



Bishop Ryan Catholic School Council
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2022

Attendance:

Michael Lawlor (Principal), Laura Hollingshead (Treasurer), Cher Chorney (Chair), Stephanie Femia (Vice-Chair), Melissa Polizzi (Teacher Representative), Rick Ferroni (Community Representative), Rosemary Ferroni (Community Representative), Christina Soar (Public Health Nurse), Kathleen Thompson (Non-Teacher Representative), Catherine Colatosti, Olthia Adili, Paulo Alves, Jaime Alves, Lisa Girolami, Gbolade Shobowale, Kelechi Enyinniah, Evan Salmon, Allicia Lewis, Juliana Puszta(student Council Representative), Tina Grzicic, Bunmi Bosede, Jeanie Corner, Linda Infurnari

1. Opening Prayer 7pm– Kathleen Thompson
2. Approval of September Minutes
 - Catherine motion to accept minutes, Lisa Girolami to second.
3. Appointment of Paulo Alves as Secretary
 - Catherine Colatosti motion to pass, Lisa Girolami to second
- **Student Council Report – Juliana Puszta**
 - **Halloween Dance**
 - **October 26, 2022**
 - School Appropriate Costumes, no weapons
 - Tickets on sale via cash on-line October 20, \$5
 - Attendance Limited to 600

It was at this time we thanked Juliana and she was excused from the meeting as she had several tests the following day.

4. Declaration of Conflict - Chairperson

- Chairperson explained that prior to meeting she had emailed a copy of the description of conflict of interest to the new council members to read.
- Nothing to declare

5. Non-Teaching Representative- Kathleen Thomson

- We are lucky to have 1.5 chaplains here at Bishop Ryan
- Every grade 9 religion class this semester has participated in a chapel visit
- Every grade 9 religion class this semester will be participating in a grade 9 retreat at Camp Marydale
- We held a successful Thanksgiving Food Drive - Poppi and Tomala donated 5 - \$5 gift cards each as incentive draw

- Every grade 10 religion class this semester participated in a special presentation of the St. John's Bible from the Diocese of Hamilton
- Christmas Miracle campaign official kick off is November 21st

6. Teacher Representative Report – Melissa Polizzi

- Teacher/Parent Interviews on October 27, 2022
- Phone Calls Permitted
- As per council members there were many issues with previous years interviews
 - Many complaints – time allotted of 5mins to short, parents unaware of where classes are located.
 - School will be using the same system this year, however feedback from parents on this year's interviews will be appreciated and a review to follow.
 - Map has been added in the main hall which will help parents locate classrooms

7. Guest Speaker - Public Health Nurse Presentation – Christina Soar

- Health services pulled during COVID, now back to normal
- Using previous health model
- More funding available
- Increase in personnel
- Focus on prevention and health issues, not as first aid
- Video on Healthy School Certification –video can be found at healthyschools.ca
- Programs/Activities must be approved by the board
- Size of the programs/activities will be up to the community
- Support available from Christina, available every Thursdays at Bishop Ryan.

8. Follow-up on outstanding Business arising from September minutes - Principal

- **#5 - Guidance issues**
 - Larger volume of guidance appointments (500 more than usual)
 - Feedback from guidance department, a small amount was legitimate (switch career path)
 - Bulk of the appointments were to switch lunch or to be with friends
 - In person appointments were thought to limit the number to lunch/friend requests
 - This strategy did not work, next year booking online will be an option
- **# 6 - Why were there timetable changes**
 - Conflicts Program may have changed due to rare courses being scheduled at the same time
 - Most of the conflicts were addressed
 - Goal is to address within first 10 days of the start of the course
 - Some experiences were positive
- **Guidance Instagram Post, comments deemed inappropriate**
 - Posting is optional by all departments, but a good channel for communication
 - Need to improve, but infrastructure is not there
 - No moderation of comments, however, the current solution for this is now only the department head will post and edit
 - Can information be posted to Instagram “feed” instead of Instagram “Story” as it is difficult to share information to Parent FB page.

- Suggestion will be reviewed
 - School is reviewing many Instagram accounts, which are not accepted board platforms. These accounts are found to be setup by many individuals (students/teachers/others)
 - There is a need to reign in these accounts, but it is a difficult battle
 - Possible to ask certain accounts to be removed
- **#8- Bus Numbers, confusing**
 - Bus company was asked to clearly post but there was pushback
 - Bus company is doing double duty
 - Maps updated, wave times, and bus times
 - Starting to settle
- **#10. School Size - Tabled till January**
- **#13. Grade 9 orientation for Feeder Schools – Public Schools**
 - Public Schools will not assist students wishing to attend BR or advertise
 - Students wishing to attend will have to take the first step and apply directly to the school
 - Non-Catholic students are welcome to attend
 - Can students Subscribe to information on Website
 - No social media, just a feed. This is being investigated.
- Update Complete

9. Chairperson Report – Cher Chorney

- Reached out to newly elected Members to welcome everyone. Provided email and phone number for communication purposes, as well as outlined personal goals as Chair to be accomplished this year.
- Attended the Grade 9 Event. Created quick guide for parents to assist in navigating parent information portion on school website.
- Created an email address for communication purposes for Parents/Guardians BR.CSC2022@gmail.com . Principal will add it to the school Website as well.
- To help improve communication between the school's social media sites, Cher has been sharing posts from Instagram site to Parent Facebook page on a regular basis.
- Parent Outreach Program -received information from Principal and emailed a copy of the program to council members for review.
- Owner of MAREAS Comprehensive Therapeutic Services for Children & Families reached out to chair expressing interest in speaking at one of our council meetings. Information was passed on to Principal for review.
 - Michael Lawlor took to board for review
 - School Board denied as it is a conflict of interest - can't promote private business

10. Principal Report – Michael Lawlor

- Pandemic
 - Still alive and has increased in past week
 - Recommending masks, have to wear for 10 days after having COVID (per province)
 - COVID self assessment should be done but is not mandatory
- Grade 9 Dance – September 29

- Homecoming Week – Oct 3-7
 - Football game on Oct 7th, buy-in and feeder schools attended
- Picture Day – Portal Link
 - What is the process, how do they get emails?
 - Many asking for the process on Facebook
 - The students will come home with a link
 - Michael will contact LifeTouch
 - Progress report delayed
 - Will be available week of October 17th
 - Contacts teachers if you do not receive

- Parent Outreach Program
 - Get suggestions from Christina Soar (Public Health Nurse)
 - Need to submit application for Grant by November 11th
 - Survey for suggestions to be sent out with deadline
 - Survey needs to indicate the program will take place in the spring

11. Meeting Adjourned 9pm – motioned by Stephanie Femia, second by Lisa Girolami