



2021/2022 St. Helen Catholic School Council

Chair – Ms. C. Denief &
Co-Chair – Ms. S. Tomaino
Treasurer – Ms. G. Tota
Secretary – Ms. M. Scott
OAPC Rep – Ms. Wilson
Parish Rep – Ms. Field
Community Rep – Vacant
Principal – Ms. Klein
Teacher Rep – Ms. Dawe
Non Teacher Rep – Mrs. Vieira
Member at Large – Mr. K. Shipley
Members at Large – Ms. T Landriault
Member at Large – Ms. Hand

Meeting Date: February 23, 2022 – Virtual Teams Meeting

Attendees: Ms. C. Denief, Ms. G. Tota, Ms. Scott, , Ms. Klein, Ms. Dawe, Ms. Vieira, , Ms. Hand, Ms. Hobin, Mr. K. Shipley

Regrets: Ms. S. Tomaino, Ms. T Landriault, Ms. Wilson, Ms. Field

Agenda:

1. Welcome / Land Acknowledgement
2. Opening Prayer
3. Approvals
4. Sharon Hobin, Chair of the Board, Trustee for Wards 2 & 8 4
5. Treasurers Report
6. Parish Report
7. Chairs Report
8. Principal's Report
9. Next Council meetings
10. Round Table/Questions
11. Closing Prayer

Opening Prayer

- Ms. Scott completed

Approval of the minutes from last meeting

- Ms. Hand approved

Approval of tonight's agenda

- Ms. Hand approved

Ms. Hobin Update

- Busing: some challenges if drivers or family is sick and they cannot drive, not enough drivers to take over the route and some routes without drivers for a week, ask that priorities be given to the routes that the driver is out longer than a week to 10 days vs. the routes that the drivers are out a day or two
- Schools are going virtual if buses/schools closed to due to weather to allow classes to continue (pre COVID schools would combine classes to have enough teachers to teach), so if buses are cancelled – schools go into virtual so the classes can continue, hope when go forward that classes are allowed to cohort then the virtual will not be needed
- Ministry of Education said next year still need to provide virtual learning, against the advice of the School Boards, concerns around mental health, and some students have only known virtual, there are a small number of kids that are doing well with virtual, but not the majority
- If chose to do virtual school next year, it will have to be for the full year, student cannot switch half way through this year
- School plan for when a student is sick is still under review (i.e. put work on google class, or hybrid, but kids would be in with a group of kids not in their class)
- Ministry of Education has decided it will do in person grads this year, still working through the logistics of how it will work
- Allowance of in school volunteers, guests and assemblies has to come from Ministry of Education and they have not said anything yet
- Extracurricular has returned, this is run by teacher volunteers
- Receiving over 1000 new HEPA Filters, last announcement they received 84, Ms. Hobin has asked for a full report of what schools/class rooms they are in for parent awareness, priority when they first received was the Kindergarten, Special Education and Portables classrooms
- The 1000 new filters still does not allow for every class to have a HEPA Filter
- MERV13 HEPA Filter is now in all ventilation systems
- Masking in school is still required, except for lunch and when outside, however if/when lifted, students can still wear their masks if they wish
- Parent Engagement has moved online over the last two years, and now seeing hundreds of parents join the sessions, looks like they will still offer these virtually (benefit is the Board is able to allow multiple schools with one fee)
- There is a teacher shortage, it is taking up to 6 months before they get their license in ON (NS only takes two weeks) – School Board is asking the Ministry of Education to look into
- New signs are posted on/by the front door of all schools and on the school message system due to angry parents and demonstrators. Board has advised everyone in the school should feel safe and actions will be taken if an incident occurs
- Code of Conduct has updated (with cell at school) and victims' rights (kid on kid assault)
- Fresh Start program – will provide quality education for students who cannot go back into home school, but into another school, with students coming back into schools, there is increased

anger and mental health issues, looking at number one focus should be mental health and how to function in a school

- Thank you to all of us for sticking with council – Ms. Hobin and the Board appreciated the faithfulness and dedication

Questions for Ms. Hobin:

Question: What is happening with our principal at our school?

Answer: It is a priority, and had a discussion with Superintendent, they want to make sure who ever come to St Helen is the right fit and has a long term plan, Ms. Klein is still staying with us for a while longer, and then Ms. Bevacqua will come back to finish the school year, goal is to have final Principal for Sept.

Question: Will pizza lunches be allowed again? We have a shortage of Parent Council funds due to the restrictions of fundraisers due to COVID.

Answer: This is on the list that is currently under review with the Health Department to see when it can come back. Fundraising can still be done, but teacher/school staff volunteers would still be required. Volunteers still are not allowed to come in, but when they will be allowed, they will need to be vaccinated

Treasure Report

- Ms. Tota and Ms. Hand reviewed the budget numbers, not a lot of activity since last meeting
- Additional teacher wish list item came in
- Removed staff gifts from budget as not allowed to do
- Learning A-Z has renewed and will go until next school year
- All classes rooms have received their bag outdoor items, total was \$1624
- Discussion with Ms. Pietrangelo about grade 8 grad, last year the school got the kids t-shirts, but not sure if school has money for that this year, Ms. Klein meeting with Ms. Pietrangelo this week***UPDATE:** *the t-shirts were a one-time expense last school year, due to Covid and students not being able to fundraise. This is not an annual commitment by the school.*
- Budget for Grads: Grade 8 is \$600 and Kindergarten is \$200, looking at fundraisers to assist with spend
- If wish to do a clothing/branded items fundraiser, we need to use school approved vendors, Ms. Vieira to send vendor info to Ms. Hand (consideration for fundraising idea)

Parish Report

- No report at this time

Chair report

- Ms. Tomaino closed out the Flip Give, raised \$538 (cheque coming to the school)
- Shoe Factory has \$80 but not closing out yet
- Added Ms. Brunton \$100 for teachers wish list
- If things continue to open back up, consideration to doing the ice cream truck in June
- Asked Ms. Dawe to remind all teachers that they have until March 1 for their wish list items
- JoPoppas is not able to do a pizza fundraiser on a Friday or Sat, needs to be on a slower day, they would like for us to do a survey to see how many people are supporting as they felt the last fundraiser was more Community vs. School used
- Ms. Hand to speak with The Temple and see if they are open to it and what % they would give back to the school

Discussion/Asks:

Ask: Parents reached out to Colleen to ask why the Council meeting link was not sent directly to the school community

Response: This was done for security reasons

Ask: Are we able to do a virtual book fair?

Response: Will have a new Librarian as of Tuesday, March 1 and will discuss the option with her

Ask: How many emails have we received for the snow sculptor event

Response: 7

Principal's Report

The Principal's Report is based on the Board' Multi-Year Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023). The Multi-Year Strategic plan is based on the Board's Value framework:

- **Excel** addresses literacy, mathematics, and excellence in other subject areas.
- **Respect** addresses equity.
- **Thrive** addresses well-being.
- **Believe** and **Trust** address many more aspects of Catholic education.

Principal, Ms. Klein, shared Board's Catholic Improvement Learning Cycle, Year in Review (2020 – 21), prior to sharing Principal's Report.

Believe & Trust:

Prayers, scriptural readings, virtue reflections and information about the Catholic Graduate Expectations are shared during daily announcements, weekly staff updates and newsletters.

Our first virtual Virtue Assembly took place in January led by Ms. Klein and staff. This month's virtual assembly is being led by our Grade 7/8 class. Students continue to be recognized for demonstrating the virtue highlighted each month, during the assembly. Students are also awarded a virtue certificate.

Rosary Apostolate volunteers continue their virtual lessons each month through Zoom.

During **class instruction**, each grade uses appropriate scripture, and consistently use Board Religion resources.

Season of Lent begins next week, on Wed. March 2nd. Our school will be participating in a virtual Ash Wednesday liturgy, as part of announcements.

Trust & transparency: regular communication with community through email blasts and school website, monthly newsletters, Twitter, etc.

Excel:

Term 1 Interviews took place last week, following the delivery of the report cards for term 1. Through the strong school/home connection, students are supported and encouraged to learn to the best of their ability.

Scientist in the School: Mrs. Dawe is in the process of booking. Once confirmed, we will send a letter to parents, asking for a \$10 donation per child for the program.

Other Learning Enhancements: We are investigating other possible virtual learning enhancements for our students, through an Outdoor Grant. Parents will be kept informed through the school newsletter and email-blasts, as appropriate.

School Goal: using Learning Goals and Success Criteria in lessons to support student learning. Staff are focusing on higher level thinking questions from FDK to Grade 8, ensuring that assessment covers all 4 areas: Knowledge, Understanding, Application, Thinking

During the January lockdown, 35 devices were loaned to children in our school, without a device at home. (17 iPads and 18 Chromebooks.) **This continues to be a future budget priority.

Regular TEAM meetings continue to take place with teachers/psychologist/SLP/CYW/SW and Principal to discuss student concerns (academic, social, emotional, etc.) and services are offered to families as appropriate.

Reading Programs: Raz-Kids (Primary) – purchased by Council

Corrective Reading Programs: Reading Mastery Program for Primary students, grades 1 and 2 (Mr. Figliola) being trained; Empower (Mrs. Brunton – Primary/Junior), Lexia – new Board purchased reading program for September (teacher directed & managed with online programs at students' level) For SERC students and P/J/Int students with reading challenges.

Respect: (equity)

During the month of February, we celebrated Black History Month in a variety of ways at St. Helen Catholic School. Teachers read books over the month by black authors and as a school we conducted a book review of books in our school library. Mrs. Long's Grade 2/3 class completed the front foyer bulletin board for the month of February, which highlighted famous black athletes, politicians, leaders and other influential black people. Students shared information about some of the featured historical figures over announcements. In classes, students in various grades completed research activities. The grade 7/8 class learned about significant people, places and events that are a part of Black History Month. Each student created a digital stamp in honour of his/her selected person and shared a summary of their contributions with the class, during presentations.

School/Board goal: increasing the # of books & activities that reflect the diversity in our community

Thrive: (addresses well-being)

Update on OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT -Through Council, all outdoor equipment has arrived and has been delivered to classes. Council paid for the entire cost, which was \$1624.71

School & Board:

- Board Covid Safety measures are implemented and continue to be followed (recess organized by cohorts)
- Regular communication to staff, students parents (announcements, class visits, newsletters, email blasts)

Special Events:

- Council's Family Snow Sculpture Contest
- Feb. 28th – Earth Rangers Presentation

Special Days:

- Olympic Spirit Week
- Feb. 14th – Valentine Cookies with all funds raised going to ShareLife. Mrs. Vieira organized this fundraiser. We raised \$920 for ShareLife.
- February 23rd, today, “Pink Day” – anti-bullying recognition.
- March 22nd – The Big Gulp
- March 25th – Earth Hour

Triple Hoop: ordered. The cost will be shared by the Supt. and School’s fundraising. (Note: Previous Hoop had a limited time in the playground before it was damaged. I was told it was about 3 months. As the basketball hoop could not be replaced, the entire hoop/pole and installation costs were \$3000. Hopefully, the new triple hoop has a longer life span. Continued replacement of short-term, costly items may be difficult to justify, based on Board and School priorities, as related to the Board plan.

School Building Maintenance – follow-up from last meeting

-Goal Posts: Ms. Klein arranged for installation of synthetic turf at goal post areas in field. The information I received is that it falls into Facilities Renewal, so there is no cost to the school.

Field Restoration/Levelling: Ms. Klein arranged for St. Helen School to be put on the list for field restoration, using funds from this year’s Board Facilities Grant.

NOTE, I was told: “This is not a simple repair because it requires top dressing along an extended period of time, so the turf is leveled gradually. This Board item is yet to be approved.”

Next Council meetings

- April 6: Agenda is Fundraising activities (i.e. Plantables, box of cards on hold, Temple Restaurant and school branded swag)

Round table

Ask: did we receive the \$500 parent engagement grant for School Council?

Answer: Ms. Vieira will confirm

Ask: Is everyone ok to approve meeting minutes via email vs. at next meeting?

Answer: Yes

Closing prayer

- completed by Ms. Scott

Attachement:



St. Helen Approved
Budget to Feb 21 202

