

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date – February 4, 2020

Meeting Time – 7:00 pm

Members Present: Adriano Perusin, Principal
Adriana Rerecich
Donna Vaillancourt
Laura Francis
Michelle Sparrock-Henderson
Kevin Wells
Angela Lombardi
Phaedra Renaud
Rocio Farrell
Kyle Dillon-Alcasid
Karin Kacvinsky

MEETING MINUTES

Opening prayer - Adriana

All council members joined together in opening prayer.

My School Day APP

In the past announcements were done over the PA between 8:20-8:25. Moving forward, announcements will no longer be on the PA. Instead students are encouraged to access announcements on the STA APP on their phone, web page, and TV screen in the lobby.

Black History Month

Daily reflections will be announced over the PA at the end of period 1 to honour black artists, musicians, athletes, etc. Donovan Bennett, a feature host and producer with Sportsnet, will be a guest speaker on February 28th.

Grant

STA received a pro-grant of \$1700 and hired guest speaker Sherry Campbell to speak about – Raising Resilient Children – February 27th 7pm in the STA theatre. A separate email went out to all parents with invitation to attend.

Uniform Update

There was a continuation of the discussion about the all black shoes currently required and the fact that some schools have a little more flexibility. We will conduct a survey with students and parents to see if STA should modify the current policy.

In the past students have outsourced graduation hoodies but since they were not part of the uniform, could not be worn at school. In future we will work with uniform provider to create one that is part of the school apparel.

Mental Health Initiatives

With a continued focus on mental health and wellbeing, our school offers ongoing support programs such as: RAM Mentors, Best Buddies; Safetalk, Thrive, Fun Fit Friday, Speedy the Therapy Dog, After School Weight Room, Raiders Run, etc.

On April 1st and 2nd mental health initiatives will focus on 1/ time management 2/ coping with anxiety and 3/ organizational skills. There will be lunch leisure activities which will take place in the foyer, classrooms and gym B with such things as basketball, board games, etc.

Policies and Contracts

STA continues to support students to help get them through stressful times such as exams with accommodations that provide quiet space when needed, colouring therapy, therapy dogs, etc. IB students are given 'mock exams' in grade 9 to help prepare and consideration may be given to expand this practice to other students.

Adriano is currently working with administration and staff to put together written policies for the following:

- Plagiarism Policy – define academic honesty and outline consequences for academic misconduct
- Assessment and Evaluation Policy
- Consequences if caught vaping, shoplifting, etc.
- Late & Missed Assignment Contract – clear schedule of consequences and timeline for late and missed assignments and tests. For example:
 - o Absence known ahead of time – new date created prior to original date
 - o Valid reason provided after original date – teacher creates new date
 - o No valid reason provided – contract created with new completion date and parents notified (when necessary use study hall for completion of missed work)

These policies will be sent home at the beginning of the school year for parents and students to read and sign.

Next meeting: TBC