

Catholic School Advisory Council
Sept 16/09

Present: Greg Haber, Erma Gras, Jane Horenberg, Carine Morrow, Jen Gardner, Sirena VanSchaik, Dianne Vivian, Angela Lane, Jennifer Keene, Deb Veilleux, Tina Hutton, Leeanne Feeney

Sirena welcomed everyone & Greg opened the meeting with a prayer. Last meeting minutes were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Report

- We have approx. \$3000.00 to start the school year
- There is presently \$12,311.20 in account (\$9,300.00 is the food deposit)
- Last year we ended -\$1,794.25 but due to the fact we had money from the previous year we still were in the black
- It was agreed to give \$200.00 to each class (\$100.00 will be given now & \$100.00 at the end of the school year)

Principal's Report

- Staffing changes: Angela Lane is 50% (Special Ed & French), Heather Verhoeve 50% (grade 6/7), Tara Boreham full time (grade 2), Patti Drinkwalter full time (EA). It was noted that there were changes among the present staff in their teaching assignments.
- EQAO results: Grade 3 – reading 76%, writing 83% & math 72%. Grade 6 – reading 97%, writing 72% & math 88%. These are excellent results to be celebrated. We have exceeded the province in all years. Challenge now to keep high marks & maintain the scores. The results show that moderated marking works and now we are going to have student marking also.
- There has been a change in the cut off date for class sizes: instead of the date being the first day of school, it will now be Oct 31st. This means that that a student/s could still be changed in their class to another up to Oct 31 to accommodate the regulated class sizes.

Junior Yard

- It is presently closed due to unsafe conditions.
- The suggestion to purchase school playground equipment from other schools that are closing was made (Greg will look into).
- We will look into possibly moving the basketball equipment from the junior yard to the intermediate yard.
- There was concern from parents about loosing the junior yard permanently (possibly to land being sold – Greg stated that he was not aware of any talk of this). Concern that if the playground was not being used – the school board would then feel it was not needed. At present classes are using this area for gym classes. Some of the teachers felt that as the younger students are in with the older students there was more of a sense of community, older were playing with younger, less incidents happening among students. Parents requested that the students should have the opportunity to have a say in how they feel about the yard being closed (not just the parents & teachers making the decisions) – suggested to wait 3 weeks for students to have some time in the new playground and then survey. Asked if the unsafe area could be roped off and the soccer & basketball areas could be used even with a teacher supervising, Greg stated that at this time he was not prepared to open the junior yard. This will be addressed again at the next meeting.

Open House

- Everyone is asked to bring 2 dozen goodies & also ask a friend to do the same.
- Leeanne will bring the juice machine
- There will be sign up lists in classrooms & at the snack table for parents

Food Orders

- Coffee Culture has made an offer of a lunch 1x / month. This would be a recyclable lunch box containing ½ sandwich, cookie, veggie, and juice for the cost to the school of \$4.50. It was felt that that was a lot to ask but that it could be cut down to a ½ sandwich & veggie / cookie. They have made an offer to let the students try for \$28.00 tray / class. They will also prepare the survey for the students to fill out. This would not start before Jan if we proceeded.

Dairy & Fruit Days

- This year we have \$4500.00 for this program. Angela has offered to help pick up & prepare the fruit. The snack bins will continue – at present Ashlyn (Jen's daughter & classmates are helping with this)

Volunteers

- We really need to work on increasing our volunteer base. Sirena will send an e-mail with agenda to families for upcoming events. It is hoped that teachers could approach parents who they feel may be interested but just need to be asked! Also we can approach new parents when the bus safety / kindergarten orientation takes place.

Fundraising

- We will be doing the magazine fundraiser again, the QSP newsletter is being sent home. Last year there was an approx. profit of \$5000.00 made

Other

- Our new official name for this committee (joining the Local School Advisory Council & Home and School committee) will be called from here on in: Catholic School Advisory Council
- School trips – we will look at the policy for fundraising for class trips.
- Julia Gracey retired at the end of last year 'quietly' – we will look into past years as to the amount to be spent on a gift for her. (Leeanne will look into)
- The Huron Perth meeting (concepts to share) will be held Sept 23/09. Anyone interested please speak with Sirena.

Next meeting will be Nov 18/09 at 6:30pm