

BISHOP ALLEN CATHOLIC SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Nov.-24-09 CSAC Meeting

In Attendance

Adrian Della Mora	Gabriele Kresic	Valerie Devine
Lucie Jabour	Krystyna Dix	Anne Walsh Rieger
Art Hileman	Venita Indewey	Ela Tkach
Barbara Eckert	John McCabe	Jen Smoulders
Vienna Waddell	Mathew Ziomek	Lucia DèAlessandro

1. Opening:

Meeting opened with a prayer.

2. Minutes from October

Art Hileman pointed out we don't have quorum at the meeting to vote so he will circulate the vote on minutes via e-mail.

3. Update from CSAC conference

Barb Eckert attended the CSAC conference and shared at a high level what was presented. Keynote speaker was Dr. Beety Boulton. Key advice was to think outside the box. Some very good ideas on how to get parents involved and volunteering were shared. BA students were there showing their art. Presentations and web site locations will be loaded up on the CSAC website. Strategies include ways to get scholarship money that is untapped. One book was given to the school to be shared. This led to a discussion of an initiative to go to a facebook site set up by the Guidance Dept that enables sharing of information on scholarships. Parents can apply to be a friend at the site to access the information.

Valerie Devine went to the TAPCE ceremony on Nov.24 which is held once a year. The ceremony is very well done and she encouraged other parents to attend in future.

4. Principal's Update

Mr. Della Mora updated the group on an event called HIPE - Healthy Improvement Promotes Excellence – a celebratory breakfast for students who are nominated based on the improvement they have demonstrated. This first event will be held in December with a second one planned for next semester.

Mr. Della Mora is awaiting some samples from McArthys of Gradwear and will review them with the council at the next CSAC meeting.

Grade 8 Open House went well and the school will have a maximum enrollment again. A copy of the school prospectus was shared with the group.

Mr. Della Mora is requesting a late start on one day between Dec.7-18 to deal with the applications from AP students. He will select the day. The day will not be extended – classes will be shortened. A message will go home to ensure parents will be well advised.

Re: student fees and contribution to CSAC. Mr. Della Mora checked and there is no written guideline from the board or consistent practice in other schools. This will be discussed at a meeting when we have CSAC quorum. Some discussion was held about the duplication of effort there is by allocating funds for student activities through CSAC (out of one pocket and into another). Mr. Della Mora will review the letter that went to students explaining how the disbursement would be handled. He suggested that this process of allocating part of student activity fees to CSAC will be reviewed for future years. The discussion turned to how parents can be engaged in activities and also a cautionary note about fund raising fatigue. There was also discussion surrounding the potential need for an activity fee increase for next year – Mr. Della Mora suggested that we maintain the current amount.

Venita Indewey raised the question of reviewing the school's capacity to see all interested parents at Parent Teacher nite as there were not enough appointment slots. Another parent commented that there was crowding and some impatient 'pushing' as well. Several options were discussed and Mr. Della Mora assured the group that this feedback would inform next semester's planning.

6. Student Rep Report

Matthew gave an update. Students held a Spirit Week event. They are exploring the idea of a Muskoka Reunion to share time together, talk about what they learned and share experiences. Seniors would facilitate the discussion and perhaps bring in special speakers. They also discussed the possibility of bringing back alumni (first year college university students) to share their experiences going into university.

The Athletic Council is sponsoring the mini-olympics for grade 9 students at the end of the year. Students are trying to get a grant from SPEAK UP to support this event. The school also applied for a grant for Anti-Bullying.

An initiative is being started called 'club coordination' to ensure the volunteer and activities are coordinated and not making too many conflicting dates, use of resources, appeals for money. Students are going make an effort to solicit feedback on events from a larger sampling of students to influence future events.

Student led initiatives:

- *Vow of Silence* – raise awareness of situations and countries where children have no voice on Fri. Nov.19. Students who participated did not communicate in any fashion to support this awareness.
- *Sleeping Children Around the World* – assembled sleeping kits
- *Movember* event to raise awareness about prostate cancer awareness– fake moustaches were the theme
- *Out of the Cold* – students will go downtown and serve sandwiches to homeless people in an organized fashion

7. Teachers Report

The Teachers Report was presented by John McCabe and Jenn Smolders

- *Salesian Leadership* event upcoming supported by students in grade 11 on Nov. 27-29. 12 students participate alongside 6 other students. The retreat focuses on enhancing Catholic values.
- Organizing the Christmas variety show
- Cheerleaders are participating at OFSA half time dance off on Nov 25th at the Rogers Centre
- English Dept has applied to attend a symposium encouraging reading
- Grade 9-11 students are attending various Shakespeare performances related to their studies.
- Guidance counsellors have met with Grade 12 students sharing tips on how to apply on line to University and College. On Nov. 24 and 25 workshops will be held after school.
- Guidance counsellors will be taking 4 students to workshops run by the board and an agency on Mental Health where they will learn content and the guidance counsellors will coach them on how to facilitate training for other students later.
- SCOPE – Students Concerned About Oppression in the Environment will be supporting a Christmas dinner fund raiser. Donations are solicited to give gifts. Don Walker plays Santa and gifts are given to kids. Others bring food. Homeless and other people in need are brought in for the dinner. The dinner is run out of the kitchen and served at the school. One parent suggested we invite the Guardian or Villager to cover the event for a good news story.

8. Treasurers Report

- Lucie Jabour confirmed that approved the allocation decisions for 1/2 of the CSAC budget and are awaiting the other half. Other traditional expenditures include coffee and donuts on Parent and Teacher nighe and one \$200 scholarship.
- Mr. Della Mora will add \$1000 to the CSAC allocation to reflect the money from Dragon Boating allocation last year that was not disbursed.
- Lucie raised the question of how CSAC wants to disburse the balance of the CSAC allocation in a 'different' manner. By the end of the was little energy around this discussion so all members should reflect on what they would like to do.
- Art will send a request to approve the disbursement of the last half of the funds that CSAC allocates. The 'extra' \$1000 given back to CSAC will be discussed in January.

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 pm. Next meeting **Jan. 19th** 2010 7pm.