

Catholic School Council

Minutes for meeting 19 November, 2019

Present: Lisa Gorrell, Pat Rampp, Jo Belanger, Brian Hearn, Lori Giacomuzzo (chair), 4 parents, 1 community representative and 2 student council representatives and guest, Karen Shannon Superintendent of School Effectiveness ALCDSB

Sign in sheet was circulated

Call to order at 1800 hours

Welcome from Chair Lori Giacomuzzo to all and to guest Karen Shannon Superintendent of School Effectiveness ALCDSB

Opening Prayer

From the Chair:

- Recently attended Catholic School Council Association meeting and shared with that group what is happening at NCC and how our council has grown. This council is still looking for a local Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) representative.
- Lisa Gorrell was asked to provide the formerly requested summary of the Councils Bank account and the activities on the account in the last two years. Discussion followed regarding what the council has funded in the past, which has been very minimal. Account Balance is currently \$2266.62
- Revisit of motion from previous meeting regarding the council providing some funding for 3 athletes who will be travelling to the National Cross Country Meet. Discussion around the table included asking why are we supporting only these athletes when there are many more? what about non athletic activities that students are involved in? is the support only for students representing NCC? Are we being fair?
- Motion made by Brian Hearn that “This council provide some monetary support to NCC students who are competing in athletics at the national level” Jo Belanger seconded the motion. A vote was taken. In favour = 0, Not in favour = 8, abstainers= 2.
- Discussion that a parent will be part of the planning for the annual awards ceremony in the spring. One parent and the chair volunteered. Lisa Gorrell will pass this information to the planning council closer to planning time in the new year.
- New History of school project has been initiated by the Superintendent and is designed to be a council project for the year with a target completion of spring 2020. Council members being asked to gather any information they may have pertaining to NCC history. A project outline provided by the school board as well as what is currently on the record for NCC history was distributed to all. Decision to place an invitation on the school web site for anyone to provide any interesting information they have about NCC history that may not already be accessible in other electronic formats. 2 parents and the chair will arrange to meet at the library archives to look for information. All members asked to think about ideas etc. and provide to chair. Chair will be

checking in with members until the next meeting. Student council rep expressed interest on behalf of students in participating.

From Karen Shannon:

- ALCDSB is beginning consultations with all stakeholders regarding the feasibility of a grade 7-12 school model for Nicholson in an effort to alleviate some issues with overcrowding at St Michael School. At this point in time no final decisions are being made; the board is beginning to consult with all stakeholders. These consultations will involve talking to teachers and faculty, students, parents and community members from both schools. Teachers at NCC were consulted for the first time last week. The time frame for consultations is a bit fluid at this point but in January 2020 all parents will be invited to an open meeting to discuss. There will also be an electronic mechanism to gather comments, questions and concerns in January. Once the board has all the information gathered a decision will be made to either move forward with the plan or for things to remain status quo or perhaps other solutions/ideas will emerge in this process. In terms of time frame, September 2020 would be extremely optimistic with September 2021 being more realistic. Mrs. Shannon answered many questions from parents around the table.
- Parents around the table were invited to pass any further questions they had to Lisa Gorrell who could forward them to the school board.

Student Council Report:

- 2 members were present.
- Council going very well, grade reps are in place.
- They have agreed not to try dances this year, they never do well.
- Pep rally a huge success.
- December spirit week planned.
- Profit from spirit wear sales was \$1600.
- Student buy-out for basketball teacher game to happen in December.

From Brian Hearn:

- Student success meetings have occurred as well as parent teacher conferences.
- Literacy pre testing going on now and testing will be in spring.
- Grad parent information night occurred, few less parents this year.
- Next PA day teacher focus will be on student centered learning and the autism spectrum.
- December will have the traditional Christmas sharing and school dinner.

From Joe Belanger:

- World religion trip to Kingston planned to visit places of worship.
- Grade 10 retreat to happen 5 December in Stirling with a great agenda.

From Principle:

Provided copies of the 2019-2020 School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Wellness (SIPSAW). Parents asked to review and provide any feedback to the chair to pass along to the Principle.

She will consider making a request to ALCDSB for a communication piece regarding the proposed grade 7-12 school model so that it can be shared with the parent community prior to the January open parent meeting which the School Board will be holding as part of its consultation process. This will provide some basic information to parents to allow them to digest the idea and have some time to think about what their concerns and questions related to the issue might be prior to attending the January meeting.

Round Table:

Parent wanted to know if this council would be open to purchasing an additional microwave for use by students in the cafeteria. Parent made a motion "that this council purchase a microwave oven in the maximum value of \$300 for use by students in the cafeteria." Another parent seconded the motion. Vote was unanimously in favour. Chair agreed to purchase the microwave oven this week and deliver it to the school and pass the receipt to the Principle for reimbursement.

Parent concern that some lockers are too small

Parent concern that there are technical difficulties with music being played at announcements.

Next meeting will be Tuesday 14 January, 2020 at 6pm in the Learning Commons.

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Adjournment 1950 hours

Next meeting Tuesday 26 February 2019