

**BISHOP ALLEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Summary of Meeting of September 25, 2007**

**In Attendance**

John Di Paolo

Sandi Kiverago

Michael Wahbi

Sue Sillery

Anna Gilmour

Christine Kwiatkowski

Lucie Jabour

Jane Fleming

Barbara Di Santo

Olena Coba

Denise Mucha

Krystyna Dix

Susana Rodrigues

Mark Stadnyk

Sonya Kim

Andrew Kwiatkowski

Julie Pignatari

Marie Couture

John Grassby

Bernadette Gilbertson

Chester Budziak

Meeting opened with a prayer.

Ms. Sillery suggested that those present introduce themselves.

1. Adoption of Minutes from May 29, 2007 meeting. Changes were made to paragraph 2 by Ms. Sillery. With respect to putting the Minutes on the school website, Ms. Sillery advised that Don Walker is working with Antonella Dairone on changes to the website and those changes should make it easier for us to post new information such as the recent minutes on the site.

Marie motioned to approve the summary of the May 29, 2007 Minutes and Anna Gilmour seconded.

With respect to nomination forms for CSAC positions. Art wanted a show of hands – all were in agreement that nominations can be taken from the floor.

2. Student Council Report by Amanda and Joe. – The first school dance was last Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Over 350 students attended. The dance was a big success. Muskoka Woods – this year was the best they ever had

There are two semi-formals this year – the senior semi will be held around November 30<sup>th</sup> at a hall. The junior semi will be in February in the cafeteria.

A School Rocks band will be coming to the school again this year.

BASLO – leadership initiative club – over 250 students have signed up this year. This Wednesday is the first BASLO meeting. 25 BASLO students will be chosen to go to the TCDSB Camp Olympia program – Bishop Allen has been chosen to host the program for the Board this year.

First civvies day is September 27<sup>th</sup>.

3. Treasurer's Report – The auditor will be at the next meeting. Marie went through her report.
4. Principal's Report – We have two new vice-principals – Mark Stadnyk and Don Walker. Mr. Garisto transferred to St. Joseph's College.

1475 students are enrolled this year, one of the highest enrolments yet. There are 90 full-time equivalent teachers. With part-timers, the total is 100 teachers on staff at BA.

Portables – the Board is doing what it can to replace them but there is no funding right now. Four more portables may be added; we don't know yet what's happening with that.

The Board is planning to introduce a new programme – MEDD – Multiple Exceptionability Developmentally Delayed to Bishop Allen. There are concerns as to how an overcrowded facility can accommodate a program that requires at least two classrooms spaces on the ground floor at Bishop Allen.

With respect to admissions, there were far more applications than spots available. On October 3<sup>rd</sup> Ms. Sillery will be attending meeting concerning admissions pressures.

Our school has excellent programmes, strong academic programmes, French Immersion, Congregated Advanced Placement, etc.

The grade 9 barbecue was held in August. The first Friday in September the school photos and TTC photos were taken. During the second week of September, Muskoka Woods took place for the grade 9 students. Only about 30 students did not attend, and they took part in an in-school version of Muskoka Woods. The Club Fair took place during the third week of September, and CSAC nominations took place during the fourth week of September. This weekend is the University Fair. Next week the academic awards for the 2006/2007 school year will be handed out.

Ms. Sillery discussed the fact that the grade 9 girls are wearing the grey pants and not the kilts this year. The kilts are being phased out. Grade 10, 11 and 12 girls may still wear the kilt with either black or navy opaque tights. One parent mentioned that her grade 9 daughter was upset that she isn't able to wear a kilt. Perhaps walking shorts to the knee could be introduced? Especially for hot days? Ms. Sillery advised that shorts have been mentioned from time to time. Her feeling is that shorts start to look like beach wear after awhile; perhaps either khaki or beige cotton pant would be a possibility. She will speak to Michael Power in this regard. A school needs a uniform policy that is easy to enforce. The Bishop Allen uniform has been modified greatly over the years to make it easier to enforce; we're just trying to go for simplicity and to keep the focus on teaching and learning. CSAC Chair said that we can get the McCarthy rep here to talk about uniform changes, perhaps for the October or November meeting. He'll advise. Ms. Sillery has reservations but did not object.

5. Teacher's Rep Report – Michael Wahbi. We had the biggest turnout ever for BASLO. 263 students have joined up. The first meeting is Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> in the cafeteria. They'll be doing ice breakers. For all sports teams' attendance, all kids have been asked to wear red t-shirts.

Empowered Student Partnership Group – focuses on student safety. First meeting is October 2<sup>nd</sup>. ESP kicks off at the Institute for the Blind.

Last year we came up with the bullying hotline which was very successful.

6. Presentation of Nominees and election of 2007/2008 CSAC Executive. Nominations submitted were as follows:

Marie Couture, Barb Di Santo, Art Hileman, John Grassby, Lucie Jabour, Anna Gilmore, Denise Mucha and Sandi Kiverago.

Art opened the floor to further nominations. Andrew Kwiatkowski was nominated by Christine Kwiatkowski. Bernadette Gilbertson nominated by Andrew. Chester Budziak nominated by Denise Mucha. Jane Fleming nominated by Marie Couture.

Nominations for Chair – Art nominated by Marie, Andrew by Christine. Andrew for vice-chair. Art Hileman was acclaimed as CSAC chair.

Vice-Chair – Andrew nominated by Christine and Julie. Andrew accepted.

Secretary – Barb Di Santo. No other nominations. Barb accepts.

Treasurer – Marie nominated by Sandi Kiverago. Marie accepts.

7. New Business. Discussion concerning healthy eating habits by students. Some of the parents present, as well as both students leaders, vouched for the cafeteria food. It's very good, and the \$4. meal plan is both healthy and good. Art suggested to parents new to

the school that they can come to the cafeteria any time to sample the food their kids are eating. A parent mentioned seeing a meal plan. Mr. Stadnyk will call Armando of Pina Foods to see if he can come up with one.

Question asked by a parent whether or not new business can be added at the meeting. Art said that a heads up in that regard should be given to either him or Ms. Sillery. It could be done at the end of the meeting.

FOBA (Friends of Bishop Allen) – Ms. Sillery advised that we declare a one year moratorium on this. The letter writing campaign raised \$6,000. in the first year, and \$4,000 in the second year. Art said that if a group of parents were interested in doing something in FOBA this year that would be fine. A lot of the parents at tonight's meeting said it would be a good idea to do another letter writing campaign to coincide with the United Way. Andy will do the letters this year and Krystyna will help with receipts. Information concerning FOBA should be put in the next newsletter. Possible fundraising ideas put forth – bus to Rama, donate products for silent auction. This perhaps could be done on parent/teacher interview evening. Art thought it would be prudent to approach the two teachers involved to arrange meeting. Ms. Sillery will ask the teachers to arrange a meeting.

General discussion period – What happened with the ESA incident three years ago when about 300 BA students went over to ESA? ESA had a lockdown. Afterwards, many things were done between the schools to make situation better, i.e. BA students went to ESA to watch some plays, ESA kids came over to BA for various activities. Teachers from both schools met at both schools for various meetings. Whole incident has blown over now, and things are fine between the schools.

Art had enquiry as to whether or not crossing guards are paid at high schools. Unsure of answer. Joe (student council) said that the crosswalk has been moved closer to the bus stop and that because of that more of our students are using the crosswalk.

Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting is October 30<sup>th</sup>.