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# Catholic School Advisory Council

## Virtual Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2020

**Attendance:** Gilda, Lisa, Kim, Denise, Diana, Jessica, Renny, Andrea, Andreas, Patrick, Celicia, Kate, Heidi, Shannon, Brenda

**Regrets:** Katie

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Note: Meeting was held virtually due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Prayer led by Gilda

March Minutes of Meeting were approved by Heidi and Kate.

Agenda for this meeting was approved Andreas and Andrea.

**Budget update** from Denise: No new expenses since last meeting. We are not getting updates regularly from the Board, but safe to assume account standing is same as the last meeting.

### Principal's Update

1. WCDSB website has “pray at home” section that students can access. On this section is a link for a mass with Bishop Crosby tomorrow morning, celebrating Catholic Education Week.
2. Learn at Home section of WCDSB site also has lots of resources that parents may find useful.
3. Distant Learning is going well. Teachers are doing well with adjusting to new circumstances and using Google Classroom or D2L – whatever works best for them. Staff are having a bit of challenge connecting with a few students. 85 – 90 percent of students are actively engaged in Distant Learning (submitting work, checking D2L/Classroom, etc). All students have been contacted at some point.
4. Chrome book distribution - tablets were given out to any students with no tech in their house. Per household basis, not individual, for distribution. 25 were given out for our school.
5. Grade 8 graduation is still under review. Option to push to fall (Oct) or do virtual are being considered. All schools need to do the same thing so waiting for board decision.  
WE organization is having virtual grad May 26 – May 29 for all grade 8 and 12 provincewide. Staff, WCDSB are considering options to still make sure grads are recognized and celebrated. Considering lawn signs for our grade 8 students (i.e. “2020 St. Matthew Grad”) but not sure if all students would want this. Still being decided at board level on who would pay for such signs (schools or student). It could be good recognition. Other option is a personalized package delivered to each grad. Still under discussion with grade 8 teachers what they will do to recognize, or how. Lawn signs about \$10 each; could give each a nice gift package for this cost. Possible consideration for Council to contribute funds, to be revisited once staff have further reviewed. St. Matthew has 75 graduates this year.

6. New electronic communication system is being rolled out - School Messenger. Messages can go directly to specific groups of people via call/email/text to the contact info on record with the school. It will be used for attendance starting in September. First trial will be 1<sup>st</sup> week of June – parents can expect a test call to the number on record with the school.
7. Gaga ball pit construction is set to start next week on Tuesday. Signage will be installed for proper usage, would be able to have people fined for misuse (i.e. pets, vandalism).
8. Mosaic tile mural for 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration has been moved to September. Pottery to Go will assist and they will start early September to get all students to paint their tiles.

**Parish Update** was provided by Andreas – 1<sup>st</sup> communion and confirmation dates may possibly be pushed to next spring ( with next year's students) or may plan their own dates (fall?). Decisions will come from diocese and parish. Also Vacation Bible School (VBS) for St. Agnes is scheduled for July 6 – 10<sup>th</sup>. Waiting to hear if any impact to summer programs such as this due to COVID-19.

### **Funding Decisions**

1. Some indoor recess games were purchased before March Break from approved budget; will be brought to the school once we can return.
2. PRO Grant funds – we are to get \$500, not sure if it is received yet. We will need to wait for Board to confirm the deposit. Cat Coode is being paid with this.

### **Upcoming Events**

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event – St. Matthew Feast Day Sept 26<sup>th</sup> would be an option. Council tabled decision on a new date until we see how the COVID 19 restrictions play out. Possibly fall, or possibly push to next spring, depending on public health advice.

Cat Coode event was cancelled due to school closures. She is offering to do online for parents now or push to fall for an in-school event. Council's preference to push to fall instead of presenting another "to do" for parents right now. Diana will reschedule for Sept/Oct.

**Facebook group** – Jessica is posting up as items come through Newswire.

**Staff video** was much appreciated by parents and students! Well done Wildcat Staff!

**Next Council Meeting** – another meeting will be held in June. If there is more direction at that point from public health/government with regard to physical distancing measures, we can perhaps make decisions for fall activities and events. Diana/Lisa will circulate meeting date.