

Catholic School Council

Minutes for meeting 24 September 2019

Present: Lisa Gorrell, Pat Rampp, Jo Belanger, Brian Hearn ,Lori Giacomuzzo (chair), 2 parents, 1 community representative and 2 student council representatives

Sign in sheet was circulated

Call to order at 1800 hours

Welcome from Chair Lori Giacomuzzo and Principal Lisa Gorrell followed by short introductions

Opening Prayer

PRO GRANT update

- There has been no news regarding the PRO Grant for School Councils from the province. Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) notes on their web site that any unused PRO Grant money from last year will be clawed back to the government. NCC utilized all their PRO grant money last year.

Principals report

- Some staffing changes this year
- 420 total enrolment down from 428 last year. About even split in each grade. 9 international students, down from 13 and 3 students returning this year for 5th year.
- Due to new Provincial education cutbacks, there have been changes in class ratios this year moving from a 22:1 to a 24:1 ratio, and the Province is looking to move to a 28:1 ratio within the next 4 years.
- Principal admits it has been challenge to work within the new guidelines for both the number of sections which are down this year from 225 to 201. For example guidance was at 8 sections last year and this year only 6. Creative solutions have been used.
- Moving forward next few years could be increasingly difficult for NCC being such a small school, anticipate some reductions in the course options offered to students.
- Learning Commons space has been remodeled. A secluded quiet space for mental health is on the way.
- Guidance office is currently undergoing renovations and will include a space to house student records.
- More refrigerated water dispensers have been added throughout school.
- Several washrooms spaces have had facelifts
- Next year change rooms will be renovated to become fully accessible.
- Increase in flexible seating arrangements in some classrooms, as well as more monitors.
- An indigenous space including an outdoor area is currently evolving.
- Board initiative this year will include a continued math focus with some extra funding in this area for NCC.

- Friday is first PD day. Staff focus will be on the School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-Being (SIPSAW).
- SIPSAW will include math improvement
- Board wide thoughtexchange was discussed. A process for parent participation in how the Board moves forward with a multi-year strategic plan. Parents invited to participate at WWW.alcidsb.on.ca and complete the survey through Thoughtexchange. Exchange open till 15 November 2019.
- New Director has requested parent from each council in the board to work on a history of schools project. Lori Giacomuzzo has volunteered for this.

Student Council Report

- Only 5 members this year. Grade reps being sought.
- Main goal this year is to connect NCC with the local community.
- Planning day for council this Friday.
- So far this year they have planned orange shirt day, a music survey to students, increased social media presence via Instagram, some eco initiatives for April, NCC spiritwear and designing a shirt, pep rallies, spring lip dub and a students vs teachers basketball game fundraiser.

Chaplaincy

- Jo, Father Whalen and the new St Michaels youth minister Murray O'Coin have visited most classes.
- Invited and encouraged any students to attend chapel mass every Friday at lunch, its only 20 minutes.

Round Table

- At a council meeting last year school awards night was discussed. Considerable time was devoted to discussing the makeup of the evening and the split between academic and sports awards. One parent actually timed the award night last year and provided the following: The NCC Awards night was held on June 11, 2019. It started just after 7:00pm and end at 9:20pm. Academic awards 54 minutes, sports awards 52 minutes, club awards (including school letters) 24 minutes, Intro and good byes 10 minutes.
- Chair agreed to add an agenda item on next meeting to discuss the parents desire to have some parent representation on the committee that plans the award night.
- Motion by parent Karyn Elrafih: To have NCC Catholic School Council discuss at the next meeting, the possible financial support of three NCC athletes who will be representing the school at the National Cross Country competition on 30 November 2019 in Abbotsford BC.
- Motion was seconded by parent Tony McGarvey.
- Voted: all in favour.
- Lisa agreed to bring to the next council meeting the current council bank balance and a brief history of how the Catholic School Council has committed funds in past years. Chair will add discussion item to the next agenda.

- Chair expressed a need for a secretary to take minute at meetings and arrange to have them posted to the school web site. There were no immediate volunteers and the chair agreed to keep taking the minutes until someone volunteers to help out.

Next meeting will be Tuesday 19 November 2019 at 1800 in Learning Commons.

a

Principal's Report

Total school enrolment is 420 down slightly from last year of 420. About even amount of students in each gradee. 9 International students this year down from 13.

jmust grant Chair agreed to provide agenda prior to next meeting to all via email ensuring undisclosed recipients.

Closing prayer

Adjournment 1950 hours

Next meeting Tuesday 26 February 2019