

Sir Edgar Bauer Catholic School



Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday April 1 2025 6pm

SEB School Learning Commons, In Person

Present: Eric Thuss, Lanette Kym, Rebecca (Becky) Ernewein, Trevor Tilley, Melissa Wooster, Melanie Ainsworth, Cheryl Beaupre, David Rozek, Lindsay Egan (Teacher Rep.), Principal Tanya Hunter, Cathy McDonald-Reis, Vanessa Lopac

Regrets: Melissa Skanes, Paul Zwambag, Michelle Bell, Doreen Weise, Linda Hayes, Haja Nabie

Minutes:

- Territorial Acknowledgement/Prayer
- Welcome/Introductions (All)
- Review of Minutes of Last Meeting
 - Minutes reviewed and approved to be posted on School Website
- Principal Update: Tanya Hunter

School Operations Updates:

- Lenten Mission: Mission Day raised approx. \$4000
 - A lot of work was spent organizing on our end as well as with the help of our many parents who donated items and volunteered
- Jerseys approx. \$1600 for school and CSAC; also purchased pinnies for large events like cross country

School Engagement:

Upcoming Team Tournaments:

- Intermediate Ultimate Frisbee
 - Coach - Mrs. Egan
 - Date: May 5th 2025
 - Location: Schlegel Park, Kitchener
- Folk Dance Festival
 - Leaders - Mrs. Coutts and Mrs. McHugh
 - Date: May 8th 2025 (tentative)
 - Location: TBC
- Intermediate Soccer
 - Coaches - Mlle Kim & Ms. Canto
 - Date: May 27th 2025
 - Location: RIM Park

- Cross Country
 - Coaches - Mrs. Kipfer & Ms. Canto
 - Date: June 4th 2025
 - Location: University of Waterloo
- Junior 3-Pitch
 - Girls Coaches: Mr. Tubbe & Mrs. Kipfer
 - Boys Coach: Ms. Powis
 - Date: June 23rd 2025
 - Location: RIM Park

Ongoing Clubs:

- Choir, Lead Team, Yo-Yo, Dance club, Bracelet making, Library Club

Board Operations:

- Starting next year, the school board will implement a new timetable at schools. The updated schedule includes 50-minute teaching blocks instead of 40, aimed at eliminating the music itinerant teacher role, which were mostly unfilled
- Recess will now be from 10:20 to 10:35 AM

Mount Mary:

- Update on the change of format for Grade 8 Retreats for 2025/26
- New owners; new operations; they were running in a deficit
- Board committee to look at the different options schools would find attractive, and after much discussion and consideration the board is providing three options for retreats next year
 - A. 3 days 2 nights - \$310 plus bus
 - B. 2 days 1 night - \$250 plus bus (up 70\$ just from this year)
 - C. 1 extended day - \$96 plus bus
- Mostly comes down to cost - many schools have shared they will not be able to sustain the overnight trips
- Staff along with discussions with our chaplains are opting for the one day - extended day format next year. We want to do a spiritual vibe over the course of a week where we add a day at St. Michael's parish; an outreach day where we volunteer at Tiny Homes (example); and time at school to work on co-operative skills; relationship activities between the FI and English programs.
- Factors and considerations for this decision included:
 - Cost: economics and the changing needs of the students and families to be sure we are offering inclusive options that everyone can participate in. Many schools are moving in this direction
 - Medical concerns: students with a variety of medical conditions that require close monitoring or specific accommodations that are more easily managed during day trips. This change will help us provide a safer and more comfortable environment for all students
 - Staffing: overnight trips can be challenging to staff adequately. By organizing day trips, we can ensure that we have sufficient supervision and support for all students. Responsibility for staff to provide a safe and nurturing experience is achievable for day trips but becomes a challenge to monitor overnight, and this is really about the faith experience, not a sleepover
- We are excited to provide new and special experiences & to provide more of a faith experience; we are planning a week long faith journey:
 - 1 day at MM, 1 day at St. Michael's, 1 day at outreach; 3 days of school community building; early in the year with FI and English

- Appreciate council support in this decision. We want to continue to provide the MM experience as a faith experience - not just the sleepover.

Trustee Update:

- Discussion on the recent trustee meeting regarding bans on the Pride Flag and equity & 2SLGBTQIA+ images and books in our schools

Community ~ Parish ~ School Updates:

- Confessions at School- March 27 went really well
- Grade 2 First Reconciliation this week on April 3rd

- Pancake Tuesday Review:
 - SO.MANY.PANCAKES (1600+!!)
 - Well under budget (under by \$300); \$386.54 was total cost
 - 19 volunteers (10 was the goal!)
 - Having many spaces was key – use of server/gym kitchen/staff room/print room/Chill Room – and having power bars was helpful; 8 griddles going at the same time
 - Use of pizza cutters rather than knives (we did not use knives this year and no negative feedback)
 - Cheryl organized “stations” which helped with the number of volunteers and need for that many pancakes
 - Next year – WholeSale Club is going to donate pancake mix and syrup given the mix up of order this year
 - All was clean and done by 11:15am
 - Cheryl’s exceptional organization was acknowledged by everyone!!

- STEAM Night:
 - Success!!
 - Similar numbers to last year – crowded gym and hallways!
 - 4 External Groups come in (all done for free) – no use of council funds
 - Thanks to Doreen for donating raffle prizes!!
 - Idea for next year– get older grades more involved through assembly? Through the curriculum?
 - Wonderful feedback about our event/students from Waterloo Public Library

- PRO Grant
 - \$400 remains as balance in general account
 - Cheryl suggests further discussion about ways to use funds for parent education regarding online safety or something similar for parents – discussion to be continued next meeting

- End of Year Picnic
 - June 3 Tuesday or June 4 Wednesday for rain
 - Funds to be used from PIC Grant
 - Lanette and Melanie – will meet to begin discussions around the traditional family picnic that was so popular and well attended

- Brainstorm – bring in a mini-train (cost \$800) – logistical issues of rain/pathway/crowding/size etc. all to be clarified by Melanie and brought back to May meeting
- Brainstorm photo booth – (cost \$1100)
- Budget and final details to be determined at May meeting

- Memory Book
 - Melanie seeking input about what that could look like for whole school – this to go to google form to staff – this to be sent to Melanie for publishing
 - Need to balance privacy vs celebrating the year and honoring those who wish to be part of a memory book

- WCDSB Flag protocol motion (guest Vanessa Lopac, SEB parent)
 - Vanessa outlines the current issue of the motion of raising the flag protocol and the political symbol protocol at the Trustee level
 - Vanessa is asking that SEB parent council write a letter of advocacy to support of inclusion in our system and our schools; this letter also address a note about including appropriate LGBTQ inclusive books in the library as part of this letter – addressed to the Trustees and copied to the Director of Education
 - After discussion - Vanessa and David to write a letter – David will ask members via email to respond if they support and want their name as a part of the letter

- School Council Financial Report David
 - \$4139 approx. balance (includes \$500 PIC Grant for parent involvement)
 - Brainstorm ideas – to continue next meeting as no decisions made until budget for Year End Picnic determined

- Adjournment at 7:35pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday May 5 2025 6:00pm

Minutes by Cathy McDonald-Reis, Secretary
cathymcdonaldreis@gmail.com