



JOHN SWEENEY CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2017

Present: Sandra Soehner, Laurie Geschi, Frank Prospero, Sabrina Adair, Agnes Kilian, Jennifer Simon, Victor, Coelho, Marilena Benak, Brenda Bell, Christina Mazza, Jo Neeb (Community Rep), Maggie Stephens (Teaching Staff), Paul Smith (Principal), Melissa Reitzel (Support Staff), Andrea Dafoe (Vice Principal)

Regrets: Sara Stewart

Welcome, Introductions and Prayer

Andrea led the group in the Iroquois Prayer of Gratitude followed by round table introductions.

A brief recap of the highlights of last years school council was shared:

- Math night
- Learning commons
- Special thanks to Brenda Sunter, outgoing chairs for her years of service to school council
- School council portion is currently under utilized. The hope is to be able to engage/communicate with parents more.
- May want to look at changing the number of voting council members in the council constitution due to enrolment.

Discussion regarding School Council executive roles took place and attendees were asked if they wished to put their names forward to fill the positions.

Motion by Christina Mazza: To elect Sandra Soehner as Chair, Victor Coelho as Treasurer and Sara Stewart as Secretary

Seconded by Marilena Benak

All in favour

Motion carried

Council Meeting Dates for the Year

Dates were set as follows:

Tuesday, November 7 @ 6:30

Tuesday, January 9 @ 6:30 (Second Tuesday)

Tuesday, February 6 @ 6:30

Tuesday, April 3 @ 6:30

Tuesday, May 1 @ 6:30

Tuesday, June 5 @ 6:30

Living, Learning, and Growing in the Holy Spirit

Principal/Vice Principal Report

Population Growth at School - An update was given on school enrolment. Currently the largest elementary school in the WCDSB at 790 children. Currently holding strict boundaries due to high numbers. The board plan is to build a new school in two years which will impact the current boundaries.

EQAO Scores – Andrea provided a brief update. There is much to celebrate but also work to do. Results were sent out to parents via News Wire. The board and school focus for this year is math – proportional reasoning.

Innovation School Theme - Innovation in 21st Learning is the focus for this year (social innovation, global citizenship). The book chosen for the year is 'If I Could Build a Car' by Chris Van Dusen. JS School has partnered with Nippising University and a Teacher Innovation Committee has been established.

School Improvement Update – Asphalt games and a basketball court were added to the playground over the summer. Currently advocating for a shade structure in the JK/K playground – researching options.

Chairperson's Report

Approval of \$1000 for the Parent Reaching Out grant was received. The focus is on a family health night end of February, early March. Council was asked to send contact information for possible speakers (e.g., mental health, physical health, nutrition) to Sandra. Marilena shared information on Pathways to Education – a mentoring/tutoring program that supported youth in high school - possibility of expanding into elementary schools.

Community Report

The growth of the school enrolment has reflecting on Owl. Currently operating three classrooms before school and four afterschool. Current enrolment at Owl is 199 children.

Growth is good however brings challenges. The biggest one for the school is the fire code and number of people allowed in the gym. Reflection on how Christmas concerts, masses etc are held is required – not cancelling events, just reformatting. Possible solutions would be concerts by division, graduation held at the church.

Treasurer's Report

\$10036.78 – current reserves

\$4922.18 – funds at WRCC

\$14958.56 – total balance

Budget line items were reviewed and discussed. Victor will present an updated budget at November's meeting.

A discussion took place regarding a change to weekly pizza lunches through 'Lunchbox Orders' – on line. This will reduce the cash at the school as well as the number of volunteers required.

New Business

Living, Learning, and Growing in the Holy Spirit

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.