



Bishop Ryan Catholic School Council
Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2022

Attendance:

Michael Lawlor (Principal), Tara Boyce (Vice Principal), Cher Chorney (Chair), Stephanie Femia (Vice-Chair), Laura Hollingshead (Treasurer), Paulo Alves (Secretary), Melissa Polizzi (Teacher Representative), Kathleen Thompson (Non-Teacher Representative), Juliana Puzstay (Student Council Representative), Jaime Alves, Bunmi Bosede, Isabella Cinelli, Catherine Colatosti, Jean Corner, Lisa Girolami, Tina Grzicic, Allicia Lewis

With Regret Unable to attend – Rick and Rosemary Ferroni

1. Opening Prayer – 7:00pm Juliana Puzstay
2. Conflict of Interest – Cher Chorney
3. Student Council Report – Juliana Puzstay and Isabella Cinelli
 - Christmas Drive
 - Period 1, envelope with description
 - Donate to support families in need
 - Jersey Day
 - Wednesdays, \$2.00
 - Prom
 - December 8, 2022 6 – 10pm

4. Prom Night

Parents/Guardians reached out to Chair and Vice-chair requesting that this topic be discussed during the meeting tonight as there were several complaints regarding the ticket sales and capacity issues at venue. Prior to Prom night being discussed amongst council members, Cher suggested a motion to add to tonight's agenda and open for discussion

- Laura motioned to pass, Jaime to second.

Floor opened for discussion

- Will food be provided? Yes, buffet style.
- Will seating be assigned? No assigned seating.
- Many students unable to purchase tickets for event though it was advertised that you are able to purchase tickets up to November 30, 2022. Tickets went on sale November 9th and was sold out prior to November 19, 2022.
- Capacity limit set by venue at 500 tickets. Tickets advertised on all social media as first come, first serve.
- Due to the event being labelled as a "Prom" possible confusion was created, as many parents thought that this would not be a Grade 12 event and not all Grade 12 students would be able to attend due to capacity issues. However, it was clarified by Julianna and Mr. Lawlor that this is not a graduation event or dance.
- Concerns with a different school being hosted at the venue on the same night as BR.

As per Mr. Lawlor, the venue has it setup that neither school will have the chance to cross paths. Completely different entrance, room, bathrooms and security.

- Information on prom was provided on morning announcements/social media.
- Tickets are non-transferable – if unable to attend must get in touch with school for a refund.

Suggestions and Possible solutions for capacity issues

- Increase capacity limit – as per Mr. Lawlor increasing over 500 would pose safety issues.
- Future suggestions and concerns will be reviewed and taken into consideration.
- With BR being such a large school, this may be another item of discussion with the School Board as many students are missing out again on events due to capacity issues.

5. Toonies for Tuition - Juliana Pusztay

- Video was played for members of the Catholic School Council November 14, 2022 HWCDSB kicked off its system wide Toonies for Tuition Campaign.
 - Proceeds donated to provide tuition assistance to Catholic Students in provinces that receive limit or no public funding for Catholic schools
 - Donations can be made online via School Cash Online.
 - Council thanked student representative and they are excused from the meeting at this point

6. Vice Principal - Mr. Lawlor introduced our new Vice Principal Mrs. Tara Boyce

- Newly appointed Vice Principal
- From Halton Region
- English Languages Department Head
- Previously at Holy Trinity & St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary Schools
- Mrs. Boyce introduced the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan
 - Turn-around time immediate when bullying is reported
 - Deal with cases individually
 - Online anonymous reporting tool
 - Plan is reviewed and updated each year
 - Requesting input and suggestions from Council members
 - Email Mrs. Boyce by Friday November 25, 2022 with ideas

7. Non-Teaching Representative – Kathleen Thompson

- BR Christmas Miracle
 - Runs from November 21 & December 9th
 - For over 35 Families in need
 - Gift cards can be donated in person or you may donate via cash online to purchase gift cards.
 - Tax receipts can't be provided as proceeds are not going to the school.
 - Each family would receive \$125 in gift cards.
- Received Grant for Home Parish School Funding - \$1000.00.

- Rebuilding the parish school relationship will be a collaborative event that will happen later this year.
- Determining the night (before April 14th).
- Need people for future planning.

8. Chairperson Report – Cher Chorney

- Parent Outreach Program
 - Survey was sent out to parents/guardians after last meeting.
 - Feedback was received: Mental Health and Well-being was the top concern
 - Decided on hosting event and having a guest speaker.
 - Scheduled tentatively for February 22nd, 2023.
 - Event Speaker – Ms. Kendra Fisher, former member of Team Canada Women’s Hockey.
 - Help from Council for refreshments, coffee, donuts.
 - Virtual Invitations.
 - Kathleen Thompson mentioned that event falls on Ash Wednesday - Cher will reach out to Ms. Kendra Fisher for possible alternate date.
 - Decorate event in Winter Wonderland theme.
 - Kendra Fisher has been vetted by the school.
 - School will make staff available for parents and students that week if anyone needs counselling.
 - Parents and students are welcome to attend.
 - Held in the school Auditorium which has a capacity of 600.
 - May send out invitations to BR feeder schools.

9. Principal Report – Michael Lawlor

- Pandemic prevention information
 - Educate the student body.
 - Remain home if you are ill.
- Bishop Ryan Grade 8 Parent Information Night – November 30th.
- Updated enrollment numbers, down 40 students since September.
- P.A. Day – November 25th.
- Picture retake day on November 30th.
- Director’s and Honour Rolls Awards – December 1st.
- Prom – Winter Formal at Carmen’s Banquet Centre – December 8th.
- Dreams Pasta Dinner fundraiser – Bishop Ryan Cafeteria – December 2nd, 6:00pm – 9:00pm.
- Bishop Ryan Coffee House, presented by the Music Department – Bishop Ryan Cafeteria – November 23rd, 6:00pm – 9:00pm.

10. New Business

- Parents looking for one source for school information.
 - Best options are WRBR video announcements and calendar on school website.
- Parent Guardian Interview Night.

- Possible Improvements for future.
- Improve booking with Microsoft™ Bookings.
- Longer interviews or greater capacity – feedback, 5 minutes was a good amount of time.
- Give back to the community
 - End of Exams treat. Last year, freezes were given.
 - Do a possible fundraiser to do BBQ for this school year – Tabled.

11. Meeting Adjourned

- Motioned by Catherine Colatosti, second by Laura Hollingshead.

Next meeting – Monday January 16th, 2023