

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes
Thursday, March 2, 2023

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Erika Dalla Torre at 6:01 pm in the library on Thursday, March 2, 2023.

Present

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

Guest

Lesley Whiteside (teacher)

Absent

None

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 Teresa and Brianna.

3. Approval of Minutes from November 24, 2022

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

4. Correspondence

*This was done after the PAG Liaison report.

Letter received from Lesley Whiteside regarding the reversion to pre-pandemic uniform policy with regards to changing into or out of the PE strip which outlined her concerns regarding education time lost while changing as well as access to appropriate, safe, accessible and supervised facilities for changing.

- Lesley reported concerns from staff about these issues including bullying, body shaming, socks and ties being flushed down the toilet.
- Concerns from PE teachers about how to monitor changerooms as teachers are not allowed to be with students 1 on 1.
- There are students who need accessible changerooms, which we don't have at the moment.
- Increased cost to parents if students need to wear uniform five days instead of three.
- Charles asked prior to the uniform switch due to the pandemic, and with all the same concerns, is there anything specific that has changed with respect to policy about

teachers in the changerooms and what has changed in the last few years that prevents us from going back to how it was.

- Lesley stated that students are far behind academically and they lose 20 minutes to change, so 40 minutes a week. The same problems were there before the change according to Mr. Zuback and Ms. G. Teachers have also become more aware nowadays of boundaries they need to have with students. We also have more special needs students.
- Charles mentioned there would only be one change and asked if that was not a sufficient accommodation.
 - Lesley said they were happy to hear about the accommodation but still feel that the teachers' position still has not changed.
- Reported it's difficult for teachers to manage the different speed at which children get changed some 5 minutes while others 13.
- Charles mentioned that there was consultation with a group of teachers (focus group) and asked about how the consultation went.
 - Erika said the focus group lasted an hour with the group of teachers.
 - Summary from the focus group: there were discipline issues in the changerooms, no supervision, loss of educational time. Safety issues and poorly equipped changerooms were not brought up until now. Lesley mentioned that this became clear later.
- Changerooms require renovation. Allison mentioned it does not look good on the school when other teams or schools visit.
- There are approximately 100 students who participate in track and field and there is no supervision in the morning for those who want to change and insufficient facilities.
 - Stephen noted that the number could be less for those who require changing as it would apply to grades 4-7 and for those who do not have track and field in the morning.
 - Keefer mentioned that last meeting it was decided to hold off on the decision for those in track and field while addressing the changing into or out of PE clothes as it's during summer uniform time.
- Erika asked what we should do moving forward and whether we need more time to make this change. At the last meeting it was decided that Keefer would tell the teachers at the February staff meeting that the change would take place. She received a phone call from Brian saying they are not ready and to postpone the decision to after Spring Break. This was all before knowing the state of the changerooms.
 - Need more time to evaluate the changeroom situation.
 - Charles asked that even if the changerooms were fixed, whether there would be concern about going back to changing. Lesley confirmed this would still be a concern. Charles suggested to spend some time coming up with a plan of action, and that maybe there is a uniform that meets both needs that doesn't require changing.
- Brianna suggested it would be good to know the number of days kids have PE prior to purchasing any uniform.
- Lesley asked about putting this out there for parents to have a say as well.

- Erika said the LSC had a survey 4 years ago. There was a low response rate and the majority said they wanted a formal uniform. Parents were asked whether they liked the formal uniform or the polo shirt and they preferred the formal uniform with tie. We could try a new survey to see what parents think.
- Keefer is putting together a survey, and said we could include the uniforms and screen time in the survey.
- Teresa asked if the survey for the uniforms could be kept separate from other questions. Also suggested to wait to see what Cambridge has to offer first.
- Charles suggested doing the survey at an event like Tiki Tiki Fun Fair or Halloween Howl as there are many people there. Brian followed up with maybe doing the survey a couple days later after getting parents interested and aware of it.
- Brianna inquired about how we are communicating with parents. Charles suggested looking at Cyberimpact or Mailchimp. You can get engagement statistics. There is a cost associated with it. Could even put polls in it.
- Erika asked if there is anything that can be done for next year to take into consideration time needed to change to minimize the impact on academic time.
 - Lesley said in the past all the time was lost during PE time.
- Regarding asking questions in the survey, Charles suggested you ask if the parents want the current uniform or something different instead of a specific uniform. LSC's concern is that the PE strip on its own is not sufficiently formal to meet what would be considered an everyday uniform.
- Erika suggested to get a survey done to see whether parents want their kids to wear the uniform as it is at the moment or go back to how it was prior to the pandemic.
- Fr. Alfie encouraged exploring the idea of a universal uniform. Renita provided an example of how her child's sports team changed from wearing formal suits to a less formal uniform with dri-FIT polos, so maybe there is some possibility. Can see what Cambridge has to offer.
- Allison motioned to vote to put out survey to parents. Charles seconded it. Members voted unanimously.
 - *Action: Erika and Teresa to have survey ready for some point after Spring Break or possibly after our next meeting in April in order to get more details on the changerooms.*

5. Administrator's Activity Report

- Coming to the end of the term and started the season of Lent
- On Shrove Tuesday, students gathered while Fr. Alfie burned the palm fronds from the previous year. There was also a liturgy held on Ash Wednesday.
- February 15-17, school staff travelled to Vancouver for the Catholic Educators' Conference
- Working on report cards and it's encouraging to see the successes of our students.
- Volleyball season is over and the teams did a great job.
- On Friday, March 10 the dress rehearsal for Peter Pan Jr will take place for the school with the premier in the evening. On Saturday there is a matinee performance.
- Volunteer tea has been moved for this year to St. Patrick's Day.

- Building committee has been formed to look at building a tower between the old wing and the church.
 - There will be two levels: 1. The church level will have two ELC rooms. 2. The bottom level will have a break-out room and a multipurpose room.
 - The existing multipurpose room will be renovated to be usable as a band and music room.

6. Father Alfredo Monacelli's Report

- Youth group meets every Saturday night with the majority from St. Joseph's School.
- Classes are coming to visit the church to look at the purpose and different meanings of items in the church.

7. Victoria Tri-Council

- Erika to find out whether the next meeting planned for the following week is going ahead or not.

8. Committee Reports

i) PAG Liaison - Stephen Wauthy

*This was done after the Chair's report.

- Attended the PSG meeting
- Peter Pan Jr. going well.
- For the Tiki Tiki Fun Fair Stephen had an Action to complete:
 - PSG is asking the LSC to handle cash at the event
 - *Action: Charles to coordinate this.*
- Parking spot auction was on February 15 and a fresh auction will be in September.
- Purdy's Fundraiser going on.
- Hot Lunches are going well.
- Business directory made \$1600 so far.
- Grade 7 Parent (Sam) looking at a gaming grant to be used for the Grade 7 Grads.
 - This was clarified by Brain to reduce the cost to \$140 per child.
- Charles asked if there was a budget made and to ensure it would be done by June.
 - *Action: Stephen to follow up on this so the budget is ready in time.*
- Charles asked if there would be a joint meeting with the PSG and LSC. Erika said this was planned last year, but no one from the PSG showed up.
 - *Action: Try to hold a joint meeting this year.*

ii) Finance - Charles Hogg

- Charles and Keefer were not able to meet to discuss the budget.
 - *Action: Charles and Keefer to meet before the end of the fiscal year.*

iii) Buildings and Grounds - Allison Menzies

- Allison and Brian did a walkthrough of the changerooms to see what needs to be updated before using the facilities to change before gym class.

- Waiting to see if there are enough funds to do any updates and how much time it will take.
- Brian mentioned that there is seepage in the girls' changeroom where the toilets were removed last June. He contacted the original plumbers as it appears the cap was not sealed properly. Someone will be coming to inspect it.

Stephen entered the meeting.

- Brian can walk LSC members through the changeroom.
 - Some issues: dark shade of orange, hooks on the wall, wall paper peeling, exposed drywall in the boys changeroom.

iv) Marketing and Uniforms - Teresa Evangelou

- Sale last month for used uniforms, with the next one after Spring Break.
- Neat Uniforms coming at the end of May for fittings.
- Meeting with one of the teachers to look at getting uniforms from Cambridge. It might be of better quality and children can grow into the clothes as there is room for growth.
 - *Action: Teresa to come up with a proposal.*
- A potential change to Cambridge wouldn't happen in September as time is needed to discuss it.
- Allison asked if we have a contract with Neat Uniforms
 - *Action: Teresa to find out whether a contract exists.*

v) Parish Liaison - Brianna Shereck

- Connected with the majority of Catholic churches in the area.
- Has a list of the parishes students belong to.
- Sent information to parishes about the Peter Pan Jr. production for them to share.
- Connected with PSG to let them know if they need anything.

vi) Secretary - Renita Silva

Nothing to report.

vii) Chair - Erika Dalla Torre

Nothing to report.

9. New Business

None.

Next meeting:

Thursday, April 20th, 2023 at 6 pm

Meeting adjourned

Erika adjourned the meeting at 7:19 pm.