

VISION

The Regina Catholic School Division will provide a quality Catholic education that is faith-based, student-centered, and results-oriented.



**Regina
Catholic Schools**
www.rcsd.ca

MISSION

The Regina Catholic School Division will work with the community and local church to provide a quality Catholic education that fosters academic excellence and the development of informed, responsible citizens.

VALUES

ACCOUNTABILITY COLLABORATION HONESTY INTEGRITY RESPECT WELLNESS

Regina Catholic School Division Board of Trustees Catholic School Community Council Linkage Meeting October 30, 2019

Discussion Notes Summary

1. How are the CSCC's building relationships in their community?

- LeBoldus – new chair – our focus inside the school and building relationship with teachers
- St. Marguerite – walk- a-thon – community building event, includes parents, community, parish – fund raiser but is used as a community builder; Mustang Market – ask for members of the community to join us to sell their crafts – for parents/community, and students.
- St. Timothy – CSCC Facebook page – trying some off-site meetings for more social engagement
- St. Theresa – CSCC Facebook page, movie nights, craft sale, carnival – at the school.
- St. Francis – Fall Frolic, Craft and Bake Sale, Dance and Family BBQ, Pumpkin Carving with Tom's Independent Grocer
- O'Neill – running canteen at various events
- Hearing from Admin/SRC/CPAC; Planning events; Ways to support the school learning and how school is run; Learning Improvement Plan; Parent feedback
- St. Nicholas – Joint schools Halloween swap; Pastries with Parents; “adopted” to Sacred Heart for Teacher Appreciation Week
- St. Gregory – Drop off backpack night; picnic lunch with parents and kids
- St. Angela – Social Media (CSCC Facebook page); newsletters; CSCC tab/link on website
- Our CSCC is parents only, teachers on rotation, Community Coordinator, Admin, HS Students SRC (optional). The parent chairs and the principal provides a short report.
 - Is there a consistent practice?
 - What is our best practice?
 - Challenge – when you have several associate parishes.
- Halloween Dance X2
- Family Dance
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake (including Parish in the school community)
- Digital Awareness Night (school led)
- Drop the Backpack
- BBQ/Meet the Teacher Night
- Supported Sacred Heart Pow Wow and Gathering
- Recruiting new parents to CSCC X2
- Educational opportunities for both students and parents (ex. Mental health workshops)
- Helping out with community events (ex. Cathedral Arts Festival)

2. What do your CSCC meetings look like?

a. What is attendance like?

- LeBoldus – Attendance typically good; first meeting did not make quorum, first time
- St. Marguerite – pretty good, but did not have quorum at the first meeting, but met it in the second;
- St. Timothy – about 16 regulars who rotate – off site pizza and lounge seems to encourage people to come out in a relaxed casual atmosphere – pay their own bills except for appetizers;
- Average of 10 people, small community
- St. Gabriel – 16 to 18 attendees;
- Different in each community – between 4 and 16
- Held before Reading Nights – families including kids are invited and supper is served (20+)
- Standard Agenda – try to communicate that it's important to have parent involvement (15+ attendees)
- Some meetings as many as 18 but average is about 10ish
- Overall, attendance good

b. What is working well for CSCC?

- Facebook pages – working well – positive feedback for informed – monitoring;
- Work arounds – right to privacy is a big concern... information – wanted their own space; comment – more engaging and involves students;
- Getting together on a common cause;
- Showing data to CSCC – to show where school may need supports – bringing parents into the conversation around support;
- Student learning and well-being are really important;
- Teacher appreciation week – luncheon, gift cards, etc.
- REACH – program for St. Marguerite CSCC – used for staff and students to support learning – e.g. Mathletics, coding, math workbooks;
- Teacher enhancement fund for every classroom.
- Communication with Admin and parents; welcome environment
- Attendance – growth
- Roles are defined
- Corporate memory – succession planning
- Community building activities
- Parent CSCC social media pages
- Long-standing community members/former parents. One member on CSCC for 25 years still doing a good job bringing in younger families.
- Length is about 1 hour
- A “planning meeting” in April to discuss goals for next year. This helps parents plan how they can contribute through the year.
- BBQ/Walking Tacos at Open House

- Sacred Heart had a Rider Tailgate party on the playground. Face paint, tattoos, hot dogs, etc.
- Provide childcare during meetings
- LIP goal meeting
- Serve food and refreshments and some schools have a social afterwards at a bar or restaurant
- Everyone feels comfortable (being heard)
- Incredible corporate knowledge due to longevity of members
- A lot of previous documentation that helped new CSCC members
- September meeting is when most active recruiting is done - good results (one school had teachers present different things and was a real draw card to the first meeting)

c. Do you provide childcare for your meetings?

- High schools do not have childcare.
- Elementary schools do. One challenge is the discipline – sometimes too onerous for grade 8 kids to handle;
- Usually 1-2 grade 7/8 students – admin sets boundaries for the sitters; movie gift card, blizzards, some pay them flat rate – usually not a big uptake – no more than 2 -4 children;
- Yes we do – 1
- St. Gabriel – gym open for childcare;
- Yes in elementary
- Childcare provided or something for kids to do while meeting takes place

d. Do you provide snacks or a meal?

- St. Timothy has in the past – most do not want it; it didn't bring any extra bodies to the meeting so typically do not.
- Usually a snack X2
- Meal for AGM and Christmas
- Some yes; some no
- Will provide food at the End of Year meeting

e. What challenges do you face as a CSCC?

- Volunteers for events – same people who attend the meetings also volunteer X2
- No fundraising is the selling point for high schools
- How do we fit into the purpose or role within the school
- Relaying the value, function and purpose of the CSCC
- St. Gabriel – engaging participation from parents;
- St. Gregory – Empowering new parents; clusters/pockets of parents who are friends; Life commitments get in the way from attending meetings
- Recruitment
- Succession planning X2
- Fundraising – playground – burnt out community
- Fundraising in general

- Smaller community – you can tap the community quickly
- Burn out from elementary CSCC
- CSCC Chair sets tone, sometimes.
- Bringing in new people
- Having honest representation at community make-up
- Engaging newcomers – sometimes due to work schedules
- Smaller CSCCs struggle with “manpower” for running initiatives
- Finding middle ground what is appropriate conversation (what is not open for discussion- how school is run-admin/staff decisions)
- Struggle with people volunteering to take on lead roles (president, treasurer, etc.)
- Struggle with parent engagement(sometimes parent numbers dwindle)
- Communication
 - Info getting out to parents and getting parents to read the material
 - Sometimes there is too much information and parents don’t read it all
 - Perhaps a way could be found to streamline or condense the info.
- EAL populations is challenging for communication (language barrier) - perhaps trying to get Open Door Society involved

3. How are you supporting the school’s Learning Improvement Plan?

- REACH program – stipends for literacy and numeracy projects – e.g. math workbooks, Mathletics licenses, manipulatives, student and staff retreats;
- Playground support – equitable transitions – creating spaces;
- For the most part, good communication and working together
- Admin give summarization to CSCC
- Fundraise for Mathletics X 2
- Fundraise for PBIS
- Maker Space
- Literacy Nights X2
- Guest speakers for Literacy Nights
- Teacher Wish List
- Advertising on Social Media – helps with turnout
- St. Luke – challenge keeping parents informed regarding goals
- Classroom incentive money
- Sponsored lunch for Grade 8 Farewell for grade 8s, parents, grandparents and guests
- Purchase French Immersion resources
- Student Retreats
- Most at the table say that it is still in the works for this school year
- Monetary support
- Food/Nutrition Program X2
- Sit down with admin (teachers give admin ways in which they need to be supported and admin brings it to the CSCC)

- They are always looking for ways to support and enrich the learning opportunities for the students

4. What are some barriers that need to be removed to increase involvement and engagement?

- What tone do you set – what atmosphere do you have?
- Need more advertising and invitation – welcoming presence X4
- How do we get people out to events? Time is the issue... many parents want to be involved but are too busy. X3
- Need to gather around a common goal – if they see a purpose they will come out. (e.g. with new schools you get parents coming out to work on a playground)
- Fear of commitment/role x3
- Hard to break in existing group X2
- Language/cultural limitations x2
- Engagement versus involvement versus balance
- Helpful setting up subcommittees within CSCC
- Not familiar with the role of a CSCC (parents fear coming to meetings and having to take on significant roles)
- Gender barriers (difficult to get male involvement)
- Difficult to find people to attend
- Volunteering for trips out of school
- A parent attends kindergarten orientation
- Meetings that are only 1 hour (efficient)
- Staggering the length of positions
- Co-chairs – 1 junior and 1 senior to help train
- Speak at parent nights – parent presence
- Welcome bbq or breakfast presence
- Electronic sign up for parents – don't have to shoulder tap or the same people all the time
- Having CSCC at the same time as Reading Nights
- Communication with privacy – going through office, language barriers
- Perception that CSCC is all about fundraising
- Assure parents are being heard

5. The CPAC is a newly formed group. Their role is to support all CSCC's in RCSD. How would you like to see them support your CSCC?

- What role do they play in supporting your CSCC – common information nights?
- CPAC very new involvement
- How do we get engagement to join CPAC
- Uniting the Parent Info night
- More open communication between schools
- Unity

- Be a bigger voice to unite
- Nutrition
- Money management
- \$250 maybe too much for some school CSCCs
- Unique (great!) situation in which CPAC has a direct and constant connection with Dom Scuglia
- Each school/community has its own set of struggles
- Parents aren't interested in being involved with and attending a large group – would rather stick to attending their schools CSCC meetings
- CSCC from more “affluent” schools supported schools without active CSCC, a “sister school” program
- More communication regarding role of CPAC – other opportunities to join
- Have a member of CPAC present at a CSCC meeting
- Have a CPAC member be a liaison to a number of schools
- Have a CPAC member at each table for an event like tonight
- Have someone represent French Immersion, Community Schools, High Schools
- How to run a proper meeting (guidelines to each CSCC so all are being run the same)
- Suggest ways in which CSCC can support the schools (other than just fundraising)
- Give ways to demonstrate what parent engagement could/should look like
- Give examples of how Board/CEC/Admin/CSCC can be on same page
- Unifying CSCC constitutions (too many are different)
- What a succession plan should contain

6. The CPAC topics you would like presented...

- Digital Citizenship X3
- Screen time and Addictions X3
- Mental Health X2
- Physical Health
- Relationships – how to be a friend; how to treat people
- Make home a safe place
- Translation for ESL families
- Communication strategies
- Piggyback on others in town. ex. Public, Diocese, Church
- Organize guest speakers from the Division (great idea to get larger attendance)
- Tweens / Parenting classes
- Screenagers
- Tyler Derman (?)
- A parent session and a student session giving the same message
 - Mental health issues, strategies, identification
 - Sexting
 - Girls and Mentors (Christine Tell)
 - Boys and Mentors (June Zimmer)
 - Girls in the Game (Kaylin Berg)

- Vaping/drug class
- Support for Parent Portal
- The changing nature of school. What's changed since you were a student?
- How to forge relationships and community partnerships
- Bridging transitions i.e. elementary to high school CSCCs
- SGI - new drivers (do's and don'ts)
- Sexual Assault

Additional Feedback and Questions:

- CPAC
 - Is the CPAC representative of all communities?
 - What is the mission of CPAC?
- CSCC Conference
 - November 23rd is not an ideal day/weekend and giving an entire day is difficult
 - Challenges/barriers to participate such as childcare, parents working shifts, etc.
 - If a CSCC is not able to participate in conference etc. is the \$250 commitment expected?
- Suggestion for future linkage meeting to group high schools together