



*Central Committee for
Catholic School Community Council*
MINUTES

Monday, March 8th, 2010, 7:00pm
Academic Services Building, 80 Bell Farm Road ~ General Meeting Room

Present:

Michael O’Keefe, Director of Education
Clayton Ferguson, Board Trustee
Lisa Cuypers, Pope John Paul II
Michael Kodama, Sister Catherine Donnelly
Heather Knight-Bortoluzzi, St. Marguerite d’Youville
Karen Whalen, Foley
Lori Janssen, St. Bernard’s
Darcy Agostinho, St. Joan of Arc
Sandra Fujioka, Administrative Assistant ~ Minutes

Regrets:

Darren Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools – Elementary
Susan Tesi, St. Paul’s
Robert Ben, Mother Teresa
Laura Pasut, The Good Shepherd
Christina Bacci, Monsignor J.E. Ronan
Cathie Brenner, Father F.X. O’Reilly
Lisa Radey, St. Bernard’s
Margriet Kempers, Our Lady of the Assumption
Tina McNeill, St. Antoine Daniel
Pam Berko, Our Lady of Mercy
John Grise, Board Chair
Bob Lemay, St. Michael the Archangel
Odette Couto Clarke, Mother Teresa

Meeting began at 7:10pm

Agenda Items:

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ITEM #	ITEM/NOTES	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
1.	Welcome & Opening Prayer		Michael O’Keefe
2.	Student Exchange Programs	<p><i>Guest Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bea Harper, Program Director International Student Exchange – Ontario • Andrew Van Amelsvort, former Student of St. John Vianney Catholic Elementary School • Mrs. Van Amelsvort, mother of Andrew <p>Mrs. Dillon-Leitch, Superintendent of Schools introduced our guests. Bea Harper explained the international elementary student exchange program to all and handed out a brochure. In Grade 7 Andrew participated in a 2 month exchange. When asked why</p>	

		<p>he participated in the exchange Andrew expressed his interest in studying other languages abroad. He benefited by really focusing on the French language and meeting new people. Mrs. Van Amelsvort said her son really gained a maturity from the experience of being away for two months. He became much more responsible and was ready for the challenge of secondary school.</p> <p>Parent committee members were asked whether or not they had heard about this program before. They were asked for suggestions on how best to bring it to parent's attention.</p> <p>One suggestion was that ISE be given access to grade 7 classes by presenting to students directly and/or having posters present in the schools to peak their interest. Once the students are interested they will talk about it to their parents.</p>	
3.	Review of Minutes of Meeting #1 – September 28th, 2009	Minutes were accepted as presented, no changes.	
4.	FACE Project Update	<p>Friends and Advocates of Catholic Education – initiated a couple of years ago with OECTA, Bishops of Ontario and Ontario Catholic Trustees Association out of concern that Catholic education would become a topic of discussion and challenged during a political campaign once again. Many other groups have joined in on this particular project including representation from most Ontario Catholic school boards.</p> <p>The task is to come up with ideas on how to promote Catholic education within our community. The best way to convey the message of Catholic education is on a day to day basis on a one to one basis. What kind of ideas/advice does the Central Committee members have to get the message out? How do we promote a positive conversation?</p> <p>The goal is to have a positive feeling within the general population of Ontario where everyone would recognize the value and importance of Catholic schools - a day when no politician would ever consider challenging the validity of Catholic schools again.</p> <p>The education must start amongst our own community as many parents cannot clearly articulate the benefits of Catholic education. Parents need to see what the benefits have been to attend a Catholic school.</p> <p>Conference item: have a speaker in to discuss Catholic Education at the parent conference.</p> <p>The work done at our Board with respect to our Values was put together</p>	Michael O'Keefe

		<p>with the employees in mind. Information must be readily available at all parent gatherings – the high school students need to know the importance of Catholic education and have the ability to articulate it.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to celebrate the successful people that have gone through Catholic education – this should have a National approach.</p>	
5.	OAPCE Membership	<p>Discussion around the number of boards that sit on the Board of Directors for OAPCE. There are 29 Catholic schools boards in Ontario. Toronto holds two seats on the Board.</p> <p>Liaison representative – the liaison brings information from OAPCE to school councils. As long as one school within the board pays for a membership then our school board can have someone from our Central Committee sit on the OAPCE Board of Directors.</p> <p>OAPCE was established by a Bishop 71 years ago. Mostly known in the Toronto area.</p> <p>What are the benefits of having a membership? Is it to have a voice? OAPCE works with many organizations and is involved with the Ministry. OAPCE should consider joining the FACE committee.</p> <p>Recommendation of the Central Committee was to have an OAPCE rep come to one of our meetings to speak to the group about membership. Consider inviting OAPCE to present at our upcoming Parent Conference.</p>	Michael O’Keefe
6.	School Food and Beverage Policy	<p>No fries in 2011 – cafeterias will lose money. Students will leave the school at lunch and purchase at restaurants.</p> <p>This in turn will pressure parents and Board to cover the loss in funds raised, which may result in higher fees for parents.</p> <p>The idea was to encourage students to make healthy food choices, but taking the treats away is not allowing them to make a choice. A suggestion was made to subsidize the healthy food choices in order for students to buy in.</p>	Michael O’Keefe
7.	Consultation on Fundraising	<p>The Ministry of Education wants boards to conduct consultation about fees and fundraising. The Ministry will be following up soon. Student Fees in secondary schools – students are charged by the school. Course fees for some courses which require a lot of equipment and consumables. Every school does fundraising of some sort or another. Extra curricular activities and the cost, how different the charges are between schools and</p>	Michael O’Keefe

		<p>boards.</p> <p>Currently this is a hot topic in the province. The Ministry claims that parents have paid \$700M this year. SMCDSB has calculated that parents in our board has paid \$7M for things like pizza, milk etc etc this was calculated by money that has gone through a bank account – this does not include any cash submitted and then used to pay expenses. \$350 per student per year in this board over and above all grants from the Ministry.</p> <p>Ministry, boards and board trustees are being pressured by parents. Why do parents need to spend this extra money? This may lead to the Ministry to implement guidelines in order to have consistency across all schools.</p> <p>Board is currently developing a questionnaire to send to school councils.</p>	
8.	3rd Annual Parent Conference	Proposed date of May 29 th , 2010	Michael O’Keefe
9.	Terms of Reference	Deferred to next meeting.	Michael O’Keefe
Future Meeting Date: Monday May 17th 2010			

Attachments:

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| 1) Prayer ~ <i>A Prayer for the People of Haiti & Chile</i> | 5) Consultation on Fundraising – OASBO Finance Committee PowerPoint doc. |
| 2) Meeting Minutes of September 28 th , 2009 | 6) Information Summary |
| 3) OAPCE Membership – letter & invoice | 7) Draft Terms of Reference |
| 4) School Food and Beverage Policy ~ Letter and PPM | 8) Central Committee Membership List for 2009-2010 ~ updated |