

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

St. Benedict CSS, Catholic Schools Advisory Council
Thursday, September 26, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Room 111

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Welcome: Eric Vaz

- Welcome to Margaret Ingoldsby
- Welcome to all present for the meeting

Confirmation of Co-Chairs

- Eric would like a co-chair – any volunteers?
- Go forward with Eric as Chair in the meantime

Introductions of attendees

Marg – introduction of herself

- Started her career here in 1992
- 1st Principalship
- Excited to be here

Discussion: Difference between Elementary and Secondary Council

- Parent engagement
- Understanding school and direction of school
- Spend a lot of time around principal report
- Guest speakers
- Spend a lot of time on parent engagement, mental health of students, through seminars, etc
- Would provide guidance for some of the changes happening – ie. Guinea pigs for new surveys, etc
- Bingo only fundraising – on waiting list
- Student last year requested financial assistance from us to help with bi-annual magazine
- Do not need to fundraise for student needs – fundraising is not to be a focus of advisory board
- Providing parent portal - key tips to parents on how to relate to their children and to be involved in their school
- Help educators know what students’ needs are

Principal's Report

- Hoping Service-Learning group will come to one of our meetings
- Sac come to one meeting
- Shared "What We Believe"
- Bennies old motto "Greet every stranger as a friend". Today's motto "Celebration of People". Both go well together
- Ministry Priorities
- MYSP – Multi-Year Student Plan
- St. Benedict CSS did very well on EQAO
- Change this year – Template for Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (Student Plan and Teacher Plan)
- Continuing to focus on Well Being, Numeracy/Literacy (Applied Level Students), Promote and create a culture of innovation, Pathways/Graduation Rates
- 1500 students approx.
- Some senior classes have increased, but the majority have not
- Not aware of any classes/sections cancelled due to changes with ministry

Communication

- Difficult to effectively communicate to parents when a situation has taken place, while maintaining privacy
- Newswire night before event
- School messenger before event

Parent: Field Hockey as possibility?

- Encourage student to talk to a teacher about starting up any sports or clubs they are interested in

Possible Strikes?

- Don't have anymore information than what media has reported
- Principal's have not heard any news so far
- CUPE job action is what is potentially coming – board will direct the school on how to communicate properly if that did occur

Priorities and directions for the coming year:

- CPIC – still focus on inclusion within school community; parent engagement
- Last year we looked at potential changes to our portal. Still working with Anton about that. He is willing to come to a meeting and work with parents to determine what they would see
 - Council members feel that would be very beneficial
 - Need to have a definitive ask for Anton by end of meeting so he knows how to move forward and we are comfortable
 - Will invite him to come January
 - Prior to next meeting, council members will navigate the website and come with suggestions/challenges/etc
- No October meeting because it had been set for Halloween night, which would be difficult for parents/staff to attend
- Guest speaker possibilities for parents and/or students
 - Vaping
 - Anxiety
 - Mental Health
- Talk to Sharon about picking a date for parent info night. Can establish date and advertise as parent-teacher conference night. Marg will contact her and CC Eric
- Work on communication – newswire, communication with feeder schools, etc.
 - Especially when events are on so we do not overlap with event at feeder schools
- Nicole will help Diane as secretary going forward

Next Meeting: November 28, 2019
6:30pm, Room 111

Meeting Adjourned: 8:05pm

Minutes Submitted by: Diane Haddow