



Holy Heart of Mary High School

International Baccalaureate

<http://www.holyheart.ca>

Jamie Parsons
Assistant Principal

Carla Roberts
Principal

Mark Goulding
Assistant Principal

Erin Cavanagh

Jon Lodge
Guidance

Lynnette Samuelson

School Council Meeting Agenda January 17, 2024

In Attendance: Hayley Alloway, Darryl Gover, Mark Goulding, Lori Greene, Gerry Heffernan, Kyle Massey, Jamie Parsons, Jane Pearson, Carla Roberts, Susan Taylor. Parent - Geoff Eaton.

1. Welcome/Call to Order

a. Minutes of Last Meeting, November 22 Review and acceptance

- Called to order by Hayley Alloway. Minute meetings were reviewed (from Nov. 22) at the Jan. 17 meeting and accepted by Kyle Massey and seconded by Carla Roberts. Motion was carried forward.

2. Business Arising:

a. Fundraising support for new school purchases

Carla indicated that the school has been looking at longer-term projects that would benefit the school community.

1. A **new surveillance/camera system** is needed. The system is over 10 years old, analog, pixelated images; gaps in surveillance (not captured). Service cost for repair is expensive. There is a process to follow. We are estimating that the cost will be in the range of \$35 000 to \$50 000. This is in consideration of pricing in 2024 and size of the building.
2. **Student Lockers:** The school has a population of 1250 students. We currently have 1054 lockers. We would like to add enough so each student has a locker. At the moment, it is a cost-prohibitive based on quotes received; however it is something that the school would like to look at over the next few years as we grow with our population. There are no students in the building who are requesting lockers but are without; as it is request-based.
3. **Student Desks:** The school has started the process of replacing and updating student desks. We have purchased 'two piece' desks with blue chairs. Over the next few years, the school would like to update all older student seating, however, priority for replacement were older wooden/metal

one piece desks. There are approximately 165 of those older wooden/metal desks. 109 student desks and chairs have already been purchased. They do not have trays underneath as it is neither required for a student nor prudent given spacing. This price was approximately \$18 000. This is a tendered contract on commodity. Due to updated fiscal regulations, some of these purchases had to take place by January 14. It is recognized that these are large purchases; the administration is also bringing it to the attention of the school council in the hopes of looking at fundraising opportunities to supplement our instructional budget and school budget allocations. It was also discussed the importance of keeping a reserve in finances in the event of immediate, unforeseen or required upgrades or replacements.

Instructional Budget: Kyle M inquired about the instructional budget. Carla explained this process and how such purchases work. For HHM, a school this size, the allocation could be somewhere between \$80 000 and \$100 000. Lori G asked about the instructional budget in April. Carla also mentioned that the instructional budget also needs to be allocated to school departments.

Fundraising

- Lori G inquired about past practice with fundraisers. Jamie P discussed that a school wide fundraiser was last held approximately 2015-16.
- Kyle M discussed the idea of a fundraising committee and perhaps to put this out to the school community. Perhaps a subcommittee within this committee. This idea was seconded by Lori G.
- Jane P discussed that a 50/50 draw worked well at her previous school.
- A lottery license would be required for many fundraising platforms and that would be the case for a 50/50.
- Lori G also mentioned that a successful fundraiser could also be a source of reimagining and further building the school community.
- A request was also made to put it out in the weekly newsletter/memo. Hayley A indicated she might have interest in helping with such a subcommittee if it was started.
- Carla also indicated that the school would participate in the **Relay for Life**. Kelly Smith (teacher) will lead this committee. This was seconded by the school council.
- A small portion of the money raised will come in as cash; over 80% is raised online and goes directly to the Cancer Society. The society also provides approximately \$1800 to raise the event.
- Hayley A mentioned interest in applying for the **BioGenius Competition and Grant**. There is funding available for equipment for labs. She inquired who was leading science. This information would be forwarded to the Science Department Head, Robert Brake.

3. Reports:

a. Principal

- **Cafeteria service** is still not available; expressions of interest were not received. The school still does have a fridge, boutique, breakfast foods for those in need.
- This was put out through social media and the weekly memo. This was under the guidance of the school board in reference to how to inquire about expressions of interest.
- A question was also raised about why Chartwells left and why other companies are not expressing interest. Speculation was given, but proximity to larger, cheaper foods (i.e. Tim Hortons, Sobeys) likely played a role in cafeteria providers leaving. Difficulty acquiring employees is also a factor.

- **RNC surveillance** has continued at HHM and the RNC has kept in contact with the school as needed concerning driver safety and security.
- A discussion was also held regarding student safety in awareness when walking around the school and area. A recent student/vehicular accident occurred but did not involve a crosswalk.

- **Choral Music Trip** in March. Just received a \$32 000 grant. It was a French subsidiary. It was prepared by parents of the school. Students will participate in some french activities
- The gift card fundraiser can continue; however, moving forward, it will need to go through RYCOR. This is in consultation with Ian Sinclair in Finance with the District.

- **Professional Learning Day:** January 29
- Ministerial Day (from Department): February 6
- Our school development team is working as well in preparation of our professional learning day. A committee of 8-10 teachers are working on this. Once developed, it will be brought to the school council to report.

- **Other: Who Knit Ya** - Kelly Russell
- A one-man show around Newfoundland culture and how his career developed; the connections between the members of the music community of Newfoundland. Doing a school tour. Lori G contacted him and he is open to presenting at the school.

4. New Business:

a. Geoff Eaton

- Geoff felt there has been a continued deterioration of curriculum in the school system
- A few weeks ago, put up a public Facebook post regarding concerns around school and curriculum. Has met a lot of discussion and posts about that.
- His respect for teachers is at an all time high
- Geoff feels there is a culture of fear and intimidation about how we assess and teach in Newfoundland and Labrador

- Concern over the loss of teaching curriculum outcomes
 - What parents are teaching at home is being undone in schools
 - Hayley A asked Carla to clarify EST exams and final examinations and assessment in school
 - Kyle M asked if the school council had purview to address and move on this issue
 - Carla indicated that it could be looked at under the umbrella of school development
 - Asking for the specific plans regarding assessment plans for Holy Heart.
- Carla provided clarification regarding these changes.
 - Course descriptors changed. This came from the NLESD. The possibility of having a cumulative assessment with a percentage weight at the end or middle of term were removed.
 - Teachers were still able to use an EST (enriched summative task) during the term. It could not be at the end of term, with a weighted percentage.
 - Teachers had the opportunity to build this into their course however.
 - Carla also addressed Term 2. She talked about the fact that a new modular model is being developed to possibly be implemented throughout the province. We will wait to see the model or an update before determining our assessment practice.
 - Geoff said that he has spoken to several teachers who feel there is a discrepancy between the message at our council meeting and how they feel.
 - Final exams would no longer follow the course descriptors.
 - Carla mentioned that these decisions were made in consultation with the department heads and also in consultation with departments
 - Geoff stated that because this is a working draft, there is variability and flexibility in how schools assess.
 - Lori G asked the reason for this concern; is it preparation, exams, tests, differentiation of instruction
 - Geoff said his concerns were numerous; the dissolving of outcomes and the lack of accountability. He indicated that he was mindful of anxiety; he feels this tracks back to his conversation in Carbonear with a principal years ago
 - He feels his children are bored and a final assessment at the end of the year would help to instill interest.
 - Carla addressed that these discussions were in consultation with the Director of Schools - Lorraine Williams (now on leave).
 - Carla addressed that decisions would be made in consultation with the school board
 - Carla also mentioned that teaching, hiring and instructional practices are built around the 7 Determinants
 - Boredom was a source of concern for the administration and will be looked at as part of instructional practices and our school development plan
 - Kyle M addressed to be reticent of drawing causation without data. Why there is a connection between final exams and learning.
 - Conversation then ensued around good teaching practices; around outcome coverage, engaging teaching and efficacy of teachers
 - Carla also addressed that there is already a number of summative assessments at HHM and other teachers who are providing engaging lessons and differentiated instruction.
 - Carla explained the process of breaking down course descriptors and course outcomes
 - Mark addressed the value of learning outcomes through daily engagement and activities; promoting student reflection and learning

- Kyle M addressed the trend of education over the past 50 years
- Geoff brought up the messaging to families not being clear about the change in assessment
- Carla asked for clarification on ‘the change’ in messaging to families regarding EST changes
- Hayley A indicated that families did not all receive clarity in messaging regarding EST
- Carla reviewed the process of administration, to department heads, to teachers and then dissemination of information involving assessment and evaluation to families
- There was discussion regarding the dissemination of information and clarification of assessment policy.

Carla called the meeting to adjourn at 6:38pm. This was seconded by Hayley A.

5. Meeting Schedule:

Wednesdays, 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Meeting #1 October 25, 2023
Meeting #2 November 22, 2023
Meeting #3 December 20, 2023 (postponed to new year)
Meeting #4 January 17, 2024
Meeting #5 February 21, 2024
Meeting #6 March 20, 2024
Meeting #7 April 17, 2024
Meeting #8 May 22, 2024

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