

St. Benedict Catholic School – School Advisory Council
Minutes for Monday December 5th, 2011

Members Present: Mike Cockburn
Sonia McNally
Tina Hinsperger
Helen Kostuch
Wendy Brooker
Paulina Moniz
Mauro Testani
Dawn Chodowiec

Welcome: Sonia

Opening Prayer: Mike

Co-Chair's Report: Sonia

1. Minutes from November 7th meeting
2. Review of Council By Laws – had been a “homework assignment” – unanimously approved
 - Lisa to get dates and movie titles from Mrs. Weir, Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Norgaard for movie and popcorn parties. Will give info to Tina.
3. Next Spirit Day will be Friday, December 16. Theme is “Festive Friday” – children to not only wear red and green but also jazz/accessorize in holiday fashion. For example, wear garland, Santa hats, Christmas decorations, etc.
4. Christmas Concert Coffee Table – we will offer complimentary coffee/cookies during both the 1 pm and 7 pm concert performances. Debra will buy coffee and cookies. Dawn and Sonia will help with table during the afternoon performance. Will raffle off the Canvas and Paint set that was donated by the Tea Room for Dance-a-thon which we received late. Mauro will make tickets for that.
5. Wendy to re-distribute the letter that went home advertising the Raffle for front row seating and prime parking for the night of the performance early next week.

Snack Program Report: Sonia

- a. Suggestion from Debra that she will co-ordinate some Pizza Day in an effort to raise more funds for Snack program. There were no issues regarding her suggestion and she will receive 100% of the proceeds.
- b. Snack program running well. No response yet for the Fundraising co-ordinator position that was requested in recent Council newsletter. Tina will include the request again in next newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Paulina

1. Opening Balance and Budget – we did receive the \$5000 dollars from Scotia Bank so that left us with \$18,184.47. The projected funds remaining in June after all outstanding commitments are funded is \$8,302.10.
2. Review Commitments
 - a. Report for expense of replacing curtains is still pending.
 - b. Paulina needs outstanding invoice from Broadway Music.
 - c. Outdoor play equipment still being looked into for possible funding.
 - d. There was a request for \$400 for Mulch still awaiting approval.
 - e. Literacy Place Language Resources were purchased and have arrived at school. Waiting for approval for funding some or all of expense which totalled \$1354.79
 - f. Mike requested the Council consider funding some or all of two school presentations: The Power of One, which is an anti-bullying presentation totalling \$887 and Big Kid's Theatre production of Cinderella's Frog Prince which deals with the themes of Diversity and Inclusiveness and totals \$635. Council noted that they had previously committed \$540 towards a bullying presentation, so that will go towards the cost of The Power of One.

Teacher's Report: Lisa

- o No teacher's report was available as Lisa was unable to attend.

Principal's Report: Mike

- Gave brief overview of some upcoming events including:
 - o Schools participation in cheering on the Rick Hansen relay this Wednesday. Had an information assembly on Friday to inform children of who he is and why this is happening.
 - o Advent Mass this Thursday at 11 am.

- Christmas outreach – doing a food drive as well as a mitten/hat/scarf drive
- Group of students have also shown interest in supporting the SCPA
- Discussed the accomplishment of the Jr. volleyball teams
- Discussed the accomplishment of several students who participated in the Legion and the Lions Club Remembrance Day poster competition.
- Discussed the need for an on-call lunch-time supervisor.
- Discussed the results of the School Climate Survey, which had also been reviewed during their November 18th P.D. day meeting with the Safe Schools Committee. Very pleased with the results. Highlighted several positive key indicators. As a committee they have set a goal to increase the sense of feeling safe at school by 5% by 2013.
- September 2013 is the proposed start time for the All Day Kindergarten program.
- The Board has projected the enrolment number for next year to be 395. This year we are at 410.
- Felt the Family of Schools Catholic School Councils - “Coping With Stress with a Focus on Student Wellbeing” – presentation by DPCDSB Social Work and Psychology Department on the 24th of November was very well done and beneficial. Sonia and Dawn agreed. There will be another presentation the 1st Thursday in May. Sonia suggested it would be nice to have a local meeting between the 3 schools. Tina suggested a youth group from DCAF she had recently seen would be worthwhile to look into. Mike briefly mentioned having a Tri council meeting.
- Mike shared a DVD from the Institute for Catholic Education, Supervisory Officer's Association called “The Enduring Gift”, which celebrates the history of and importance/significance of Catholic education and why we need to preserve it.

New Business: Sonia

1. Helen will decorate the bulletin board using the theme of Diversity to compliment the Christmas performance theme.

Next Meeting: Monday, January 9th 2012 @ 7 pm