

Catholic Schools Advisory Council
St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School
Tuesday September 24, 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

- Everybody in attendance introduced themselves.

3. Elections

- It was agreed that Denise and Dianna will continue as co-chairs. No other nominations brought forward.
- Sandra volunteered to take on the role of secretary, which will include recording meeting minutes at future meetings.
- Denise will continue in the role as BINGO coordinator. It will be good to find somebody else to learn this position since this will be Denise's last year on CSAC.
- There are a number of people who have expressed interest in joining CSAC, but could not attend the first meeting.

4. CSAC – Review Purpose

- Jordan reviewed the purpose of CSAC. The Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) recognizes that education is a shared responsibility involving school staff, students and their families, and members of the community and parish. 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. It is expected that Catholic School Advisory Councils (CSAC) will provide a forum for people interested in Catholic Education to work co-operatively together to develop common goals at the board and school level. It is the policy of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board that every school within its jurisdiction shall have a CSAC to act in an advisory capacity to the school principal to improve the overall effectiveness of the school.
- The WCDSB Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) will also act in an advisory capacity to the Waterloo Catholic District School Board through the Director of Education or designate to improve the Catholic Education System.

5. SAC Updates – Co-presidents – Jace and Jake

- There are 40 members of SAC this year.

- SAC hosted a Grade 9 neon night with Bennie's Buddies. There were over 100 people and this was a success.
- There will be a football pep rally later in October. A pep rally will also be organized for volleyball.
- A homecoming dance is scheduled on October 3rd from 6 to 9pm in the gym, with a Wild West theme.
- Coffee houses will happen again this year, with help from the arts council. The first one is scheduled for October 23rd.

6. Minutes of Last Meeting

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

7. Principal Report

School Overview and highlights for 2024-2025

- Enrollment/Uniforms
 - Enrollment is close to 2000 students, which is a significant increase from last year.
 - There are 14 new staff.
 - There are 3 hall monitors.
 - The new contract for uniforms will begin in January 2025. All existing uniform pieces will be acceptable; however, they may be addition items available when the new contract starts.
- Cafeteria Update
 - Cafeteria services are being tendered. Cafeteria services are wanted back in the school to avoid students having to leave the building to purchase food.
 - In the meant time, the hospitality department is providing food on Thursdays.
- Two Lunch Schedule
 - The school has implemented a two lunch schedule this year. There is a lunch specifically for the grade 9/10s and another lunch for the grade 11/12s.
 - So far, there has been some mixed feedback from the close businesses. Some feel it is going well, with less foot traffic, while others feel they are having to entertain kids for a much longer period of time. From the school administration perspective, it is going well, with no significant lunchtime issues to date.
- PPM 128 (devices, vapes, etc)
 - The Provincial government as released Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 128, which focuses on rules around cell phones and vapes in the school.
 - The school now confiscates vapes on sight and will suspend the student if found using the vape on school property.
 - Students can no longer vape outside of the school and on-school property. Some are going across the street to vape.
 - Enforcement of the cell phone policy is going well. The rule is not really different from last year, but generally cell phones are not to be used during instructional time and at the teachers discretion. Some teachers are collecting them, but others are letting students keep them in their bags.
- PPM 120 (Parent Communication)

- The Provincial government as released Policy/Program Memorandum (PPM) 120, which focuses on parent communication. The school is required to inform parents at least 14 days in advance related to any guest speakers coming in and must directly indicate how the curriculum is supported.
- Other
 - There is a whole school mass scheduled for October 10th.
 - The academic awards assembly is scheduled for October 10th.
 - October 24th is parent/teacher interviews.
 - December 5th is grade 8 information night.
 - The grade 12 graduation is scheduled for June 10th at the Centre in the Square. There are about 430 grade 12s this year.

8. Other Reports: Budget

- BINGO program
 - The St. Benedict BINGO balance (as of the end of August 2024) is \$10,565.66.
 - During June 2024, about \$5,000 of the BINGO money was spent on affixing the new mural to the outside of the school.
 - We have lost a number of volunteers (because their kids have graduated). We need to advertise for additional volunteers. Jordan will send a communication out.
 - St. Benedict generally has one shift per month and makes \$1,000 to \$2,000 for every shift.
 - The group needs to think about ways to spend this money so that there is a benefit to the whole school community.

9. Discussion Items

- Dates for the future CSAC meetings were decided to be November 19, 2024, January 21st, 2025, March 25th, 2025 and May 2025. The actual date in May is still TBD.

Meeting adjourned: 7:10pm

Minutes submitted by: Denise Burgess

Next Meeting: November 19th, 2024 - 6PM to 7:30PM, room 111.