

# Holy Heart School Council Meeting

Tuesday January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 5:00 PM

School Library

## Minutes

**Attendance:** Colin McNeil (chair), Sheldon Barry, Gerry Heffernan, Donna Conran, Mark Jones, Jamie Parsons (recording secretary for the day)

**Regrets:** Jean Harding, Erin Lee, Kelly Balch

### 1. Welcome/Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes for the December 2018 meeting. There was much discussion regarding the role of school council and the method by which the agenda is set. Several people noted that we need to find a way to better engage the community in order to get more items on the agenda for council to consider. Donna and Gerry offered to investigate what other school councils do in terms of engaging the parents and bring items forth to the council.

### 3. Business Arising

- a. **Launch of Mental Health Intervention Program** - This will be a student assembly on February 6 to bring the new "Go-to program" for mental health intervention program. Staff will have a PD session the day before. A brief discussion ensued regarding the setting of school PD days.
- b. **Cross Walks on Bonaventure Ave** – After a student was hit by a vehicle the past fall the school asked the city to look at various options to make both cross walks in front of HHM (at Barnes Road and Howley Ave). The City did two traffic studies with cameras. There was discussion of traffic calming initiatives such as speed bumps and Speed detector signage and whether there are a 30 km/h zone. This is a work in process with discussions between the city, the school and the school district. Gerry will consult with the Georgetown Neighborhood Association. Colin will ask the RNC for data on the accidents on this part of Bonaventure Ave.
- c. **Prom** - the details and venue have yet been finalized, but there will be a meet and greet followed by a dance after consultation with the students. The safe grad will follow those events.
- d. **PISA** – question from Gerry to admin about the PISA testing. Results to this point are not known.
- e. **Loran Scholarship** – Gerry is a member of the local selection committee for this scholarship and noticed that there were no students sponsored by the school for the award. After much discussion it was noted that sometimes excellent students apply independently directly to the national program rather than being shortlisted/selected by the provincial committee.

#### 4. Reports

There were no reports.

#### 5. New Business

- a. **Update from Donna Conran regarding meeting with HHM Guidance re: Mental Health/ Anxiety in the School.** After the last meeting, Donna met with Boyd Perry to further discuss issues facing our school regarding mental health. While there are many challenges, she noted that the counseling staff were handling the difficult caseloads with great professionalism and care. The ratio of student to councilor is very high and tasks such as testing by our councilors takes them away from immediate needs of students. Discussions also focused on political advocacy from the HHM school council to the government to get more resources and push the issue of mental health. Other ideas such as psychologists in school, proactive education and other items were brought up. Donna suggested starting a parent drive advocacy group may need to be started to work with School Councilors group and the Federation of School Councils to advocate on behave of all students for mental health services in school. The mobilization of parents need to be catalyst for mental health in order to make it a priority for government and the school district. In addition, Sheldon made note of the fact that many ESL students who need diagnosis and interventions cannot get the assessments they need because they can't be tested due to language barriers. These students lack true advocates.

#### 6. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15. The **next meeting is Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 5:00 in the school library.**