

St. Brigid Catholic School

CSPC Meeting #3 2020-2021 Year Jan 27, 2021 – 7 pm to 9 pm – via Zoom

In attendance: K. Blanchet, A. Sobol, T. McGhee, L. Collins-Dunleavy, A. Paul, B. Lacay, C. Devine, C. Weidner, C. Corbin, D. Pollington, D. Forsayeth, D. Gonzalez, G. Nunes, G. Finlay, K. Coulter McPherson, K. Kosecki Martinez, P. McFadden, M. Puglisi, M. Brannon, K. Dixon, D. Chen, A. Floriano, A. Stephenson, A. DeMoulin, A. Amaya, A. Vatalaro, C. Reye, C. Hartwell, D. Cramer, Ed, Eden, E. Amakwe, Ethiopia, H. Dunn, H. Elchuk, J. Gill, J. Franks, J. Cruz, J. Fergus, K. Hajdu, K. Weibes Godin, M. Asfaha, M. Williams, M. Michalak, M. Rendon Alvarez, M. Courneyea, M. Costa, M. Mifsud, R. Porto, R. DellaVella, R. Bondoc, S. Colla, S. Ta-Min Young, T. Ardilla, Tasfaneh, T. Roberts, T. Desta, F. Furlano, D. Johnson.

Agenda

Welcome: Clifton Corbin welcoming everyone, and invited Mrs. Blanchet and Mrs. Sobol to give the opening prayer. **Prayer:** By Mrs. Sobol – Holocaust Memorial Day Prayer. **Land Acknowledgement and Protocols of Video Conference** delivered by Mrs. Blanchet

Next meeting: Feb. 25, 2021, 7 pm

Guests: Superintendent, Area 6, Kimberly Dixon and Superintendent, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Derek Chen

Clifton welcomed everyone again and shared role of Parent Council; fundraising, advice, volunteering and finding volunteers for activities and events. Things to keep in mind:

- Feb. 4, 6:30 – virtual magic show.
- 100-year anniversary volunteers needed.
- Contact CSPC if you have interest in volunteering.
- Introductions by school admin and parent council members.

Principal's Report – K. Blanchet

Communications by TCDSB Board to change school start time, from 8:30 to 9, and shifting the back end accordingly as well, along with other schools in board to accommodate busing. Mrs. Blanchet invited Ms. Dixon to add additional information. This issue will be discussed at the Board on Thu. There is a feeling that there has been a lack of consultation and there is impact on family's schedule. Mrs. Blanchet asked if there are questions for Ms. Dixon. Questions ranged from whether the decision was final (it is being reviewed), what the reasoning was (bus schedule accommodations resulting in cost savings, whether the survey from several years ago was being considered (the results with a majority of 72% against the change will be sent to Kimberly Dixon), and if it can be re-considered (there is likely some opportunity). Mrs. Blanchet welcomes Derek Chen, Superintendent of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) for the Board, and indicates that there's a committee at the school that supports EDI. Mrs. Blanchet invited Derek here to help with advice or direction for the school's equity committee.

There are those within the school community that want to celebrate Pride. The celebration around LGBTQ; support, love, care for students. At the end of the day, we as Catholics are here to support and lead our kids. Derek indicates that he has previous experience with support or setting up. Some parents

indicated that that wanted to plan a virtual event and call it Pride. There was discussion about forming a school committee to consult all and to explore it as fully as possible. There was interest in one committee for all equity-needs issues but there was also interest in a separate committee just for LGBTQ because it does receive extra scrutiny. There was also discussion about how we balance respect for this while respecting the traditional values of the Catholic church, and considering the message we send out children when we might inadvertently put down the values of the church through lifting up LGBTQ issues. There were questions about how Indigenous issues are handled and that includes curriculum committees at the Board level. There were also questions about what the Board is doing to which Derek Chen responded that they are working on it, and will update everyone. The school has also in deep reflection and action around the issues related to the event of the spring and summer around the movement for Black lives.

Principal's Report con't – K. Blanchet:

Thanks Derek and Kimberly for joining to help guide the conversation and direction, and look forward to working together. Derek Chen thanks everyone, and reiterated that Mrs. Blanchet, Mrs. Sobol and Ms. Dixon are excellent advocates. Ms. Dixon also expressed her support and will be sharing the information with other trustees that there was an overwhelming majority wanted the hours to stay the same.

Mrs. Blanchet began by talking about the strength of our staff, double-duty of families, of working life, family life, etc. Students reminded her that we're all in this together. Many community members have needed supports with additional technology support. Most have been supported. If there are any other needs at all, please let them know.

Parent-Teacher Interviews will be on the 9th and 11th. Reports cards will likely be delivered on the 8th. We are uncertain if we are mailing them. It will likely be digital. We will use the parent interview platform tool.

We still need a core French teacher. We had a French teacher who was a day-to-day supply, but, right now, it is not possible to have this opportunity online. Duolingo will be used in the meantime.

With respect to mechanical ventilation; we were able to obtain 4 more HEPA filters and now every full class has support. Four do not have filters but they are not full classes; 3 have mechanical ventilation already and one does.

We started an EDI group in the spring and it has grown into a group of passionate educators devoted to taking a critical look at the building and school inclusive of all students. Some things have been done including ordering and curating a library collection with additional items (BLM, activism) to broaden it so that students see themselves reflected and represented, and this is happening in our classrooms as well. There is also a resource bank online for teachers; there are a collection of links, articles. Admin has also added to a professional library resources on white fragility, Indigenous pedagogy, etc. The staff meeting has a standing item on EDI; it is an open space to speak. We are looking to curate classroom specific culturally-responsive materials – books, toys, etc. Looking at pastoral care for parents and students; gender-neutral washrooms, use of pronouns, reflective reporting, connecting families with resources. About the 100th Anniversary in November; we have started looking in a couple months at how we want

to do it. I have put work orders in to get it ready for if we could do it face to face in November. There is also money from the Board about \$500.

There are lots of great events in February, and those will be reflected in the newsletter. Mrs. Blanchet also responded to questions about fixing of the garden bends and play structure and other revamping needs. Work orders have been put in.

Vice-Principal's Report – A. Sobol

The cubes have been ordered and we will distribute to everyone. There are three 10- min videos – curated by the company. A school staff member will be able to help. Perhaps there could be a club. With respect to X-Movement virtual activities; there is a parent portal was to be shared by teachers via Google Classroom. Mrs. Blanchet could blast out to encourage movement in the spirit of moving and mental health. Board is looking at Bell Let's Talk. Online learning is tough for everyone. It's taking its toll. Many students have been doing it for a while. Use X-movement to keep everyone moving, can keep everyone's mental health in good state. The water bottle filling station has been ordered. St. Brigid hasn't been picked for asymptomatic testing.

Teacher Representative Report – Ms. McGhee:

There is nothing urgent to report on, but there is a request from four different teachers for document cameras which will be useful for online learning or when we're back face to face. There might be more interest once people see them in use.

Motion: Moved by Clifton Corbin, Seconded by Mike Brannon that \$600 is allocated to the teachers for the purchase of four document cameras. None opposed. The motion passes.

Church Liaison's Report – M. Michalak

There is Mass online on Sundays at 11 am through the church's Facebook page. It is also recorded. There are a number of live streams coming up; Wed. Feb 17 at noon for Ash Wednesday, Thursday, Feb. 25 school Mass. St. Anne's Church and St. Brigid's Church are seeking non-perishable items for foodbanks. Fundraising through the sale of commemorative items for the church 100th anniversary is still on. ShareLife campaign will take place on April 17 and 18. Fr. Carlos is interested in knowing how the school and church can cooperate on the campaign, and also the Year of the Family which ends in June 2022. Due to COVID, First Communion and Reconciliation classes are run on-line. The material is good as well. Classes are going well. Good feedback from parents. Preparations are underway.

K. Blanchet: Might not be able to distribute ashes because of COVID. Fr. Carlos will let us know.

Treasurer's Report – B. Lacay, M. Brannon

There is not a lot of activity. We have cashed a lot of cheques from the pizza refunds. We are in good standing.

OAPCE Update – P. McFadden

This past Monday, there was a discussion with regards to TCDSB and official social media accounts for the school. There's a 3.5 page document that they're hoping to pass with trustees. It is a set of guidelines, not policy. OAPCE and CPIC have approved. They also went over fundraising information like what OAPCE is allowed to give money to. It is mainly to guide parents and students behaviour, and is on the TCDSB website. Derek will also be present talking about EDI in early March. On March 3rd, there's a webinar by Paul Davis, and a link can be circulated. He'll be talking about internet and safety.

President's Report – C. Corbin

There was a question about classes writing to those in long-term care homes. One class has done it. There is a procedure for that.

We will be reviewing the International Language Policy at the end of the meeting.

The minute were approved online. **Motion to approve raised by Clifton and seconded by Mike. None opposed. Motion passes.**

The meeting looked at the International Language Policy. The instructions that were received were not to change our specific International Language Policy but to review and get feedback from the parent community about the policy as it is written, to make sure that it is clear and inclusive.

C. Corbin reads the policy and requests feedback now or after the meeting, but within a few days, and asks if it was clear or coherent. C. Corbin shares the list of questions that came with the instructions and asked for feedback, and collected valuable feedback including how votes for selection or establishment of a program were managed; votes or registered families, where hours are being found to accommodate this, and metrics for success.

9:25 pm: Motion to adjourn. Raised by C. Corbin, seconded by M. Brannon