

Catholic School Council

Minutes for meeting 19 January 2021 virtually via MS Teams

Present: Lisa Gorrell, Pat Rampp, Mathew Snowdon, Brian Hearn, Lori Giacomuzzo (chair), 4 parents, and 1 student representatives

Call to order at 1800 hours

Opening Prayer

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

Student Rep update

- Spirit wear to arrive by February
- New contest “what have you done” with prizes to start tomorrow
- Planning spirit days when we get back to in class learning
- In December there were spirit day each Friday, virtual school assembly and a virtual talent show, well received by students

Principal Update

- Grade 7-12 at NCC still on track for September 2021
- Some physical building modifications will have to happen
- A change from Maplewood to Aspen for the student management platform will have to happen before the transition
- All registration for grade 7 and 8 students for fall 2021 to happen via St Michaels school
- Uniforms for girls for 7 and 8 will be shorts and pants and not kilts due to outdoor recreation time
- Staffing changes are being worked out with teacher unions
- French immersion will commence in fall 2021 for grade 9 students only and not be available to other grades
- Various athletic and leadership opportunities for grade 7 and 8 students are under discussion
- Furniture and tech will be moved over to NCC from St. Michaels as required
- Come alive outside project email sent to all parents for feedback into final plans has been sent
- Feedback is appreciated and should be sent soon
- The final plan will be a hybrid of all three designs
- Work could optimistically start this summer but COVID has delayed things for now

Chaplaincy Update

- Matthew Snowdon, Chaplaincy Leader has been hosting morning prayers virtually as a way to still start the virtual school day
- Holding virtual office hours for students to still engage
- He has visited several virtual classes since lockdown just trying to get some sir time in classes with students

Brian Hearn (teacher update)

- Challenges with the virtual learning of hands on practical skills via Teams
- Had to adjust for internet issues with students
- Keeping students engaged has been challenging however students have been very cooperative and it's a great bunch of learners this octomester
- Some life skills students are still reporting to school everyday
- Some lessons have been recorded or posted to help students who have connectivity issues in the day to be able to access after hours
- Parents have been engaging
- Internet connectivity has been the greatest challenge for all teachers and students

Other issues

- There will be changes to the octomester day schedule for the new octomester. Lunch will be extended and the supervised outdoor breaks will not be used. Small breaks will still be possible. This will give more flexibility to teachers for planning and students for addressing questions. Each teacher will be assigned a prep/planning teacher for one period of the day. As much as possible, staff choices for coverage will be qualified in the subject area.
- Food for learning fund raising will be brought forward to the next meeting
- Parents expressing a great deal of appreciation for the fantastic work of teachers to engage students with synchronous learning during the current lock down

Next meeting, Tuesday 6 April 2021 6pm via MS teams. Lisa Gorrell to send invite and Lori to send agenda to all. Any agenda items can be sent to Lori or Lisa at any time.

Adjournment 1920 hours