

St. Brigid's School CSPC

Meeting Minutes: September 21, 2017

Present:

<p>CSPC</p> <p>David Hogan (Principal) Cheryliane Gomes (Vice Principal) Helen Dunn (Co-Chair) Cheryl Devine (Co-Chair) Richard Payne (Vice-Chair) Clifton Corbin (Co-Treasurer) Nalini Bateman (Secretary) Jennifer Clarke (Co-Communications Rep) Liz Liberty (Co-Communications Rep) Kristen Hawkswood (Church Liaison) Silene Alsuran (OAPCE Rep) Patricia McFadden (OAPCE Rep) Ann Poochareon (Co-Special Events & OAPCE) Margherita Atanesio (Co-Special Events) Germana Nunes (Co-Special Events) Rosina Ross (Teacher Rep)</p> <p>REGRETS</p> <p>Przemyslaw Pawluk (Web Site Manager)</p>	<p>OTHER ATTENDEES</p> <p>Diana Gonzalez Lisa Payne Michelle Holder Lesley Hunter Noelle Dos Ramos Shelley Dempsey David Dempsey Matthew Tammam Rafael Porto Daniela Rodrigo Danielle Pollington Caroline Swerdlyk Sameer Alarakhia Tammy Chung Amy DeMoulin Gordon Finlay Francis Tulio Mary Galati</p>
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1. Principal's Report - Mr. Hogan

➤ Welcome

- Welcome back to everyone. This is the year of the *School*. It is part of the TCDSB's 3-Year Pastoral Plan: Together With One Voice, Harmonizing Our Faith Through Family, Parish and School 2015-2018.
- There is a close relationship at St. Brigid between the Church, school and parents and family.
- We have monthly mass at St. Brigid church and all are welcome.
- This is my fifth year at St. Brigid and the staff here is great - consistently they are all about the kids.
- The best part of my day is saying "Good morning" to the kids and parents and families as they arrive.
- Welcome to **Mrs. Gomes**, she used to teach here and now she is back as our new Vice-Principal.

➤ Enrollment

- The March enrollment projection was 600 students and we currently have 624 enrolled. St. Brigid is a vibrant growing community. As a result there were some changes to the students in the classroom, but the classes are now settled. One of the 2-3 split classes is now a straight Grade 3.
- **Clifton:** What is the capacity of the school? **Mr. Hogan:** We have room to grow and there is a large number of K-Grade 3. **Mrs. Ross:** At one time St. Brigid had up to 750 students.
- **Question:** What are the class sizes? **Mr. Hogan:** For kindergarten it is 30 as there are ECE's in the room. The Ministry cap for Primary grades 1-3, is 20 students and the collective agreement cap is 23 students. For grades 4-8 the class size limit is 31 students.
- **Question:** Is there a policy for **not** switching students to different classrooms in consecutive years? **Mr. Hogan:** Students end up being moved when there is a change in enrollment from the projections. The decision is never easy to move students. The decisions are made in consultation with the teachers and the goal is to ensure the class make up is equal; the social component is also a factor. We track which students are in split classes to ensure they are not in split grades two years in a row. Currently we are not tracking which students have been moved in consecutive years. I invite parents and teachers to be part of the process as we look at including this tracking moving forward. Parents can send a letter to the school in June expressing concerns they may have for their children.

➤ **Staffing**

- Miss Poirier will be covering for Mrs. McParland who is recovering from a broken ankle.
- There are a number of new teachers this year:
 - Mrs. Evanson--Covering for Mrs. Witteveen in the Kindergarten class
 - Mrs. Boucher--Kindergarten
 - Mr. Masucci--Grade 7/8
 - Ms. Lombard--Phys Ed and Health on Monday and Tuesday.
 - Mrs. Aguiar--ISP Autism class
 - VP--Mrs. Gomes
 - Educational Assistant: Ms. Melo
 - Library Technician: Mr. Harris

➤ **Communications from the School**

- We have a new email system which will now be used to communicate with parents as we continue our efforts to reduce paper. Parents should now be receiving emails from ***stbrigidinfo***.
- If parents are not on the mailing list they will not be receiving information
- Parents need to send me an email (david.hogan@tcdsb.org) in order to be added to the distribution list

- **Cheryl:** Please note that the CSPC distribution list is NOT the same as the school distribution list. **Mr.Hogan:** Due to privacy policies, CSPC cannot access the school list

- The school also has a twitter feed: ***@stbrigidtcdsb***

- The calendar of school events is maintained by me and now automatically updates the CSPC calendar on the CSPC website.
- **Cheryl:** Can tryouts be added to the calendar? **Mr.Hogan:** Yes.
- **Question:** Is the school open to participating in new events such as the Terry Fox run? **Mr.Hogan:** Events are usually spearheaded by myself, Mrs. Gomes or a teacher, but we are open to suggestions. St.Brigid is involved in a number of fundraisers (e.g. school in Haiti, Maddy - <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/surgery-may-help-madison-walk-on-h-er-own-but-it-s-not-offered-in-toronto-1.3970586>)

➤ **French Immersion at St. Brigid**

- Next school year St. Brigid is slated to be a French Immersion school. There will be a consultation session with parents Wednesday, November 8, 7p.m. in the gym.
- The program will be starting at the kindergarten level and moving with those students. The program will NOT be available to existing students.
- **Question:** Does that mean that Extended French will also be offered? **Mr. Hogan:** No, that is a different program for grades 5-8.
- **Question:** Will parents have a choice or is the session for information purposes only? **Mr. Hogan:** We will see at the meeting. The board is trying to put a French Immersion school in each area. **Mrs. Gomes:** Probably there will be an information sheet provided.
- **Question:** Will this be for all Junior Kindergarten students? **Mr. Hogan:** It is a parental decision so there will be two streams.
- **Question:** For students that are currently in JK, would they be able to participate next year when they are in SK? **Mr. Hogan:** This is a good question to bring to the consultation session.

➤ **Other Business**

- On Saturday, September 23, “**Angelone Lane**” will be named after Vincenzina (Vincey) Angelone, who has lived in the neighbourhood since she was five, attended St. Brigid Elementary School and then spent 45 years teaching there — her entire career. She is the second-longest serving teacher in the Toronto Catholic District School Board, and continues to volunteer at St. Brigid’s school and church. The lane borders the school, church and her home street.
- **Silene:** Can you discuss St. Brigid EQAO results at the next meeting? **Mr. Hogan:** Yes.
- **Helen:** Can we also discuss the Jump Math program? **Mr. Hogan:** Yes.

2. Chairs’ Report - Cheryl Devine & Helen Dunn

➤ **Pizza Lunch**

- This is our largest fundraiser
- It runs throughout the year, once a week on Tuesdays.
- **Silene:** When is pizza lunch? **Cheryl:** Looking to start October 10.
- A notice will go out in early October.
- We take 13-14 orders per session, online through the Munch-a-Lunch.
- We offer cheese, gluten-free, lactose-free, sauce-free options.
- We order extra large pizzas cut into 12 slices.
- **Question:** Where is the pizza from? **Cheryl:** Pizza Nova.

➤ **Other Business**

- We will be discussing fundraising at the next meeting.
- The **Grant Writer** position is open. We need someone who can research and apply to for grants to St. Brigid (e.g. Gov. Ontario-ProGrant, Metro's Green Apple grant)
- Would it be possible to get a faster turn around on the minutes? **Nalini:** It is a multi-step process - write the minutes, review by Mr. Hogan, approved by Board, post to website. There are number of delay points. Will see if we can streamline the process.

3. Vice Principal's Report - Mrs. Gomes

➤ **Allergen Awareness**

- The board has designated St. Brigid is an "**Allergen Aware**" school
- This means that we are conscientious of all students with and without allergies. And strive to educate everyone about allergens in the school. The school cannot say that it is "Nut-Free" as it unable to 100% guarantee that there are no nuts or cross-contamination from nuts in the school.
- **Mr.Hogan:** We have always been a nut free school and this does not change any of our current policies around peanuts/nuts or other allergens - so no outside food (e.g. birthday cakes), no food sharing, nut free snacks. Students are also aware of any students in their classroom that have allergies. Wow butter causes confusion for students and teachers so it is discouraged.
- We will be sending a letter to inform parents to avoid sending peanuts/nuts and peanuts/nut products to the school
- **Diana:** Can we also get some clarification of "nut-free"? Parents need to know what they can and cannot send: Nut free/Does not contain nuts/may contain nuts (e.g. made in a facility where cross contamination may occur)/bears the "Nut Free" logo?

➤ **Key Dates:**

- **Sept 28:** Next Thursday is **Curriculum Night** and will be in two sessions
- **Sept 29:** Wear and orange shirt for Indigenous People Awareness

4. Teacher Rep's Report – Mrs. Ross

- Nothing to report for this meeting.

5. Other Business

- Dates for 2017/18 CSPC Thursday night meetings
 - Oct 19/17
 - Nov 23/17
 - Jan 25/18
 - Feb 22/18
 - Apr 19/18
 - May 17/18
 - Jun 14/18
- Last Day of School June 28, 2018

Meeting adjourned 9:40 p.m.

Next meeting – Oct 19/17