

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes
Thursday, November 24th, 2022

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Erika Dalla Torre at 6:05 pm in the school staff room on Thursday, November 24th, 2022.

Present

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

Absent

Charles Hogg, Stephen Wauthy

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 Brianna.

3. Approval of Minutes from October 20th, 2022

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

4. Correspondence

None

5. Administrator's Activity Report

See Principal's Report (submitted by Keefer).

- Winter Gala
 - Small, but went really well
 - Teresa was thanked for organizing the event
 - \$3000 was raised just from the auction
 - Approximately \$5000 raised in total to be split with the other fundraisers
 - Fr Alfie suggested to start early if planning for Spring Gala

6. Father Alfredo Monacelli's Report

- Youth group

- On Saturday, December 3, the Youth Group will be going on a retreat to Camp Pringle for the day by bus
- Advent masses
 - Proposed that some teachers attend some Advent masses on Thursday or Friday morning.
 - *Action: ask teachers to attend Advent masses*

7. Victoria Tri-Council

8. Committee Reports

i) PAG Liaison - Stephan Wauthy (absent but sent notes to Erika about what was discussed)

- Attended the PSG meeting on October 25th where the following was discussed:
 - Halloween Howl
 - Winter Gala preparations
 - Parent Education Night (more information to follow)
 - Hoodies
 - Volunteer hours
 - The school will be writing a letter to ask the diocese to manage the money which is in lieu of volunteer hours. Keefer reported that the PSG hopes that any money that is kept will go into the PSG budget instead of the school budget.
 - There was a request for an oven by teachers as the oven by the gym is broken and not safe to use. A parent had initially offered to pay for a new one, but the offer was withdrawn so the school will pay for it. For the time being the parish has allowed the teachers to use their oven.
 - Herv Kegalj has requested a portion of the amount (approximately \$500) towards a keyboard and the PSG is supporting that request
- Teresa attended another PSG meeting earlier this week and reported that the musical Peter Pan is going ahead for March 10th and 11th, 2023 and there will be auditions.

ii) Finance - Charles Hogg

No report - absent

iii) Buildings and Grounds - Allison Menzies

- Brian has been coordinating with plumbers to get quotes for the two hot water tanks that need to be changed (previous quotes were a year old). Brent Jansen Plumbing quoted just under \$2300. Allison and Brian recommended that we go with them. The plan is to replace one hot water tank at a time so that there is hot water at the school. Brian advised the quote will need to be revised as another plumbing company who currently provides service will take care of part of the work so the quote should be less.
 - *Action: update the quote*

- There has been water pooling on the outdoor chess board. It appears that the subsurface has settled and the surface is not draining properly. The issue is currently being looked into and Keefer will ask Acacia Landscaping about that as well as the lighting that is meant to keep geese away as it does not appear to be having the desired effect.
 - *Action: Acacia Landscaping to be asked to look at these issues.*

iv) Marketing and Uniforms - Teresa Evangelou

- A uniform sale was held at the beginning of November and generated just over \$300. There was a buy-one-get-one free to get rid of excess pants and shirts.
- There was an idea to have a uniform sale while the book fair was running, but there were not enough volunteers to make it work.
- No more sales until the new year apart from what comes in by paper request.

v) Parish Liaison - Brianna Shereck

Nothing to report.

vi) Secretary - Renita Silva

- As this is a new role for Renita, she let the committee know that if they would like anything done differently for the Agenda or the Minutes to let her know.

vii) Chair - Erika Dalla Torre

Erika attended the CISDV's AGM on Tuesday (Nov 22). There were no new elections this year, but if anyone would like to see any of their reports, let her know.

9. New Business

i) Update on the uniform

- Keefer met with the teachers to discuss the uniform and the council's decision to have the intermediate students change out of their school uniform into their PE uniform for gym. The teachers expressed strong concerns about this. A focus group to include Erika, Allison, Stephen, Teresa and Keefer will be formed where the teachers can present their views. Parents are to be informed about the uniform as the school has been relaxed about it due to measures that needed to be taken during the pandemic. Changing out of uniforms for gym class would not start until after the 2nd term is underway.
 - *Action: Create uniform focus group to hear teachers' views.*

ii) In camera discussion

Next meetings were set as follows:

Thursday, January 19th, 2023 at 6 pm

Thursday, March 2nd, 2023 at 6 pm

Thursday, April 20th, 2023 at 6 pm

Meeting adjourned

Erika adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Principal's Report

November 17, 2022

The last month has been very productive at St. Joseph's School. We are in full swing of the school year and have many projects on the go!

Our foundation in the last month, as in every month, has been firmly rooted in our faith. We enjoyed an engaging "Rosary Relay" organized by Ms. Buckie our Faith Formation Committee representative. A giant-sized Rosary went from class to class and each class prayed a decade on it. Thank-you to Ms. Buckie for that innovative and engaging way of representing our traditional prayer in this way. We have also celebrated the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls. We have had two school masses, one for primary with the theme of Peace and on intermediate focusing on the upcoming Christ the King themes. As a Catholic School we have included prayers for the repose of the souls of our fallen members of the Canadian Forces and prayed for peace with the choir singing Faure's "Pie Jesu" and Dona Nobis Pacem.

Our staff had their annual retreat on Nov. 1 We all participated in the Kairos Blanket exercise hosted by Lillian Underwood and her friend Tina. These First Nations presenters from the Saanich Peninsula led us through a visual interactive exercise that traced the history of the relations between indigenous people from before contact with settlers through the negative results of colonialism to the present day beginning of Truth and Reconciliation. In the afternoon we debriefed through an art activity and staff mass with Father Alfie. It was truly a meaningful event and gave impetus to our theme for the year "Seeking Truth, Healing and Reconciliation."

Our community is getting active again. We had a great turn out for the Hallowe'en Howl and enjoyed having the community gathered for this event. Our upcoming Winter Gala is not as well received but we are hoping to have a great community building event with a small but enthusiastic group of supporters. Let us hope we have so much fun that future events will engage even more of our community.

The weather has changed and we have reminded families that students will be going out to play in the rain, so it is very necessary that they wear weather appropriate clothing to school. As we are seeing in the rest of Canada, colds, flu, COVID and Respiratory Syncytial Virus are making many children ill. After years of non-exposure to wintertime germs, our children (and staff) have lost immunity to many diseases, and many are getting sick at this time. We are reminding teachers and parents of the best practices to stay healthy and let us hope everyone's immune systems are getting rebooted and we can look forward to good health after this upswing in illness related absences.

Safety has been a recurring theme during the last month. We try to have half of our safety drills early in the year before the weather changes. We have completed two earthquake drills and three fire drills. The Fire Department attended one of our drills and commented on how well organized and well-trained our students are. Thank you, Mr. Untereiner, Mrs. Sullivan, and everyone working together to have a well-developed safety plan and commitment to keeping student safety as our priority.

All of our extra-curriculars are proceeding as planned. We have begun basketball season with a Competitive Team and Recreational Team. They are striving for excellence and representing our school well. Thank you, Mr. Zuback, Mrs. MacNeill and Mrs. Suraci. Dance continues four times per week (thank you Mrs. Higgins) and the choir has performed for Hallowe'en and Remembrance Day and are busy learning Christmas Carols for an up-coming performance at the Provincial Legislature on Dec. 1.

Learning has been going on at a fever pitch. Teachers are finishing up their first term units and are on track to writing the first term report cards which will be sent home Dec. 2. As we bring the first term completion, we can see the year turning out to be very

successful and continue in our path of providing the best Catholic education possible to the students and families of St. Joseph's Victoria.

Respectfully submitted,
Keefer Pollard, Principal
St. Joseph's Elementary