

St. Christopher Catholic School Council
Monday, September 22nd, 2014 @ 6:00 PM
in the school library

MINUTES

Attendance: Roger Demers, Liz Cabral, Nicole Tersigni-Lalonde, Regan Gaudin, Susan Davies, Syl Roach

Regrets: Antoinette Nardelli

Prayer: Syl invited everyone to pray together the *St. Christopher Catholic School Council Blessing*

Elections: Roger called for nominations for the positions of Chairperson and Co-chair. Both positions were filled by acclamation. Congratulations were extended to Sue Davies who is the 2014-15 CSC Chairperson and Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) Liaison Representative and also to Regan Gaudin who will be CSC Co-chair.

Discussion Items

Catholic School Councils Policy – Roger provided a hard copy of this NCDSB policy to every Catholic School Council member for them to add to their CSC materials and to reference, as needed, during the performance of their duties this year. He reminded members that every Council's main directive is to act as an advisory body to the Principal and that any funds raised by a Council are legally the property of the Board.

School Councils – A Guide For Members Ministry of Education document 2002 revision – Roger had extra hard copies for any Council members who required one so they would have it for reference throughout the year. He confirmed that members who already had this resource had the revised version.

Plan for 2014-15 – Roger provided a copy of the 2013-14 plan detailing Council's accomplishments for review and to use to create a plan for this year. Council reviewed & updated their Goals. After discussion, including debate about Regal or Scentsy catalogue sales, a fundraising plan was proposed. Opportunities will be advertised through agenda sticker notes where families may choose to ask for a Scentsy catalogue or to purchase poinsettias. Members discussed hosting Christmas, and first considering selling food along with student performances, but then decided on holding a Christmas raffle of donated prizes or baskets, and possibly doing 'day of' sales of Scentsy & Mary Kay items the evening of Parent/Teacher Interviews in the front foyer. Roger will include requests for prize donations in the school newsletters as well as inform parents about the Council's financial support of many field trips, bus cost reductions, and the many presentations provided to students free of charge. Over \$3200 was spent last year on paying these kinds of costs for students. Some key dates were established, including co-ordinating with events run by NCDSB for CSC members. Roger will investigate possible dates in January to March that Public Health staff are available to present Triple P Parenting to parents and guardians. This will be paired in an evening event where a free light meal will be served and a student activity organized for students.

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Report – Roger provided Council with the SEAC report, that follows these minutes, for members to review. He explained SEAC's role as advisors to the Board regarding Special Needs students and issues they and their families might face.

“What Parents Can Do To Help Their Children Develop Healthy Relationships” - Parent Engagement Resource from Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) – Roger provided every member with their own information package. He encouraged them to review the contents for their own information and to share with other parents and guardians. Extra copies will be available at the school for any parent or guardian to borrow.

Correspondence:

Spotlight - issued biweekly (for *Committee of the Whole & Board* meetings) on Board website: www.niagaracatholic.ca

Adjournment: 6:50 PM

Next Meetings: - Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) meeting TBA
- St. Christopher Catholic School Council Monday, November 10th at 6:00 PM

**SEAC REPORT
FOR SEPTEMBER
CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

Mandate of SEAC:

- Makes recommendation to the Board regarding Special Education programs and services for our students
- Participates in the Board’s Annual Review of the Special Education Plan and the Board’s Annual Budget
- Provides information to parents

Membership:

- Comprised of up to 12 representatives of local associations and 2 Trustees

Representative	Association
Anna Racine (Chair)	The Tourette Syndrome Association of Ontario
Rob Lavorato (Vice – Chair)	Down Syndrome Caring Parents (Niagara)
Colleen Sword	Autism Ontario - Niagara Region Chapter
Connie Parry	Association for Bright Children of Ontario (Niagara)
Kerry Thomas	Community Living - Welland/Pelham
Sarina Labonte	Community Living - Grimsby, Lincoln & West Lincoln
Jay Gemmell	John Howard Society of Niagara
Sarah Farrell	Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara
Katie Muirhead	Ontario Brain Injury Association
Bill Helmeczi	Pathstone Mental Health
Carol Baldinelli	VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children (Niagara)
Father Paul MacNeil	Trustee
Maurice Charbonneau	Trustee

- Also in attendance at the meetings are an Elementary Principal Representative, Secondary Principal Representative, a Student Senate Representative, Superintendent of Education and resource staff.

SEAC Completed Goals:

- Letters to Ministry of Education regarding adding Special Education Part I as mandatory requirement in teachers college
- SEAC Tag line – Mission Statement of SEAC – *Supporting an Inclusive Catholic Learning Community*
- Special Needs Representative on Catholic School Council – promote parent of a student with special education needs to sit on Catholic School Council
- SEAC Report on Catholic School Council Agenda – promote awareness of SEAC

SEAC Meetings are held at the Catholic Education Centre, 427 Rice Road, Welland, ON. at 7:00p.m.
Please check the 2014-2015 School Year Calendar for meeting dates.

For further information visit the Niagara Catholic District School Board website at <http://www.niagaracatholic.ca> – under Programs, Special Education, Special Education Advisory Committee; The Special Education Advisory Committee website; www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/seac and the Ministry of Education Special Education website www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/speced/speced.html