

# **BISHOP ALLEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the April 26 2011 CSAC Meeting**

### **In Attendance**

<b><u>CSAC (2010/2011)</u></b>	<b><u>Staff/Students</u></b>	<b><u>Others</u></b>
Andrew Kwiatkowski	Adrian Della Mora	Christine Kwiatkowski
Valerie Devine	Don Walker	Connie Gemma
Adam Coote	John McCabe	Chester Budziak
Krystyna Dix	Mary Keenan	Denise Williams
Aoife Humphreys	Jennifer Smoulders	
Mary-Jo deQuintal	Joshua Calafato	
John Grassby		
Anne Walsh		

### **1. Opening Prayer:**

Meeting opened with a prayer.

### **2. Adoption of Minutes from the February 22 2011 Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting were published on the web for review prior to the meeting. Andrew Kwiatkowski moved to accept the minutes and Valerie Devine seconded.

### **3. Treasurer Report (Anne Walsh Rieger)**

- To date - donations for this year = \$12,936.74
- Donations come from Canada Helps, United Way, QSP and the Christmas mailing campaign.
- \$19,555.83 Total cash in account currently which should be spent before year end

### **4. Student Rep Report (Joshua Calafato)**

- Since previous meeting Multicultural Day was held in March and was very successful
- Junior Semi (Grade 9 and 10) held March 25, very successful – held in Cafeteria
- Beginning to plan for Carnival to be held at end of year
- Camp Olympia preparations are underway also.

### **5. Teachers Report (John McCabe & Jenn Smoulders)**

See Appendix A attached

There was also mention of the gender-specific class visits by Student Services and also, mention that “Stop The Stigma” (addressing how to cope with mental well-being in our students) week starts on May 16.

## **6. Chairs Report (Andrew Kwiatkowski)**

- Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education is holding its annual conference in Burlington on May 13/14 this year. All welcome to attend. Email was sent out.
- Exemplary Practice awards have also been issued for this year. BA did not receive any this year but have 4 to date from previous years. These awards are from the TCDSB recognising practices within schools as examples to other schools who may choose to adopt them as appropriate.
- The Ministry has made available a grant of \$1.8 million for eligible projects (such as Parents as Partners to encourage involvement by parents reaching out to Parents initiatives etc. Grants will be issued in the range \$1,000 to \$30,000 each. Applications need to be submitted by May 13 2011 so we would need to move forward quickly if we would like to apply for one. Adam Coote and Valerie Devine will work with Andy to put a proposal together.
- Multi-year (3) strategic meeting was held by TCDSB at St Roberts and Adam Coote attended on behalf on Bishop Allen. See Appendix B for notes from meeting
- Suggestion from Valerie Devine for a presentaion from the parents to the board for upgrade of the facilities at Bishop Allen.
- Greening of Toronto Grant: Mr Walker and Andrew have had discussions on same. Pending plans from the landscape designer for submission. Have until the end of the school year (June) to submit.
- Golf Tournament: at Parent-Teacher evening CSAC table promoted tournament. Maximum of 18 foursomes. Tickets available for golf and dinner (\$125) or dinner only (\$60). Golf commences at 4pm, Dinner approxiantely 6:30 to 7pm. Please contact Andrew or Mr Della Mora if you would like to buy tickets or sponsor a hole

## **7. Principals Update (Mr Della Mora)**

- Proposal of semestered model for Math and Religion for Grade 9. Reason looking at Grade 9 Math and Religion based on teacher feedback. Currently these are de-semestered and continue all year over periods 3A, B & C. The practice of de-sessemestered Math and Religion was original implemented in 2000/2001 to aid the transition from Grade 8 to high school. Mr Della Mora also asked Board if any data is available on semestered versus de-semestered Math and corresponding grade results but this data is not available. There are pros and cons to both approaches which were reviewed by Mr Della Mora. Mr Della Mora has consulted with principals from feeder schools and staff at Bishop Allen. Had also invited representatives from the board in to discuss and is looking for input from the parent population.
- Feedback from meeting attendees:
  - Concern expressed that if Math is 1st semester in Grade 9 but then not until 2nd semester in grade 10 it is a long period to go without Math.

- Also pedagogical outcomes should be considered before any changes are made as Math is a subject that needs to be practiced everyday.
- Consideration needs to be given to students that struggle with Math coming out of grade 8 and then potentially not having Math until semester 2 which may cause more issues.
  
- Proposal for FOBA funds: Mr Della Mora currently has a request with the board to divide an existing large computer lab into two, reducing the size of the lab and creating a 2nd as a cross-curricular lab to be used by any class. Mr Della Mora is working on getting the funding for this construction and wiring work. This will take time. The immediate proposal is for renewal of the equipment in the library (which (includes wireless access point, 3 cards, 20 desktops, equipment for the French department, 4 guidance counsellor monitors, lab prep. work which will be done by the Board) will cost approximately \$15,000). The proposal includes the installation of a wireless access point so that those with laptops could use the wireless access point for E-Learning courses etc. All of existing computers in the library are networked (not wireless) and need to be replaced. Mr Della Mora advises that upon approval this can be moved forward quickly with a view to installing and upgrading the library over the summer.
- Concern was expressed that originally the funds were raised to purchase a portable rolling wireless computer lab. However there are insufficient funds for purchase of same at this time. The FOBA funds need to be allocated before end of year and hence library renewal is possible based on funds to date. The other option is the purchase of equipment for the cross-curricular lab which is pending approval from the board. Mr Della Mora will followup and find out by May 24th what the status is on this proposal and funding for the construction and wiring and Andy will email parent group advising.
- “Turnitin.com” – on line submissions for essays to search and plagiarism etc. Other schools have it in place for Grade 11 and 12 in preparation for Third level education. Bishop Allen is considering implementation of same.

## **8. FOBA Update (John Grassby)**

- No update – item on use of existing funds discussed under Principal’s report.

## **9. Other Business**

- Parent Teacher interviews. Only 5 minutes is allocated for each interview. In general schedule of meetings is not maintained and those with appointments are often very late and/or behind schedule. Ideas suggested that in other schools a student is at the door and knocks at the 5-minute mark (not possible in the cafeteria). For grade 9 sometimes longer than 5 minutes is required – perhaps teacher schedules could block off 10 minutes for grade 9 students to accommodate longer interview time required. It was recognised that sometimes parents are the issue. The topic will be discussed at a staff meeting with a view to next year and what might be done to improve the schedule.

## **10. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. The next meeting will be held May 24 2011 at 7pm.  
Motion to adjourn Andy Kwiatkowski and seconded by Adam Coote.

### **11. Appendix A - Teachers Report**

Teachers Report April 26 2011



Teachers Report  
CSAC April 26th 2011

### **12. Appendix B - Multi-Year Strategic Planning and 2011/12 Budget Consultation**



Multi-Year Strategic  
Planning and 2011-12