

St Mary's School Council Meeting Minutes

St. Mary's School Council – September 19, 2016

18 people turned out to the first meeting

John Dietrich is the new principal – he was principal at St. David's previously.

Goal for Staff to look through the lens of the student – connect with school, home, parish and to continue to foster professional continuous learning with staff.

Student council chairs – Allie & Jordan are at a camp retreat planning for the school year. They provided a summary of activities

- 1st day - Grade 9 and 120 Link crew students – 450-475 grade 9 students this year.
- Grade 9 Peace and love dance – 250 grade 9 students came out
- Relaunch – kindness matters campaign – continue to reiterate with students
- Thanksgiving food drive, Opening assembly coming up soon

Updates – gym floor was ripped up in the beginning of July. The concrete was in really bad condition and the concrete needed to be relayed. It should be available September 26th, however the Opening liturgy and Awards Assembly need to be rescheduled – October 25th

9th Annual Diocesan Celebration of Catholic Education Mass 5pm – St. Jerome's University would like to host on behalf of the Catholic – Thursday Sept 22 – please email John

New approach this year for the literacy test. All grade 10 students will complete the literacy test on Oct 20th on line. Get them prepared for grade 10s for an early attempt. Results by January – we will know where they struggled. If they do not pass they would write it again on March 30th. A few parents advised that the

communication to their children is that they are being penalized and that the teachers are volunteering them to write in October. John will address in the staff meeting tomorrow to make sure the staff presents this as mandatory for all students. Not posted yet on the website. **All eligible WCDSB students will attempt the Oct. 20 online OSSLT. If anyone is unsuccessful they will attempt the test again on March 30, no penalty, just a second chance with more focused support**

John is on the enrolment committee on the board - 1886 students (up 50-60 students than projected). 1780 was the projection for the school.

School Budget –

\$280,000 + carry over 10% of previous budget in reserve

School generated funds are down - (McCarthy, Aramark) – restricted on where you can use the funds. Used uniforms are collected in June from graduating students (allow them to wear regular clothing during exams) and sold in August.

School has paid for Security Company – not effective and not a good use of school funds. The board has offered to pay for additional supervision ½ day, 2 new buses added to the first bus run.

PIC Grant and Pro Grant

Parent Involvement – we haven't spent \$500 for 2015-2016 and needs to be spent now. In the past we used this on magnets and pens. We also have \$500 for 2016-2017. We can combine the amount. Linda (parent) would like to see signage and in different languages to welcome parents into the school. The size of the school is intimidating. Linda will work at this – board has a company that does this.

Pro Grant – Laura submitted this in April and we have received it \$1,000 – use for the kindness matters folders and tote bags – to use for grade night 8. Linda has the information for the folders.

Elections – positions

Co-Chair – Julie Hofstetter 519-743-3204 jules743@gmail.com

Co-Chair – Bose Blokland 519-742-1771 bblokland@sympatico.ca,
bose_blokland@manulife.com

Recorder – Sharon & Lisa

What would you like to hear about?

High Skills Major – 13 major program – can have a tour, would like to hear more about that, Guidance – monitor teacher not sure how they come together,

Some parents commented that the website is not currently updated. It should be updated shortly.