

BISHOP ALLEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Jan 20, 2009 CSAC Meeting

In Attendance

Adrian Della Mora	Mary Keenan	Richard LaChapelle
Mark Stadnyk	Chester Budziak	Valerie Devine
Monika Czulo	Franca D'Onofrio	Tony D'Onofrio
Anna Gilmour	Danny Ranalli	Ela Tkach
Lucie Jabour	Marie Couture	Christine Kwiatkowski
Andy Kwiatkowski	Aoife Humphreys	John Grassby
Krystyna Dix	Kelden Formosa	Una Martini
Margret Brzoza		

1. Opening and Introductions:

Meeting opened with a prayer.

Meeting chaired by Andy Kwiatkowski due to Chair's absence due to illness.

2. Approval of Minutes from Nov 25 2008.

- Add Chester Budziak to attendance
- Remove one of the Ms under student initiatives Pg 3

Secretary to send updated minutes to Andy for publishing to Web

Motion to accept the minutes of the November 25 2008 CSAC meeting with caveat of changes was moved by Aoife Humphreys and seconded by Kelden Formosa and the vote passed.

3. Treasurers Report

- Marie Couture provided updated budget.
- Disbursements to school for a total of \$7,070. If all agree and approve budget then check will be issued to Bishop Allen.
- Added line item for \$6,000 for NSF checks as requested.
- Mr. Della Mora has contacted all NSF check families to establish contact and to attempt to recover as much as possible with payment plans. It is estimated that approx \$1,500 relates to activity fees, remainder is NSF's for other payments to the school.
- Nothing recovered to date on these NSF's. Mr. Della Mora is discussing options with bank to reduce charges on NSF fees.
- Clarification requested that CSAC covers all the NSF checks in the school, not just activity fees. Mr. Della Mora will look to provide more detailed figures on what the \$6,000 covers for the next meeting.

- One parent questioned the approach of bringing student to office to review. Mr. Della Mora advised that it is positioned in a positive way with the student and that they can relay the message home.
- Motion by Marie Couture to accept budget as stated and 2nd by Andy Kwiatkowski. Motion passed.

4. Student Council Rep Report

Kelden Formosa presented student council report:

- Held Christmas dance, which was very successful. No issues with coat check this time. No issues with security etc.
- Student Council has also re-enforced civvies day fee and with assistance of administration have been able to recoup some more monies outstanding.
- Held first Town Hall meeting for student population where students not on student council could attend. This was also successful and some good ideas came forth. One topic was the issue of shorts for summer. Feedback from student population very positive and would like to schedule regular meetings – monthly on last Thursday of each month. Meeting held after school typically in library.
- Summer Shorts:
 - Student council would like input on idea that dress shoes and shorts are not good fashion sense. Mr. Della Mora advised that school objective is to re-enforce standards on uniforms as priority for semester 2. Introducing shorts may impact this.
 - One parent advised that shorts are a uniform option in other schools and we should be able to at least entertain or discuss before Spring of this year. Kelden suggested that the implementation of shorts could be a carrot to supporting the enforcement of school uniform.
 - Summer Shorts: Students to present proposal that should include topic of shoes. Also to include detail from McCarthys on when these could be available, cost etc.
- Uniform Policy:
 - Question from parent: Portables will be back in place in February what would be the expectation in terms of boots for walking to and from the main building as opposed to dress shoes. Mr. Della Mora advised that the school is responsible to maintain the walkways to the portables. Mr Stadnyk advised that today this was discussed and students were advised that the caretakers need to keep paths clear. Mr. Della Mora advised that purchase of footwear should consider walking to and from portable. Black boots, which go under trousers, could be worn.
 - Another parent advised that in previous years when portables were in place this was not an issue.
 - Coats can be worn to walk across but may not be worn in class.
- Spirit wear: This has been available for some time and has included only sweat pants and sweat tops to date. This is being extended to include long sleeved T-shirts and t-shirts with an 'I love BA' logo to be available in February.
- Mr. Della Mora acknowledges efforts and leadership of Mr. LaChapelle and Ms. Keenan at Markham Street and also Mr Stadnyk with scheduling and timetabling. Mr. Della Mora expressed appreciation to all 3 in what was a challenging situation.

5. Teacher Rep Report

Mr. Della Mora presented report on behalf of Mr. Wahbi:

- Semester 1 exams commence this week: Sunrise exams start Thursday, remaining period 1 to 4 examinations are Friday through Wednesday
- Welcome back Mr. Mark Tuohy and Ms. Catherine Stasiw who will be back for semester 2.
- School will be selecting 20 Grade 9 students to fill out police services survey on school safety. Used to address issues, which students identify as of concern.
- B.A.S.L.O will be travelling (tentatively at the end of February) to Nathan Philips Square to hand out sandwiches to the less fortunate. There are a number of leadership tee shirts still available at a cost of \$15.
- March Break Centro Scoula trip for Grade 12: there are still spots available for this trip for which students can get an interdisciplinary credit. Please contact Mr Wahbi or Mr Wilson if interested.
- Senior girls volleyball placed 2nd in the Michael Power Invitational Tournament.
- Badminton starts in February. Mr. Barone and Mr. Pietras are coaches.
- Junior Boys Volleyball has 1st team meeting on February 3rd.

6. Principal's Update

Re: portables:

- Good dialogue and planning have been important and departments have been transparent and to date, activities have been completed on time. Weather impacts some activities but despite some challenges including additional Hydro poles and digging trench for power cables, activity is on schedule. Assumption is that work will go on until the weekend before Feb 2nd. Certification by city will take place into next week. Waxing needs to be done which requires heat after which moving will take place. Not rescheduling the school and are at the point of no return for February 2nd start.
- Markham Street ready to go and trucks on standby to move. All staff will be in the school Thursday and Friday of next week to assist with the move. Mr. Della Mora has daily conversations with contractors for updates and is pushing aggressively for completion. If issues arise they will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis as they come up.
- Query on whether total cost will be published so that we could compare to cost of new building. Mr. Della Mora will look into this.
- Ms Keenan advised that 2nd semester schedules will be as given out in September.
- For Semester 2, cafeteria will open the 3rd window to support full student population

Re: Semester 2 Expectations with regard to uniform

- Administration would like student and parent population to view uniform compliance as a responsibility issue
- Announcements have been made advising of the standards to be met for semester 2 and administration plans to enforce.

Grants awarded to Bishop Allen

- Received ministry grants for \$700 Student Council and \$1,500 for teacher-facilitated student led project. Total of \$2,200 in total. Our students are working on a project that involves training of high school students conducted by the Red Cross 'RespectEd'

program. Students will then share the knowledge and training across panels with grade 7 through 9 students. The focus is on communication skills to bring awareness to interpersonal power struggles and the rights and responsibilities of individuals.

Guest speaker – Lawrence Hill

- Renowned author Lawrence Hill has been engaged to speak to the students on his recent novel ‘The Book of Negroes’ and this compliments Black History Month. School will invite ministry representatives and some ambassadors from the elementary feeder schools. It is hoped that it will be open to as many students as possible. Scheduled for early March.

Student success guiding principles and February 13 Professional Development Day

- School continuously challenges department heads to show leadership
- Mr. Della Mora informed the parents that student success is focused on the 3 C’s: Consistency, Creativity and Commitment
- On February 13: Differentiated instruction will be the agenda focus for the day.

Principal profile

- A copy of last year’s profile was distributed. Andy Kwiatkowski requested input via email by next week. If any changes are deemed necessary, he will update and submit to the board. Profile scheduled to be revised by January 31 2009.

7. FOBA update

Andy Kwiatkowski, chair of FOBA presented an update on current activities.

- Meetings held before the CSAC meeting at 6pm
- Looking for any new members with good ideas. Please email in.
- All funds raised go back to the school
- Christmas Fund Raising campaign – not as successful as previous years which is probably a result of current recession.
- Marie Couture requested a list of executives, which was provided.

8. Open Forum

- Request from Mr. Walker for funding for student initiated trip to go to Ottawa and deliver petition on lack of school for the past 8 years in Attawapiskat in Northern Ontario. The request is for \$500 to support the bus trip to raise awareness at the political level. For 8 years the reserve has been without a school as result of a diesel spill. Classes are now housed in portables. Plan to accommodate 50 students on the bus. Motion to vote accepted by Andy Kwiatkowski and 2nd by Kelden Formosa and the vote was passed.
- One parent commented on the Christmas baskets that each home room class prepared for a needy family and wished to commend the staff members who worked so hard to make this project a success.

9. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm. Next meeting is Feb. 24, 2009 at 7pm.