

**Notre Dame Catholic School Council**  
**Tuesday February 15, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting, 6:30pm**

**Attendance:** Norm Roberts, Stephen Clarke, Charmaine Smith, Helen Biggs, Cait Geddes, Julie Hellam, Debbie Cheretas, Cheryl DeLugt, Christine Curtis, Marc Clare, Marysia Papagianis, Andria Meskauskas

**Regrets:** Mark Iliczyn, Brian Dunn, Jeannie Bugiardini, Kim Bevington, Gail Blakeley, Stacey, Enge, Kim MacGregor

**Opening prayer:** Norm Roberts

**Approval of minutes:** (January meeting) - done previously via email

**Approval of Agenda:** moved by Stephen and seconded by Cheryl

**Student Council Update:** *Tiana*

- Main focus has been Black History Month. Event happening Friday. They decorated the spectrum, will have cookies, candygrams, flowers.
- Career Day, March 1st for Grade 10s. Still organizing.
- They have been doing announcements.
- Poster of heroes.
- Mood of students regarding COVID - Not much fear, most are happy to be back.
- Feel regarding starting the semester - some have more homework, but overall, most are enjoying it.

**Principals report:** *Norm*

- 1 1/2 weeks into the semester. Feeling a lot calmer and more of a flow. For the most part, students are in class instead of wandering because classes are shorter. More focused.
- Grade 9's missed a lot in the last two years. They need lots of work. Focusing on that in the coming months.
- Working with teachers to build relationships. Talking with the kids. The mask has been a barrier. Asking students to bring in a photo of a person significant in their life and talk about them. The idea is to get them talking and build relationships and a safe community for them.
- Getting back to regular reporting schedule which will give the kids a bit of breathing room and slow it down.

- Some extracurriculars have started again. Sports will start next week. Trying to recoup some of the volleyball and basketball season. Swim team has the pool booked. Waiting on ice time for hockey. No spectators as of right now.
- Phys Ed Teachers will be starting outdoor education. Getting ahead of the game with looking into field trips like snowshoeing and dog sledding. Possibly overnight field trips.
- Black History Month. Social justice class from last semester organizing. Student Council have been doing announcements to help celebrate. Tiana is taking the lead on preparing for the speaker.
- Starting to prepare scheduling for next year. Students will start choosing their courses.
- Email will be going out regarding activity fees. Hoping that people will get behind that now that we're back up and running. We really took a hit last year with activity fees. The fee covers the yearbook, locks, my school day app, field trips, speakers and several other activities. Some teachers have made donations towards programming for the students. Usually about 80-90% will pay the activity fee, but this year, only 20-30% (rough guess).
- Some concern regarding new lunch schedule. Some students and parents concerned about splitting up the grade 12's. Reasons and numbers have been explained and it has worked out fine.
- Next week, Breakfast Club will start in the front lobby. Individually wrapped in a paper bag will be a piece of fruit, a muffin and a juice box. This comes from a grant from Halton Food for Life as well as a generous donation from an individual.
- Life skills students now selling popcorn during Friday lunches for a \$1. They sell the popcorn, clean up, and then go back to the class and count the money. The students will be involved in deciding what to do with the money. Possibly chef's coats. Very popular – students were lined up and very patient and it created great energy.
- Feedback for principal's survey must be sent to council and back by March 9th. Cheryl has it.
- Question from Cheryl via Facebook page: OFFSA cancelled? Not sure yet, has been postponed but still on the table.
- Question from Stephen: Any discussion regarding trucker blockade? Norm has heard a little bit. Teachers will be walking a fine line with that, and it will have to be part of the conversation.
- We do have about 8 covid cases currently.

**PRO Grant Update:** *Cheryl*

- Christine, Cheryl and Stephen are the representatives for Notre Dame.
- First time partnership with Assumption and Corpus Christi.
- Three separate mental well-being events hosted from each school:
  - Assumption is April 28th.
  - Notre Dame is May 5th.

Corpus Christi is May 12th.

- Lots going on behind the scenes. Guest speakers have been chosen, marketing, budget, fundraising, donations.
- Questions about tax receipts for businesses that donate. School will provide one for over \$20. Marc will provide more info on donations. Waiting for donation letter to be approved by all schools. Names will be mentioned, and logos will be displayed.
- Budget sent to schools as well.
- Hoping to do a grab bag for parents to take home from the event.
- Came up with the idea of making it a yearly event and calling it Pro Forum, Parents Reaching Out. Subject matter will change each year. Can be a really big thing for our community.
- Christine: Are there any businesses within our parent community that can provide for the parent grab bag that can include a wellness theme? Are there any parents on council that can help with fundraising? Contact Cheryl.
- Norm suggested printing resource booklet through the board- cheaper. Posters etc. as well.
- Norm will talk to business leadership group regarding help with approaching businesses.
- Helen will talk to neighbour from Cogeco. Would like to approach them regarding doing the AV for the event.
- Count for grab bags: 500
- Looking for connections with Lululemon.
- Would any other council members like to help?
- Email to go out to our elementary schools to save the date.

#### **24 Hour Fast – HCCF: Marc**

- Takes place March 30-31.
- Anyone can participate. Create team, ask people to join and then sponsor.
- Give something up for 24 hours.
- Lots of info on HCCF website.
- 29 teams and \$50000 raised last year.
- This year's goal – 43 teams and \$75000.
- Proceeds go to students in need within HCDSB.
- Canadahelps.org to manage team/donations.
- Tax receipts automatic from Canada Helps.
- Paper pledge form also available.
- Stephen moves to create a group out of council and to challenge the councils from the other 2 schools. Cheryl seconds. He will create team and send out link.

#### **Reports From Leads:**

Communications: *Julie*

- Lots of active parents. Asking lots of questions on Facebook. They need communication 1 week before, they want to know what's going on.
- Lots of questions about report cards.
- Norm: Admin. gets info at the same time, and it goes out right away. Sometimes it takes a while.
- Promoting health and wellness info.
- Shared "Welcome to Next Semester" video, HCCF info, bus route changes, activity fee.
- We need to get more info out to parents regarding different pathways and courses etc.

Events/fundraising: *Christine*.

- Nothing new.
- Still have Cobs and Mabels Labels.
- If anyone has any ideas, please bring it forward, looking at doing a new fundraiser after March break.

Parish: *Norm*

- Working with the priests around reference letters for the teachers.
- Father Paul coming in to do a blessing. Encouraging him to be a presence in the school.

OAPSE: *Cait*

- Letter has been sent out - OAPSE has an opportunity to have a voice with the ministry regarding the recovery plan for learning. Series of 5 questions open to everyone. Posted on Facebook group as well.
- Question from Cheryl? Is the ministry still expecting students to have two online courses to graduate after the two years that they've had with online school. Norm: yes, but parents can opt out.

Treasurer: *Jeannie not present*

Chaplain: *Norm*

- Chaplain has been doing announcements and getting students involved.
- He's in the process of developing a leadership panel to promote working together and better communications. Will include a teacher and a student from each organization in the school that will get together for regular meetings.

**New Business:**

- No cafeteria? What other creative ways can we offer food to our students?  
-Norm – we do have pizza twice a week and it will be moved to earlier in the day and sold at lunch.

-Norm will also follow up with food truck idea and look into permit.

**Closing Prayer:** *Norm*

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, April 19, 2022

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:04pm