

St. Rose School Council Minutes

Monday May 4th 2020

Meeting Attendees: Bruno Binassi, Ferdinand Filiplic, Kim Street, Tracy Hawkins, Remily Brown, Amanda Tindill, Stefania Valle, Lisa Sadd, Alex Favret, Candace Klein, Christine DeRose, Leanne Blais, and Barb MacDonald.

1. Meeting was called to order at 10:35am.
2. Welcome and Instructions on Microsoft Teams features to help the meeting run smoothly.
3. Opening Prayer read by Ferdinand Filiplic, Treaty 6 acknowledgement by Bruno Binassi.
4. Motion to approve the agenda made by Leanne B. Seconded by Christine D. Approved.
5. Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from January 29, 2020 made by Remily B. Seconded by Barb M. Approved.
6. Principal's Report:
 - a. Mr. Binassi finished his grade six visits to seven ECSD elementary schools: St. Mary, St. Martin, St. Vincent, Good Shepherd, St. Paul, St. Martha and Annunciation.
 - b. February 9th was a very sad day in ECSD. Our Superintendent, Joan Carr, died. Mr. Binassi represented St. Rose School at her funeral at the Basilica on February 15th.
 - c. Our Open House was on February 11th. It was very successful. We were standing room only and there were many positive comments from prospective parents.
 - d. Enrolment for next year:
 - i. We are forecasting an enrolment increase between 20 – 25 students; however, the state of the Alberta economy may impact this projection.
 - ii. As a result of the student enrolment increase, we will add one more homeroom for a total of 16 next year: five grade 7's; six grade 8's; five grade 9's
 - e. Budget and School Finances:
 - i. Next year will be a difficult year. Our school is in better financial shape because our enrolment has slightly increased. However, although the per pupil grants are the same the government has eliminated many grants that school division applied for to supplement the government funding. The result is less money than in previous years which means less money in the schools' budget. The result means staffing decisions are affected. Learning coach time has been reduced from 0.5 FTE to 0.3 FTE which results in less student support. Elementary and Junior High Chaplains have been eliminated which means admin. will now cover this role. ELL funding was also reduced. Money from ECSD Inclusive Funding was reduced. The shortfall of funding the cost of our social worker, Mrs. Griffin, is being covered by the school. The STAY program, Mr. Downey-Damato, has been eliminated by the Division. Lastly, each of the approximately 60 schools that are financially healthy are being debited a per capita based on enrolment. St. Rose will lose approximately \$31 000 dollars as a result. There are many changes that will have to be done to make the school budget work such as Mr. Filiplic teaching more and Mr. Binassi assuming the role of Chaplain and perhaps teaching as well. Option classes will need to be scrutinized to ensure there are sufficient numbers to warrant offering the option class. We are also predicting that our school fees to fund technology and option classes will be far less due to the economic situation due to Covid 19 and the collapse in the price of oil.
 - f. Improvements to the school are ongoing:
 - i. Chapel windows were installed on April 22
 - ii. One more acrylic panel is being created to go in the interior window beside the double doors by the canteen.

- iii. Smartboard projectors continue to be replaced. When the last two projectors which were recommended for replacement are done, a total of 12 projectors will be replaced. We will not be replacing Mrs. Wheeler's projector as it is a wall mounted unit integrated with the Smartboard and was not recommended for replacement; four projectors did not need to be replaced at this time. As a note, the school had to replace 18 teacher computers at Christmastime as they were starting to fail and were over 10 years old.
- iv. We are doing some minor work to make half the library a functional classroom space with the increase in homerooms.
- v. Preparations for the exterior mosaic have been started. The outside wall needs to be prepared. Student art renderings for the two designs (St. Rose and her garden and The Creator) will begin this May.
- g. During Class Cancellation:
 - i. St. Rose was better prepared at the start of class cancellation due to quick action from the staff. We met together March 16th and devised a plan to continue learning in Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and Religion. Teachers made excellent decisions to have common Google Classrooms for each subject and grade level. Our decisions were predicated on a worst-case scenario that some teachers could fall ill with Covid 19. Our plan safeguarded student learning by having more than one teacher responsible for a particular subject and grade. The school received many positive comments from parents regarding our continued continuity of learning. As we awaited direction from the Division regarding guidelines for instruction and evaluation, teachers continued instruction using formative evaluation only.
 - ii. After Spring Break, we expanded our instruction to include other subjects such as Health and complementary subjects (when possible) using formative assessments. When guidelines were communicated by the Division for instruction and assessment, our school practice required very little modification. Guidelines reinforced continued formative assessment, teaching the essentials and two to three summative assessments in the core subjects and one to two assessments in the other subjects.
 - iii. Feedback from students and parents has been positive overall. Under the circumstances, people think the work being done by staff is good and appropriate. Teachers, Mr. Filipic and I have spoken to a great number of families electronically, through emails and in-person. For the most part our students are engaged and working. A few families have reached out for assistance with technology. One concern we have are a few families/students who have not been in contact at all. We have staff to continue to attempt to contact them and ask Mrs. Griffin and Mr. Downey-Damato to offer their assistance. Both Mrs. Griffin and Mr. Downey-Damato continue to reach out to the students they support and any other students who may require assistance. However, we have noticed a decline in student engagement over the month of April. This is not unique to St. Rose as this reality has been noticed by many schools in our Division and throughout the country where classes continue. There have also been several news stories both print and electronic that have reported on this situation. Mr. Binassi is concerned for many students as there will be considerable gaps in learning over the last three months of schoolwork.
 - iv. The school has had very few requests for technology assistance. To date there have been four Chromebooks signed out by students who had technology issues.
 - v. We made conscious efforts to maintain connections with families. Emails were sent to families daily to inform them of updates and school news. There were also regular postings on our Instagram and Twitter accounts.
 - vi. During class cancellation, work in the office continued. Preparations for next year are well underway and will continue. The school is being given a thorough accelerated cleaning. The biggest job being the stripping of wax from classroom floors and the re-application of wax.
 - vii. Staffing will not be complete until mid-June.
 - viii. With the government's notification on April 30th that students will not return to classes this school year, other planned events such as year-end barbecue and the Awards ceremony will be cancelled. The Inuit Mosaic dedication will be rescheduled for the new school year once the two remaining mosaics are complete. The Year-end Mass may be done on-line.
 - ix. The only unresolved issue is the Accelerated Math entrance test. We approached ECSD central office with a proposal to move ahead with the test making sure to follow AHS guidelines. This proposal was not accepted. However, the Division did suggest on-line tests through Microsoft Teams. We are currently making the necessary arrangements. There will be three writing sessions over May 13 and May 14.

- x. The Grade 9 Farewell is an issue that has been brought to the attention of ECSD's central office. Schools want to be consistent in their approaches keeping AHS guidelines in the forefront of any decision. Now that classes will not return until the new school year, we will move to a virtual Farewell through Microsoft Teams. Unfortunately, postponing the Farewell is not an option as approximately 12 – 15 students will not continue to ECSD high schools. This creates a liability for the organizing committee, school and Division if these students would be attending an ECSD event. Insurance would need to be purchased and the school and Division will not be a part of any activity that could result in a liability.
- xi. St. Rose School is committed to awarding Honours and Honours with Distinction. We will not be able to have a large gathering for a presentation. Regardless, students will receive certificates. Whether the school will hold the certificates until next year or create a plan to distribute them prior to the end of the year is yet to be determined. The Honour and Honours with Distinction criteria will be modified for this year. The four core marks will be used as the percentage cut-off; the cut-off will continue to be 80% for Honour and 90% for Honours with Distinction. However, the only other criteria for consideration will be the religion mark (must be 70% or over). Considering the new ECSD guidelines for summative assessments, applying the guidelines for all other subjects would be too difficult and cause undue stress on students, parents and teachers.
- h. Looking towards next year:
 - i. At this time, any timelines for the next school year or how the school year would proceed have not been shared with schools.

Questions from Principal's Report:

- i. A question was asked If the ECSD has set forth any guidance for student supports considering the need for students to readjust to a class setting?
 - i. Binassi replied no guidelines have been set forward as of yet, but acknowledged that there will be many difficulties that will need to be overcome when students return to a class setting.
 - ii. Binassi also reminded parents that if their child is struggling with homework, reach out to the teachers for additional help.
- j. There was a discussion regarding the Gr.9 farewell Plans: Due to the School's closure a parent had asked if there was a possibility of organizing a gathering at an offsite location following proper AHS guidelines?
 - i. The primary issue with this idea would be obtaining insurance. Kim S will contact Carol Carbonic, lawyer for the ECSD with regards to what is possible and what can be approved.
 - ii. Binassi said St Rose will continue as planned on the scheduled day with a virtual mass and they will find a way to distribute certificates/gifts to the students.

7. Vice Principal's Report: Ferdinand Filiplic

St. Rose was a very busy place pre-pandemic. Hopefully, we will return to normal sooner rather than later. Here are some of the highlights since we last met:

- a. February 3 was ECSD's annual Fr. Michael Mireau Faith Day. As is the custom, all Grade 8 students in the division attend a spiritual retreat filled with prayer, reflection, song and fun. This year over 100 of our finest Eagles represented our school. The event was held at the Edmonton Conference Centre on Jasper Avenue. On a sad note, this was the last year of the event being held on this scale. Due to cost cutting measures, next year's event will not be held as one large gathering. Grade 8 students will be split into zones and attend smaller events at local parishes.
- b. February 11 was a very busy day as this was the date we hosted our open house. Well over 400 people were in attendance to learn about our programs and to tour our building. St. Rose students were front and center with helping present, entertain, demonstrate and showcase our wonderful school. Our students were the stars of the show and they did a tremendous job. The perspective students and their families were left with a very good impression.
- c. February 13 was an important day for our grade 9 students. This was our annual High School carousel. The 5 ECSD high school which typically receive our students were in attendance to present the merits of their respective sites. The high schools in attendance were St. Francis Xavier, St. Joseph, St. Oscar Romero, Archbishop MacDonald and Mother Margaret Mary. It was an informative day for our students, and we received many compliments from our high school colleagues about our students.

- d. February 19 and 21 were Shadow Days at St. Rose. We hosted over 100 perspective students for a morning of activity which gave them a taste of what St. Rose life is all about. Students were toured by our leadership students and a hot lunch was provided. A good time was had by all.
 - e. As a follow up to our high school carousel, our grade 9 students were treated to a personalized showcase of St. Francis Xavier High School. Our grade 9 students spent the morning of February 24 at St. FX. This event is a testament to the value that high schools place on our Eagles, whose academic and athletic reputation precedes them year after year.
 - f. Mardi Gras! Fat Tuesday! Shrove Tuesday! On February 25, our staff and students participated in our annual pancake breakfast, hosted by our wonderful parent community.
 - g. On a more solemn note, St. Rose celebrated the start of Lent on February 26, with a celebration in the gym. Students were very respectfully behaved and attentive to the proceedings marking the start of their Lenten journey.
 - h. March was memorable in more ways than one. It was an action-packed month prior to in person classes being cancelled on March 16.
 - i. Mrs. Bolin took several students to the Women in Technology conference on March 6. The conference was held at St. Anthony.
 - j. March 9-13 was our inaugural "Numeracy Week". The Math department hosted a week of fun filled math activities for our students. We had a problem of the day, Math Bingo, Math riddles, candy jar volume challenge, a math scavenger hunt and the culminating event, the recitation of pi competition. A great time was had by all and we had several students who were able to recite pi to over 100 decimal places.
8. Motion to adjourn this portion of the meeting at 11:27am by Alex F. Seconded by Remily B. Adjourned.

St. Rose School Advisory Association Meeting Minutes

Monday May 4th, 2020

1. Meeting called to order at 11:27am.
2. Motion to approve the agenda made by Leanne B. Seconded by Christine D. Approved.
3. Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from January 29, 2020 made by Remily B. Seconded by Barb M. Approved.
4. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. General Account Balance 4,454.38
Accrued Liabilities 1,100.00
Grade 9 Farewell -1,100.00
Remaining Funds available **3,354.38**
 - b. Casino Account Balance 72,386.24
Accrued Liabilities 11,822.20
Bussing for Social justice fieldtrips -2,347.20
Mosaic Tile Project -9,475.00
Remaining Funds Available **60,564.04**
5. Casino Update:
 - a. Due to the pandemic and the closure of casinos, the AGLC lost a quarter, and so there will be a delay in our next casino date as they will need to catch up on casinos for organizations that were postponed. Our date was set to be in the first quarter of 2022, likely pushing it back to the spring or possibly the fall of 2022.
6. Staff Appreciation:
 - a. Due to the pandemic the committee will not be able to plan this year's luncheon however, parents in attendance felt that something should be done for Staff. Parents would like to support local businesses with the possible purchasing of gift cards for Staff. Stefania will draft a donation request letter to send out to parents.
7. Grants:
 - a. Kim shared that even though everything has slowed down, grants have not and there are quite a few still available. Kim and Binassi will evaluate which ones we can apply for.
8. Funding Requests:
 - a. Tracy H. made a motion to spend \$2,200.00 from the Casino funds to purchase new projectors for the smart boards. Seconded by Stefania V. Approved.
 - b. Christine D. made a motion to spend \$983.14 from the Casino account for the installation of acrylic panels in the hallway. Seconded by Tracy H. Approved.
 - c. Tracy H. made a motion to release back into the casino account the \$2,347.20 earmarked for bussing for Social justice fieldtrips. Seconded by Christine D. Funds released.
 - d. Tracy H. made a motion to spend up to \$500 from the general account for staff appreciation. Seconded by Remily B. Approved
 - e. Remily B. made a motion to spend up to \$500 on departing staff gifts from the general account. Following the pre-set standard of purchasing Gift Cards in the amount of \$100 for a retiring teacher, \$50 for a departing teacher with 2 yrs+ service, and \$25 for a teacher whom was with the school for 1yr or less. Motion seconded by Tracy H. Approved.
9. Motion to adjourn made by Christine D. at 11:58am. Seconded by Tracy H. Meeting Adjourned.