

Catholic Schools Advisory Council
St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School
Tuesday, October 6, 2020
Virtual Teams Meeting

1. Opening Prayer – Margaret

2. Territorial Acknowledgement

I (we) would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather today is the land traditionally used by the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe and Neutral People. I (we) also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws, and philosophies of the Indigenous People with whom we share this land today

3. Call for Additional Agenda Items – Margaret

- No additional items

4. Council Position Elections – Eric

- Accepting nominations for co-chair and secretary positions
- None brought forward during the meeting
- You can email Margaret or Jennifer if you are interested in either position

5. Minutes of Last Meeting – Eric

- Motion to accept the minutes – Diane Haddow
- 2nd – Teresa Poole
- All in favour

6. CSAC Review of Purpose – Margaret & Eric

- https://www.wcdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2017/02/Catholic_School_Council_Handbook.pdf

7. SAC Report – Colin Vrugteman

- Just submitted Sept 2020 board report to student trustees
- August 14th - Went into the school to film video of all changes that would be happening; posted to SAC Instagram page
- August 15th had first SAC meeting with team members chosen the previous year
- Have had several other meetings since
- Planning school colour spirit day to try and boost school spirit
- Orange shirt day to honour Indigenous children sent away to residential schools and to come together as communities in a spirit of reconciliation and hope #everychildmatters
- Lots planned for month of October – Halloween coffee house, movie night where SAC will post two diff movies to watch depending on if you have Disney plus or Netflix (movies will be approved by the school first), Halloween music over the PA system every morning, pumpkin carving contest posted on instagram to vote, and student on SAC from social justice sector has been trying to organize an academic awards night

- Spirit week planned for November
- Hybrid-style learning in cohorts means things need to be done differently, but SAC is up for the challenge and excited to move forward with all of the ideas. Not as many activities happened in September because the school was settling into the new ways.
- SAC is conscious of reaching all students and its important role during this year

8. Principal's Report – Margaret

Principal's Report Attachment:



Oct 2020 CSAC
mtg.pptx

- All staff are putting in a lot of effort into making this unique school year the best it can be for students
- Margaret is proud of the students and staff for their efforts and attitudes
- Highlights of report:
 - Council – welcome any feedback; not inviting parents into school unfortunately
 - School Demographics – calendar's are posted online
 - Within the school students have been very good at abiding by COVID rules
 - Welcoming grade 9's was different, but the leaders did a great job of creating signs, virtual tours, etc
 - Start-up
 - encourages parents to continue looking at re-opening documents and operational guidelines
 - umbrella project – instagram account used to follow
 - doing one per quad
 - justice community a partner again this year
 - school opening – start of school delayed partly because of the new operating system they had put in prior to COVID
 - This thur doing virtual and phone interviews for parents
 - mid-term marks provided by email by parent
 - there will be final report cards for each quadmester
 - Ministry of Education Update:
 - No final exam, instead there will a be project-based final
 - Still waiting to hear about EQAO
 - Community service hours reduced to 20 hours for students in grade 12 and can be virtual-based
 - Communication
 - Lots of info pushed to student portal, is also posted on school website
 - Doing best to communicate in as many ways as possible
 - Gaf account – that is gmail
 - Aspen – will be used more as the year progresses
 - It will have a lot more information and used a lot more often
 - Tabs have not been populated yet

- You will be able to see upgraded marks, attendance, can change personal information, etc.
- To see actual marks at the moment will be done through google email
- Principal encourages parents to be active participants with their child as well as with their teachers

9. Budget - Eric

- CPIC will run similar as last year to give money to family of schools; they are reducing the amount and trying to get people to work together
- We still have credit to use - Margaret will get suggested dates from feeder school to get guest speaker virtually

10. Bingo - Diane

- Bingo halls were closed during quarantine and reopened in the summer.
- Volunteer work temporarily suspended during COVID until further notice
- Proceeds still being shared amongst member organizations
 - Thanks to Cambridge Bingo Hall, St. Benedict has received \$2278.73 to date!
- Funds are not to be held and accumulated over prolonged periods of time, so we need to decide where there is a need for the funds to be used. Margaret will talk to SAC and staff and discuss it at our next meeting.
- In lieu of volunteer hours, the Cambridge Gaming Association has established participation requirements. Most requirement options we are unable to complete at this time because we are a new member who only completed 2 volunteer assignments before quarantine shutdown.

11. Discussion - All

- Council should review where we are, what has happened, where were some areas of anxiety and concern from parenting perspective so we can give opportunity to new families to access the information
 - I.e. What is aspen?
- Students and Educators miss the extra-curricular; some are having a hard time understanding how come they are open in the community but not in the school
 - If we can start some clubs virtually it will help students connect
 - Some talk about starting some clubs; operational guidelines at beginning discouraged it b/c it is a big undertaking for the school and they needed to get their feet on the ground first, so will approve some clubs soon
 - Marg encourages students to Use school council ig to follow their fun activities
 - Can also go under student portal and use that more this year moving forward to share info
 - Arts council is trying to get going as well virtually
 - It was a caveat to begin intramural when able, but school is not at a point to manage that yet.
 - Organized sports were all cancelled for this season for sure. Most likely for rest of the year.
- Community outreach for Christmas – sac working on

12. Next meeting

- Parent portal ideas to make it a go-to place. Anton reached out to Eric saying it was still on his radar
 - Suggestion: a running agenda – updates on school activities in addition to sac updates in case operational guidelines have changed
- Discuss best use of Bingo Funds - Look at ways we can get funds back into community from bingo, if possible, by supporting local business for purchases

Future Meetings:

We will Continue with Tuesdays at 6pm, the 1st Tuesday of the first month of each quad

- Have to have 4 meetings this year, 1/quadmester. Can add additional for year end celebration

Dates:

- Oct 6
- Dec 8
- Feb 9
- May 4
- Additional meetings to be schedule as deemed necessary

Meeting adjourned: 7:35pm

St. Benedict CSAC is supported by the proceeds from the Cambridge Bingo Centre

