

Catholic Schools Advisory Council
St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School
Tuesday January 23, 2024 @ 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

- Bob Sikora – Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Catholic District School Board joined the meeting.
- Shane Garza – Special Education teacher at SBCSS participated in meeting, providing an update on graduation plans.

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

- December spirit week was successful.
- SAC organized “cookies and cram” for the students to help prepare for upcoming exams.
- A volleyball pep rally is scheduled for February 5th.
- The semi-formal is scheduled for February 8th at the Kitchener Museum. The theme is “old Hollywood”. There will be 450 tickets available, it’s open to all grade levels and the cost will be \$25.
- February 13th is pancake Tuesday.
- On February 14th, SAC will be handing out carnations and roses for Valentine’s Day.
- SAC will also organize a “match a matics” event. This will be community building and match students with similar interests.
- February is black history month and SAC will be recognizing this.
- Pink shirt day is coming up in February to recognize anti-bullying.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

5. Principal Report

- Graduation
 - Grade 12 graduation will be on June 10th and will be held at Centre in the Square. There will be an initial limit of 4 guests per grad, but grads can request additional guests. This venue has lots of space. The cost will be \$100. This will be available on cash-on-line Feb. 1st to March 31st. More information will be given to grade 12s at the beginning of the next semester.

- The liturgy and breakfast for the grads will be held on Thursday May 30th. This will be catered by the hospitality department. This date has not been communicated yet – but will be sent out soon.
- Semester 2 Updates – Staffing/Enrollment
 - Between June 2023 and September 2023, enrollment increased by more than 120 students. This has added 20 teaching sections. For Semester 2 there have been 6 new permanent teachers hired and an additional hall monitor. There will now be 3 hall monitors.
 - There are currently 2 new portables being installed.
- OSSLT – grade 10
 - St. Benedict 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 who wrote in the Fall.
 - 78% of the grade 10 students who wrote in the Fall were successful. This is a positive result. Those who were unsuccessful will have another opportunity to write in the Spring.
- Policies and Procedures for Semester 2
 - Starting in Semester 2 there will be a “Hall Pass System” implemented. This system has been advertised to students through posters and will be based on “respect, 5 minutes, same floor and washroom expectations”.
 - Teachers will have 2 or 3 hall passes that they will give to students who need to use the washroom during class.
- Round-About
 - There was an article in the paper last week concerning the new round-abouts proposed adjacent to the school at Franklin and Saginaw.
 - The proposal includes 3 round-abouts being installed close to the school, one at Franklin/Canamera, one at Franklin/Saginaw and one at Saginaw/Green Vista.
 - The article indicated that the preferred option is the round-about at Franklin/Saginaw that incorporates an underground pedestrian crossing underneath Franklin Blvd.
 - The next stage of the project will involve public consultation.

6. Other Reports: Budget

- BINGO program
 - The St. Benedict BINGO balance (as of the end of December 2023) is \$13,329.35.
 - 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.
 - We have recently spent \$8,625 on 3 3D printers. These will be in the tech department, but available for use by the whole school community.
 - St. Benedict has been given our 2024 volunteer shift assignments. Denise to email the BINGO volunteer team so people can start signing up. The first shift of the year was covered by Nicole and Charmaine. Denise and Dianna will cover the next shift on February 9th.
 - Jordan will advertise that BINGO volunteers are needed through school messenger.

7. Discussion Items

- Jordan indicated that the school has been successful with 2 grants from the Catholic Community Foundation. One is for \$5,000 for the robotics club and the other is for \$10,000 for pole vaulting equipment.
- Jordan indicated that we could implement some fundraising activities through the Catholic Community Foundation
- The possibility of a June staff appreciation breakfast was discussed. In order to do this, there would need to be some fundraising done. It was mentioned that companies like "Remember Me Inc." could be hired to provide the breakfast. Cost for this could be \$10.75 per person. There could be other more cost-effective ways to do this – but we would still need to fundraise for it. It was discussed that this should be driven by SAC, with help from CSAC.
- There has been a tender released for bringing back the cafeteria. More information to come on this. In the meantime, Jordan is looking at bringing in pizza on certain days and may consider other options as well (Pita Pit, Tim Hortons).
- The school has been given \$1,000 to support efforts at advertising expectations for graduates. Jordan is looking for ideas surrounding this.

Meeting adjourned: 7:30pm

Minutes submitted by: Denise Burgess

Next Meeting: March 26th, 2024 @ 6pm