



Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School School Council Meeting

MINUTES November 3, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by Mrs. Halycz, school principal.

- **Prayer & Welcome** – Council was welcomed Principal, Mrs. Halycz, advising us that there is no meeting in Dec. and that this would be our last meeting prior to the Christmas break. She led us in prayer honouring the land of indigenous brothers and sisters.
- **Conflict of Interest-** Erin B. inquired if there were any members with a conflict of interest with being on parent council. No one stepped forward.
- **Student Report-Student Council update-** Olivia unable to attend but our VP Mrs. L. Vasile who is the faculty overseeing student council, spoke and advised that this year, any student who is interested, may join. Some plans include: a successful “Food + Toiletries” drive and a Social Justice League
- **Special Guest Anne Marie Duguay:** Social worker for HT and FOS shared a presentation promoting mental health, in particular during the pandemic, is our #1 focus of our school improvement plan is mental health. Certainly, many parents in attendance found the information very enlightening, as we often do not understand the difference mental health vs. mental illness. Some other key points are that we need to come together to help mental health as it is a challenge across the board. The presentation was later forwarded to all council members and shared on the school website. Touching upon the importance of mental health for all students Mrs. Halycz also outlined the important roles our HT mentors will play for grade 9’s. Mentors will lead grade 9’s in a topic such as hope, resilience and authenticity during the academic support period, 75 minutes in the afternoon.
- **Approval of the Oct. 6’20 Minutes-** A motion was put forth by Janis C. to approve minutes, second by Adriana R. Motion carried and minutes will be posted to the Holy Trinity website

School Council Updates

Presented by council chair Erin Bell:

- CPIC: votes for positions available on CPIC were submitted the previous week. Once the vote is completed we will be able to select 2 members at large. The first virtual meeting to take place Nov. 25th, to which Erin and 1 school administration team member to attend. Erin B. to report back from this meeting.
- PRO-GRANT: the nature of the grant is shifting directions, as the 3 high schools in the Oakville board will work together on the initiative, however due to Covid, the province has not yet shared the protocols that have been identified.
- OAPCE: Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (oapce.org)- Adriana shared the reporting. They are launching a 6-page survey designed for parents to provide input on our experience around virtual learning, acknowledging all of the challenges the school boards have faced. All of the feedback is to be shared by the Ministry of Education. She also shared that there will be series of webinars in November to support families: 1) “Parenting Positively in the Pandemic” which will focus on finding

positivity during these rough times 2) “Parents Matter”. Lastly on Nov. 8, the very 1st virtual meeting has been scheduled

- Finance Update: Felicia A. did not yet have an opportunity to meet, therefore no info shared during this meeting
- Dinner with Bishop Redding: there are tickets still available for this virtual dinner. A link to join will be sent to those who wish to attend

Parent Engagement Update:

- Mrs. Halycz advised us that Janis C has agreed to be lead our Parent Engagement committed and thusly stepping down from the co-chair role.
- Janis C. reported: that the committee has been devised to help parents feel engaged and supported. Some ideas that have been tabled thus far: 1) sending a welcome letter to newcomers translated in their own language if necessary 2) Updated FAQ’s for parents regarding: uniforms, classes, miscellaneous matters. Janis advised that the goal is to send out to parents by mid- January and asked if any parent could provide or add any FAQ’s

Principal’s Report:

- Nov. 9 a virtual “mini-high school” day has been scheduled to assist incoming grade 8’s transitioning to Holy Trinity High school next year. They will receive a sampling of courses. This virtual experience is open to students from all schools, not just our F.O.S.
- Our Virtual Academic Awards ceremony, honouring students who have achieved over 90% has been scheduled for Nov. 25th
- Nov. 27th is a P.A. day
- Our Christmas break runs from Dec. 18-Jan. 4
- She reported that as a school we are doing well with respect to Covid by emphasizing social distancing, mask wearing and hand sanitizing
- We have a new Superintendent: Nancy Dinolfo, as Toni Pinelli, our previous superintendent has retired.
- Our School Generated Funds report will be shared on our school website. We are currently in a surplus, which we are saving for when athletic programs can start up once again. We recognize that many of the teams will have needs once we can play again.
- An ECL meeting has been scheduled to assist with transitioning grade 8’s
- In 2nd semester, a University course selection pathway presentations will be held virtually, with talks from colleges and universities to help students find suitable pathways. Parent engagement is a huge priority, now that we are in a virtual environment and suggestions on how to engage are welcomed

Vice Principal’s Report:

Vice Principal Marco DiMuzio reported

- **AP Program**-is growing and we are accepting applicants up to Dec. 20’20 from both our feeder and non-feeder schools. Acceptances will be finalized in Feb. There are 31 grade 12 AP exam registrants as well.
- **Website changes**-our school website has been updated to include all of our clubs as the list is growing and it will show what programs are running currently.
- **Halton Food for Thought**- snacks commenced yesterday for all students

Parish Updates:

1. Mary Mother of God –Anthony B. sent his regrets so Erin B. reported instead
 - a. All are invited to to begin 33 day of morning glory
 - b. Parish Bible study has begun with 53 registrants, and more starting in January
 - c. A new program has begun to support husbands to be better fathers
2. St. Michael's-Jessica reported
 - a. For all virtual events please go to the website
 - b. Catholics mom summit
 - c. Advent retreat
 - d. Fulfillment of Desire retreat
3. Holy Trinity Croatian- n/a
4. St. Joseph's Ukranian-Josie H. reported
 - a. All encouraged to attend virtually although churches are open
 - b. A commemoration of the genocide in the Ukraine, in which 12M citizens lost their lives, food was taken, farms had to be given up and people starved to death was held Nov. 4th
 - c. Advent commences 1 week later than R.C.'s and all are invited to fast, pray and perform acts of kindness

Erin B. reminded us that there is no meeting in December and that our next meeting would be held Tues Jan. 5th and wished all a very Merry Christmas and safe + happy holiday season.

Mrs. Halycz wished council a blessed advent season, and Christmas with our families. We were reminded it is better to work together as a community for the betterment of our children.

Meeting adjourned: 7:53 p.m.by Erin B.

Next meeting Tuesday January 5th– 6:30 p.m. virtually on TEAMS

Please visit Holy Trinity's website for other important dates