



St. Mary's High School

School Parent Council Minutes

Date	Monday, November 27, 2017
Time:	6:30 p.m.
Location:	St. Mary's Catholic High School – Seminar Room 2.1 (Beside main office)
Next Meeting:	Monday, November 27, 2017

Attendees:	<p>Committee Members: John Dietrich - Principal Erick Caceros - SAC Co-President Naomie Seth - SAC Co-President Bose Blokland - Co-Chair Julie Hofstetter - Co-Chair Deanna Ahene Maryanne Cahill Carol Grandy Amanda Isley - Secretary Hilana Madter Jane Malleck Liz Rajic-Gibbs Judy Rivas</p>
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	<u>Presenter</u>
Opening Prayer	Bose Blokland
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Activity Council (SAC) October 6th was the opening assembly where upcoming events were introduced & advertised • October 13th was the Rivalry football game where St Mary's hosted St. Benedict's - food trucks were on site and the event was a success. • A coffee house was hosted on October 25th where \$2.00 donations were accepted. There was a good turn out with an art gallery displayed outside the cafe. This was also a dress down school day, again with a \$2.00 donation students could purchase a wrist band and wear civilian clothes for the school day. All proceeds were donated to the Heart & Stroke Foundation (\$3100). • Random Act of Kindness day was held on November 4th. Members of SAC gave away apples and posted sticky notes on lockers with positive affirmations for all students. • November 16th was the semi formal held at the Museum in downtown Kitchener. It was a sold out event with a maximum capacity of 350 students in attendance. • Last week was Anti-bullying Awareness week. SAC promoted kindness throughout the week in various ways, including selling 'kindness grams' which were purchased by students for students. • SAC is in the midst of hosting the 'Sockvember' campaign - collecting new & gently used warm clothes for those in need in our community. Donations can be dropped off in the canoe outside the main office. • November 28th will be the 2nd dress down day of the year (\$2700). • SAC is starting up the 'drop in' debate club. • Elementary School Senate starts up in December. • SAC will be attending the 'Unity' conference at SJU in Waterloo where they will learn team building & leadership skills. 	Erick Caceros & Naomie Seth

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 22nd is the Christmas Assembly. • Questions Fielded: • Does SAC have any programs for students experiencing bullying within the school population? Response from Naomie & Erick was that there are certain initiatives that SAC facilitates to help increase unity and diminish bullying amongst students, such as the debate club, a punching bag in the weight room and promoting Random Acts of Kindness. Formally, within the Board and used at St. Mary's are Bullying Reporting Forms that have been in use for approximately 10 years. Anyone who is witness to bullying behavior can submit the form which ensures reports are investigated and followed up on with a scaled response system. • How are charities chosen for SAC fundraising initiatives such as Dress Down Day? They are chosen on a case by case basis by Social Justice Members. Local, National & Global needs are taken into account as well as school based requirements. 	
<p>Parent Communication Resources "Staying Informed"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can parents readily access student based information? 1. The Student Information System (SIS) - is an electronic database for secondary students only. Parents or Guardians can log in with the child's student # and date of birth (DOB) to view the students current schedule, attendance, which is live & web based, and final course marks only. 2. Encompass for Success is basically an electronic OSR for teachers and a teacher portal for student information. It houses information for both elementary & secondary students which consists of the child's current schedule, EQAO scores, community service hours, current attendance, midterm & final course marks, credits, learning skills and parent resources such as homework support clubs, academic resources, Khan Academy, etc. On the Encompass system you need to set up an account with the students name, DOB and street address. When the student turns 18 years of age, access to the file ceases. • A 'Parent Access to Student Information' page is being added to the website under 'Parent Information'. In the meantime, 'Synervoice' (spelling?) is a message delivery system via phone that is used to inform parents of important school wide announcements. This system is planned to cease in spring of 2018. A new information delivery application is being implemented in September 2018, trusting that the pilot is successful. The new system will be better and quicker and can deliver information via phone, text or email notifications. 	John Dietrich
<p>School Council Funding Request</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A formal system to account for distribution of funds through the school council fundraising initiative has been implemented. There is now a paper application available to request funds. Council raises approximately \$3000/year through the sale of gently used uniform items . • The first application received was from Frank Wittman, requesting funds to purchase gift certificate rewards in support of the schools 'Kindness Matters' campaign. • This is a weekly random draw for students who have been recognized by teachers & school staff for performing acts of kindness. Tim Horton's gift certificates and movie theatre passes will be purchased with the funds granted. Council members unanimously approved the application \$400. • Council members also approved the donation of \$500 for the Christmas Cheer campaign. Through this initiative grocery store gift cards are purchased to help families in need during the Christmas season. • The issue of making used uniform sales available throughout the school year was once again discussed. Options were explored to facilitate this as there seems to be a demand for it. In 	John Dietrich



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<p>addition to selling at registration, one option is to collect donations throughout the school year and have subsequent uniform sales during parent/teacher interviews. Who can facilitate this? Sort? Resell? And where would the garments be collected & stored? 3 issues to explore - 1) continual formal intake of used uniforms? 2) sorting & storage? 3) dates to host sales & logistics? St Benedict's uses rolling racks which make it easy to organize, set up & store. It was suggested that as a pilot, in January we will collect used uniform articles through Synervoice announcements & Eagle Vision and have a resale in February before second semester begins. The other option of creating a Facebook page was addressed again - a couple of concerns with this - one being that it would not generate parent council revenue, the second is that some newcomers to our community do not have access to computers or know how to use Facebook. It was suggested that both options be piloted to see which avenue is most successful.</p>	
<p>PIC Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council agreed that a banner with the St Mary's logo, along with all of the feeder schools will be created with the grant funds. The banner will be displayed at St. Mary's families of schools. John is collecting the graphics and will facilitate the production. 	Julie Hofstetter
<p>PRO Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A multicultural evening will be hosted at St. Mary's on May 10, 2018. It will be an all inclusive multicultural celebration for our community with different activities throughout the afternoon and evening. A request was made for planning committee members John, Bose, Liz & Deanna volunteered. Sharon, from last year, will be the community outreach member. 	Bose Blokland & Julie Hofstetter
<p>Items for Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What information would be included on a quick reference tool for the parent community ie. Parent Council Pamphlet/Fridge Magnet - bus tickets, lunch purchases, Eagle Vision, absence tracking, how can parents keep informed, period start & end times, lunches, where to find information about sports clubs & activities, etc What role does school council play in secondary education? - support student initiatives, have a voice in your students education, be present in the school community, explore how to engage the parent community to get involved at the high school level? A suggestion was made to have chrome books available at the school council table to show new parents where to find information about St Mary's and how to navigate the website. Create a youtube tutorial for new parents?? 	Bose Blokland & Julie Hofstetter
<p>Grade 8 Night</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteers are needed to meet & greet parents and let them know about school council, answer parent questions and inform new parents about the booster club. 	Julie Hofstetter
<p>Additional Items/Discussion Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pasta Dinner is on December 14th - an evening hosted by St. Mary's staff for the school community. Cash donations will be. Semi-formal - how can we make ticket sales fair for all students in the future? The event was sold out so quickly that some students didn't even get the opportunity to purchase tickets. SAC is expiring options. 	
<p>Adjournment</p>	