

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes
January 25th, 2024

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Erika Dalla Torre at 6:05 pm in the library on Thursday, January 25th, 2024.

Present

Elena Amos, Erika Dalla Torre, Teresa Evangelou, Kian O'Higgins, Keefer Pollard, Brianna Shereck, Renita Silva, Alice Valiquette, Stephen Wauthy

Regrets

Allison Menzies, Fr Alfredo Monacelli

Minutes Prepared By

Renita Silva

1. Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was led by Erika.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved by Teresa and Brianna.

3. Approval of Minutes from November 16th, 2023

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

4. Correspondence

- Letter received from parent of a child from kindergarten who broke an arm on two separate occasions at the school and would like to know if there is something that can be done to increase supervision of the younger kids and whether older and younger kids could play separately.
- Keefer presented that kindergarten teachers see benefits of playing with other primary aged students.
- Renita asked how many supervisors there are. Elena listed places of supervision: adventure playground, basketball court, field, black top, helper at the door, 3 EAs
- Admin and Alice confirmed this was more than other schools which may have only 2 supervisors.
- Keefer discussed the principle of subsidiarity whereby parents can choose if child participates in certain activities and parents have been made aware that child can play in certain areas of the playground geared for child's age level.
- Discussed that supervision exceeds what is typically found in other schools.
- Renita asked if there is a minimum ratio of supervisors to students set by Island Catholic Schools. Keefer confirmed there was none.

Action: Erika to respond to parents.

5. Items Arising From Previous Meeting

- A vote was needed in order to change the wording for the change in uniform regarding black shoes where shoes that were all black were no longer required.
- Vote motioned by Stephen; members voted unanimously in favour of change to wording for uniform policy.

6. Administrator's Activity Report

- Catholic schools week is coming up.
- Choir singing at mass on Sundays.
- Promoting children's liturgy and age appropriateness.
- Currently doing a second round of classroom visits for teacher appraisals.
- Volleyball is running, practicing for Cats musical, choir preparing for a performing arts festival.
- Erika asked if the assembly that was cancelled due to snow will be postponed as Knights of Columbus was supposed to make an announcement regarding a contest over Christmas. Keefer said it wouldn't be due to time, but the Knights of Columbus would be coming in February to make the announcement.

7. Father Alfredo Monacelli's Report

Absent (see attached report)

- Erika presented that there were many compliments about the choir.
- Youth group is very successful, with many from St. Joseph's.

8. Victoria Tri-Council

Nothing to report.

9. Committee Reports

i) PAG Liaison - Stephen Wauthy

- Had a meeting last Tuesday.
- Planning a music bingo night for March 1st.
- Looking at getting a new fridge for the kitchen with the funds from gaming.

ii) Finance - Kian O'Higgins

- Nothing to report

iii) Buildings and Grounds - Allison Menzies

Absent, nothing to report

iv) Marketing and Uniforms - Teresa Evangelou

- Used uniform sale in February with a date to be set.
- Lost a volunteer, so need someone to organize the sale.

v) Parish Liaison - Brianna Shereck

- Sent over Cats poster to parishes in the community.

vi) Secretary - Renita Silva

- Attended interviews for music teachers and the school has hired two of them.

vii) Chair - Erika Dalla Torre

Nothing to report.

10. New Business

I) Copier for library

- Copiers are breaking down, the one in the library needs to be replaced.
- Keefer received a quote of \$11,000 and to spend anything over \$10,000 requires council approval.
- Kian discussed whether the option for leasing is possible.
- Members agreed to forward request for leasing to Board of Directors before determining whether the copier should be bought or leased.
- Keefer mentioned possibility of going digital for reports cards in the future.
Action: Erika to contact Leah M. to ask if leasing is possible.
 - Vote to purchase/lease postponed.

II) Petition

- Three grade 6 students created a petition to wear golf shirts instead of button up shirts.
- Keefer presented the petition, but not expecting the council to change.
- The students are learning about democracy and are applying what they have been learning.
- Keefer requested if the council could respond and thank them.
Action: Brianna to respond to students.

III) Staff appreciation during Catholic Schools Week

- Elena asked if there was something council or maybe the PSG would be able to for staff during Catholic Schools Week.
- Members agreed this would be a good initiative and will provide coffee and baked goods on Wednesday February 7th.
Action: Brianna to get cost and organize this for staff.

IV) In camera discussion

Next meeting:

Thursday, February 22nd at 6 pm.

Meeting adjourned

Erika adjourned the meeting at 7 pm.

Father Alfredo Monacelli's Report

Two things on the report:

One is that I had many good compliments on the "little choir" of the school at the 10 am Mass.
Second we still have about 30 youth every Saturday evening lots from St Joseph.

Blessing
Fr Alfie