

**Holy Family Catholic
School Community Council
Virtual Meeting**

April 23, 2020 @ 7:15 PM *Meeting called to order by Tim*

In Attendance

Connie, Blair, Karen, Carmen, Tim, Amanda, Tanya, Sarah, Brad, Curtis, Jason, Bonnie

Regrets

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Connie

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Karen

Second: Jason

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Amanda

Second: Jason

School Report- School Report

Connie and Curtis

- Thanks for the support, before we left the building there was lots going on
- Thanks to Friends of Holy Family for all of their work throughout the year, special thanks to Bonnie for distributing the chocolate orders during quarantine
- Lenten journey together was cut off but had been filled with lots of reflection and prayer
- Drive through the neighborhood was so nice, no dry eyes and the opportunity meant so much to the staff and was very touching
- Learning piece
 - o Finished with progress reports and they were sent to each home
 - o No opportunity for 3 way conferences
 - o Online learning opportunities for the term
 - Quite a challenge
 - Our teachers are providing supplemental learning opportunities and we know that some families are challenged
 - Out of jobs, trying to work from home
 - So many platforms being used because things were happening very quick and not one specific platform was set up for the upper years

- If the supplemental learning is making everyone cry then do not complete it
 - Most important thing is everyone's mental and emotional health
 - Different platforms for Online Learning
 - 21 classrooms at Holy Family and no 2 classrooms look the same and no 2 teachers teach the same
 - One consistent piece is curriculum
 - Teachers had to submit an 11 week plan to address curriculum
 - Working very well for some kids and for others its been a struggle
 - The ministry provided the division with the guidelines so there is some consistency across the province but lots of variation between the school divisions
 - Public division is using different platforms
 - Not a perfect model and everything is messy; lots of challenges
 - All teachers are working very hard
 - EA's are working with small groups of students still and learning supports are in place for students that need adaptations and more intensive work
 - The staff has regular team and staff meetings to discuss what is happening, what is working and what are the challenges
 - Lots of the platforms are just an extension of what the students and teachers were using before
 - Wanted to make sure the teachers had choice in the learning platform
 - trying to help the teachers be able to trouble shoot the issues for the parents
 - Allowing a teacher voice and choice
 - Things seem to be getting much smoother for most teachers
 - Teacher end is getting better in terms of them learning the tech and knowing how to use it
- Questions posed to Connie and Curtis and the responses:
 - Other schools have time slotted to have a conversation with their teacher but we don't have that – is there an opportunity for that?
 - middle years have Microsoft teams set up and a lot of students are not accessing that
 - At any time of the day, parents and students can contact the teacher via email and request some virtual assistance
 - A lot of classrooms are doing a once a week come together but it is difficult with so many students
 - Difficult to schedule time that students are able to meet with the teachers for times when parents are able to help arrange it
 - Teachers have been told to start small and build up from there
 - Contact the teacher if you are looking for some one on one time
 - Maybe 50% participation with the supplemental learning so there may be more opportunities that open up as things progress
 - Need to be really specific and deal with cases as they come up
 - Do you think families will drop out?
 - Families are going to start to pick and choose what to do and in terms of how much or how little to do
 - If some kids are not participating now it doesn't mean that they won't partake in a week or two
 - Now that some parents are going to be going back to work, things will change again with varying levels of stress

- Experience has been overall positive with the first week being a learning curve
 - Are we just reviewing for the rest of the year or is there new info coming out?
 - Should be new curriculum as it is moving forward at teachers and students discretion especially in math numeracy and literacy
 - This weekend and next should see more content from teachers
 - Some concern was raised regarding student's grades and whether to freeze the marks or try to continue moving forward despite the many challenges with learning from home
 - Emphasized that the focus should be on the learning and to not worry about the marks
 - Schoolwork can be tailored for each student
 - When students come back to school, teachers are going to make sure to catch them up
 - Talk to the classroom teacher if its not working and ask for what you need specifically and share that with other parents
 - School procedures are in place so teachers can make paper copies of materials for those families that need it
 - As of now, schools are not expected to be open in the Fall but it is all dependent on how things go within the next month or two
 - Taking the lead from the province and as soon as the school hears anything then info will be passed onto the parents
 - Premier said the phases of opening will be dependent upon how the re-opening goes for the next few weeks
 - In primary grades handwashing is encouraged but it is hard to enforce although it will most likely be set in routine in classrooms at schools
 - Right now there are no plans for what back to school would look like
 - division will get direction from the government in terms of how we will return in order to make it safe for everyone
 - Perhaps half days for half the school to make numbers smaller at each time
 - However schools will need to be opened in order for parents to be able to go to work but we do not know what that looks like yet
 - Holy Family will now go to a weekly newsletter in order to get information out
 - Do not be afraid to email and call
 - Starting to hear that some students are doing well and are now being asked about release subjects
 - will not be offering any more than what the teachers are sending home but if individuals want extra programming then get in contact with the teachers for that extra content
 - Band teacher is willing and able to provide some instruction so if the student is looking for it, again contact the teacher to have it arranged
- Connie will still be retiring at the end of this year but still do not know who the new principal will be or whether Curtis will be staying as well

Life Touch Photos

- Need to know whether to give Life Touch photos the thumbs up or down for next year
 - Solved the issues from years past

- Still able to do the photos over the two days
- Not many complaints about them last year and process went fairly smoothly
- Extra parental help was very valuable
- Voted on it: most in favour so will go ahead with them for next year

What is needed from the Parent Council?

- What does the school need from the council?
 - Just support for the staff is good
 - Delivered tech to those families that needed it
 - If you hear of families that are struggling because of lack of devices or access to internet then let us know
 - Amazing generosity has been coming from the community for students in need
 - If you hear from other parents there are concerns, then let Connie and Curtis know as well as the teachers
 - Right now nothing specific needed from the council

Parish Update

- Currently everything is on hold at the Parish
- No word on when students can receive the sacraments
- Gifts are already purchased for the kids that will be partaking for when it does happen
- No news yet

WUHCA Update

- All programs are cancelled
- Lots of complaints about kids playing in the park

Email Update

- Nothing to report

Other Business

- Will there be a Grade 8 Graduation this year?
 - From the schools perspective, right now plan for no grad
 - Hoping that at some point the kids and teachers can come back for it and celebrate perhaps even in the Fall
 - Do want to pursue it even if it is in the summer
 - Hoping by middle of June to be able to have gatherings of 30 people
 - Can get creative and maybe do a parade or something else that would handle a distance gathering
 - Phase 5 is large gatherings but schools have not even be addressed yet by the Premier

- Once schools do open there will most likely be very strict guidelines that will have to be adhered to
- Hard to enforce rules for all but will do our best and strict protocols

Motion to adjourn @ 8:15 PM First: Amanda Second: Jason

** Next meeting will be on June 3, 2020, at 7:00pm – 8:00 **