

Catholic Schools Advisory Council  
St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School  
Tuesday, September 28, 2021 Virtual Teams Meeting

**1. Welcome & Open Prayers - Margaret Introductions**

**Territorial Acknowledgement – Margaret**

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

**2. Elections**

- Eric and Denise will serve as Co-Chairs
- Diane will serve as Treasury
- Nicole will serve as Secretary

October 27 ----- virtual meeting ----- Margaret will send the details to Eric and Denise

**3. Minutes of last meeting / new business arising**

**4. CSAC – review purpose (link below)**

[https://www.google.com/url?client=internal-element-cse&cx=004652175256337532228:7wmfgrbb\\_i8&q=https://www.wcdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2017/02/Catholic\\_School\\_Council\\_Handbook.pdf&sa=U&ved=2ahUKEwjHsufi367zAhVIMlkFHVVGcssQFnoECAkQAg&usg=AOvVaw0Zdp9nyZL8U9k6x8VITLyK](https://www.google.com/url?client=internal-element-cse&cx=004652175256337532228:7wmfgrbb_i8&q=https://www.wcdsb.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2017/02/Catholic_School_Council_Handbook.pdf&sa=U&ved=2ahUKEwjHsufi367zAhVIMlkFHVVGcssQFnoECAkQAg&usg=AOvVaw0Zdp9nyZL8U9k6x8VITLyK)

**5. SAC Report – Co-Presidents - Madison**

- Lots planned for October, Month long event with the focus on unity, community and coming together
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (formerly known as Orange Shirt Day)
- October 6 – Event to hand out candies/chocolates
- October 13 – Coffee House
- 3-day event – Amazing Race/Scavenger Hunt
- October 27 – Outdoor Movie Night, Halloween Themed (cost \$750 for screen, \$250 for copy rights on movie)
- Planning more events both in person and on-line
- Question asked about where funds come from --- SAC does have a budget that pays for events and usually the dances raise money to help pay for events
- Bingo money may be able to be used for some events since benefitting the whole school

**7. Principal Report – Margaret**

- School statistics

- Enrollement 1657 (21 enrolled – virtually hybrid class)
- Teaching Staff 107
- Classroom Support Staff 13
- Support staff - Admin Assistants 10
- Support Staff – Custodians 11
- Q1 sees D8 return for sports teams
- Arts have go-ahead to move forward with activities
- Great start to the term with some challenges with Lunch time, good weather has held out but eventually the students will not be able to eat out. Plan will be 20 minutes for lunch in 1<sup>st</sup> period classroom and 20 minutes to transition to 2<sup>nd</sup> period (5 minute limit at lockers)
- Delay in yearbook – end of October target – Grads may wait to pick up diplomas until yearbook is ready so just one pickup necessary
- Planning for Graduation for the spring starting – determine if Kitchener Auditorium will take bookings. We had a contract with them prior to pandemic so need to follow up with them.
- Terry Fox was completed on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Board has hired an Equity Officer – look at the board website for more details
  - <https://www.wcdsb.ca/equity-diversity-and-inclusion-webpage/>
- Expect to see an Equity Census survey to be coming out shortly
- Parents are encouraged to check the board website for update to health screening criteria.
- COVID-19 School & Childcare screen tool – very useful
- Community hours required for Class of 2022 has been reduced to 20 hours
- Hope to have 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester as normal with 4 courses but that decision has not been made yet
- **Communication channels – we have many options for getting information out, your best sources are:**
  - Aspen – Student and Parent portals
  - Website - is being updated but face a challenge with teacher workloads – classes take the priority
  - School Messenger (if not getting calls, please call let the school know)
  - Benn News Letter
- **Important Dates:**
  - Parent Teacher Interviews - Thursday, October 7th
  - Progress Reports shared via email to parents & students
  - Grad Video and Diploma Distribution – Oct 12-Oct 31 (may call school to pick up)
  - Q1 final assessments – November 10th & 11th – no formal exams
  - Credit rescue – November 12<sup>th</sup>
  - Mid- November – EQAO On-line Literacy testing

## 7. Other Reports – Eric/Diane

### Bingo Update:

- As of today September 28, 2021, we have \$4000 in the bank
- We are expected to spend that money in the next couple of months, due to the pandemic there is a bit more leniency on how quickly we spend the money. A few ideas may

include benches and tables for the courtyard to create more space for students to be outdoors, potential of an outdoor classroom setup that could be used. Need to involve students before deciding where to spend the money.

- Needed to confirm our spot so we wouldn't lose it. We will continue to have Tuesday nights from 9pm-11pm where we are required to have 1 volunteer at the door. The volunteer must be double vaccinated, no exemptions allowed
- No training will be completed until back to normal
- A big thank you to the Cambridge Bingo and Gaming Center for continuing to provide organization like our school with revenue.

### **Catholic Community Foundation of Waterloo Region**

- The goal of this committee is to help parents navigate these challenging times.
- They want to know what parents are experience through the covid pandemic, what works and what doesn't.
- HOPE is there focus – parents are more involved than ever due to the shutdown which had parents truly engaged in their child's education when school was happening at home through on-line channels.

### **BTE Engineering Firm – Behaviour Analysis**

- 3 locations were chosen for an observational exercise to watch behavioural actions of cars/walkers/neighbour traffic/school traffic
- 3 locations were: Franklin Blvd (Infront of school), Homer Watson/Ottawa roundabouts and St. Mary's roundabout on Blockline
- Franklin Blvd observation period was during lunch time where they saw about 800 students attempting to cross both Saginaw and Franklin. It was crazy and didn't even take into account the pickup/drop off times where buses/cars are everywhere
- Homer Watson/Ottawa observation period had observers attempt to walk the whole roundabout --- in conclusion it was insane
- St. Mary's observation period was chosen at dismissal time – they observed at least 200 walkers, volume of traffic was enormous with a Paramedics vehicle unable to get through the roundabout due to the volume
- On top of BTE doing this behavioural study, the school is doing their own study to determine how to improve the traffic flow at the school during drop off/pickup times. More to come once the group has some suggestion to improve the school congestion

Meeting adjourned: 7:25pm

Minutes submitted by: Nicole Carriere

**Next Meeting: November 23 @ 6pm**