

BISHOP ALLEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Nov.25, 2008 CSAC Meeting

In Attendance

Adrian Della Mora			
Lucie Jabour	Mark Stadnyk	Steve Kolos	Andrew Kwiatkowski
Mary Keenan	John Grassby	Sonya Kim	Bernadette Gilbertson
Denise Williams	Art Hileman	Venita Indewey	Mary Ann Leon
Liz Sabatino	Krystyna Dix	M. Sain	Gabriele Kresic
Valerie Devine	Denise Mucha	Ray Martini	Christine Kwiatkowski
Michael Szul	Tony D'Onofrio	Mary Ann Leon	Aoife Humphreys
Marie Couture	Susanna Rodriquez	Michael Wahbi	Chris Kresic
Richard LaChapelle	John Coutu	Kelden Formosa	Claudette Piscione
Joe McGrade	Mark Stadnyk	Michael Parzei	Chester Budziak

1. Opening and Introductions:

Meeting opened with a prayer.

Acknowledgement of Monitor in the lobby as championed by Andy Kwiatkowski and funded by FOBA.

2. Approval of Minutes from Oct.28 2008.

Marie Couture had additional CSAC Award \$200, Arts & Calligraphy \$500, and Year Book taken care of by FOBA. Also, Kids in Need, Beautification and Enhanced Student Communication comes off the list.

Motion to remove from Sept 30 minutes re: AP exam score achievements from minutes made by Art Hileman and carried by a majority vote.

Motion to accept the minutes of the October 28, 2008 CSAC meeting with caveat of changes was moved by Marie Couture and seconded by Bernadette Gilbertson.

3. Student Council Rep Report

Joe McGrade reported that:

- Senior semi formal was a success. 280 students attended. 17 teachers and administrators supervised. While not sold out it was greater attendance than in previous years.
- Dec.12 is a Christmas themed all student dance. Ticket sales begin the week before at \$10 on first come first serve basis. Expect more juniors to attend. Cap attendance at 350. Held in the Gym. Casual dress.
- Spirit week planned the week of Dec.15th including Karaoke Christmas carols. Markham campus is also planning a Spirit Week.

- Civvies Day Nov. 27 – Joe asked Mr. Della Mora if he has a way to help enforce the payment for ‘right’ to dress in Civvies. Mr. Della Mora will make an announcement that those who do not pay will be sent to the office to formalize payment to a Student Council Member (Admin. Supervision).

4. Teacher Rep Report

- Report Cards distributed Nov.14 and response cards from Ministry required back.
- Parent Teacher Interviews Nov.20th
- Sr. Boys Volley Ball OFSAQ Tournament achieved Top 20 schools in provincial status
- Swim Team competed at University of Toronto meets
- Empowered Student Partnership attended a conference re: dangerous driving and drinking.
- At the Markham site intramural basketball wrapping up and volley ball beginning
- Tues. Dec.9th Student Leadership attending St. Margaret’s Church to feed up to 75 of ‘less fortunate – shopping and preparing a meal
- Christmas baskets led by teachers Rousseau and McCracken
- Gifted program attended Model UN Assembly. BA did very well winning Best Overall Delegation and various other awards.

5. Principal’s Update

Re: portables:

- David Dommit at the Board and Richard Francki continue to work on our behalf.
- All portables have been removed. Foundational work continues including work continuing on the weekend. See memo posted on CSAC web site from David Dommit for details.
- Units should be up and functional by week before the beginning of the second semester. Mr. Della Mora is confident in this intention. The only known ‘uncontrollable’ variable is inclement weather.
- Each portable has individual heat and air conditioning control; overall healthy environment in state of the art, brand new, mould resistant portables equipped with external cameras.
- Transfer of Assets – Anything purchased by the Board meant to serve Bishop Allen students should remain with Bishop Allen per Mr. Della Mora.
- Contingency plan – Mr. Della Mora will diagnose in mid Jan but is confident that we are ‘at the point of no return’ in terms of processes.
- Grade 10 students will write exams at Markham campus
- Plans are to have grade 10 students at BA for the full day on December 18th.
- John Grassby considers a failure of the Board not to have duly planned for the expansion needs of this school. The solution to replace the portables does not give confidence that the Board is addressing the enrolment needs of the school. Michael Parzei moved that these issues are brought forward to another meeting as an agenda item to understand how we as a community can support the school’s needs with the Board in discussion. Include in this the school’s ability to absorb any additional students. The need has not been short

term and we need to understand what a better long term plan is. Change to address these issues is not anticipated to come from the Board.

- Student activity fee – discussed increasing it based on research of other schools warrants and increase to \$110 in the next year from the current \$100 per annum to be reviewed each year. Art Hileman motioned to accept this recommendation. 2 persons opposed. Carried by a majority. Art noted that the Principal still has the right to make this decision despite any vote outcome. Discussion: NSF policy going forward – School Administration will try to aggressively recoup NSF issues and then any money collected would be reimbursed to CSAC. Marie Couture raised a concern that a 10% increase is too high. Mr. Della Mora pointed out that as we have not had an increase over several years it's not an unreasonable increase. Another parent would like it to be made clearer - why the parents should support the increase – what added benefits will be evident. Student Representatives felt that the point to decide this was when the budget was planned. He also felt that 10% given that lack of increase over the last few years was not unreasonable. Venita Indewey commented that we should plan a smaller annual increase each year so that we don't have such a large increase in one year. Another parent said they would like to understand what specific impact this extra money would deliver to students. Mr. Della Mora said that the requests for funding to CSAC were larger than what he brought to CSAC and that there is a larger appetite for funding. He also pointed out that his discretionary funding is practically non-existent.
- Student Success Initiatives –
 - Mr. Della Mora is introducing a multi-lingual letter of concern that may be completed by teachers at any point during the school year and mailed home.
 - He also reviewed the Student Referral form for attendance or behaviour related concerns portraying two conversations with the student, phone calls to parents, and finally referral to 'in school supports' (detention, peer support etc...). Last, Guidance Counsellors will come into play using a 'pyramid of interventions' accessible to teachers before escalating to Administration. The application is for 'manageable' incidents versus 'unacceptable' incidents that would be escalated to Administration directly. This would be used for academic warning as well.
 - Credit Rescue Program reported by Mark Stadnyk – Every teacher's failure list used to identify if a student is 'challenged'. Teachers must call home and create documentation to explain what the student needs to do to get a passing grade. Goal is to increase communication. As a result the school has reduced failure rates. On average this creates about nine phone calls on average that any teacher has to make. This is the second year of the program. A copy of this form is posted on the CSAC website. Parent asks: What happens to the students performing in the middle? Response from Mr. Della Mora is that it would be an administrative nightmare to implement this process with additional populations. To address the middle range students are allocated specialised time with teachers to adopt strategies to support them to move ahead. Parent asks: How do you handle failure issues for students who have come through the system without having learned failure. Mr. Della Mora responded that the school links the student to a caring adult who provides positive guidance and support.
 - Safety Awareness – Lock Down Processes – folders in all classes re emergency responses including layouts, class lists, etc... to be ready in the event of a lock down or fire drill for those physically in that room. Parent asked and Mr. Della Mora said the school needs to do one drill per semester. This is a school practice

- not Board. Students outside of portables and main building will be redirected to ESA as they won't be able to get back into BA facilities.
- Virtues of the Month – Gifted Art Students will be transcribing 10 quotes in large calligraphy to be posted above the lockers for students to read. Photos of BA students 'in action' will be framed and posted and rotated on a regular basis.
- BA is one of 10 schools participating to use the interactive tool for career tracking called "My Blueprint" see *myblueprint.ca*. Parent commented that this could be helpful to students often don't know what is required in future. He understands that universities are being mandated to support students. He encourages the school to contact the universities to ask them to send speakers to the school to inform students about options and requirements. Mr. Della Mora referenced Speak Out programs and two proposals have been submitted to the Ministry to participate in support programs. Universities are invited on a regular basis to speak to students. He will take this parent's feedback under advisement.

6. Treasurers Report

Marie received the cheque for activity fee minus the NSF cheque fee \$8500. NSF cheque cost is in the amount of \$6000 (60 students this year did not pay). Finalized budget will be made in the January meeting. Parent asked if the schools bank could be asked to not charge the school NSF fees. Mr. Della Mora will follow up.

7. FOBA update

Andy Kwiatkowski, chair of FOBA presented an update on current activities for FOBA. Yearly audited statement will be submitted to the government to maintain charitable status. School is still looking for computers, monitors, digital TVs. 35 flat screens monitors and a MAC computer donated as well as some TVs. You can donate by writing a cheque, donating to United Way (designate FOBA) or NEW- by going to "Canada Helps" and search for 'Friends of Bishop Allen' to make a donation to get an instant receipt. Canada Helps (3%) and United Way (\$12) take a small admin fee. FOBA will be issuing a newsletter from CSAC and FOBA to show how donations are being spent and what future goals are for the future.

8. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm. Next meeting is Jan. 20, 2008 at 7pm.