

**St. Joseph's School Council**  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
6:00 P.M.

In attendance: K. Pollard, A. Menzies, C. Hogg, B. Shereck, B. Untereiner, S. Wauthy

1. Opening Prayer – Allison Menzies
2. Approval of Agenda – Brianna Shereck
3. Approval of Minutes from March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Charles Hogg
4. Correspondence – non
5. Administrators Activity Report – see attached document. K. Pollard
  - a. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, an interview for the open Vice Principal role will take place
  - b. Policy on Screen Time
  - c. Discussion of school-wide survey. Unsure of when results will be posted.
  - d. Discussion on Peter Pan
    - i. More parent volunteers needed
    - ii. Next musical will happen in Spring 2024
6. Stephen Report
  - a. Tri-Council – nothing new
  - b. Discussing budget after the meeting
  - c. Tiki Tiki Fun fair – is a go. Volunteers needed
7. Charles Report
  - a. Budget Planning Discussion
  - b. Additional grant will help offset increasing cost of salaries
  - c. Last meeting before he is done on Council
8. Brian Report
  - a. Working on plumbing issues in girls change rooms. Area just needs to be cleaned properly. No real damage.
  - b. In the boys bathroom a drain pipe needs to be replaced. Received two quotes. One for \$25,000 and another for \$750 (Phil). Will go with Phil
  - c. Gutters on Gym – waiting on quote
  - d. Need to check for asbestos in wallpaper in girls bathroom
  - e. Discussed budget on courtyard
9. Teresa Report
  - a. Not in attendance
  - b. Uniform Sale happening soon
10. Brianna Report
  - a. Continuing on sending news over to parishes
11. Erika Report
  - a. Not in attendance
12. Keefer Report
  - a. Discussed a parents enquiry about tv time in the classroom

- b. Keefer read the letter he wrote in response (attached)
- c. Discussed Policy 609
- d. Council agreed with Keefer's letter
- e. Discussed vacant position (finance) on council
- f. AGM date discussed

Next meeting – nothing confirmed yet. Considering joining PSG for the AGM.

April 20, 2023

Dear Erika and St. Joseph's School Council,

You may remember that we have had a request from a parent to create a policy regarding screen time for our students. As this is a local school issue, our superintendent, Mr. Paul Rossetti has asked me to address this request. I researched existing policy in this matter and polled our teachers to get an accurate view of what is occurring in our classrooms. This is what I have found.

Policy 609 states:

*... the responsibility for coordinating the selection of learning resources is that of the Principal. Policy Legal responsibility for the selection of materials rests ultimately with the Board of Directors and the Catholic Independent Schools, Diocese of Victoria. The Board of Directors delegates to the School Principal the responsibility to approve the selection of learning resources which are supportive and consistent with the goals and objectives of the CISDV, the Curriculum of the Ministry of Education, and the aims and objectives of the individual school. Definition of Learning Resource: Learning Resources are texts, videos, software, and instructional materials that teachers use to assist students to meet the expectations for learning defined by provincial and local curricula.*

I have found that the vast majority of video resources presented to our children are educational resources that are used to meet expectations of learning defined by provincial and local curricula. In today's society, the role of technology in learning has changed. If find the use of video presentations to be consistent with the needs of the students and the advances of technology in third millennium learning.

However, I also feel that perhaps part of the concern I have heard, both from the parent who wrote the letter and other parents to whom I have spoken, is a valid question, "How much time are our students engaged in screen time for purely entertainment purposes, especially during the time scheduled for eating their lunch?"

In my discussions with staff, I have discovered that, by far, any video offerings being presented to the children during eating time are supplementary educational resources, especially those of a religious or scientific nature. This offering is consistent with what we may have experienced as children – a teacher reading to their class during eating time. Therefore, I find this an acceptable practice.

I have also found that we are presenting some video offerings for a purely entertainment purpose. This consists mostly of around 20 minutes a once a week as a treat during eating time (often during the hot lunch program). Classes may also be presented with an occasional movie as an earned reward, or a treat during a class party. This is occurring no more than once a month at most. I find this amount of screen time for entertainment purposes to be reasonable. Teachers at St. Joseph's are aware of the standards of our parent community, and we can trust them to ensure that they are presenting appropriate content to our students.

Some parents may disagree with my decision. Fortunately for them, Catholic Schools operate on a "principle of subsidiarity." We recognize that parents are the first educators of their children, and we are in the position to assist them in that responsibility. Should a parent not want their child to be presented with screen time during the eating period, we are happy to arrange an alternate environment for the child to have lunch.

I would like to thank everyone who provided me with input as I investigated our current practice. It was most helpful in reaching a decision in the matter.

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