

Catholic Schools Advisory Council
St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School
Tuesday November 21, 2023 @ 6PM in room 111

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-President – Rory

- SAC organized a club fair last week. Tables were set up, allowing students to get information on all of the various clubs available.
- Teachers are submitting names to spotlight outstanding initiatives and this is being recognized on Instagram.
- The homecoming dance was held last night. There were approximately 400 tickets sold. This was supervised by all 3 administrators and 4 staff. Everything went well and a good time was had.
- SAC is organizing humanitarian aid for Gaza on November 30th.
- The school has a pong cheerleading team that will participate in future events.
- SAC has organized a “nailed it” baking contest for the students.
- The school is participating in a pen pal program with elementary students.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

5. Principal Report

- Midterm reporting
 - Jordan indicated that progress reports were done differently this semester and parents only received a progress report if their child was not progressing well. The school will revert back to all students getting progress reports.
 - Mid-term report cards will be issued tomorrow.
- Graduation
 - Grade 12 graduation will be on June 10th and will be held at Centre in the Square. There will likely be no limit on how many guests per grad can attend. This venue has lots of space. The cost will be about \$100 – an increase of about \$25 compared to last year. The venue last year was much smaller and only allowed for 2 guests per graduate to attend.
- Sheltering Hearts Campaign (Better Tent City)

- The Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) arranged to have tiny homes placed at each of the five high schools, including St. Benedict, in an effort to raise awareness surrounding homelessness.
- St. Benedict was featured on CKCO news and a number of students spoke about the tiny home and the initiative to raise awareness.
- The CKCO news segment was played for CSAC during the meeting.
- Jordan participated in the CKCO news segment and a number of radio interviews.
- Monsignor Doyle is hosting a sleep-out next Thursday. St. Benedict's has sent out 40 permission forms for this event. Students will sleep in tents overnight and there will be guest speakers from the Bridges.
- SBTV Episode 2
 - St. Benedict TV is still on-going. There have been 2 episodes so far and the episodes capture activities happening throughout the school.
 - Episode 2 was shared with CSAC and is delivered to the school body during homeroom, D2L and YouTube.
 - Dave offered to help with audio.
- OSSLT – grade 10
 - St. Benedict has opted to have the grade 10s write the literacy test in the Fall instead of the Spring. Writing in the Fall allows students who are unsuccessful to re-write in the Spring if necessary. St. Benedict is the only high school in the board writing in the Fall.
 - There will not be a “shut-down” day to accommodate the literacy test. There is a “window” of time to administer the test and students will generally write in their own classes.
- Round-About
 - Jordan attending a meeting about the round-about on October 31st. The preferred alternative is a round-about at Saginaw and Franklin, with a pseudo underground pedestrian tunnel.
 - Nearby businesses are now being consulted about the project.
 - No decisions have been made, further consultation and planning are required.

6. Other Reports: Budget

- BINGO program
 - The St. Benedict BINGO balance is \$12,170.77
 - The group needs to think about ways to spend this money so that there is a benefit to the whole school community.
 - Once the balance gets close to \$20,000, the municipality requires the money to be spent.
 - Jordan will get a quote for bleachers.
 - St. Benedict has been given our 2024 volunteer shift assignments. Denise to email the BINGO volunteer team so people can start signing up. There is still one shift left this year (on December 15th) and we are looking one more volunteer for this.
- Pasta and Trivia Night
 - A pasta and trivia night fundraiser was held on November 17th.
 - This was run through the Catholic Community Foundation and raised money for food cards for families in our community in need.

7. Discussion Items

- Jordan indicated that the school has applied for some grants through the Catholic Community Foundation as related to robotics and pole vaulting.
- There was a discussion on bringing the cafeteria back to St. Benedict. Jordan is interested in looking at options and wants to investigate further.
- The group discussed modifying the school schedule to include 2 separate lunch periods. This would avoid congestion at the plaza. To be considered further and could be implemented during Semester 2.
- Grade 8 welcome night is scheduled for December 7th from 6pm to 8pm. Jordan will look for the CSAC booth, so we can have a presence in the foyer.

Meeting adjourned: 7:30pm

Minutes submitted by: Denise Burgess

Next Meeting: January 23rd, 2024 @ 6pm