

Catholic Schools Advisory Council
St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School
Thursday September 28, 2023

1. Welcome & Open Prayers - Jordan

Territorial Acknowledgement – Jordan

I (we) would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather today is the land traditionally cared for 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. Introductions

3. SAC Report – Co-Presidents – Rory and Jenna

- The members of SAC attended camp Kintail for 2 days of team building. There are 36 students that are part of SAC this school year.
- Terry Fox run was today and was successful.
- SAC is trying to organize a cheerleading team this school year. TBD
- SAC will continue to use Instagram to communicate. They will advertise things like athlete of the week and also include various social justice posts.
- SAC will use SBTV and plan to create 1 episode per month.
- There will be a Christmas assembly and end of year assembly
- October 11th – First coffee house (talent show) will happen in the cafeteria
- October 13th – Welcome back bonanza – SAC to hand out “goodies” and show SAC welcome video.
- October 23-27 – There will be an outdoor movie, pumpkin painting, pep rally and homecoming with a “wild wild west” theme.

4. Elections

- It was agreed that Denise and Dianna will continue as co-chairs. No other nominations brought forward.
- Lara was nominated and agreed to take on the role of secretary which will include taking meeting minutes.
- Jordan indicated that a parent (not in attendance at the meeting) expressed interest in taking on the role of treasury. Denise to reach out.

5. Minutes of Last Meeting

- The minutes of the last meeting were accepted and have been posted to the school website.

6. CSAC – Review Purpose

- Jordan reviewed the purpose of CSAC with the group. The purpose of school councils is, through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement, well-being and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

7. Principal Report

- School Overview and highlights for 2023/2024
 - Academics/student well-being still recovering from impacts of COVID. Teachers are being directed to try to “meet students where they are at” and not be punitive.
 - School considering implementing a “hallway citizen group” program. TBD
- Enrollment – 1800+
 - There were 120 new enrollments between June and September.
 - There are 112 teachers.
- Settlement Worker on-site
 - There is a settlement worker at St. Benedict CSS three days per week with additional availability by appointment.
 - ESL programming needs have doubled at the school.
- Round About Up-Date
 - Jordan attended a “round about” meeting last week. There are five options on the table that are being discussed. The option that includes a separate pedestrian tunnel seems to be the preferred option – but additional meetings need to occur. Dave expressed interest in attending the next meeting.

8. Other Reports: Budget

Bingo Update: (Denise)

- Balance in account (current to end of August 2023): \$8,971.26
- During the last school year bingo money was spent on gym sound equipment, a motivational speaker and the LED commercial TV adjacent to the library.
- St. Benedict CSS has 2 more volunteer shifts during 2023 – October 20th and December 15th. Volunteers still needed. Denise to arrange.
- The Cambridge Gaming Association General Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 18th, 2023. Dianna has agreed to attend on behalf of St. Benedict CSS.
- Bingo funds are to be used to benefit the community as a whole (school and could include surrounding neighbourhood).
- Municipality must approve any projects that use the funds that we receive.
- Group to think about ways to spend money during this school year. Possibilities include benches in front of the Idea Exchange and bleachers. Other ideas to be raised during the next meeting.

9. Discussion Items

- Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled for October 26th, 2023 (2:30 to 4:30 PM and 5:30 to 7:30 PM). Denise/Dianna will arrange to be in the foyer at the CSAC booth to recruit new members.
- The meeting schedule for the school year was discussed and agreed to be November 21st, 2023, January 23rd, 2024, March 26th, 2024 and the week of May 6th, 2024.

Meeting adjourned: 7:30pm
Minutes submitted by: Denise Burgess
Next Meeting: November 21st, 2023 @ 6pm