

Parent School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

(6:30 pm - 8:00 pm)

# PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Present: Michelle Bazinet, William Bressette, Maria Debkowski, Richard Gayle, Raechelle Fernandes, Syed Raza, Nazia Shariq, Tara Romero

Regrets: Mike Seraﬁn

# SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Vice-Principal: Bryan De Sousa

Teaching Representatives: Molly Habib (Fisher) and Leo De Rubeis

# Opening Prayer and Honoring of the Land

Chaplain - Molly Habib (Fisher)

# Welcome to Council Members

Bryan De Sousa thanked everyone for coming and welcomed parents, St FX staﬀ and members of the parish. It is a great connection and being able to work together.

# Introductions

Introductions were made, and attendance was taken, including parents, administration, and teachers.

# Student Update

Arianna Chua is the student representative that attended this meeting. She said the feedback she had from students was very positive particularly from the Grade 9’s and their retreats. Applications for Student Council reps has started for Student Council. The football game was enjoyed and our Pink Day game is on the 12th October against St Thomas Aquinas. Students had questions around civvies days to see if they were being re- introduced. Students would also like a school mascot as it builds school spirit but they are aware it is expensive. The school will investigate what mascots other schools have and where they purchased them and cost information. School Administration will get back to parent council with feedback.

Bryan De Sousa mentioned that he will bring these queries back to Admin. Bryan agreed to investigate the possibility, and all parents supported the idea of ordering/making a school mascot. School Administration are trying to balance civvies and charity day awareness. For example, Orange Shirt Day.

# Review of Catholic School Council Code of Ethics

Bryan read the member code of ethics.

# Vision of Parent Engagement

School Administration sought the parent perspective on parent engagement. Council members requested reducing the number of social media accounts for streamlined information access where parents look for information.

Parent Council learned about students working of an announcement system that will become an app. Hopefully next September, so this will reduce parents looking in diﬀerent locations for information and the amount of synre mails going home. We are exploring options to centralize.

A monthly newsletter with event calendar was suggested. Bryan De Sousa suggested parents remind students to look at the Athletic Board.

Students of Service (applications for the next year are in May/June) help our new students with accessing information and QR codes that show social media accounts. This will be in the Cafeteria. A digital ﬂyer was suggested by parents called SMORE and it auto updates events. The school can only use Board approved software, so we will forward to the IT Dept. to investigate. We are trying to consolidate information but this also has to go through a period of ﬁeld testing.

Arianna Chua suggests Xavier Times (school newspaper) can take this on. We have a three prong communication – KNN (Knights News Network) with morning announcements, Xavier Times and Quick Texts and Tweets.

Discussion on consolidating information through approved software and ﬁeld testing. Mentioned using SMORE for digital ﬂyers. Discussion of communication channels including KNN (Knights News Network), Xavier Times, Quick Texts, and Tweets.

The parent council had a table at the school Career Night which allowed more parents to apply. It was suggested a table be available for Parent Council at Parent/Teacher Night (26th October.) Parent volunteers are needed for prom and grad.

Our new dome will be going up and a FOS (Family of Schools) movie night was suggested with our elementary schools.

Our school community is great, and we are proud, so we want to reach out to our Grade 7 & 8 students with events. Even Grade 6’s should be part of our Tech Rocks event. Discussion on reaching out to Grade 7 & 8 students with events and involving Grade 6 students in the Tech Rocks event.

Discussion on admission access to the football game was discussed – this game there will be wristbands, the ice cream truck will be inside the ﬁeld and access to bathrooms. So, there will be no need to exit the game.

# Selection/Election of Council Positions

Nomination forms were completed prior to the nominations to determine who wanted to apply for a position on Parent Council. Motions were made and seconded for the following positions:

* Chair / Co Chair

The Chair role is a liaison between the school and its community. Attendance to at least three of the Chairs meeting is required. Check correspondence.

Richard Gayle motioned to have co-chairs during the election. Tara Romero and William Bressette were voted in as Co-Chairs.

* Secretary

The Secretary role takes minutes of the meeting and submits them to the Chair for approval. They are approved at the next meeting and then posted on the St FX website.

Michelle Bazinet was voted in with no competition.

* Treasurer

The Treasurer looks at ﬁnances and ensure the Parent Council SGF funds are spent properly and reports back to the Council.

The Treasurer position remained vacant, to be considered as a sub-committee on Council.

* Community Rep

The Community Rep checks the pulse of the community and reports back.

Nazia Shariq was voted in. William Bressette made a motion which Richard Gayle seconded to allow her in this position as she is also employed by HCDSB.

* Parish Rep(s)

The Parish Rep liaises with St Benedict’s parish to see the needs of the parish and the needs of the school. Father can bring a voice to the school. This position needs an understanding of the diocese.

Raechelle Fernandes and Maria Debkowski were voted in to cover St Benedicts and Holy Rosary parishes.

William Bressette motioned two parish representatives. Michelle Bazinet seconded the motion.

* OAPCE Rep

The OAPCE (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education) Rep has to attend two meetings and report back to Council.

Tara Romero will continue in this role.

* St. FX Staﬀ Rep(s)

Leo DeRubeis (Teacher) and Molly Fisher (Chaplain)

# Blessing/Commissioning Ceremony – Chapel

Molly Habib (Fisher) conducted a ceremony in the Chapel with a prayer to welcome the new Council members.

# Council Chair

By-Laws

Tara Romero added the OAPCE Rep to the By-laws as it is mandated by the HCDSB to have a representative. A By-Law sub-committee was discussed. Tara Romero brought forward a motion and William Bressette seconded for the committee to read over the by-laws, make suggestions and bring back to council.

# Review of Council Meeting Dates for the School Year

At least six meetings during the school year. First Tuesday of every month was suggested, but to be conﬁrmed as this is not convenient to everyone. It should not be on a Board meeting night. A student voice is needed. Microsoft Teams was mentioned as an option for attendance.

# Principal’s Report

Important Dates and Updates on school operations and plans

School startup has been smooth. School Administration have been seen traﬃc ﬂow improve.

The Town of Milton are extending the school zone to Bronte with additional ﬂashers to reduce speed. Students are continuously reminded to use the cross walk. The new plaza will reduce speeds too on Louis St Laurent. The school will be in constant contact with the Town. The dome will go up shortly, work starts next week with it being complete and functioning by the 20th Oct. It will be open 1st Oct to 1st May. It is being run by a third- party company. Washrooms will be open for the dome.

We have been approved for STEAM next year and we will promote in elementary schools. We also have our high performance sports program starting next year with athletes using our facilities for training.

Some lockers will have book spines added to some of them. We have maps with diﬀerent perspectives. The indigenous map is missing but a digital treaty map was also discussed.

Prayer Room – looking to accommodate 20 students. We want to honour the sacred space. There will be multiple slots of 20 minutes and up to 5 rotations. Bryan De Sousa will be speaking to facilities and look at data to get accurate numbers. Art will be swapped out for landscapes instead of faces.

Cafeteria is up and running now on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. All proﬁts go back to school in our SGF bank account. Every Friday we have a community chef (that meets the Board requirements) come in. This helps our OYAP students and teaches hospitality.

# Pro Grant 2023-2024

$750

This money will be used this year, maybe for a guest speaker. Parent Council need to apply.

A speaker to honour Muslim heritage month was suggested. MSA (Muslim Students Association) will take this on.

# Dinner with Bishop Crosby

We are sharing a table with Loyola. We have 5 seats in total with 3 left.

# New Staﬀ

Discussion on staﬀ changes. We have hired a lot of new staﬀ, so there is some re-organization and shifting.

# SGF Balance

There is $7,201.61 in the Parent Council category. This is from the used uniform sale and rollover from last year.

# SGF Report

Next quarterly SGF report due in November and to be posted on the website.

# SAF Student Activity Fees

Discussion on student purchases and payment plan options. Only 468 students have paid the activity fees so these limits initiatives in the school. Only students that have purchased this will receive a yearbook. A payment plan option was bought up to enable parents to purchase over several payments.

# Chaplain’s Report

Chaplain - Molly Habib (Fisher)

Updates on school activities, liturgy, and discussions about parents' attendance and VSS requirements

Knights Scare Hunger food drive starts on the 10th October. These will go back into our community. We donated 1200 non-perishable items last year, students want to double this. All items are to be dropped oﬀ in their period 1 class and it is a competition. 14th Nov is Liturgical student training. The diocese come in and train, the certiﬁcation lasts for 3 years.

Friday 6th Oct is the staﬀ PD day and Faith day. This is where the school bonds as a community. Board funds pay for this day. The agenda is on the school website and was emailed to Tara Romero. Molly is talking about taking individual grades to church and talking to Father Larry about grad mass. She is also hosting a Q&A session with a vocational panel to include a priest, a sister and other members of the church community. This will be both during the school day and in an evening in the Spring.

Police checks with vulnerable sector screening is now a requirement for all volunteers. Pippa Lloyd emailed parent council members with this information prior to the meeting. Clariﬁcation was asked surrounding parents coming to mass without a police check as they are not volunteering but are amongst our students.

# Parish Reports

No parish report.

# Goal Setting for the Year Ahead

Delayed until the next meeting.

# Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

Arianna Chua, the student representative is on Student Senate so she may need a substitute occasionally if she has another Board commitment on a day a parent council meeting is scheduled.

Next meeting is on November 7th. Meeting adjourned at 2036hrs or 20:36hours (24-hour time format).