

ASSUMPTION

CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Assumption Parent Council Meeting
February 7, 2023 – 6:00pm

Meeting was called to order by Melanie Skrlac at 6:02pm

1. Honoring the Land – Adrianna Rerecich
2. Opening Prayer – Adrianna Rerecich
3. Regrets received from Julianna Crowell
4. Approval of Agenda for this meeting
 - a. Sheila DeSousa moved, seconded by Pascale Lapointe-Antunes
5. Approval of Minutes from December 6th meeting
 - a. Sheila DeSousa moved, seconded by Marnie Jennings
6. Student Report - Laura Ponikvar & Teniola Balogun
 - a. Recap of activities during the first Semester
 - i. Christmas Spirit week and Exam Support week in January were well received by students
 - b. Council is looking forward to this semester
 - c. For February
 - i. carnations for Valentines Day
 - ii. Black History Month – including posts on Assumption's Instagram page
 - d. March
 - i. Lent Food Drive
 - e. April
 - i. Easter
 - ii. Trivia Night – Saturday April 15th. Teams of 6-8 people at \$20/person. Donations & Door prizes needed for raffle. Discussion ensued around Parent Council participating with a team or 2 as well. Letter for Donation requests is needed. 3 charities will benefit from this event (1 in Hamilton plus 2 others)
 - f. May
 - i. Catholic Education Week
 - g. June
 - i. Spring BBQ
 - ii. Final Exams

There was a question from Council as to whether there will be mentoring of the new Student Government for next year.

7. Teacher's Report – Mario Soster

- a. February 16th will be the Model UN Conference to be held at Oakville QE Park
- b. February 23/24 will be the school basketball tournament
- c. French has started a new club
- d. English
 - i. Started an Indigenous Course
 - ii. Grade 12 Writers Craft has two classes going
- e. Life Skills Class – Popcorn fundraiser is ongoing
- f. Math
 - i. EQAO completed first semester before exams. Over the two days it was relatively uneventful. Grade 9s found it the least stressful of the three end of semester events (Culminating, Exam, EQAO)
 - ii. Math Contest to be held at Assumption in the Library on Ash Wednesday
- g. Exam Return Day had 75% of students coming in to see teachers about their exams and grades
- h. Discussion ensued around Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism and the use of ChatGBT in schools. AI is being discussed with students in classrooms and the librarian will also discuss proper citations, etc for written submissions
- i. Option Sheets are due March 7th
 - i. This year we will be running a course fair and grade assemblies for the students to help in their choices
- j. Upcoming Events
 - i. Sears Drama Festival
 - ii. May BBQ & Music Night
 - iii. Parent/Teacher Interview Night – March 23rd

8. Chaplain's Report – Adrianna Rerecich

- a. Ash Wednesday – February 22
- b. Chaplaincy Club
 - i. Trying to start one up
 - ii. 1 student has signed up and looking for more who are interested
- c. Grade 10 retreats are starting, they will be done in school
- d. Instagram & Chaplain Chatter are ongoing
- e. Grade 12 activities to help close the year
- f. Recycling of Old Pens – Staples has a program, box is currently outside Chaplain's office if wishing to drop off
- g. Black History Month activities
 - i. Organized by students in Equity & Inclusivity Group

- h. Catholic Education Week – mass will be a week prior to accommodate the AP Exams
 - i. Journey with Jesus will be May 4th
 - j. Grade 9 letter was handed out at the end of first semester as a follow up to the retreat
- 9. Treasurer's Report – Pascal Lapointe-Antunes
 - a. Balance as of January 31, 2023 is \$11,494
- 10. Fundraising Committee Update – Briana Hamlet, Cathy Kirin, Michelle Bradshaw, Santa Silvestri
 - a. Recipe in a Jar
 - i. 36 orders were received for a total of 152 jars and \$699.22 to the school
 - ii. Expected delivery to be end of February/early March
 - iii. Email campaign was the most effective
 - iv. Jars will be bulk dropped at school – maybe students still needing service hours can help out to sort and pack orders
 - b. Chocolate Fundraising – Purdys
 - i. We will launch the campaign on March 6th
- 11. PRO Grant update – Belinda & Melanie
 - a. Partnering with other families of schools
 - b. For the speaker we want – Dr. Jean Clinton – it will be \$5,000 for a 1.5 hr session
 - c. If we are unable to raise the funds we may have to pivot to another option
 - i. Discussion surrounding possible engagement with Ron Joyce Centre in Hamilton
 - d. Pressing issue is the deadline in which we need to use the PRO Funds by
- 12. Business Arising from Previous Meeting – Clark McDougall
 - a. Aesthetics
 - i. Quote is now up in front foyer, next two will be finished tomorrow and the last quote by next week
- 13. Principal's Report – Clark McDougall
 - a. Calendar of upcoming events
 - i. Grade 7 Tours will be May 24th and may also include a BBQ
 - ii. Grade 8 Music Night, BBQ & Open House – May 25 – event went over really well last year
 - iii. Relay for Life – June 9 – teams of 10, all day event. BBQ will be provided along with team building events
 - iv. New Student Orientation – August 31 – BBQ provided. Briana has offered to help out, Mr. McDougall to connect her with staff lead coordinator

- b. Best Buddies Program
 - i. Working with Life Skills kids (field trips, arts & crafts, etc)
 - ii. Helps kids develop authentic connections
 - c. Black History Month
 - i. Discussion around how kids have embraced the planning of the events and sharing of the culture with the school community
 - d. Safe Schools
 - i. Lots of stress felt in January
 - ii. Culminating was split into 2 weeks, EQAO & then exams – this strategy will likely be repeated in June
 - iii. Grade 9 & 10 students are still struggling – discussion around what we can do as a school community along with parents to help
 - iv. Discussion around different activities for students to help manage the chaos during the lunch periods
 - e. Option Sheet Presentations – due the week before the March Break
 - i. Done in smaller groups
 - ii. Course fair to be done after the presentations
14. Parish Update – Marnie Jennings
- a. Parish's are re-opening after COVID
 - b. Pancake Tuesdays are happening
 - c. Youth Groups/Liturgy for Kids – possible service hours available
15. OAPCE Report – Sheila DeSousa
- a. OAPCE meeting was yesterday
 - b. OAPCE website is highlighting cool schools. Send photos to them and they will post on the site
 - c. OAPCE Conference will be in April in Kingston
16. Principal Selection Criteria – Belinda & Melanie
- a. Discussion as to what criteria we find important in the role of a principal and provide a ranking of that criteria
17. Closing Prayer – Adrianna Rerecich

Meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm