

BISHOP TONNOS CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

March 28, 2022

MINUTES

Attendees: Mr. Barone, Anthony Mari, Rosie Donnelly, Antonietta Kovach, Elizabeth Wong, Stefanie Seiler, Cassandra Noien-Atme, Izzy Grzelak, Alison Coyle, Heather Masters, Jonathan, Mark Maguire, Michele, Diana Galama, Loetta Arthur, Jennifer Smith, Adriana VanBerkel, Renee Marchese, Heather Masters, Jamie West, Drita, Rebecca Newberry,

1. Prayer – see attached – Liz led.
2. Acceptance of Minutes from last meeting – Minutes available at <https://bt.hwcdsb.ca/school/catholicschoolcouncil/?fileID=564005>  
  
Diana motions and Elizabeth seconds.
3. Student Council Report – Adriana VanBerkel
  - a. Dodgeball tournament: Fundraiser
  - b. Toonies for Tuition is a great way to raise money. Twin Day on Thursday – dress up like their best friend and donate money.
  - c. Formal for Grades 9 and 10 from 7-10 pm at Carmen’s on April 20th. Tickets are 35\$ and are available on SchoolCashOnline.
  - d. Prom for Grades 11 and 12 on May 19<sup>th</sup> with dinner starting at 7 pm at Carmen’s. Tickets are not available yet.
  - e. Olivia Solly has been voted the Student Council President for next year (Vice President this year)
4. Mrs. Toni Kovach, Superintendent of Education, Bishop Tonnos Family of Schools
  - a. Recognition to Student Council for being positive and optimistic over the past couple of years, despite the challenges they’ve had due to Covid.
  - b. School Motto: One School, One Goal, One Lord. One School, One Community, One Family. If we hold ourselves to our School Prayer, we can do anything.
  - c. Accomplishments of BT: Where can we help, we are there. The fullness of our community is the potential that we can reach.
    - i. 12 students from BT community will advance to the final stages of this competition – only 13 qualify. Gives students an opportunity for real life experiences in accounting, finance, etc.
    - ii. Donations in the Chapel to support the community members who are in need.

- iii. Two female hockey players from BT, invited to represent Canada at the 2022 International Ice Hockey Federation in Sweden – dedication, commitment, and perseverance.
  - iv. Titans walk for Wenjack – taking an issue and supporting indigenous people. A young child who perished tragically at 12 years old. The students today remember a student who faced tragedy and hardship. Efforts of BT are making the world a better place.
  - v. Graduation rates: 94% of student of population graduates in 4 years. 100% in 5 years.
  - vi. Good communicator, self-director life-long learner, caring family member, responsible citizen, contributor of society. This is who we are meant to be - a member of the BT family.
- d. Concerns that undermine everything listed above. Ask is that we, as CSC, be active contributors in the creation of strategy to help ensure the above accomplishments continue. Covid has had an impact, but the number of concerns that has arisen is notable and critical to address right away. What are we going to do collectively, to ensure we are aligned with the BT mission and prayer? What supports do we need to help mitigate and eliminate these? Some concerns include:
  - i. BT students engaging in behaviour that is causing self-harm to themselves and to others;
  - ii. Vaping, vaping in the washrooms (kids are fearful of using the washroom due to this). One of the things that we find when we catch ‘vapers in the bathroom’, the majority of the time, parents don’t know the children are vaping. One of the things that Paul Davis has said is that if you are involved in your kids’ life, then why don’t you know that they are vaping. Some vapes contain THC.
    - 1. Vape sensors can be placed in bathrooms for example, but these are expensive and not overly effective.
  - iii. Bullying other students (not uplifting, but rather, bringing other students down. Kids are afraid of going into certain areas because of fear of what they may encounter);
  - iv. Inappropriate language in the hallways, outside, and in the plaza towards staff, students, and community members (ex., disrespectful, crude, misogynistic, intimidating, etc.);
  - v. Littering;
  - vi. Talking back to staff when asked to do reasonable things (ex., cars that have mufflers that are very loud, putting garbage in bins rather than on the ground, turning off loud music that is impacting neighbours).
- e. Questions from the group:
  - i. What is available other than suspension?

1. Restorative circle (can be offered, but in some cases not accepted)
  2. When a violent incident happens, the consequence aspect of it. The priority is to restore a sense of safety for the student who has been harmed. We hope for a restoration of relationship but sometimes it's not possible. Victim may not be ready. Similarly, the other student may not want to. **Restoring a sense of safety is a priority.** What does the child who was a victim need? Whatever your child needs, is put into place. Counselling supports, safe person support (teacher), counsellors on staff, safety where the lunch/classes may shift so the person who was harmed has a sense of safety. Example of what we do to help ensure student who was victimized feels safe: Safe adult checks in 3 times the first week following the incident, 2 times the second week and 1 time third week.
  3. Re-integration of person who caused harm: We will welcome the person back in our community and discuss that they've made a mistake and it doesn't have to define them. Have the parent with them to discuss with the child what they did and the consequences it had, as well as explaining what they did is completely unacceptable.
  4. Anti-bullying plan – looks fabulous on paper, but if not in action, who cares. What does the classroom look like? What does in the hall look like? Are they afraid to go to the washroom? Number 1 priority is the Safety of victim and intake of student coming back. Everyone needs to know the anti-bullying plan – students, parents, and staff.
  5. Our communication is not good – could be much better. How do the parents be made aware of what can be done?
- f. Multipronged approach – what are the issues, what's needed to address them and what are we going to do. Need to create a culture of accountability and responsibility. Consequences to those who disobey. More importantly, what do we need to do to instill in our children Christ-like behaviour? There is money available to support a strategy, but need the strategy to obtain funding. Can we create a School Action Team? Discuss this at future meetings including progress of strategy to eliminate/mitigate the concerning behaviours of our student body.
    - i. Who builds that strategy? Administration and Catholic School Council.
  - g. Since we've come back to a more structured day – incidents have gone down and eating in bathroom has been eliminated.
5. Chair Report(s)
    - a. Waiting to see what the other schools are doing with their grad so we have a collective decision.

- i. We can go out on our own for a guest speaker/presenter for our own school. **Ask for attendees to reach out to Liz / Diana if they have some they recommend.**
  - b. Fundraiser: Start one/Get one going before the end of the year.
    - i. **Ideas? Reach out to Liz/Diana.**
  - c. Parent Council Meetings – Next one is April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm and will be at the school (not virtual unless something changes)
- 6. Principal's Report
  - a. Chaplain went on leave at the start of January. Robyn Aguila and is filling in for her and is doing a great job. We have a Sacrament of Reconciliation (Father Peter from St. Ann will be hearing confessions in our chapel this week).
  - b. ThinkFast – Raise awareness and funds for development and peace. Former classmate of Robyn's now works for Development and Peace will be joining us for one of the speakers of one of the groups during ThinkFast.
    - i. Will give the students who attend, 20 Christian service hours.
  - c. Mass before we finish out the school year in May (tentative).
  - d. Graduation is moving ahead in the normal fashion for the first time in 2 years. June 14<sup>th</sup> – Mass at St. Anne's, Brunch and Formal at Redeemer. June 17<sup>th</sup> will be dinner and dance.
  - e. Had a good winter sports season: Culminating in Senior Girl Volleyball Championship. Close to 100 people in stands. First time in 2 years.
  - f. Spring sports tryouts are starting.
  - g. Course selection for next year is open and is in My Path to Success website. Closes on April 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - h. School Cash Online – Activity fee. Please encourage others to pay this fee.**
  - i. School Verification form – sent securely and to be updated if there are any changes. **Please encourage others to review.**
- 7. Treasurer's Report
  - a. Lottery license application has been sent in but haven't heard back at this time
  - b. No change to Treasurer's report from last meeting
  - c. Fundraising is needed. Reach out to Liz/Diana with ideas.
- 8. New Business – none.
- 9. Adjournment – 8:20 pm. Anthony motions and Diana seconds. **Next meeting: April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in person**

## **Catholic School Council Prayer**

God, the source of every good gift

You have called us together as servants to do your will

Grant us the light of your spirit

To guide us in our responsibilities as a School Council.

May we work together in harmony for the common good

May we listen to one another in a spirit of genuine respect

May we encourage and reverence one another's unique talents

May we use the gifts of the Spirit in creative Christian leadership

May we approach our decision making through discernment and prayer

May we respond effectively to the needs of the children in our care

God of Love

You give us the gifts of the Holy Spirit

For the common good

May your blessings radiate from us to others

In a new spirit of service

We ask this through Jesus Christ

The Light of the World

Amen