

**MINUTES OF THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Holy Trinity CSS**  
**October 17, 2016**

**Present:** *Renee Rozon (Principal), Ron Papps (Vice-Principal), Cheryl Tourangeau, JoAnn DaSilva, Carolyn Bernard, Amy McLennan, Bridget Bentley, Ellie Fuller, Erin Latter, Kim Blanchet, Lauren Webster (Chaplain), Patrick Szabadka, Renee Seguin-Lalonde, Sandra Lavallee*

**Regrets :** *Karen Torrie-Racine, Kirsten Gibson-Sommerville, Natalie Krasnowolsky-Trottier (Staff Member), Tia Foster-Scott*

1. Prayer and welcome- *Lauren Webster, Renee Rozon and Cheryl Tourangeau*
2. Approval of Agenda - Moved by *Erin Latter* and seconded by *Kim Blanchet*
3. Approval of Minutes-the date is wrong and should have been September 19, 2016. Also *Liz Spagnolo's* name needed to be corrected. *Renee* said she will correct the report and send out to all members. Approval of minutes with corrections- moved by *JoAnn DaSilva* and seconded by *Kim Blanchet*. Carried
4. **Principal's report-***Renee Rozon* shared the following report:

**Falcon Friend-Zee Fundraiser-** Total raised was \$10,116.00 and minus expenses we have \$8500.00 for commitments to student activities for the year. Everyone has heard lots of positive feedback about the day which was filled with activities. The attendance was approx. 75% of the student body. A parent suggested more lead time to collect donations and explained that two weeks can be tough, especially with families where children are at alternating homes. Another suggestion by a parent was for there to be alternate activities in the afternoon. This year the afternoon was primarily for those who wished to do the mud run or watch it, and it was suggested other events/activities. *Renee* said she would bring these suggestions back to the planning group. *Renee* mentioned the first activity this money will help support for those students who contributed is the grade 7-8 trip to Carleton University which is scheduled for the same day as the OSSLT test.

**Charity Bowl** – Good Samaritan Trust Fund which is a program to help families in need from the school (may need some temporary assistance). We raised \$1221.50 and combined with St Joe's have a grand total of approximately \$3000.00 to donate.

### **Bishop's Plenary Mass September 26<sup>th</sup> – HT Choir**

The Choir did an excellent job and did HT proud. This event was televised and *Renee* will see if the video can be uploaded to the school website. (The video is now uploaded under the Chaplain's tab on the website)

**New this year for 7 and 8 wing-** Rotary system which appears to be working very well. This system provides independence in preparation for secondary and there is also a s"homeroom" for students to feel "connected".

### **Electronic OSSLT**

We have conducted a number of trial runs as it is the first time the test is done electronically. Our school feels well prepared for both the test itself and the electronic component. The trial runs are to try to ensure no issues on the actual testing day. The test will take place on September 20<sup>th</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup>

### **Parent Involvement Committee Event (PIC) – October 27<sup>th</sup>**

This is a great event where parents can participate from a board level. *JoAnn DaSilva* has offered to attend on behalf of the Catholic School Council. If anyone else is interested, please let *Renee* know.

### **ARC and School Closures**

*Renee* shared that there are no direct changes for HT aside from a boundary change within the city. There is no final decision regarding school closures in our Board until May 2017. There is a meeting scheduled for families etc along with Committee meetings that include representation from Cornwall school. From HT, *Renee*, Cheryl, Alanna Pollard and a student rep. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be 4 ARC meetings and two public meetings that will be posted on our website and facebook page. There is also a link on our website that provides detailed information about all the Cornwall schools in our Board. *Renee* was asked a number of questions by other members of the council. In response to the questions, she explained that to her knowledge there has been no consultation between our board and the Upper Canada Public Board regarding our school closures. A parent asked, based on community hearsay, if there had been calls from parents of students from Charlan. *Renee* said that there had been inquiries at this time they are taking names of interested families. She explained that the school numbers this year are similar to last year and we have the ability to accommodate additional students. Another parent mentioned that there are currently some bad feelings from some whose children attend the Public schools being considered for closure, which can lead to negative comments and *Renee* and *Ron Papps* said they are being vigilant in terms of the HT community so that all feel safe, comfortable and happy in their quality Catholic education and no concerns have been reported to date.

### **Stuff the Studio/St. Vincent de Paul** (November 23<sup>rd</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>)

This is our third year participating and the second year for a joint effort combined with St Joe's and St Matt's schools, where we will collect canned and non-perishable foods. We will collect from November 23-December 7, 2016 and will host some class challenges and other incentives. All three schools will deliver on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December. We will also challenge the community this year to contribute.

### **Christmas Parade**

This will be our second year entering a float in the parade and the theme this year is "Disney". A number of staff and students(Grades 9-12) have expressed interest in helping. No parent support is required at this time, however Renee will let us know if this changes.

### **Track Project**

The track project continues to go forward as school closures will not have an impact on our project. *Renee* will keep us aware of any upcoming initiatives.

### **School Website and Calendar**

A school year calendar is now available on our website indicating activities that take place throughout the month. This continues to be a work in progress and there will be ongoing additions. Renee encouraged everyone to view the school website to see all the information available. She also mentioned the school Facebook page, where updates and good news is added by two staff members regularly.

### **Optimist Toy Drive**

We will be partnering with the Optimist Club again. In the past we collected toys but discovered a couple of years ago that a monetary donation was better which permitted the purchase of gift cards instead. The date will be on the school calendar and posted on Facebook.

### **Other miscellaneous information**

October 19<sup>th</sup> is **Purple shirt day as part of the Child Abuse awareness** campaign and students are encouraged to wear their purple to support the cause. *Renee* explained to new families to HT that theme days such as this one means that unless you wear the color theme, uniforms are expected. So if you only have a purple shirt, the other clothing you wear should be uniform, such as uniform pants or shorts. We always will have a photo taken of all students in purple and will be popping the bags, as part of the support to "break the silence". You can still buy your t-shirts at Baxtrom's Independent grocer and proceeds of the sale go to the CAS Camp fund.

As noted **Theme days are not dressed down days** and the expectation is that uniform is worn, and only difference would be the theme.

October 31 will be a dress down day for Student Council and wearing black and orange is encouraged. There is a \$2 fee to support the student council.

**Secondary report cards** go home on November 24, 2016 and **elementary report cards** on November 28, 2016. **Parent teacher night** for both elementary and secondary will take place on December 1, 2016.

Please see the school website or the Facebook changes for any new information or changes

#### 5. **Chaplaincy Leader's report-** *Lauren Webster*

Opening/Thanksgiving Mass was Friday, October 7, 2016 – everything went well

The St. Peter's CWL have been in to teach the rosary to grade 8 students twice this month. It has been a good experience thus far. Two different classes participated and many students did not know the Rosary and this was their chance to ask questions.

#### Social Justice:

Last week we had a collection for emergency relief in Haiti due to hurricane damages. We raised just over \$300 and will be sending it to the Canadian Red Cross.

We Day, which is put on by Free the Children, is November 9<sup>th</sup>. We will begin recruiting high school students this week. We plan on taking 28 students. We take High school students right now who apply what they learn. Elementary students will have a chance in later years to attend.

Just Us Youth Day, is a social justice day put on by the School Board for grade 10 students. It's on November 22<sup>nd</sup>, and we plan on taking 28 students.

Next mass (Advent): December 2, 2016

#### 6. Committee reports

##### **Catholic Education Committee (CEC):**

*Karen Torrie-Racine* has agreed to assume this role again however sent her regrets for this meeting.

##### **Community rep or student council rep:**

*Karen Torrie-Racine* has agreed to assume this role again however sent her regrets for this meeting.

**Student Rep:**

*Renee* will speak to the Student Council to see if a student is willing to assume this role.

**7. New Business:****Sources of Strength Training**

*Renee* explained that this originated as a Suicide prevention program. Staff will be trained in November so they can train “student leaders” to spot vulnerable students who may be having some trouble. These students can seek out some support from staff for these students and the goal is to make sure nobody is feeling lost or not supported. The leaders will be from different sections of the school in terms of interest so that all groups are covered. The training will take place in November 2016 and will include grades 9-12 who are hoped to have the maturity and understanding to discreetly help. The 7-8’s will benefit as well as activities and clubs are shared by all grades. Another parent mentioned the “buddy benches” for the elementary school as only the elementary students typically go outside. *Renee* said they have been considering more picnic tables as well. Another parent pointed out that this appeared to be all about the mental health and emotional support that the School and Board has been focused on for the students and every step is a step forward.

**The Mission Trip** was discussed and this year the three schools will be going to Sandy Lakes, Northern Ontario as part of the mission. They have decided to rotate between 3 different locations and not always the Dominican Republic. The trip will be in June 2017. *Lauren* mentioned that so far their school has received only one application and St. Joes & St. Matt’s are also having difficulty sparking interest. It was pointed out that June may be a difficult time as it is a busy month. *Lauren* mention the schools plan to discuss the situation further.

**8. Comments and questions:**

A parent asked if the school had a remembrance ceremony on November 11<sup>th</sup>. It was explained that a mass is ceremony is held and parents are welcome.

**Post-Secondary information sessions:**

A parent mentioned that she felt very few Colleges or trades schools or programs attended the School in terms of presenting what they can offer in education. The request was made for more trades or college program information to be made available and *Renee* said she would pass this information along to the guidance department. Another parent mentioned the “taste of the trades” program at St Lawrence College every year for grade 10’s and mentioned this would be a nice activity for the students. *Renee* said she would speak to *Mr. Dionne* and the guidance department about more information in regards to the Trades being promoted.

*Renee* was asked about the post –secondary information sessions with Colleges or Universities and she provided the following information:

Regarding post-secondary:

- a. University and college visits are for grade 12 students and as always, parents are welcome to attend.
- b. Our UIP (University Information Program) will take place on October 24<sup>th</sup>. This is when all universities are visiting. Grade 12 students visit with the staff from the Universities in the morning and grade 11 students are invited to visit during period 2 if interested. Parents are welcome!
- c. Regarding Colleges, Algonquin, St. Lawrence, and Fleming have either already visited or will be visiting. There is also a day planned at Algonquin on November 1<sup>st</sup>. SLC hosts an event every second year, so there will not be an event this year. Our students did attend last year and, as this is offered only every second year, grade 11s will be included in the invitation next year.
- d. The Skills Competition takes place in February to highlight the trades.
- e. Additional information will be posted on the website and on announcements as it becomes available, guidance counsellors are always willing to share information, and our parent session that I mentioned last night will also provide additional information.

Another parent had a question in regards to **Communication in regards to homework and expectations for grade 7 and 8 students**. She said she had spoken to other parents and wondered if there was a way to have homework etc. posted on a website easily accessed. *Renee and Ron* explained that many staff have started using different computer programs like Schoology and Edmodo. Another parent of an older high school student explained that HT has begun exploring this further and every year different staff are using programs to permit this. Staff are not mandated to use the programs, nor give their email addresses as such, and primary communication remains by telephone. It is a work in progress and we are moving forward. Parents are encouraged to make contact by telephone with the teacher and if they do not receive contact after a message is left, they should speak to *Renee or Ron* for assistance.

Renee encouraged all parents to participate in any activity that invites families or parents. She will keep us informed. Renee was thanked by all for keeping the committee members so well informed and members were asked to pass the word to other parents or families.

9. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday January 16, 2016 at 6:30pm

10. Adjournment

*Minutes completed by Carolyn Bernard*