**St. Francis Xavier School Council  
May 16, 2023**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bryan D’Sousa (Vice Principal)  
Jennifer Santos, Chair (Parent Rep)   
Trish Vergata, Parish Rep (Parent Rep)  
William Bressette, Finance Rep (Parent Rep)  
Michelle Bonk, Secretary (Parent Rep)  
Tara Romero, OAPCE Rep (Parent Rep)   
Sidra Farid (Parent Rep)  
Nazia Shariq (Parent Rep)

**Regrets:**Adriano Perusin (Principal) Molly Fisher (Non-Teaching Rep)  
Nelia Rodrigues (Parent Rep)

**Absent:**

Arianna Chua (Student Rep) Jennifer Bothello (Community Rep)  
Richard Gayle (Parent Rep)

**MEETING:**

**Welcome - J. Santos and introduction of Bryan D’Sousa**

**Opening Prayer – B. D’Sousa**

**Land Acknowledgment – B. D’Sousa**

**Approve Agenda and Minutes**

* Motion to approve agenda – Michelle and Nazia
* Motion to approve minutes – Trish and Tara

**Student Report** – **A. Chun absent – no report**

**Principal’s Report – B. D’Sousa**

* 1800 students expected next year – gaining some traction. Losing a few portable (6) – down to 32.
* Arts & Culture SHSM officially approved by the Ministry. That will be in addition to the First Responders, Sports, ICT and Business SHSMs already at the school.
* We’ve been granted OEYP for hospitality – hoping for another SHSM next year.
* We’ve been selected as a STEAM school – begins Sept 24 – starts in Grade 9 – 4 different subject areas working on one project.
* Asked for Student Voice initiatives – “If you were in my job, what would you do? What would you like to see?” – surveying grades 6 – 8 and current students – some preliminary answers: cosmo, barber, gaming, art and robotics (survey just released yesterday)
* Cafeteria has been open for 3 weeks. Food has been well received – 200 transactions daily. Hands on experience for students. Donating leftovers to shelters (i.e. Thomas Merton).
* The Dome – April 17th was the request for proposals by the Town – bids now closed. 30 days to choose who will manage the dome to benefit the school and the town. We want football. It must be air conditioned. Looking at a High Performance sports program.
* Grad – June 22nd at Paramount Centre – 4 tickets per guest
* Grade 12 exams pushed forward to June 16 – 21; grades 9 – 11 are June 22 – 27.
* Life skills program is working on a garden.
* Hosting a family of schools soccer tournament June 7 – 8
* Hosting music night. The school play was great. Culture night is also coming up. Grandmother’s Voice visited last month. Going to elementary schools for Tech Rocks. Also helping St. Kateri family of schools (GA/OLF) with a greenhouse.
* The prayer room - currently working on it - small space - using QR code to sign in - bought some trifold barriers - goal is next 2-3 weeks the art hallway - partitions there to accommodate up to 20 students. Friday prayers happening in the library 80-90 students.
* QR code to collect data to support the growth. Hallway can be used once the portraits are down. The school will always find a space for a student to prayer.

**Finance Report - SGF**

* Opening balance in SAF at beginning of school year was $106,000
* Funds moved from other acts/SAF collected during the school year totalled $72,741, however $13,858 of this is SAF for 2023-2024
* Expenses incurred to date are as follows: expenses from previous years $99,253, mentorship conferences $3,694, Workshop for grade 9s $537, Grade 9 dance disc jockey $500, Academic awards ceremony $659, Guest speakers $1,260, Music Therapy $407, Mis $2,830
* Balance at March 27 was $84,270. Planned expenses - $30,000 yearbooks, Makers space $2,000, Instruments for band $10,000, Grad awards $600, Laptops $10,000. Trying to spend the monies in the year the funds are collected.
* How much of the $17,812 expected ending balance do we want to leave? What’s the right amount? What would benefit the most students? A free luncheon for current students?
* Agreed to spend as much as possible on the current student population. A community event (e.g. a bbq) would be a great idea.

**Chair’s Report**

* Grandmother’s voice event we hosted - small but mighty group. Some parents from our feeder schools.
* Six $100 grad awards sponsored by Parent Council.
* May Council of Chairs meeting - new Strategic Plan is the focus - getting stakeholder input. Will reach out to parents soon.
* Uniforms - collecting and selling - dates? Grade 12s can do exams without. Tweaks to the uniforms - better sweaters for example. Modifications/ changes will be brought to council first.
* Should we charge more for each piece? $5 top/$10 sweater/pants. Fine to keep the fees as they are.

**OAPCE Report**

* Nothing to report.

**Parish Report**

* Nothing to report.

**New Business**

* Safe Schools - William - concerns of fights, police, etc. What is being done from the school side? Brain noted that the administration has gone over and spoken to the store owners. We make announcements. Come to the office for support. Most of the situations that the office is dealing with - do a lot of restorative justice. Words are better than your fists. Not unlike other schools of this size. Can we fix it? Bringing in guest speakers, initiatives next year, to get ahead of it with grade 9’s. Out of 2,000 students it’s a very small core that we’re working with - officers have one on one with certain students.
* Embracing our diversity - we are a microcosm of the world - reinforcing the Golden Rule. Down suspensions and fights - our discipline rates are down. We want to increase the communications with our students - show them what the community has to offer. If you have an issue, who can you go to in the school who will hear you out without judgment?
* Sports activities/ after school - how long do they run? A month? Run a season but some activities can continue to run longer. Depends on student interest and availability of space.
* We don’t have a traditional student council. Looking for a place for our reps/mentors to go. Give the Knights council an opportunity to work.
* There’s a disconnect between students and parents - communications to parents is lacking. We need to do better a communicating with parents.
* Does the school have active security at night? Yes.

**Next meeting**

* This is our last official meeting of the year.

**Meeting adjourned.**

* Adjournment 7:45 pm.