

St. Mary's School
Parent Advisory Virtual Meeting
September 29, 2021

1. **Introduction** – Principal Nick Gale called meeting to order at 703pm.
2. **Attendees: Nick Gale, Callie Sheppard, Megan Knodel, Sharla Lindsay, Sarah Franchetto, Tim MacDonald, Keira Bostock, Chloe Kilkenny**
3. **Prayer** – Nick Gale
4. **Executive Positions** - 2021 Filled Executive positions are: Megan Knodel (secretary) and Sharla Lindsay (treasurer). Chloe Kilkenny moved that they be acclaimed to their position. It was seconded by Sarah Franchetto. All in favor and motion was carried. Parent Reps are still needed to bounce ideas off one another and give a parent perspective. The hope is to meet 4-5 times per year for approximately one hour. The idea of an advisory group should be more user friendly and inviting for parents. A chairperson, vice-chairperson and Parent Association Representative are still needed to the advisory board, and anyone can email or call Nick Gale at the school if interested.
5. **Discussion Items**
 - a. **Staggered entry** – Feedback requested on staggered start for the school year. Most feedback is position. Suggestion of a map or information for virtual map prior to school starting.
 - b. **New Schedule** – A and B Days. All classes are 45 minutes long with a 5 min break. The benefit of this schedule is that core classes are at the same time every day. The only thing that changes is the options and the flex block.
 - c. **Flex Block** – Discussion about the new flex block for students. Suggestion was made to have a typing class. This can be held during the flex block. Health class is also included in the flex block or service projects that the students may be participating in.
 - d. **Options** - Nick spoke about the many options that are available to students this year. Some included are art, robots, biology, CSI,

Drama, Performing Arts, First Aid, Gaming, Drivers Ed, Fitness and more. The school will stay with a trimester school year as the students get a chance to try more options. Some of the options are only available to the grade 9 students. The trimesters are around 13 weeks long and coincide with reporting periods. Students can fill out a google form document with option requests. Suggestion of making the parents aware that this document is available so that they can discuss with students.

6. Information Items

- a. **Covid 19 Update** – Biggest change has been the return to masking. The school is not required to keep the students in co-horts, so the students are able to have options with other students from other classrooms, the use of lockers, the teachers are moving between classrooms rather than the students. If the student has a household contact and are not vaccinated, the student is required to stay in isolation for 14 days since the last exposure to the virus. This does not apply to vaccinated students. When school absentee rate is over 10% it is reported to Alberta Health Services (AHS) and they investigate the matter but there is no contact tracing.
- b. **Registration Update** – The school has 375 students registered with 37 of them being from outside the school jurisdiction. (118 grade sevens, 121 grade eights and 128 grade nines). There are 91 students registered in the fine arts program (27 grade sevens, 42 grade eights and 21 grade nines). There are 29 students registered in the French immersion program (11 grade sevens, 5 grade eights and 13 grade nines).
- c. **Tik Tok Challenge** – Viral video with challenge to vandalize school property. There is a posted list of monthly challenges for students so parents should be aware. Students need to know that these types of actions and challenges have consequences and won't be tolerated at school. The school had some toilet paper and soap dispensers be removed. 8-12 students were suspended for vandalizing the school. The school resource officer will be speaking to the students about the serious nature of these types of challenges. Information from Callie Sheppard regarding the increased recreational use of Benadryl or social media challenges with it.

- d. **Fitness Center** – The new fitness center is up and running. It has all new equipment including rowing machines, weight benches and spin bikes. An outside trainer has developed some appropriate fitness routines for students. The center is used for Fitness option, Phys Ed classes and by the athletic teams.
 - e. **Library Update** – Everything arrived in August and has been put into the library. A couple other round tables and chairs have been ordered. The library has been utilized for meetings as well as lunch hour times for alternating classes.
 - f. **Athletics/Extra-Curricular**
 - i. Volleyball – There are 7 different volleyball teams this year (5 girl, 2 boy). All grade 7 students were included for a positive school athletics experience.
 - ii. Football – This is the biggest team in awhile at 55 students including the Notre Dame students. The team is doing well and the turnout to watch football on Thursdays has been excellent.
 - iii. Musical – There was auditions, cast selected and a first table read. The musical should be end of February, beginning of March 2022.
7. **Meeting Dates** – 2021 – 2022 Parent Advisory Meeting Tentative schedule is: Nov 17, 2021, Feb 9, 2022, Apr 27, 2022, and June 15, 2022.
8. **Adjourn** – Nick Gale adjourned the meeting at 824pm