



Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board
Board of Trustees
Meeting Highlights

January 24, 2012

Inaugural Address

Norm Bethune, Chairman of the Board, was unable to attend the meeting. He delivered his Inaugural Address via video presentation. A copy of Mr. Bethune's Inaugural Address is available on the website.

Director's Report

- Bruce MacPherson, Director of Education, shared information with trustees about a book, *The Supper of the Lamb*. Amy Kieffer, Religious and Family Life Consultant, is working through the book with school principals at monthly Principal Meetings. Exercises include reflection on the order of the mass and exploring the new language. Principals can then share the information with staff at their schools.
- Bruce noted that feedback has been gathered from a number of groups on the questions from the ICE (Institute for Catholic Education) symposium in May 2011, "What have we done to invite students, employees, clergy, parishioners, and the broader Catholic community into activities to promote and protect Catholic education?" Our responses are now being shared with ICE.
- The schedule has been set for Trustee visits to the schools. Vice-Chair Bev Eckensweiler stressed the importance of trustee attendance on these visits. Staff, students and parents prepare for these visits, and it's a wonderful opportunity to learn about how the students are doing, get to know the principals, and learn about how the process is working in our schools.
- Bruce noted that the province has discontinued the Queen Elizabeth II scholarships for post-secondary education. They are refocusing their support on other programs such as The Ontario Tuition grant.

Note: The Director's Annual Report for 2011 is now available on our website at www.bgcdsb.org

Catholic Education Week Dinner

The annual Catholic Education Week Dinner is scheduled for Wednesday May 9, 2012 at the Knights of Columbus Hall Walkerton. Guest speaker this year will be Bishop Crosby. Mark the date on your calendar. Tickets will be available beginning mid-March.

Lenten Retreat

A Lenten Retreat is scheduled for Tuesday April 3, 2012 with Josie Lombardi. The retreat will be held at the CEC beginning with dinner at 5:00. More information will be distributed to all staff.

Board Improvement Plan

Superintendents Catherine Montreuil and Jerry Casey presented an overview of the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement. The plan is organized into four areas of effort, or pillars, as identified by the ministry, which are similar to the four areas of our strategic plan.

The first area is Catholicity, Community, Culture and Caring. We are continuing work on our belief statements, the new order of the mass, the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations, elementary assessment teams and secondary school student success teams, and religion and family life connections to literacy.

The second and third areas focus on Literacy and Numeracy. The plan calls for continued work based on EQAO results for grade 3 and 6 reading, writing and math, the grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy test, and grade 9 math tests.

The final pillar is Pathways. Goals in this area include: increasing the number of students with an IEP (Individual Education Plan) in the SHSM (Specialist High Skill Major) in Health Care; increasing the number of students in the university pathway taking co-op; ensuring that all students in grade 9 develop an AEP (annual education plan) using Career Cruising; and increasing the retention rate of students transitioning from grade 8 to grade 9.

The Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) fits under our Strategic Plan, and is connected to the School Improvement Plans (SIPSA), which take these strategies and identifies the areas of focus for their individual school. The plans are also closely tied to all professional development opportunities throughout the year.

The Board Improvement Plan is available on our website at www.bgcdsb.org/

SBCI Annual Report

Suzanne White, Assistant to the Director - Human Resources, presented the SBCI (School Board's Cooperative Inc.) Annual Report for 2010/11. The annual report deals with Health and Safety and Disability Management.

In the area of *Health and Safety* we had a slight increase in injuries but overall a good performance by the board. SCBI suggests conducting a Health and Safety Audit to gauge opportunities for improvement.

Lost time accident frequency showed a slight increase, and it was noted that as a small board a small increase changes the frequency statistics a lot. In the area of *No lost time accident frequency*, slips trips and falls account for half of the injuries, which is an on-going trend. *Total accident frequency* continues to show approximately the same number of accidents each year and remains below the provincial average.

Recommendations based on this year's report include: a slips and falls campaign including guidelines for appropriate footwear for specific applications; a Health & Safety Audit; reinforce regularly the lessons in Smart Start (proper lifting, personal protective equipment, etc.) for Educational Assistants; and implementation of a Principal Competency Program for 2012.

Overall, we have done very well in managing accident activity and workplace risks with WSIB costs below our peer group average in five of the last six years. Suzanne commended Joyce Benninger, Supervisor of Payroll and Health & Safety, for her hard work implementing and revising health and safety policies/procedures and training.

Transportation Consortium

Bruce MacPherson, Director of Education, presented a letter from the Board to the Ministry of Education to address the loss of revenue resulting from the withdrawal of the Conseil Scolaire de District des Écoles Catholiques du Sud-Ouest from the Transportation Consortium. The Board "conservatively estimates the loss to the Consortium to be \$95,000 to \$185,000 annually given that there is little limited opportunity to find efficiencies with the loss of student riders". The Board is asking the Ministry to "consider a funding adjustment to support the Board during this unforeseeable change in circumstance."

Wellness Committee Update

The Wellness Committee met in January, and welcomed a new member, Valeeta Walsh, representing the principals. All employee groups are represented on the Wellness Committee.

The committee will proceed with The Healthy Workplace Employee Survey. Working with Brock University (Metrics@Work) they will deliver a similar survey to one done in 2005. The survey results will help the committee to set direction for the future, and will be rolling out in April 2012.

Staff Appreciation activities are being planned for February, and Alecia Lantz and Joyce Benninger have volunteered to plan an 8 week run/walk program for all staff.

OCSTA Professional Development for Trustees

OCSTA (Ontario Catholic School Trustees Association) provided a professional development opportunity for trustees in January. Vice-Chair Bev Eckensweiler, Trustees Jules Vanhaelemesch and Lori DiCastrì attended, along with Director of Education Bruce MacPherson and Chair of the Board Norm Bethune. Jules noted that the quality of seminars/presenters is continually improving. The agenda included 3 modules from the ministry's Governance Training for trustees, as well as discussion around the Drummond Commission Report. Student Trustees Jocelyn King and Katie Walsh also attended, and had an opportunity to meet with Cardinal-Elect Collins. The conference provided both trustees and student trustees with a great opportunity to network with peers from across the province.

Notes of interest from the Student Trustee reports:

Jocelyn King ~ Sacred Heart High School

Catholicity

- The social awareness committee is currently working on many projects, such as fundraising to build a school in a 3rd world country
- February 21st is Mardi Gras, there will be games, food and a part of the proceeds will be going to support the Social awareness communities projects
- An Ash Wednesday mass will be held on February 22nd at Sacred Heart High School

Curriculum

- Trinity Peer Leadership ran a workshop on “Study Tips” for all grade 9 students on January 23rd
- The Grade 8 parent information nights are January 19th and 24th at 7pm
- Exams begin on January 27th
- Semester 2 will begin on February 6th
- On February 4th at 1pm there will be a Royal Canadian Legion contest in Walkerton. It will be a public speaking contest consisting of grades 7-12 students.
- The student and parent information meeting regarding the Bruce Power co-op for the 2012 - 2013 school year was held at Sacred Heart High School Tuesday January 17th at 7pm
- Pat Joynt, the Bruce Power co-op teacher, will be coming to Sacred Heart on Thursday February 23rd at 10:30 in the seminar room for a student information session
- The MedQUEST health career exploration camp is scheduled to be held in Walkerton at SHHS, July 9-13. Students who are currently in grades 10- 11 are eligible to attend this interactive program. The online applications open February 1st and close March 14th.
- Literacy Test Preparation Tutoring Sessions will be held every Tuesday after school up until the literacy test starting on February 21st.

Extra Curricular

- The dance class had its recital called “Our Time to Shine” at Sacred Heart on January 12th at 7pm
- The lady crusaders hockey team held its 13th Annual Crusader Challenge Girls High School Hockey Tournament on Thursday January 12th
- Valentine Spirit Week- February 13-17

- Sr. Boys Basketball Team won the Walkerton Basketball Classic held on Jan 13 & 14th. 8 Senior and 8 junior teams participated.

Katie Walsh ~ St. Mary's High School

Christmas is over and the New Year has been rung in long ago. Now back in classes, St. Mary's students are busy completing final assignments and preparing for final exams.

Catholicity:

• In review of our Christmas giving:

-The sock drive turned out to be an overwhelming success. Over 540 pairs of socks were donated by staff, students and members from the community. The socks were donated to a homeless shelter in Toronto during the Christmas break.

-On the last day of classes, hats, mittens, coats, etc. were brought to the local Women's shelter and Bags of Love were donated to St. Joseph's Parish in Port Elgin.

-The new "Be the Change" group raised over \$150 for a local family during a lunch period of Christmas carols.

-Each of these activities reinforced the spirit of giving that is seen at St. Mary's.

• On Sunday, February 26th students attending El Salvador in the spring will be holding breakfasts at St. Mary's Parish in Owen Sound after the 9am and 11am masses with funds raised going towards the orphanage. All are welcome.

Academics

• Several students from St. Mary's attended the Bruce Power coop info night at West Hill on January 18th. In the past this has proven to be an excellent opportunity for students.

• In the spirit of upcoming exams, student council members and peer leaders provided study sessions for grade 9's throughout the week of January 16th.

• Grade 8 Parent and Student Information Nights will be January 23rd and January 25th at St. Mary's High School at 7pm.

• Grade 9 orientation will take place February 2nd at St. Mary's High School.

Athletics

• Sports that are currently underway are girls' volleyball, boys' basketball, girls' and boys' hockey, badminton, swimming, gymnastics and Nordic skiing, and new this year gymnastics.

Extra-Curricular Activities

• The ceramic club, yearbook club, school advocate and band are all underway.

• St. Mary's Student Advisory Council has slowed down leading up to exams but they continue to hold Monday morning meetings to plan for the upcoming year. Proceeds from their January Coffee Break

will go towards the Children's Aid Society.

- Laurissa Christie recently returned from an excursion to Antarctica. During her time there she had the opportunity to work with prominent scientists and other environmentally driven students from around the world. She comes back with an abundance of information and enthusiasm to protect the poles.
- Last year student trustees, Charlotte Curly and Matt McLean, ran a campaign in their respective high schools to raise awareness of the social and environmental issues of water bottles. At the end of their campaign, the Bruce Grey Catholic District School Board installed new water fountains at each high school that had a spot for drinking and for filling water bottles. They also keep track of the number of water bottles saved. To follow up with the installation of the new water bottle I surveyed approximately 60 students at St. Mary's on their opinions and habits surrounding water bottle versus drinking fountain habits.

Here is my quick review of my water bottle survey:

- o How often do you use the water fountain at school?
 - Half of grade 9's said never
 - 60% of 10-12's use it at least once a day
 - Half of the school uses it once a day
- o Do you use it to fill a bottle or drink from?
 - Overall most use it to drink from but for 10-12's and overall it was closer to half
- o Are you aware of the social and environment problems with water bottles?
 - Half of grade 9's said yes
 - 70% of 10-12's and overall school said yes
- o Do you prefer buying water bottles or using a water fountain?
 - 40/60 for grade 9's
 - 20/80 for 10-12's
 - 30/70 for overall school

- A reminder that a visual arts field trip to the Royal Ontario Museum is scheduled for March 30th. Students will be given the opportunity to view the "Maya: Secrets of their Ancient World exhibit," featuring 250 artifacts and a discussion of the Maya calendar.

Policy and Administrative Procedures

Amendments to the following Policies were approved by motion:

- BP 6-3 on Secondary School Compulsory Credit

- BP 6-4 and AP 6-4 on Co-operative Education Programmes
- BP 5-16 and AP 5-16 on Video Surveillance in Schools and School Buses
- BP 8-4 on Workplace Harassment
- BP 8-22 on Workplace Violence

The following Policies and Procedures are currently under review:

- BP 8-15 on Email Use
- BP 6-32 on Acceptable Use
- BP 6-9 on Computer Technology
- BP 5-25 on Tangible Capital Assets
- AP 5-11 Privacy Breach Protocol?

Policies and Procedures under review can be viewed on the board website at www.bgcdsb.org

Dates of Interest:

Catholic Education Week ~ May 6 to May 12, 2012

Next Board of Trustees meeting is February 28, 2012 at 10:00a.m.