



# School Council Minutes

## March 4, 2019

Facilitator: Linda Tester

Attendance: Linda Tester – Chairperson  
John Dietrich – Principal  
Amanda Wilk - KPL  
Ellah Thompson - SAC Co-President  
Joseph Khoshaba – SAC Co-President  
Maryanne Cahill  
Julie Hofstetter  
Cecilia Rivera  
Marcus Adam

**Opening Prayer:** Linda Tester

**Student Council** – Ellah Thompson & Joseph Koshaba

The student council co-president's shared the events which happened since our last meeting November 26, 2018 and planned upcoming events. Highlights included:

- Dress down day in December with the funds going to Christmas Cheer
- Christmas week during the month of December included Candy Care, Christmas Sweater contest, classroom door decorations, Christmas assembly, Christmas movie night
- Christmas fundraiser: Fill the Canoe with Hygiene products and mittens for the St. Mary's Church St. Vincent De Paul (Downtown)
- During January – sponsored "Cookie and Cram" before exams, which allowed students to come by for some assistance/tutoring and cookies were provided by SAC
- Dress down day Dominican Republic and St Anne's refugee
- Hosted the Elementary Student Leadership Conference (ESLC) each of Saint Mary's elementary family of schools sent four students for the conference which was held on the Friday after exams. There will be another conference with all schools later in the year.
- During February, SAC hosted or took part in:
  - The Valentine Lolli where school members could purchase lollipops for other students to receive on Feb 14
  - Random act of kindness recognition of other students
  - Hot chocolate and cookies
  - Dress down day Ontario Black History Society
  - Innovation wall
  - Black history month
  - MPP made an appearance and
  - Dwayne Morgan came to speak



# School Council Minutes

## March 4, 2019

- During March:
  - Some SAC members attended the Relay for Life conference at the university in London on March 1<sup>st</sup>, where we won the school spirit award
  - March 5 – shrove Tuesday prepared pancakes for the students
  - March 20 – dress down day with proceeds going to Brain Trauma and March for Life
  - March 21<sup>st</sup> – Relay for Life Rally/Assembly
  - Looking at developing a new program initiative/recognition for Achievement Recognition - working hard (there are many programs the already recognize academic achievements) not all students although they put their best effort are able to obtain high grades. Teachers would submit names of students they feel deserving and from these students, two names would be drawn and presented spirit wear. They are still working on the roll out.
- During the month of April
  - A coffee house will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> with the funds raised going to Relay for Life
  - Dress down day on April 17<sup>th</sup> with the funds raised also going to Relay for Life.
  - Easter gift bags – offer students the opportunity to purchase peanut free gift bags for fellow students
  - As a result of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi being cancelled, only 94 tickets were sold, looking at hosting a bowling night with the proceeds going to Relay for Life.
  - Student Senate initiative “Multiculturalism” was wondering if School Council was hosting a Multicultural night again this year. The answer was not this year, but would be willing to offer support and volunteers if needed. The evening was coordinated more by the ESL team of the school and Linda Tester facilitated the food trucks. Mr. Dietrich to look into and advise SAC. All other schools are also doing something and each school is to submit a video which will be presented at the Bishop’s Banquet.

### KPL – Amanda Wilk

- Amanda shared the KPL spring program guide with the group
- Informed team that the library now has a permanent 3D printer, as do all the libraries which are free to use
- The library offers a basic introduction course on a monthly basis, however any of the KPL employees would be happy to assist you at anytime



# School Council Minutes

## March 4, 2019

- KPL is trying to expand their teen programs by hosting a phantom Friday, which is a drop in program for teens
- The action centre which is shared in part with SMHS, students can come in and help, this time can be used towards volunteer hours
- Offer an English Conversation Circle for all ages every Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. there are a number of volunteers and is a safe place to practice English either one to one or in a group setting
  - If the need is apparent would offer a teen specific in a different Setting
- Offer teens a monthly Dungeon and Dragons event
- Trying to reach teens with different ideas
- In conjunction with Waterloo Catholic District School Board funding has been made available to revamp the common learning spaces shared by the library and the school with new modular furniture. This space may be used before and after school
- John also shared with the help of the board the five secondary schools will be revamping some of the computer labs to innovation rooms/thinking labs. This will include modular furniture and white boards around the room which is more reflective of business today

### **Board multiyear strategic plan and pastoral plan** – John Dietrich

- Slides are attached to these minutes
- The strategic plan is 3 years in length and the board has just completed its 2015-2018 plan
- Loretta Notten asked that the principals bring this to the school staff and parents
- It is known that there will be continued pressure to combine the two school boards into one, those for is combining the two is based on opinion while those in favour of maintaining the two are based on facts
- Therefore, the purpose of this strategic plan is to help us continue to illustrate why we are a distinctive board, what value adds we offer and where we see ourselves in five years
- The previous plan had three priorities with 32 distinctive goals and was difficult to measure the success of 32 goals
- The new plan keeps the same three priorities, however has 17 goals instead of 32 which is more attainable and is visible to the community
- Shared “Innovation is a state of mind”
- The first – Nurturing Catholic Community through equitable and accessible learning based on their life experiences.
- The last three years the board had the year of Faith, Love and Hope.



# School Council Minutes

## March 4, 2019

- The new pastoral plan, based on Renewing the Promise, will also have three themes:
  - Call to belong
  - Gather to Become
  - Sent to Build
- When students were asked they did not have a clue of the meaning, we did a good job at getting the message to staff but not with staff disseminating this plan down to the students. We are committed as board and school that each semester there be more interaction with staff to student around this
- The second – Student Engagement Achievement Innovation
- The third – Building the Capacity to Lead, Learn and Live Authentically
- Both elementary and secondary schools are following this program
- Please review the attached slide deck for additional information

### **Service-learning program and vocation program** – John Dietrich

- On March 27<sup>th</sup> the literacy test will take place for grade 10s and those who still require testing. In past years half of the day was for the exam and then all students were to attend 30 minute classes in the afternoon. EQAO eliminated the restriction that only those with an IEAP could have extra time, now each student writing may have the entire school day to complete the test if needed
- This year classes will be scheduled for 9 and 10 students only and they will be complete periods 3/4 and 5
- Grade 11 and 12 will have a blended learning day, virtual class where they may stay home to work on assignments or come in for study hall atmosphere
- This change allows the best testing environment for those writing the test with few interruptions
- Service-learning program:
  - **Kenya Trip**
  - St. Mary's is pleased to offer a new and exciting course opportunity for students who will be in grade 12 during the 2019-2020 school year. The service learning program is a 3-credit package offered in partnership with Waterloo Catholic District School Board, Resurrection Catholic Secondary School, Me-2-We Foundation and EF Tours. The program consists of a yearlong coop credit and two grade 12 courses in semester 2 with an 11-day capstone experiential service learning experience in Kenya
  - St Benedict and Monsieur Doyle are going this year
  - Want to start small and develop traction
  - Full board, WE and EF Tours support



# School Council Minutes

## March 4, 2019

- Wanted to tie the experience to course and credits other boards have done during the summer
- No issue with who can go – allowing 27 students with 3 supervisors
- They will contribute to the WE Schools, WE Village
- Students will start to learn how to sustain themselves, physical labour as they will either start to the half way point or finish from the half way point a school
- Cost is \$5,000.00 per student and fundraising begins this year
- EF Travel offers payment plans a “Gofundme” like page will be set up for each student
- EF Travel will write a cheque if more funds are raised
- On Feb 11 grade elevens attended an information assembly with Greg Rogers
- Even if we only get 10-13 students between 2 schools will run
- WE has figured this out as they have been at it since 2004, students will sleep in British military tents, have toilets, MASH like showers, bottle water or WE certified well water, fully organic farms with chefs. The wire around the camp is to keep the goats and cows out, do not have to worry about wild animals
- The lead teacher is Sean Zister who has been to Kenya and Tanesha
- **Rome Trip**
- 16 students have registered for the excursion to Rome with five additional students on a waiting list
- This trip is not part of a course; it is for those students who would like to better understand their religious believes or calling
- They will be staying at the residence occupied by Reitzel, where they will be able to see the Vatican from the residents, they will receive two to three meals a day
- Will go to places where St Francis of Assisi went to pray, it is a retreat experience not open to other tours
- Will be taking 2 vans opposed to buses
- There are two days of the trip that are less spiritual
- Want students to come back and share with the school their experience, with the idea of making this an annual trip
- We are using Adventure Tours out of Rome
- John Dietrich, Annabel McDonald and Father Toby will be attending
- Cost was \$3000.00 for 10 days



## School Council Minutes March 4, 2019

- Shared grant has been approved for \$1000.00, its intent Fostering Student Health and Proper Cell Phone Use within classroom
- John to look to see available dates during Catholic Education week, also hope to coordinate with KPL library
- Wanted to open to community, thought was to reach out to SMHS family of schools to see if parents/students wanted to attend
- Purchase/build resistor cases together

### **Parent Survey** – John Dietrich

- Survey was not ready at this time it will be after March break (now available via the school website “Parent Survey”).
- Waterloo Catholic District School Board Budget survey is available and parents are encouraged to complete. It may be accessed by through this link <https://www.wcdsb.ca/say-2019-20-school-year-budget-survey-now-open/> until March 25, 2019

### **Other:**

- Linda Tester asked if the cross on the outside of the school could be lit up at night so that it could be seen when you drive by
- Members of council asked if there were specific future agenda items they would like to discuss

### **Science Tour** – John Dietrich facilitated the tour of the sciences rooms and answered questions

### **Next Meeting** – April 29, 2019