . A parent asked if the information could go on the HT website as well and this was going to be looked into.
- Musical this year: Shrek. Auditions were held and the announcement will be the following Friday.
- Falcon Friend-Zee Fundraiser very successful, Amazing Race was a great day for students! We are awaiting the final tally. There has been lots of positive feedback about how it went, however Ms. Rozon has asked for the student government to keep their eyes open to see where the school can improve participation. One even that went over well was the Fire truck that came in and students were refreshed with a mist. The pictures will soon be on website. There was mention by some parents that some students did not wish to participate because of their belief that there was a strong “sports” component. Those more interested in the arts were not interested. The organizers are working at making the event more inclusive next year so that many more find activities that suit their needs. She said there were over 400 participating and another 80 in the school doing other activities, while even others were at their CO-OP.
- Charity Bowl will take place next Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m. Dress Down Spirit Day dressing in green and gold for \$ 2 donation to helping students families in crisis. Donated food items will go to St Vincent de Paul. The Juniors play first, then the Seniors.
- Building a new track will be a primary initiative this year – launch will take place Friday October 24<sup>th</sup> with a Wine and Cheese event at the school. They will be addressing the invitations to specific families or organizations that could help with the fundraising effort. They will have planning pictures available. This is open to parents and those over 19 community members interested in the cause. There will be a goodwill offering. At

this time our goal is \$500,000.00 and we will increase as we go. Other fundraisers to come including possibly a golf tournament.

- Our annual Christmas Market will take place Thursday December 4<sup>th</sup>. We anticipate having 80 tables. Proceeds from table reservations will go towards our Mission trip. All other proceeds will go towards our track project.

5. Chaplaincy leader's report

- Our SHOUT (Students Helping Others Unite Together) Team, is our new look for the Social Justice group and we will join the one from St. Joe's for a Social Justice Retreat on Oct. 10 held at St. Francis de Sales Parish Hall in Cornwall. This retreat is hosted by Genevieve Gallant, Youth Coordinator for Development and Peace. There is a large interest from the grades 7- 9 student population this year.
- Mr. McDonnell's and Mr. Papp's' classes will be heading to Shalom House on Oct. 27 for a spiritual retreat of their own. They will be visiting the Ruins in St. Raphael's and also St. Finnan's Cathedral as part of their day. This will be a combination History/religion trip.
- Our Mission retreat will be on October 21, 2014
- Our Thanksgiving School Mass will be held on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 9:30 a.m. in our gym. All family members and community members are always welcome to join us. Our SHOUT Team will be asking all students to please bring in 2 canned food items to Mass as we also celebrate World Food Day. All donations will be given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Cornwall who help feed our local community. We also welcome Fr. Marc Piché who will be presiding his first Mass here at the school.
- Our monthly day of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be taking place on Tuesday, Oct. 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. in our Chapel. If you have any spare time in the morning please feel free to join us in this time of prayer and worship. Other dates for the school year is Nov. 18, Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 24, Mar. 16, Apr. 28, May 26, June 9. Adoration times are always held at 9:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
- Our Rosary partnership with the C.W.L. of St. Peter's begins this month. Each week members of the C.W.L. and the grade 8 class of Mrs. Stang will pray the rosary together in honour of our Mother Mary during the month of October. This occurs once a week and the CWL visits the school. This is a wonderful way to join our school and parish communities in solidarity and prayer.
- Mission Trip News: We welcome this year on our team for the Mission Trip: Desiree Fraser, Rebecca MacDonnell, Kyrstin Barkley, Tharsiga Gunaratnarajah and staff member Mrs. Patricia MacDonnell who will be working hard this year for another wonderful experience of work and fundraising. Mark your calendars as fundraising events are arriving. There will be a Vendor's Fair at Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall on Thursday, Nov. 13 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. and a Christmas Market at Holy Trinity C.S.S.

on Thursday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. to help support our Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic.

- They are looking at having a link for the Chaplaincy on the school website
- As discussed, the Christmas Market is Thursday December 4, 2014 at HT.
- SHOUT Team activities include:
  - postcards for peace from Nov. 4-7.
  - Christmas Angel Program for our feeder schools
  - Christmas Food Drive: Nov. 24 – Dec. 5
  - Prayer Partners Program for our grade 2 sacramental preparation students in our feeder schools
  - Annual Thinkfast Program: March 6, 2015
  - World Teacher Day Cards this Friday
- The Annual Just-Us Youth Day for grade 10 students will be happening in Kemptville on Tuesday, Nov. 25. The theme for this year is: Ignite the Light for Justice. Students will be able to participate in various workshops throughout the day in order to learn more about social justice perspectives and groups. Applications need to be submitted and then a decision will be made.
- The Diocese has a youth specific sacraments program for those interested students who have not completed their sacraments.

Peace and Joy in our Living God!

Gordie Van Putten, Chaplaincy Leader.

## 6. Committee reports

- a. CEC- report – Karen Torrie-Racine: There will soon be a meeting, date undetermined. This committee commenced in 2001 and involved a group of teachers, staff and parents working to ensure Catholic Education stays in Ontario. Our Board is pro-active in this area and usually has two events a year.
- b. Karen Torrie-Racine also wished to advise that the School is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary soon and that she and Renee will be meeting to discuss this further. It is expected that the celebration may include a fundraiser for the new Track, as well as a special event.
- c. Karen Torrie-Racine said that the Bishop Cup plans have commenced and this is our 9<sup>th</sup> annual event, which is usually the first Wednesday after the March Break. It also is a big fundraiser for St Vincent de Paul.
- d. Parish Report –Divina Fraser could not attend this meeting.

## 7. New business

a) Committee elections

Elections were held for the posts on the Catholic School Council.

Kellie Levis has agreed to be the chairperson again

Carolyn Cormier has agreed to be the vice-chair again

Carolyn Bernard has agreed to be the secretary again

Divina Fraser has agreed to be the Parish representative again

There is also a need for a member or members to rotate attendance at the Special Needs Advisory Committee, a meeting held once a month at the Board office in Kemptville, ON. They are on Wednesdays and the suggestion is for two members to attend at a time. The travelling was the challenge and it was suggested that perhaps video link could be set up so that travelling would not be necessary.

b) Welcoming committee- update

Kellie reminded us that this was an idea discussed last year to assist and support new students to the school and community at large, who may know nobody at school and get lost in the shuffle. It was mentioned that perhaps the student government could act as a peer helper with this. The idea was to focus on grades 10, 11 and 12 who may be new to the school and it would serve as encouragement in learning their new community. The idea was mentioned of having this done through the “Houses” and even matching an older student with a younger student. It was agreed we would explore this further.

c) Web page- update

Once again the question came up of having a link on the school web page for the Catholic School Council. Nathalie Trottier said she had spoken to Mr. McCabe about this and it was being worked on. The Committee members suggested we could add helpful suggestions, the minutes of meetings and notices of upcoming meetings.

d) Breakfast club

Kellie mentioned that she wondered if there was something in place to assist those students unable to have breakfast in the morning, to assist them in their learning. Renee said that there was already something in place for the 7-8 group. She added that the school student support worker was already working on initiative to help those students already identified as having some nutritional needs. Teachers will discreetly identify students to Cindy St Onge who will find a way to help. There are limitations because of a number of factors, including Canada food guide, Board and Provincial directives. There is always food in the main office and the students know they can come and get something. The school will also give gift vouchers to the Cafeteria. Also discussion of student success room or Mr. Van Putten’s room to leave some healthy snacks in and students can just attend as needed.

- e) Joanne DaSilvo said that Conquest Boys Club was starting next Friday at the school with the goal of introducing sports through Catholic Education. It will run on Fridays from 7-9 and is open to boys ages 8-16, and the group encourages the father's attendance. The cost is \$50 a year and they are given a t-shirt, book, and rosary.
- f) Journey to the Father is no longer in existence
- g) Kim Blanchet mentioned that she works with the Mental Health Nurse Michelle Neville through the Board office and Ms. Blanchet shared a personal experience where she received assistance for her son. She said the experience was very positive and supportive and she encouraged anyone knowing of other who may need assistance to speak to the school administration about this support. Michelle Neville will be the lead in terms of referrals so that the turnaround is fast. Also Sandra McCuaig from CCAC has a good working relationship with the school and has been a tremendous support in the area of mental health

8. Comments and questions

A group get-together was discussed again for the Christmas period and we would discuss this at the next meeting

9. Next meeting set for Tuesday November 4, 2014 at 6:30pm

10. Adjournment