



School Advisory Council Minutes

May 27, 2019

Facilitator: Linda Tester

Attendance: Linda Tester – Chairperson
John Dietrich – Principal
Bev Drobot – KPL
Cecilia Rivera
Frank Abbinett
Jane Malleck
Hilana Madter

Regrets: Ellah Thompson - SAC Co-President
Joseph Khoshaba – SAC Co-President

Opening Prayer: Linda Tester

KPL – Bev Drobot

- New youth program – Youth Performers
 - Working with St. Mary’s music teachers to engage performers
 - Volume of opportunity – performers playing musical instruments in the library
 - Have had one performer so far, which was received well
 - Will continue in 2019/2020, it occurs right after school
- Youth Drop In
 - Working with YMCA to offer at 3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.
 - Youth come for activities
 - Receive bus passes if required
 - Open to everyone – mostly new comers have attended
 - Steady attendance, with a lot St. Mary’s students
- Currently actively recruiting students for summer volunteering with library
 - Information can be found on the KPL website
 - Summer children programs
 - Assist with gardens
- John – asked if there was information regarding the Youth Performers and Youth Drop In which could be posted on the school website as well
 - Bev was going to check with Amanda and get back to school administration
- Asked if only wanted musical instruments or would they also have singers
 - Happy with anything, would like it to be calming, soothing, classical
 - Likely not bag pipes



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- As part to the WCDSB 5 year cycle the board is helping to update the common area in the student section.
 - This includes the purchase of new module furniture which is easy to move around and work in groups and should be completed for new school year
 - KPL patrons will be able to utilize the space outside of school hours
- **PRO-Grant** – discussion about the grant, the library and school were going to partner to provide the evening. Would we be able to get the space prior to the end of school?
 - It was decided that we would look at planning the event for September 2019 and target the grade 9 parents, would be open to others
 - Signs would be put up for the event in KPL, feeder schools, St. Mary's and around community if required
 - Wondering if could use the KPL site to register – board would require forms most likely
 - Would have 2 dates in September – need to determine the number of resistor cases that could be purchased
 - Idea of 1 for school and 1 for home
 - There would be a presentation by Marcel in the library and then students would go to boardroom of the school to build the cases
 - There is \$473.00 available from 2017/2018 PRO-Grant that can be combined with \$1000.00 received this year
 - The project was to be completed by June 19, 2019 – John to confirm with board, that funding will not need to be returned with the plan to have the event in the fall.
 - Limit attendance to 30 people per session suggested
- Bev indicated that she would take all of the ideas back to Amanda and form a plan with us.

Principal Report – John Dietrich

- Board and school is trying to go as paperless as possible, while trying to get more information out to parents
- August dates when students get their photos and schedules will now be called “Start Up” and no longer registration
- Cash Online will now be used for many of the annual consent forms that were previously mailed out in the Start Up package with report cards
 - One form that will not be online is the Student Verification form
 - The council nomination form will be online as well
 - Field trips and programs should be online



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- By doing more online it reduces the size/weight of the year end/start up package resulting in a saving of \$3,500 – \$4,000
 - The Start Up packages are being hand delivered to Grade 8 students, reducing the postage cost as well
- Sportswear and Edge Imaging photo will also be going online
- During the past year we had 2 new security officers added to our team – Doug Proctor and Tasha Douglas, which your student(s) may have mentioned
 - They are here to provide consistency in the monitoring of hallways and keeping the student traffic moving between periods and during lunch hours
 - Their presence allows the administrative team to focus on other needs of the school, knowing the monitoring is taking place
 - They are here on a contractual basis, and we hope to continue to have them
 - They have built positive relationships with the students, while enforcing the rules
 - They have become part of the school community and actively take part in activities.
- School Trends-Long-term
 - We continue to grow which is a good thing, difficult with the new class sizes and existing structure
 - Ideal population for the current building would be 1,600-1,700
 - Option 1 - Build another school
 - There will be no new school for 3-4 years
 - Likely in the Chicopee area grades 7 -12
 - Option 2 – Cap the school for out of bound students
 - Option 3 – Would like a 4th Vice Principal to help with the administration – due to government cutbacks not an option
- St. Mary's has always been over capacity – for now will add more portables
- Suggestion was made by Frank – could you not look at extending the hours of school or staggering classes. The building is here and some parents may not wish to have their children home so early. This could also prepare them for college/university or work after school.
 - John indicated there are many models and it may be something to consider
 - Contracts with teachers may not make this a viable option at this time.

Uniform Collection – John Dietrich/Linda Tester

- Uniform Collection will take place the first day of exams for graduating students only. This date is June 17, 2019



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- Parents are asked to help with collection if possible, even 1 hour is helpful. You can sign up via this link <https://doodle.com/poll/6g5yb36waw9eqmgg>
- It was agreed by members that light clothing whites/baby blue shirts will be sold for \$5.00 each and dark navy clothing (pants/shorts) will be sold at \$10.00 each
- The money collected belongs to Council to determine how it is to be used within the school community. Groups may ask for some of the funds by completing the form and will be discussed during September's meeting
- Julie explained that the board will also ask how many pieces of clothing were collected and avoided the landfill, as this has been asked the last 2 years
- Used Uniform Sale will take place during Start Up on August 27th and 28th.
 - Volunteers are needed for both these days as well as the afternoon of August 26th to help set up. Again even an hour is greatly appreciated. You may sign up via this link <https://doodle.com/poll/z62nnqscn2pa39vp>
- Thank you ahead of time for considering volunteering

Other:

- Student Council was unable to attend – upcoming events for SAC and students included
 - Graduating mass and breakfast on May 31st
 - Prom the evening of May 31st
 - Final assembly – June 7th
 - Final BBQ – June 7th
 - Athletic banquet – June 11th
 - 2019 Graduation ceremony – June 25th
- The Relay for Life event held May 24th raised \$57,000.00, which means in 2 years the St. Mary's community has raised \$100,000.00. The Relay for Life Coordinators were videoing throughout the day and will be using these videos to show others school spirit
- Thank you to John for freely giving of his time to attend these meetings and to always having a steady guiding hand
- Thank you to Linda for chairing the meetings, keeping us on track and providing great ideas
- Thank you to Ellah and Joseph for sharing Student Council information with us and answering our questions

Tour John Dietrich facilitated the tour of the athletic department and answered questions

Next Meeting Dates

- September 23, 2019, November 25, 2019, February 24, 2020 and May 27, 2020