

St. Mary's School
Parent Advisory Board Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 9, 2022

1. **Introduction:** Principal Nick Gale called meeting to order at 730pm.
2. **Attendees:** Nick Gale, Sarah Franchetto, Callie Sheppard, Megan Knodel, DonnaMae Melle, Sharla Lindsay, Keira Bostock
3. **Prayer:** Nick Gale
4. **Feedback Items**
 - a. **Speaker Funding:** Schools are receiving grants for \$500 per school to be used for enhancing parent involvement, opportunities for something that would be of interest to parents in the school. Suggestion is to book a speaker to come in to talk on a subject. Dr Jody Carrington was suggested. Combining with other schools could give the opportunity to pool resources. A suggestion was made to off-set cost by charge a small fee to attendees or combine with a charity or service club. Nick is going to bring the idea to the next admin meeting.
 - b. **School Fees:** See attached agenda page. There is a list of fees in the school that are approved. The list is to help parents or potential parents be aware of anticipated costs of activities/teams/clubs. This list shows the maximum that would be charged. Last year an "Option Fee" was sent in for approval at a maximum of \$100. This fee was not approved. The option fee will be resubmitted this year in the amount of \$20 for approval. A suggestion was to not distinguish between options, if you take an option then you would pay flat rate.
 - c. **Chess Club:** Chess Club meets at Lunchtime in the upstairs of the library with Mr. Robinson. Anyone can attend but after a presentation with research showing playing chess can help with planning skills, it has been being used as an alternative consequence. Instead of receiving a detention and having to spend time in a room, you would join the chess club for that time.

- d. Lunchtime Lockdown Drill: Likely the first lockdown that has been done in the city during unstructured time. Hour Zero is the emergency preparedness program that the school uses. The school needs to be prepared because real-life situations do not present under ideal conditions. Some opportunities for improvement: Bathrooms were crowded, staff room, chess club, outside (can the students outside during lunch hear and understand what is happening. If outside when a lockdown occurred students could go to the sheds, 2 garages, board office or the church.) Unfortunately, the weather (-30C) prevented the lockdown drill from including outdoor students.

5. Information Items

- a. Covid 19 Update: No mask mandate for all students beginning Mon, Feb 13, 2022. Adults will still wear masks until returning from the break. Seating restrictions have all been lifted as well as vaccine passports. Quarantine guidelines are still in effect.
- b. Athletics
 - i. Basketball: Regular league play is finishing tomorrow. Then there will be playoffs the week before and after the break.
 - ii. Badminton: Tryouts will be happening soon.
 - iii. Musical: The musical has been postponed as the uncertainty was making planning difficult. It has been rescheduled for May even though that will be during competitive dance season. The number of show dates has been reduced to 3 so costs related to the production have decreased.
- c. Registration: There is approximately 360 students that can re-register (Grade 6, 7, 8) and 200 have already done so. So far 10 new students from outside the district have been registered and they are receiving more daily. The estimate is 30 -35 new to the district students to begin the 2022-2023 school year. The regular number of students ranges 350 – 375. The estimate is around 384 but the hope is to be at 400. There are tours being booked and the potential for an open house now that some restrictions have been lifted.

6. Open Discussion

- a. Grade 9 students had a great time on their visit to McCoy. Students are encouraged to reach out for help with high school information even if not planning to go to McCoy.
- b. Streaming: To purchase a Go Pro for streaming events it would be \$500 for the camera and the attachments. This would not require a computer, but the tablet previously used for vaccine passports could be potentially used. Donna Mae is willing to get more information, do some research also help with set up when the time comes.
- c. YouTube channel needs to be up and running. There has been a request for this to be done.
- d. Track and Field does occur at the school. Mr. Hale usually runs it and may be assisted by the new teacher Mr. Semenok.

7. Meeting Dates

- a. Remaining meeting dates are April 27 and June 15.

8. Adjourn: Nick Gale adjourned the meeting at 820 pm