

Bishop Allen Academy CSAC

Chair's Annual Report

2007- 2008

We amended our Constitution to accept nominations from the floor on the night of the AGM.

Mr. Walker is working on the school website with Antonella Dironi from the Board's IT resources so progress can be expected this year. Andrew Kwiatkowski also offered his assistance as this is the type of business that he is in.

We were consulted by Ms. Sillery regarding the addition of 4 portables to handle the increase enrollment so a letter of intent was drafted and given out to parents during the parent interview nights. The 4 additional portables never materialized.

The kilt was not made available to the incoming grade 9's as per Ms. Sillery's motion in May 2007 to completely phase out the kilt due the increasing amount of time that teachers and administrative staff in enforcing the regulation height from the knees. CSAC was consulted with this and supported Ms. Sillery's motion. Grade 10, 11 and 12 girls can still wear the kilt with either black or blue opaque tights. CSAC also made the recommendation to consider introducing shorts and was taken under advisement by the administration.

Due to heavy classroom and extra-curricular activities, the teachers who were administering FOBA stated that they will be unable to continue administering FOBA so it was decided to hand it over to a group of parents. FOBA would remain a separate entity from CSAC but would be reporting on it's activities during CSAC meetings. FOBA would also have it's own set of executive officers and a separate bank account.

The Principal's profile was amended to To the profile presented at the November meeting, add the following: a commitment on the part of the principal to work toward obtaining a replacement of the portables with an addition to the main building. Also include a commitment to continuing to emphasize the development of student leadership skills, good sportsmanship, and academic excellence for all students.

CSAC wanted to ensure that the school was within the Ontario Building Code of one water closet is required for every 30 males and one for every 26 females. Washrooms are referred to in the building code as water closets. Mr. Walker provided us with the breakdown of males and females including staff and administration. The calculations indicate that there is sufficient number of washrooms in the school.

FOBA ran a very successful Christmas letter solicitation campaign and began the process of determining where the funds will be spent.

The new Safe Schools Act Legislation was presented by Don Walker.

The official school website was released in January and the FOBA link is available as well.

CSAC raised the matter related to the assessment and evaluation of student achievement, specifically penalties for late or missed assignments as there are various reports of students receiving zero marks for late assignments. The school administration admitted that not all staff are in complete compliance with the Ministry policy due to obscurities in the policy. CSAC recommended that such obscurities be taken up with Mark Fenwick (Superintendent of Education in the Curriculum and Accountability Department) rather than continue to be non-compliant.

CSAC was consulted regarding the Board's motion to take 30% of cafeteria commissions that the school receives in order to refurbish cafeteria equipment in schools. It is based on the fact that there are thriving schools that generates big commissions and there

are needy schools that barely makes any commission. The Board claims that equipment maintenance and replacement was never included in the cafeteria contracts so no funds were set aside for this expense. Our CSAC expressed our disagreement to the proposal all the way to the Trustee and pointed out that no consultation was ever conducted. Consultation procedure was put into motion and 15 schools responded to the survey. It was unanimous that money generated by cafeteria sales should stay with the school that generated the funds. The survey results will go to the trustees for possible further action.

Ms. Sillery made a motion to completely phase out the kilt for all grades at the beginning of the new school year for the same reason of the amount of time being spent by teachers and administration in enforcing the policy. CSAC supported the motion.

CSAC inquired whether the portables are due for another inspection and was assured by Ms. Sillery that the caretakers have now been charged with making the visual observation of all portables and report any irregularity.

Art Hileman
CSAC Chair