

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes
Thursday, January 19, 2023

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Erika Dalla Torre at 6:05 pm in the library on Thursday, January 19, 2023.

Present

Blanche Barco, Erika Dalla Torre, Teresa Evangelou, Charles Hogg, Allison Menzies, Fr Alfredo Monacelli, Keefer Pollard, Renita Silva, Brian Untereiner, Stephen Wauthy

Guest

Wendy Bird-Borau (Executive Director CISDV Child Care and Early Learning Centres)

Absent

Brianna Shereck

Minutes Prepared By

Renita Silva

1. Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was led by Fr Alfie.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by Allison and Teresa. Keefer asked to add another item to New Buisness - iii) In camera discussion.

3. Approval of Minutes from November 24, 2022

The minutes of the last meeting were approved by Allison, Teresa and Stephen.

4. Correspondence

- Letter received from a parent concerned about screen time in the classroom and the usage of video streaming platforms.
 - Asked the Local School Council if the school could create a policy regarding the usage of TVs in the classroom as the parent is not satisfied with the response from the teacher and the principal.
 - Erika checked and reported that this issue is not under the Local School Council's jurisdiction and the parent followed the right steps when not satisfied with something by approaching the teacher and then the principals and requested a motion to vote. If the parent is not satisfied with the response so far, then the letter should be forwarded to the superintendent. She discussed the concern about watching TV while eating along with issues with too much screen time particularly for the younger students.

- Keefer mentioned separating the content to the practice of using screens given it is another tool of the digital age. The fifteen minutes during lunchtime where screens may be used is not instruction time.
- Brian pointed out that the school does not use paid subscriptions, such as Netflix and to make pop ads disappear on YouTube would require a premium subscription.
- Teresa motioned to vote to forward the letter to the Superintendent, Allison seconded it. Members voted in favour of forwarding the letter.
 - *Action: Erika to forward the letter to the Superintendent.*

5. Administrator's Activity Report

- There is a teacher on leave and the replacement had made a commitment to cover the class until December. The school has hired another replacement but she has a contract with another school until the end of January. The boys in the grade 7 class are lively and need an experienced teacher which is why the school selected her. In the meantime, Brian was asked to cover for the month until the new replacement arrives.
- A previous EA, who made a commitment to stay until January 13th has left and a new EA has been hired.
- A staff member has requested medical leave to care for some family members.
- Keefer has been covering for Brian's duties on top of his own.
- Received financial statements.
 - *Action: Keefer to go over financial statements.*
- Every six years the school is evaluated by the Ministry of Education (an external evaluation committee). On Monday (January 16th) the school had a monitoring visit. The school is compliant with all the regulations.
 - The inspector commented on how well prepared the school was for the visit as well as the great job Brian is doing in the area of safety. For example an earthquake plan was not only created, but was actively practiced.
 - Suggestions from the inspector: i. capacity of special needs students, ii child abuse policy - there is an appointed school official (Keefer) and an alternate (Brian), but it needs to clearly lay out their duties.
 - *Action: Keefer to bring these suggestions to the district level.*
- Christmas season was over last Monday. There were two Ordinary Time masses, one for the primary kids, and one for the intermediate kids. The students were very engaged throughout and enjoyed singing during mass.
- Catholic Schools Week Mass will be on January 29th with the school choir singing.
- Academically, kids are tackling scholastic challenges. Extra-curricular volleyball has started for grades 6-7.
- Rehearsals are underway for the musical Peter Pan Jr.
- Implemented return to the uniform code.
- Blanche asked for an update on the new math program. Keefer said they will evaluate and see how it goes at the end of the year.
- Erika received great feedback from the students of the grade 7 class which Brian is covering for.

6. Father Alfredo Monacelli's Report

- Garden project
 - Fr Alfie met with a Métis friend of his who suggested a herb garden could be planted and we could ask some First Nations members or chiefs if they would like to share uses of the herbs.
 - We have a few boxes that can be used at the moment from the Early Learning Centre (ELC).
 - Received feedback from Fr Dean that some chiefs have appreciated us being open to them and their needs and making progress towards truth and reconciliation. Asking First Nations about sharing their knowledge with us would be great steps to take to continue with this.
 - The proposed area for this project would be at the bottom of the play yard of the ELC plus some planter boxes
 - Looking to plant the Three Sisters as well.

Wendy excused herself from the meeting

- Engaged with an architect to have a 2 floor extension for the hall mainly for childcare. Keefer specified that there would be 2 childcare spaces on the top floor with an elevator. On the lower floor there would be a multipurpose room. The current multipurpose room would be renovated with soundproofing for a potential band room in the future. There would also be an extra meeting room. The portable will be gone apart from the newest one. The last stage would be work on the parking lot.
 - With this in mind, Keefer pitched an idea about having a third Kindergarten class. There would then be three classes of 16 children in Kindergarten which would funnel into two grade 1 classes of 24 students each. The existing multipurpose room could be used for the third class. This would mean small class sizes for Kindergarten and we will have 48 kids to fill our grade 1 spots and would help with revenue.
 - Keefer will be talking to the Kindergarten teachers, other teachers and the LSC.
 - Allison expressed a concern about the ability of finding an additional teacher.
 - Brain expressed a concern as to whether the school has the infrastructure to have an additional class. There is also concern about PE space as the gym is always occupied, though it's possible to have the gym divided for the primary students.

7. Victoria Tri-Council

- Erika, Keefer, Allison and Stephen attended the Tri-Council meeting on January 4th.
- Had initial conversations on how to increase the relationships between the schools with the focus on sports as well as art.
- As an example, Allison mentioned there could be some mentoring program where a sports team (e.g. volleyball) from the high school can come to the elementary school and talk to the kids. For the arts, if the high school is performing a musical, the elementary

kids could go and watch. High school students could lend a hand for elementary school musicals.

8. Committee Reports

i) PAG Liaison - Stephen Wauthy

Nothing to report. PAG meeting will be held the following week so Stephen will report on it at the next meeting.

ii) Finance - Charles Hogg

- Received financial reports yesterday, so Keefer will go through them.
- Charles will be working with Stephen and the PSG to prepare the budget for next year.
- Should also consider adding information such as how many coordinators are needed, how many volunteer hours are needed.
- Charles requested if Stephen could start discussions regarding the budget at the next PSG meeting.
- Charles suggested it would be good to determine what the LSC would like to see in the budget and the sooner this is achieved the better, as typically, we are looking to pass the budget around April/May.

iii) Buildings and Grounds - Allison Menzies

- Hot water tanks are in.
- Still need to fix a leaking cast iron pipe.

iv) Marketing and Uniforms - Teresa Evangelou

- There will be a used uniform sale on January 31st.
- Teresa thanked Keefer for buying ties for parents to purchase so as to avoid delivery costs.

v) Parish Liaison - Brianna Shereck

No report - absent.

vi) Secretary - Renita Silva

Nothing to report.

vii) Chair - Erika Dalla Torre

Nothing to report.

9. New Business

i) Review of Uniform Focus Group

- Allison, Erika and Stephen met with some teachers to discuss the changes and concerns the teachers had with respect to changing from PE clothes to uniform for the intermediate students.
- Main concerns from the teachers:
 - Lack of adequate space
 - Lack of supervision while kids are changing
 - Losing educational time
- LSC members in attendance inquired as to why these were not issues pre-covid and expressed how the uniform helps maintain school identity.
- Charles asked if there is a policy that does not allow teachers to supervise in the change rooms. Keefer said they wanted to maintain the dignity of students and teachers. There is no rule, but they are sensitive to these issues.

Fr. Alfredo excused himself from the meeting.

- Keefer suggested:
 - If students have PE first thing in the morning, they can come in their gym strip and change into their uniform before lunch. If they have PE in the afternoon, they come in their uniform then change for PE and go home in their gym strip.
 - For those who have a sports practice in the morning, they could change into their uniform before recess or lunch. However for Spring/Fall when there are around 100 kids coming to school for cross-country or track and field, an exception could be made so they can stay in their PE strip all day as there is no space for all of them to get changed.
- Brian suggested the use of classrooms for changing into PE strips for sports after school.
- Keefer suggested to first tackle uniform/gym day changes then come back to what should be done for larger number of students participating in school sports at the same time.
- It was decided that:
 - If students have PE in the morning, they come in their gym strip and change after PE into their uniform. If PE is in the afternoon, students come in their uniform and change before PE in to their gym strip
 - Students on sports teams such as volleyball and basketball change after their practice into their uniform
 - Action: Keefer to implement this after the next staff meeting in February.
- A parent asked about the use of hoodies for the grads as it's their last year. This was already addressed in the school newsletter. Grads are welcome to wear them as outerwear and they are part of the PE strip.

Blanche excused herself from the meeting.

*ii) Child care fee increase

- Wendy proposed child care fee increases as of July 2023. The proposed increases are based on the CCFRI increase guidelines.
- The fee increases are directly related to the new child care fee reduction and the increase is less than last year.

- There is a larger increase for Spring Break/Summer camp as the previous fees meant they were barely operational
 - Charles motioned to vote on the child care fee increase, Teresa seconded it. Members voted in favour of the fee increase.

iii) In camera discussion

Next meetings:

Thursday, March 2nd, 2023 at 6 pm

Thursday, April 20th, 2023 at 6 pm

Meeting adjourned

Erika adjourned the meeting at 7:41 pm.

*Erika asked for this section to be presented after item 3 so that Wendy could leave the meeting. This was then followed by Fr Alfie's report on the Garden project.

Proposed Child Care Fee Schedule as of July 2023

Program	Base Rate of Tuition	Proposed Increase	Increase Amount
Daycare			
Fulltime	\$ 975 Monthly	\$1004 Monthly	\$29
Preschool			
Fulltime	\$325 monthly	\$350	\$25
3 days (M/W/F)	\$230 monthly	\$255	\$25
2 days (Tu/Th)	\$170 monthly	\$205	\$25
ASC and BSC			
	Grades 1-7 Rates		
Fulltime BSC and ASC	\$350 monthly	\$363	\$13
Fulltime BSC	\$160 monthly	\$173	\$13
Fulltime ASC	\$225 monthly	\$238	\$13
Pro-D Day	\$40.00 per day	\$50	\$10
Spring Break/Summer Camp	\$205 per week	\$250 Per week	\$45

Proposed increases are based on the CCFRI increase guidelines approved as of November 2022

Afternoon Mrs. Lee,

Do you know when the Grade 7 Grad hoodies will arrive?

Will the same practice in regards to uniform be provided to this new grad class as previous years grad students?

Grade 7's have always been able to wear they Grade 7 special hoody every day (except for mass days) J

Sincerely,