

**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***

***Tuesday, November 30 2017***

***7:00 p.m.***

***Room 111***

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Frank Hochstenbach, Lenford Hines, Josie Braga, Susan Dobbie, Roger Oei , Eric Vaz, Diane Lemke, Dan Witt, Diane Haddow, Nada Offak

**Meeting called to order at 7:00pm**

**Welcome:** Dan Witt

**Prayer:** Dan Witt

**Mail:** Eric Vaz

**Treasurer’s Report:** Eric Vaz

**Principal’s Report:** Dan Witt

A) Heart of the Community Update

- looking at putting in additional lighting
- hoping for outdoor water fountain by the library
- would like to have it all mapped out by January

B) New Program at St. Benedict’s

~ Learning through service/mission program ~

- Would be implemented at both St. Benedict’s and Monsignor Doyle
- Connected to Me to We
- Very exciting opportunity which will bring global awareness
- It is a 3-course package. Two credits in classroom, such as grade 11/we religion or grade 12 social justice. One credit coop for planning, programming, fundraising, etc
- It would also include a 2 week excursion to a country such as Kenya or Tanzania
- The goal is to have the program put together for the 2018/2019 school year with the first excursion to take place May 2019
- Bennie’s goal is to have approximately 20 students participate, with a minimum of 15 students to make it viable.
- Will start advertising in January because it will affect student course selection, and will present to parents shortly after

- Simcoe County Catholic School Board has been participating in this program for a number of years with great success. They usually have an average of 60 applicants, but narrow the acceptance down to 30 students to make it manageable.
- The Simcoe Board has offered to help with our school for support on implementation and planning. Also offered to come and help with marketing/promotion and share their experience with families.
- Cost for the excursion is usually \$5000-\$6000 which students will have to commit to upon applying and acceptance into the program
- Our board does not want financial commitment to become a barrier to participation in the program for those who are unable to afford it. Fundraising efforts will be made during the coop session, and the school will look at additional fundraising options to help offset the cost.
- Fundraising for the program would not take away from our other community based fundraising for those in need in our community
- Our VP Erin Riley will be the point person for the program at Bennie's

#### C) Kindness Mass

- Was a great mass
- Music was student-lead and terrific with Ms Laforet as the supervisor
- Students were respectful and engaged

#### D) Sports

- Some amazing talent being shown in Bennie's sports! It has been very exciting

#### E) Grade 8 Parent Night

- Thursday, January 18 at 6:30
- Grade 8 classes from Catholic and Public Elementary are invited to attend
- Will have a School Council table set up – will need a few volunteers to help man the table

#### F) Drug & Addiction Awareness Parent Information Session – council discussion

- Focus less on drug addiction and more general so appeals to more people and feels more open to all
- Survey to be sent out with intention to see how much interest there is in attending and what topics are of most interest
- Subtopic categories to choose from on survey: parent/teen relationship, Anxiety & depression, Video game addiction, substance abuse & support resources
- Will add survey to next BENN being sent out

#### G) Grade 12 Graduation – Nada Offak

- Nada implemented council's suggestion last year of charging \$5 for extra tickets requested beyond the 4 allotted to each student. Nada liked the results and will do the same this year
- Nada has had difficulty securing the Conestoga College venue again this year.

- Nada presented another option – the Kitchener Auditorium. Is more expensive, but available on preferred date. Council suggested going with this venue for a few reasons, including larger seating capacity, the layout for the ceremony/refreshments following, potential to share cost of stage, etc with other schools using the venue that week, and Kitchener Auditorium trying to work with us to help make the pricing work. May have to increase the graduation cost from \$85 to approximately \$95 to cover the increased cost in food with increased seating capacity/anticipated increased numbers for refreshments. That is still much less than other high schools charge. The cost covers a lot of items, such as the cap/gown the students keep, food, chair and stage rentals, audio, etc

D) Next Meeting:

- Some possible topics of discussion: Prom Dress Exchange, Saints Fund, Learning through Social Service Justice Program

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm**

**Next meeting:** Thursday, January 25, 2018  
Room 101, 7:00pm

**Minutes Submitted by:** Diane Haddow