

St. Francis de Sales Catholic School Council News

Kids win when parents get involved

Message from the Chair

Welcome to all staff, students and families within the St. Francis de Sales Catholic School community.

Parents are the primary educators of their children in the areas of faith and morality. This education begins very early through the experiences and life lessons they are taught at home and at church. Your school faith formation supports and complements that which takes place in the context of your child's



family. Strengthen this Catholic School Education through "...justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." *Romans 14:17*

The Board theme for 2006-2007 is "Transforming the world into a world of peace". As our children set out to transform the world, may the peace of Christ shine upon them.

Debbie Shea
Chair

Demystifying School Council

School Councils are playing an increasingly important role in Ontario's education system and yet beyond fundraising, little is known about them. This article is intended to provide an introduction to the purpose of School Council, the membership and how the Council operates.

Mandate

Excerpt from the St. Francis de Sales Catholic Community School Council Constitution: *A Catholic School Council will give parents, staff, parish and community the opportunity to provide ideas and opinions to assist in the operation of their local school and, where appropriate the school board.*

The St. Francis de Sales Catholic School Council has a mandate to provide opportunities for parents to be more involved in the education of their children; develop a mission statement and annual goals; evaluate success in achieving those goals; encourage positive social environment in the school; foster good relations among parents, staff, parish, students, school board and the local community; be a voice for Catholic Education in the local community; and provide information in a number of areas to the principal, staff and Board of Trustees where applicable.

Representation

Your Council is made up of a minimum of 16 members. These include

the school principal, 10-20 parents/guardians, one parent liaison representative, one teacher representative, one non-teaching staff member, one community representative and one parish representative.

Operation & Procedures

Council operates in a manner that is non-judgemental, is based on no-fault discussion and uses consensus and compromise as the usual method for developing recommendations and plans.

Council meetings are conducted in accordance with Parliamentary procedures. Elected and appointed members have voting privileges and a simple majority of Council membership constitutes a quorum. When voting, the Chair provides a second vote to break a tie.

A full and accurate account of all proceedings and transactions of meetings is recorded and within two weeks of the meeting, a copy is posted in the lobby of the school.

Getting Involved

All parents/guardians of students attending St. Francis de Sales School have the right—and are encouraged—to attend meetings of the Council and the right to speak on any item on the agenda.

Specific requests to address Council must be given, in writing, to the Chair

September 2006

2006-07 School Council Members

Elections /appointments of the 2006-07 School Council took place in June.

Debbie Shea—Parish Rep./Chair
Connie Smith—Vice Chair
Margaret West—Treasurer
Shelley Nadeau—Secretary
Tammy Demidoff—Parent Liaison Rep.
Nancy Fontyn—Parent
Tracey Stringer—Parent
Debi Cunningham—Parent
Monica Wilson—Parent
Lorraine Fenn—Parent
Dorothy Hudson—Parent
Cyndi Galazzo—Parent
Debbie Burns—Parent
Melody Lefebvre—Parent
Bernice Chiniborch—Community Rep.
Patricia Meagher—Non-teaching Rep.
Susan Hoysted—Teaching Rep.
Alex Bujacz—Principal

Also supported by:

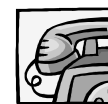
Maureen Douglas—School Admin.
Fr. Sebastian Amato—Parish Priest

or Principal at least 7 days prior to the scheduled meeting. Requests may be made by anyone.

Dates, times and locations of the meetings are communicated in advance in the school newsletter, etc.

Attending Council meetings is not the only way for parents/guardians to get involved. The use of committees can help members of our school community contribute in areas that meet their specific interests or expertise and time available. Council may form committees to focus on areas such as special events, fundraising, safety, etc.

If you are interested in committee work



or if you would like to learn more about the St. Francis de Sales Catholic School Council, please contact Debbie Shea at 613-283-5349 or approach any member of Council.