

**ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 19th, 2023**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Erika Dalla Torre at 6:03 pm in the library on Thursday, October 19th, 2023.

**Present**

Elena Amos, Erika Dalla Torre, Teresa Evangelou, Allison Menzies, Kian O'Higgins, Keefer Pollard, Brianna Shereck, Renita Silva, Alison Spaven, Stephen Wauthy

**Regrets**

Fr Alfredo Monacelli, Alice Valiquette

**Minutes Prepared By**

Renita Silva

**1. Opening Prayer**

The opening prayer was led by Erika.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved by Allison M, Teresa and Brianna.

**3. Approval of Minutes from September 21st, 2023**

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

**4. Correspondence**

None.

**5. Administrator's Activity Report**

- Collected a tremendous amount of food for World Food Day.
- Had a mass to mark the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The children prayed for ways to be reconciled with First Nations.
- Continued to keep the theme of Thanksgiving for October. Had the Intermediate mass and will have the primary liturgy in two weeks.
- Decided to just have liturgy instead of mass for the primary students.
- After November 1st, will have a group of children singing at mass during communion.
- Academically, initial assessments and benchmarking are complete, reading groups in primary classes (grades 1-3).
- Province has changed how reporting is done to parents; moving to proficiency scales instead of letter grades. There was a professional development day for the teachers on this.

- A parent from the PAG asked about extracurricular activities. Hasn't been possible to get swimming as there are not enough instructors. Same issue with gymnastics for K-1. Unsure about martial arts for grade 4.
- Choir, dance, musical cast are running. Cross country and ultimate frisbee seasons are complete. Currently in basketball season.
- Met with teachers to work on professional goals.
- This would be Keefer's last year.
- Allison asked whether the format of report cards would be the same.
  - The report would take a snapshot of where the student is with the aim of getting all students to the proficient level.
  - The reporting process is very descriptive. Still working on the details of what is required.
- Erika noted good behaviour in kids attending mass.
- Alison S expressed concern that kids are missing out spiritually if they are not being introduced to mass (but only the liturgy) for the younger students. She finds the younger students do show understanding and talk about it. Suggested that a reason for older kids being chatty during mass is possibly because they do not understand the gift of mass and ensuring they are introduced younger is helpful.
- Kian asked about possibility of having a short mass for the younger students.
  - Any class can go during the week.
  - The directory for masses for children is where the instructions come from, which comes from the Vatican.

**Action: Keefer to share instructions.**

## **6. Father Alfredo Monacelli's Report**

- Reported by Erika.
- Teaching students and reminding teachers how to deal with mass.
- Putting together a flyer for receiving communion.
- Keefer discussed how coming in to mass people are gathering and therefore communicating which normally happens. Working with Fr Alfie to create that moment of reflection and quiet before mass starts.

## **7. Victoria Tri-Council**

Nothing to report.

## **8. Committee Reports**

### **i) PAG Liaison - Stephen Wauthy**

- Met on October 10th.
- Went over the budget which is at \$35,000 and already at over \$9000.
- Grade 7 bake sale complete.
- Hot Lunches to start.
- Parking lot auction is now live.
- Halloween Howl, still looking for additional volunteers.

- No Winter Gala, but there will be a Spring Gala.
- B&C foods fundraiser is ready to go. Will be running throughout November.
- Cookie Dough fundraiser scheduled for around Valentine's Day
- Purdy's fundraiser November 6-20th.
- K-1 gymnastics and swimming 2-3 is not happening due to lack of instructors.

ii) Finance - Kian O'Higgins

- Reviewed the budget (substantial document), working out clarifications with Keefer.
- \$180,000 for bus purchase and for the childcare garden.
- \$160,000 surplus as some teachers at the top end of the band retired and have some who are at the lower end now.
- Will be presented to the board.

**Action: Kian to resolve clarifications**

- Keefer confirmed a new bus to be delivered in February. Approximately 50% paid for.

iii) Buildings and Grounds - Allison Menzies

- Cracking in the childcare garden on the bench is normal and there is a seal on top.

iv) Marketing and Uniforms - Teresa Evangelou

- Change in supplier from Neat to McCarthy's. Quality and sizing seems to be better.
- Brianna asked about moving to Marks and Spencer for uniforms as it may be more cost effective.
  - They do not do embroidery though.

v) Parish Liaison - Brianna Shereck

- Nothing to report as there is nothing to send out to parishes.

vi) Secretary - Renita Silva

Nothing to report.

vii) Chair - Erika Dalla Torre

Nothing to report.

- Keefer reported that based on a letter received from a parent discussed at last meeting, Fr. Alfie will have mass for families and staff Wednesdays after school at 3 pm (2 pm on the first Wednesday of each month), but not on Wednesdays where there is already a school mass or intermediate mass. This will be a pilot.
- Erika - unsure if this would be a solution given tired kids and activities after school and parent was inquiring about mass during school time.
- Discussion on possibility of having it in the morning instead.

## **9. New Business**

### Survey results

- Strongest areas of school: overall quality of the facility, professional relationships with staff, overall quality of education, quality of student support, atmosphere in the school
- Areas where most improvement is needed: communication from the school council, faith formation, discipline, communication from administration, progress reporting
- 70% agree with staying in a gym strip on gym days.
- The number of responses was not high.
- Brianna would like a different layout for the newsletter. Discussion on better way to communicate.
- Alison S commented on the great opportunities and extra-curricular activities for students compared to public schools.
- Erika confirmed that Renita will send minutes to Daniella for the school website as previously Katja Groves was responsible for that. Brianna will be able to post them as well.
- Erika mentioned there was a comment in the survey that LSC doesn't represent all the families at the school, but every time there is an opening, it is a struggle to find people willing to be on the council.

### **Next meeting:**

Thursday, November 16th, 2023 at 6 pm.

### **Meeting adjourned**

Erika adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.