



ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Via Teams Video Conference

Wednesday, October 28th, 2020 @ 4:00 pm

PRESENT:	Chris Chlischczyk (VP)	Maria Lourenco (Co-Chair)	Miranda Walsh
	David Owen (Secretary)	Mark Sheehan	(Interim Secretary)
	Greg Ausman	Mary Yachetti	Nadia Sawchuk
	Jeff Hall	Maurizio Silvestri	Patricia Langdon
	Kim van Nieuwkoop	Mia Thomas (VP)	Rocco Dilanni (Principal)
	Lidia Silvestri	Michelle Bradshaw	Santa Silvestri (Co-Chair)
	Lindi Barz	Mike Clark	

REGRETS: Michael Mark Rocco DeVito

1. Welcome to All

- Rocco welcomed all new and returning members

2. Call to Order

- The meeting opened at 4:05 pm with a prayer led by Rocco

3. Introduction of Members

- Members briefly introduced themselves

4. Approval of Agenda

- Members requested the following additions to the agenda:
 - Approval of February 12, 2020 minutes
 - CPIC Elections
 - Communication
 - COVID-19 Protocols
- The agenda as revised was approved by consensus.

5. Election

- Rocco called for nominations for Chair or Co-Chairs
- Kim nominated herself and Lindi as Co-Chairs
- Maria nominated herself and Santa as Co-Chairs
- The Members discussed the process to proceed with the election of Council officers
- The guiding principles being fairness to all participants and anonymity in balloting

- Kim expressed concerns with a virtual vote in the absence of a previously established and documented process
- It was discussed that the by-laws require a vote by secret ballot at the first meeting of the new Council
- Various options for an anonymous vote were discussed
- Due to technical difficulties, it was decided to defer the elections to later in the meeting

Miranda agreed to take notes until the election of the Secretary

6. Review of February 12, 2020 minutes

- Members reviewed the minutes of the February 12, 2020 meeting which had been previously distributed
- Returning members who were present at the meeting agreed by consensus to post the minutes as presented on the Council webpage

7. Principal's Report

- School Population Numbers
 - School population remains steady (work that we are doing will contribute to growth - AP parent sessions and Grade 8 Information Night)
 - Dip in numbers from St. Raphael's (group has a connection to Nelson)
 - Growth - possibility of portables? Assumption can accommodate 1,200 students. Float around 1.100 no problem. Portables were used before because we were waiting for new classrooms.
- Parent/Teacher interviews with quadmester
 - Interviews: no formal interviews. Decision made by senior administration. Teachers are instructed to make contact with parents when needed. (Comment made on wanting formal interviews to touch base with teachers).
- Facility renewal update
 - Facility renewal: all areas accessible and usable. Third floor is fully functional. Library and cafeteria are not accessible to students due to COVID restrictions. All areas used are sanitized throughout the day and after school too. WiFi in new wing was difficult but it has been resolved. Continue to check and make sure everything is meeting the standards. Parking lot turned out well, we have more parking and it's aiding in traffic flow. Grounds in the back are being utilized now and are appreciated. Virtual tour will be available on the website tomorrow. "Mostly complete" = minor finishing details/flashings).
- Student Engagement
 - Classes are going well, issues are to be expected with technology and screen time but we are receiving good feedback
 - Almost finished the first quadmester
 - Did not have academic awards but we will have a way to acknowledge the success of students. There will be a presentation posted on D2L. (Question: is there some sort of celebration for the kids who have made honour roll? Perhaps a gift card instead of the breakfast? Will have to consider funds. Idea about breakfast was less about giving something for free and more about recognition of the students. Rather honour them in a communal way.)

- Student engagement: Student Council has been a great success and we are continuing to find ways to bring school spirit to students in school and at home. Wonderful retreats have taken place to connect new students to experienced students and it has built a good sense of community. Model UN is thriving. 100+ students interested! Planning on hosting an annual event for elementary students (all schools Catholic, public and private.) Thanks to Ryan Duffy (Congratulations Ryan on your new VP assignment at BR!). Virtual School Reach team is formulating, practices starting next week. Beginning a chess club (virtual of course). Arts club working to bring the life of the Arts to Assumption. New department head for Athletics. Figuring out a safe way to bring students together while maintaining the integrity of our cohorts. Leadership groups are working hard to bring community together. Business leadership class has created a Halloween initiative (including St. Paul's). Reaching goal of \$1,300 = administration receiving a pie in the face. Number of participants is higher than expected, which is great for involvement.
- Exams
 - Board (senior staff) elected to not go with exams. Supported by Ministry
 - Final assessment will be through culminating activities
 - Members discussed the importance of developing exam writing skills in preparation for post-secondary education (post secondary exams can be worth up to 50%)

Mark Sheehan left the meeting at 5:00 pm.

8. Teacher's Report

- Miranda shared additional information regarding the new stage and sound equipment which the Arts students and teachers are eager to utilize

9. Election Continued

- It was proposed that the vote be conducted through a Google form, which would allow for anonymity
- Debate continued around the process and Kim voiced opposition in proceeding with the election of co-chairs
- It was reiterated that a vote by secret ballot was required at the first meeting of Council, as per the Council by-laws, and that this had been the position taken in previous years where election concerns had arisen
- Members agreed by consensus to proceed with a vote at the current meeting in the manner proposed; no other members expressed opposition
- The Co-Chair candidates had an opportunity to speak regarding the role of co-chair and their preparedness for the role
- Kim indicated that the vote was being conducted under protest
- It was suggested that a protest could be filed after the fact but that the vote needed to take place at this meeting
- Maria and Santa were elected as Co-Chairs

Santa left the meeting at 6:40 pm to attend to another commitment

Rocco turned the meeting over to Maria

- Assuming the role of Chair, Maria continued with the election of Officers
- The following members volunteered and were acclaimed to their respective positions:
 - **Co-Secretaries:** David and Lidia
 - **Treasurer:** Mary
 - **OAPCE Rep:** Michelle

David assumed the role of Secretary for the meeting

10. Principal's Report Continued

a) Council Meetings

- It was decided by consensus of members present that Wednesdays at 6:00 pm would be an agreeable time for future meetings. The following schedule was put forward:
 - December 2, 2020
 - January 20, 2021
 - February 24, 2021
 - April 7, 2021
 - May 5, 2021
 - June 2, 2021

b) Budget/Financial Report Update

- Funds available: \$20,355
- Rocco to forward Financial Report to members
- Members supported using funds to support staff needs in addition to facility and student needs
- Request tabled to use funds to improve / highlight the Assumption sign and Cross – with the renovations, both have a diminished presence

11. Sub-Committees

- The following subcommittees were proposed and briefly discussed:
 - a) Pro Grant
 - unclear if will be available this year
 - Rocco to inquire, including status of previous year funding which was unused due to COVID
 - hold off on subcommittee until we know
 - b) School Facility Renewal – Grand Opening
 - c) Decorating School
 - d) By-Law Review
 - e) Fund Raising
 - members discussed the possibility of a winery fundraiser
 - Chris to provide more detail; Rocco to inquire with board regarding permissibility; wine purchases would be delivered directly to purchasers – no alcohol would be on school premises at any time
 - gift card fundraisers, virtual 5K run were also discussed

- f) Used Clothing Sale
 - Lindi provided an update
 - given COVID concerns, sales did not occur at the usual times
 - members were advised that while the sales did not occur, there are resources available to help those in need (through the school or vendor)
 - members were asked to assist, volunteering were:
 - Lidia Silvestri
 - Michelle Bradshaw
 - Patricia Langdon (available evenings only)
 - 2019 sale raised circa \$7K
 - Rocco is open to suggestions for the sale and we will revisit this at a later date
- Chairs to follow up by e-mail as to member interest in participating in various subcommittees
- Members were invited to propose additional subcommittee ideas via e-mail if interested

Kim and Mary left the meeting at 7:00 pm

12. New Business

- CPIC Elections
 - Rocco to provide candidate information to members; council vote due by Friday, October 30th at noon
 - Two council members are on the list of candidates:
 - Lidia Silvestri – Burlington representative
 - Maria Lourenco – At Large representative

Santa rejoined the meeting at 7:15 pm

- Communication
 - To facilitate communication with our community, members were canvassed – were they agreeable to their e-mail being included for public view
 - It was also proposed that a general council e-mail account would be established

13. Business Arising

- Academic recognition
 - Members would like to have students who have won academic awards or achieved honour roll status recognized. Since the breakfast and awards ceremony cannot be held, what can we do?
- Financial Report:
 - Rocco to share report electronically with members
 - Request for estimate on cost to replace the Assumption sign and Cross
 - Rocco and teacher representatives will canvas staff for needs
- Subcommittees
 - Pro Grant – Rocco to provide status update
 - Uniform Sale – to be determined, on hold for now
 - Request to members, please forward any recommendations for a sub-committee, and interest in noted subcommittees, including uniform sale
 - Chris to provide information on winery fundraiser; Rocco to confirm permissibility with Board

14. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

- Maria closed the meeting with a prayer at 7:20 pm.
- A motion to adjourn was moved by Lidia, seconded by Maurizio. Motion carried.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 2nd, 2020, 7:00 pm

Post Note:

Following the meeting, members not present indicated a conflict with meeting at 6:00 pm. Alternating start times had been proposed in the meeting if consensus on a meeting start time couldn't be reached. It was determined that the start time for meetings would alternate between 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm with the December 2nd meeting to start at 7:00 pm.