

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, October 24, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Room 111

IN ATTENDANCE:

Dan Witt, Alex Letona, Eric Vas, Diane Lemke, Margaret Rodrigues, Frank Hochstenbach, Lenford Hines, Josie Braga, Mary Castro-Roman, David Guerin, Katrina Power, Diane Haddow

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Welcome: Dan Witt

Prayer: Alex

Mail: No mail

Treasurer’s Report: No changes from Sept meeting

Principal’s Report: Dan Witt

A) OFSAA Hockey

- St. Benedict’s will be hosting Girls AAA hockey OFSAA tournament March 21-23
- All funds generated through the tournament will stay in the school community
- They are selling sponsorships:
 - o Platinum: \$5000 = tournament named after them
 - o Gold: \$1000 = pool named after them

B) International Student Resource Office

- 32 International students at St. Benedict
- Approximately 230 students throughout the board
- Challenge of adding students is the need for home stays within out school community. School council will help spread the word of the need for more homes willing to take international students
- There are benefits of taking in international students, like expanding your perspective and experience. There is also financial compensation.
- Currently there are 2 companies being used to help find homestays
- Will get more messaging out through the BENN newsletter
- Dan welcomes any thoughts/suggestions from council members

C) Social Worker - Sandra

- Sandra spoke to council about the drug crisis happening in Cambridge
- Crisis is happening everywhere, not just Cambridge.
- Sandra links families with community resources
- Over the last 2 years there has been an increase in referrals
- Challenge with the media reporting about major drugs, which increases fear of parents.
- Discussed how parents are unsure, do not know their options and supports
- Healthy schools committee – engage students in programs after school
- 2 youth care workers available after school
- International certificate program can be a way to engage youth
- Having open conversations
- Sandra asked council how we can bring supports to families in the Bennie’s community? Council thought a parent info night would be useful. A parent making that first phone call seeking help can be difficult, so if we bring the agencies to an info night, we can maybe help with that first step
- PARENT INFO NIGHT:
 - o What every parent should know about drugs and youth. Strategies for having that open conversation
 - o Keep it basic so all feel compelled to attend without feeling labelled or feeling like by attending they are declaring their child has a drug addiction
 - o Bring in approximately 3 community organizations, such as:
 - Ray of Hope – offer parent groups that deal with feelings of helplessness, what control they do have, how to maneuver the path with their youth. Also work in-home and have different levels of intervention for kids, community, residential
 - Here 24/7 – run through CMHA. Is an adult triage but they help youth as well. Addictions, mental health and crisis services
 - Front Door Lutherwood – triage for youth. Offer crisis help, parent support, teen support and walk-in services to everyone
 - o Dan and Sandra will look at the feedback from council meeting and bring to the next meeting
 - o After that meeting Anton can send a survey out to the community
 - o Plan info night for February

D) Next Meeting:

- Nadia Offak will be presenting to council on Graduation and will welcome thoughts and feedback
- Discuss Info Night as discussed above

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm

Next meeting: Thursday, November 30, 2017
Room 101, 7:00pm

Minutes Submitted by: Diane Haddow