

Mary Ward Catholic School Advisory Council Meeting

January 27, 2009

Attendance:

Terry Pastore Chair	Dennis Hastings Vice Chair	Jerry Joseph Treasurer
Angie Cornacchia Secretary	Alemeshet Banjaw Council	Fouad Chalabi Council
Cecilia Coutinho Council	Jude Coutinho Council	Lisa DiGaetano Council
Andrew Farinha Council	Ermina Kumia Council	Marian Robertson Council
Alfredo Andrenacci Community Rep.	Bob Robertson Community Rep.	Jennifer King School Constable
Carmela Giardini Principal	Andrea Magee Vice Principal	Santo Visconti Vice Principal
Krisel Abulenci Student Council Pres.	Lidia Kairska Parent Council	

Guests: Gary Bryant, Marinella Gonzales, Beatrice & Noel Genzia

Regrets: Alemeshet Banjaw, Fouad Chalabi, Santo Visconti

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Terry Pastore at 7:35 p.m. Copies of the agenda and copies of the November 25th minutes were circulated.

Opening Prayer: Was offered by Terry Pastore.

Welcome: Terry Pastore welcomed everyone that attended.

Student Council Report: Presented by Krisel Abulenci - President

- Main event - Semi Formal Held January 23rd, 450 Students, 11 Teachers was a great success.
- First meeting for Spirit Week, morning activities, everyday is a Theme Day, last day will be Valentine's Day activities.
- There will be a dance on February 12th.

Agenda: Dennis Hastings motioned the agenda, Jerry Joseph seconded the motion. Motion carried.

November 25th Minutes: Terry Pastore requested that the minutes be tabled until the next meeting.

Chair's Report: Presented by Terry Pastore. Report Attached. Requesting funding for TAPCE for \$200.00 motion for Mary Ward. Alfredo Andrenacci motioned the \$200.00, Dennis Hastings seconded the motion. There are 10 council members for and 1 against, motion carried. Looking to invite a guest speaker for the next meeting for a 15 minute presentation.

Principal's Report: Presented by Carmela Giardini. Report Attached.

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Jerry Joseph. Request funding of \$850.00 for Special Education. Dennis Hastings motioned the \$850.00, Alfredo Andrenacci seconded the motion. There are 7 council members for, motion carried. The Grade 9 Welcome Bags funding of \$900.00 from the CSAC Fund.

Religious Study: Addressed by Jude Coutinho. Regarding separating images of the different faiths around the school, Andrea Magee has stated

that this was taken care of right after the last meeting.

Updates:

Special Education Report #1: Presented by Alfredo Andrenacci.

Presentations:

- The Council for Exceptional Children presented awards to 2 members of the TCDSB. Susan Menary - Chief Speech and Language Pathologist, received the Educational Leader of the Year award, and Paula Antinucci - Resource Teacher, received the Teacher of the Year award.
- Paul Crawford reported on the **PACT**(Participation Acknowledgement Commitment Transformation) Program - a program for conflict resolution. This program is based on the **restorative** process where in the school as a community (staff, students and administration) develops the capacity to manage good and bad events (part of the safe school initiative). The **retributive** model has been used in the past and is considered to be adversarial as opposed to the reconciliatory , inclusive tone of PACT.
- Training will be provided to the school that are part of the program. The Safe School Advisory Committee in a part of this program. Is Mary Ward CSAC a part of PACT? (The program was piloted at Fr. Henry Carr)
- The Angel Foundation for Learning described their program and some of their fund raising projects. This is a charitable organization devoted to assisting all needy students. Does Mary Ward use any of their supports or bursaries?
- A student from Cardinal Carter presented a video on his experience building a school in Kenya as part of the Me to We foundation with the Keilburger brothers. This was a credit bearing project as well as a life altering, eye-opener for the student who plans to repeat the experience. Does Mary Ward have any students involved in the project? - Craig (Mary Ward Student).

Other matter:

Congregated Gifted Program: Parent Information night regarding the Congregated Gifted Program will take place Thursday January 29th at the Catholic Education Centre. Applications will be issued at this meeting. Francis Libermann runs this program in the east. Grade 7 and up.

February is Inclusive Education Month: The Minister of Education has designated that the Friday February 13th professional development day to be dedicated to the Special Education matters.

What is Mary Ward staff doing for that day?

Are the Education Assistants included as recommended by the Minister, Cathleen Wynne?

Will the agenda for the day be posted on the school website?

Parent Involvement and Consultation - a parents' access to PD day programs was discussed at SEAC.

February is also Psychology Month.

Parents and educators are invited to workshops and presentations on Thursday February 26, 2009, from 12:45 to 2:45 pm.

IEPs: The Special Education Policy and Programs Branch of the Ministry of Education and the Community Services Cluster have developed and Electronic Individual Plan (IEP) template. Parents and students can access the electronic IEP template.

The Username and Password are available from the Board. Does Mary Ward have this information? The URL is <http://iep.edu.gov.on.ca/IEPWeb>, so that parents can access it.

Community Living Toronto has lobbied for and received confirmation from The Special Education supervisor that IEP Parents Input Forms will be distributed to all identified students in the board during the first week of the school year in September. This form was developed to help staff prepare better IEPs in a more timely manner and with parent involvement as

required by the Ministry.

New SEAC members: Victoria Scamolla is the representative from the Association of Bright Children of Ontario. Donald Cameron is a community representative. Judith Andrenacci is now the representative for Community Living Toronto (previously, she was the Alternate Representative).

Special Education Report #2: Presented by Lidia Kairska.

One of many organizations for parents of children with special needs is ABC, The Association of Bright Children of Ontario. This all-volunteer support group for parents of gifted children has many chapters across Ontario. It provides information, networking, workshops and conferences, and offers parents' voice to local school boards, professional groups and the Ministry of Education. Its membership is free. On February 16th, the ABC Ontario will hold its Annual General Meeting at Brebeuf Collage School in Toronto. The website is www.abcontario.ca.

Activity: Computer Training - teach parents in the Mary Ward Community. Needed is Parent, CSAC and student Volunteers. Students may look at this for their community hours.

Newsletter: Looking for 2 people to do this.

Go-Green: Ermina Lumia and Lisa DiGaetano looking into Stainless Steel Water Bottles, 750 ml. Found a company that will produce 500 bottles for a price of \$6.50 each. Funding for the bottles - looking at Green Quest?

Adjournment: Terry Pastore called to adjourn the meeting. Angie Cornacchia seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:20p.m.