

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date – May 19, 2020

Meeting Time – 7:00 pm – Microsoft Team Meeting

Members Present: Adriano Perusin, Principal
Adriana Rerecich
Donna Vaillancourt
Michelle Sparrock-Henderson
Kevin Wells
Angela Lombardi
Rocio Farrell
Karin Kacvinsky
Vimla Martinez de Hoz

MEETING MINUTES

Opening prayer - Adriana

All council members joined in opening prayer.

School Closure update

Schools will remain closed for the balance of the year. There will be no exams and culminating will be worth 30% of final mark. Report cards with comments and learning skills will be distributed end of June.

Textbook retrieval and locker cleanup

At this point the lockers are not a big concern but will eventually need to be emptied to remove textbooks and food. The direction from the Ministry is to stay out of the building but hoping we can get in at some point soon.

Midterm marks

Midterm marks were uploaded today and are based on work up to March 13 which was the baseline grade. Marks will only go up from this date, but students are encouraged to work hard to improve that mark.

Synchronous teaching

Some teachers are more comfortable and adept at working remotely. Teachers should be connecting with students and engaging them. Due to security concerns, teachers are asked to tape and post on-line. D2L can be recorded and watched any time which is important for families who share computers and students who have jobs in the day to help support their families. Adriano to check to see if these live interactive recordings can continue as some of the teachers have stopped doing this.

Grade 12 Graduation

Plan is to have a virtual graduation possibly on June 23. We are also working to coordinate a mass between 3 Oakville schools. A grade 11 student is working on a virtual video to honour the grad students. The caps and gowns have been pre-paid, and we are trying to arrange delivery to the school and pickup for students to use for photos at home. Working on academic awards based on a combination of remote learning and in-class.

Scheduling for 2020-21 year

In the middle of working on schedule for fall. Summer school is overloaded right now so encourage students to register asap. With new ratio of teachers to students 23:1 and the reduction in enrollment of approximately 80 students, we are losing 5 teachers. Not sure at this point what September looks like re remote learning or in the building.

Culminating schedule

There are no exams this year. There will be culminating over 3 weeks – June 1-5, June 8-12 and June 15-19 and this is worth 30% of final mark. Culminating is generally 3 hours in length. Students are encouraged to use culminating to improve their mark and prepare for next year. It looks like many Universities and Colleges are moving to on-line so important to practice these skills.

Fundraiser – Marc Clare

The Student Council has offered to run a fundraiser based on a 24 hour fast from food or technology. Question to the parents is this a good idea during these unprecedented times? Decision to discuss internally with staff to see if this makes sense.

HFFT and gift cards

To date we have spent some of our school funds (\$3000) on grocery gift cards and will be buying more throughout June for our families in need.

Addressing behavioural issues

Had an on-line issue with a group of students involving multiple schools which has been addressed. The board has sent out some guidelines dealing with behavioural issues. Working to get students on-line and will be sending out a letter of conduct and progressive discipline for parents to view. Suspension is the very last resort so using liaison officers to help support problems on-line.

SGF funds and School Board funds – school projects

Working with Finance about how to use these funds appropriately. In terms of school board funds, we are awaiting a firm number to determine what funds are available. Library still on list of projects, weight room equipment, etc. We are just awaiting green light as to where we can allocate the funds. Some suggested we purchase glass partitions in the library to create more quiet space, however this is a big expenditure.

Open discussion

Adriana continues work with our Social Worker Michael and CYC Neily, to post YouTube Raiders Thrive videos to support mental health with episodes on sleep and other issues. Encouraging parents to let her know of any concerns that need to be addressed.

Thomas Merton schedule is not yet finalized.

Ms Farrell suggested we consider some sort of virtual club that students could get involved in to use their time more productively – such as learning a new skill. Some suggestions were: a new language, how to apply to university or college, cooking, laundry, etc.

Ms Martinez de Hoz suggested we also consider the Toastmasters course for students.

Next meeting: TBC