

S.B.C.S.S – “A Celebration of People”
“Heart of the Community: Success for each -- a place for all”

St. Benedict School Council Meeting

Thursday, September 28, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Room 111

IN ATTENDANCE:

Alex Letona, Eric Vas, Diane Lemke, Mary Castro-Roman, Margaret Rodrigues, Val Ruoso, Frank Hochstenbach, Lenford Hines, Josie Braga, Susan Dobbie, Roger Oei, Anton Milardovic, Carolyn Mele, Diane Haddow

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Welcome & Introduction of Co-Chairs: Dan Witt

Tribute to Liz DeSousa

Prayer: Eric and Alex

Mail: A thank you letter was shared from the recipient of the 2017 graduation Parent Council Award

Treasurer's Report: Eric

- Balance \$295.34
- PIC grant money spent on basketball tournament ad and on refreshments for events
- We did not apply for the PRO Grant for the 2017/2018 school year. During the 2016/2017 year we used the money towards Dr. Gordon's workshops on resilience

New Website: Anton

- Website is now AODA compliant with board generated links
- Within certain parameters St. Benedict's can do their own thing on the website
- News feeds are from the school and the board
- RSS feeds are not used yet – first want to make sure everything else is working
- Suggestion: have a check box where you can click on which feeds to which you would like to subscribe
- School council can add updates with announcements, minutes, etc. Can be used as a communication tool
- GREAT JOB ANTON!

Principal's Report: Dan Witt

A) Enrollment

- Enrollment has increased for this school year, especially grade 9 registration
- Retention rate has increased again this year, to approximately 93%

- Increased enrollment from non-Catholic schools
- Approximately 1520 students this year at the time of this meeting

B) Hallman Foundation Grant

- St. Benedict's received the Hallman Grant of \$545,000!
- That brings the total grant money to over \$1,000,000
- Still have approximately \$15,000-\$20,000 left from phase 2 to carry over to phase 3
- Phase 3:
 - o will include upgrading the library for a better balance between community and high school library.
 - o Hoping to be able to build outdoor washroom and water
 - o Once an architect is secured, the design can be completed
 - o Target date: construction in summer 2018 with completion ready for September 2018. Strict timeline to stick to

C) EQAO

- Positive math results. The previous year was a 32% applied success rate, whereas the past year was 48%
- St. Benedict's brought in support for grade 9 applied math
- Also brought in a gap-closing teacher after realizing the significant gaps
- 2nd semester results were significantly better
 - o Semester 1 overall results: 37% success rate
 - o Semester 2 overall results: 58% success rate
- Have added 2 sections each semester to support grade 9 applied sections
- With enrollment increase, may increase sections. May also apply a gap teacher to applied English

D) General Update

- Good start to the year
- Entire administration staff are back which is positive
- There are a lot of people in the St. Benedict's community who really care and give extra

Priorities and Directions for the Coming Year: Group

A) Applied Stream – pathways to success

- Will let the Board take the lead for now
- Important to enforce the message that applied is a valuable stream as there are many paths to success

B) Health & Wellness

- Ministry priority

C) Drug & Addiction Awareness

- School social worker, Sandra
- Promote drug and addiction awareness in the school

- Info night with Sandra
- Mayor Craig has set up a task force to respond to the Opioid crisis. A Board representative on the task force would be valuable

D) Conflict Resolution

- We have an agreement with the Community Justice Initiative (CJI) which will work to mediate solutions
- Physical response to conflict, etc
- CJI offered free training and 12 staff participated for the 3 day training this past August
- Will be dealing with mediations in the school
- Help bring insight to misunderstandings, bring closure
- Also issues like restorative practices in the classroom so the conflict does not spill out into the hallways.
- Helps students and staff navigate the challenges better
- Depending on how drug awareness goes, may bring in Shelley re: conflict resolution – restorative practices in the home
- Suggestion: send a survey asking if people would attend a drug addiction seminar

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm

Next meeting: **Tuesday, October 24, 2017**
Room 101

Minutes Submitted by: Diane Haddow