

**PARENT SCHOOL COUNCIL 2022/2023
MEETING MINUTES FROM April 13, 2023**

In attendance:

- **Staff:** M. McCann (Principal), A. Litster (Secretary), J. Roy (teacher rep), R. Johnson (non-teacher rep), S. Kelenc (teacher rep)
- **Council:** A. Cunanan (Chair), A. Patola (Co-Chair), A. Pronski (Secretary), T. Morris (OAPCE), H. Jagiello (Parent Rep), N. Sarin (Parent Rep)
- **Regrets:** K. Zeljkovic (Treasurer), L. Ozurigbo (Parent Rep)
- **Parent Attendees:** Tess O'Mara, Amanda Budjos, Maria Mercurio & Irene Alves

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcome – M. McCann
2. Prayer – A. Cunanan
3. Land Acknowledgement – A. Patola
4. Thank you to the 2022-2023 Council
 - Co-Chairs - A. Cunanan & A. Patola Secretary - A. Pronski Treasurer - K. Zeljkovic OAPCE - T. Morris Members: H. Jagiello, I. Ozurigbo, N. Sarin
 - Staff: Teaching Rep. - S. Kelenc & J. Roy and Non Teaching Rep - R. Johnson
5. Approval of February Meeting Minutes
 - Approved – A. Pronski moved for approval & N. Sarin seconded motion
6. Approval of April agenda
 - Approved – A. Pronski moved for approval & N. Sarin seconded motion
7. Financial Report

Balance Reported (Feb 2023)	\$ 8,336.04
Lunch Lady	+ \$31.50
Bank Charges	- \$4.95
Bank Balance (March 2023)	\$ 8,362.59
Approved Items:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Student agendas (2023-2024) - Awards (2022-2023) - Graduation tree - Faith development - Library - Eco team - Tree hugger 	Total: -\$5,155 Remaining: \$3,207.59
Bank charges (4.95 x 6 months (April-Sept))	- \$29.70

Carry forward (to next years school council)	- \$1,000
Available Funds	\$2,177.89

8. Reports

- OAPCE – Pearson publication is no longer producing health education books the school is currently using (last revised in 2007); teachers are to continue using books until new series is released. OAPCE is welcoming parent, teacher, student suggestions for ideas to be included in the new materials. OAPCE will submit these ideas to the school board. Parents can contact T. Morris with ideas to be included in the form, There is a Form.
- SEAC – no update

9. Previous Business

- Technology – cost is \$2,000 for 20 Chrome Books; \$1,000 would cover about 10
 - School does not have funds remaining
 - Grade 6's, 7's & 8's have their own; Grade 1 – 5 have 12 per classroom, this would increase 16-20 per Grade
- Sensory pathway – cost is \$1,000
 - Would likely be put in place this Summer/ next Fall
 - Would like to extend down the hallway into the junior space
- Remaining budget we have to work with is \$2,177.89
- Question regarding new speakers for the Gym – must be included in fundraising \$ request at the beginning of next year. To upgrade speakers so that there is better audio during virtue assemblies given the hard work teachers & students put into this
 - **ACTION** – council to consider next year
 - M. Kelenc had someone come from the Board last year to take a look at the wiring in the gym, he suggested using the connection at the back of the stage vs. the front of the stage because there is no VGA connector and adaptors don't always work; in addition the sound port wire needs to be stabilized
 - Someone from Tech could come out to help the school identify if it is a speaker issue, a wiring issue, a set-up issue, etc.
- **VOTE - \$1,177.89 for Chrome books and \$1,000 for Sensory Pathway**
 - Yes – A. Cunanan, A. Patola, A. Pronski, N. Sarin, H. Jagiello, T. Morris. No – n/a

10. Student Presentation: Pet Recovery and Adoption

- Conceptual Idea: Through pet adoption, lives can be changed and the mental wellness of individuals will benefit. Action:
- Volunteered at Team Dog Rescue
- Activity Day for K-4 ◦ May 2 or 3
- Team Dog Rescue: <https://teamdogrescue.ca/>
- Grade 8 students presented to parents at the School Council meeting as part of their Community Projects – all about Team Dog Rescue, Pros & Cons about owning a dog, objection handling, etc. **GREAT presentation!**

11. New Business

- YouTube premium subscription

- Council member suggested paying for YouTube premium so that children didn't have to watch commercials
- YOUT-UBE and then the video URL and it removes all the commercials
- OR if you start the video part way through, then it removes the add
- OR video.link it also removes it
- But sometimes teachers forget
- **ACTION** – Ms. McCann will add this reminder to the next Staff meeting
- School Council 2023-2024 election committee & date
 - One member needs to be available to count ballots in the event an election is required (if we have too many Council applications; can have up to 17 members). It cannot be someone applying to be on Council
 - Volunteers: Amanda Bujdos and A. Cunanan (as back-up)
 - Recommendation is to do the vote the night of the September BBQ
 - **VOTE** for date: Yes – A. Cunanan, A. Patola, A. Pronski, N. Sarin, H. Jagiello, T. Morris. No – n/a
- **October 5th** – School Council transition meeting – we will continue to support hybrid
- Open House & BBQ
 - Date: **September 28th**
 - Volunteers: A. Pronski, N. Sarin (Costco), T. Morris,
 - **ACTION** – M. McCann to send an email to school community at the beginning of the school year to request other volunteers
 - May 17th – Journey into Learning – a council member could attend to speak and inspire involvement - N. Sarin volunteered
- Parent/caregiver session – Anti-racism/ equity
 - A parent suggested having a session for parents to hear the same messages the students are hearing. If Pro Grant is continuing, this could be a good allocation for this subject OR we could pool resources with another school
 - **ACTION** – next school council to consider next year
- Ideas for fundraising \$ next year
 - A speaker came in to speak to teachers about finding happiness in teaching, given all the pressures teachers are under, to reconnect with the reasons they became teachers. Neil had him adapt it for a corporate team event and it was very well received. BOOK: Rob Dunop – Finding Happiness in Teaching
 - Can't use School Council \$ for this, but if did a speech on behalf of Community then this could be a good fit
 - **ACTION** - Neil can provide information to M. McCann for her to provide to the board education development team for consideration for Staff Professional Development Days

12. School Report

- Catholicity
 - School Masses - Lent & Easter - April 19
 - Crowning of Mary - May 10
 - Year End Mass – June 20
 - Sacraments
 - Reconciliation - March 4th
 - First Communion - April 30th (St. Mary & St. Dominic)
 - Confirmation - May 28th (St Mary) - May 30th or June 1st - St Dominic

- Edge Program - April 21, May 26, June 23
- ShareLife events – collected over \$500 from estimation event & pretzels; will do popsicles coming up
- Curriculum
 - FDK – patterning inquiry – try to make it so much more than ABAB, including daily routines, nature patterns, labelling, crafts, etc.
 - FDK is heading to Ripley’s Aquarium tomorrow
 - MYP – focus on equity
 - Grade 6 - Created posters featuring Racism Interrupters we’ve learned to say when we witness-isms
 - e.g. I didn’t realize you think that; that’s not okay; that’s not funny; help me understand your thinking; that’s offensive; we don’t say things like that here
 - These posters are displayed in the hallway
 - Grade 7 - Working on presentations targeted at classes to explain concepts such as Privilege, Racism, Identity, Gender Stereotypes, and Unconscious Bias
 - e.g. throwing paper in a basket from the front of the classroom is easy, much harder from the back of the classroom to represent privilege
 - watched a powerful Grey’s Anatomy scene on racism
 - Goodnight racism book
 - Grade 8 - Working on presentations to show parents what they have learned
- Community Projects
 - What is the Community Project?
 - Culminating task of the Middle Years Programme (MYP)
 - A sustained, self-directed inquiry with a global context
 - Three main parts: the process journal, participation in service as action and the final presentation
 - Supporting Ukrainian Refugees (Adam, Alex, Reuben, Xavier)
 - Canadian Ukrainian Parachute to send out items to Ukrainian refugees
 - March 29th to April 20th
 - Canadian Food For Children (Ginikachi and Leilani)
 - Our goal is to collect at least 70 items per class
 - April 3rd to April 14th
 - CAMFED (Jessica, Aiesha, Alexandra, Julia)
 - Monetary Donations: <https://camfed.org/can/donate/>
 - Spreading awareness by creating posters around the school
 - Goal of \$700 dollars by the end of April
 - April 6th, 2023 to April 30th
 - Childhood Cancer (Raphael, Youssef, Omari)
 - Raising awareness, money and advocating for the Childhood Cancer Society
 - Project goal is to raise at least \$500 by the end of the school year
 - Bring awareness to this cause

- Fundraising page – TBD
- Pet Recovery and Adoption (Ava, Emma, Andria)
 - Volunteered at Team Dog Rescue to be a part of the pet adoption process
 - Team Dog Rescue: <https://teamdogrescue.ca/>
 - Activity Day for K-4 – will teach kids different ways to take care of dogs
- Homelessness (Irelyn, Mikayla, Sienna)
 - Supporting 'The Compass'
 - Support people in our community who are homeless and/or struggling to afford basic necessities
 - Goal is to raise awareness about this organization
 - Visit classes in grades 1-7 and inform them about our project and goals
 - Clothing Drive
 - Sweaters, mittens, gloves, shirts, pants etc.
 - May 1st to May 12th
- Mental Wellness: Anxiety (Bri and Gaby)
 - Educating students on how mental health can affect different people/groups such as teenagers, people of colour, the LGBTQIA+ community, etc.
 - Supporting Kids Help Phone and Canadian Mental Health Organization through advocating and presentations
 - Paint a mural illustrating the symbols that represent solidarity with those who struggle with mental health
 - Mental Health Mondays
- MEN-Tal Awareness (Logan, Dax, John, Olliver)
 - Partnered with Movember
 - Teach adolescents and young adults to understand mental health
 - Support the organization by raising money
 - Goal of \$300 to be raised by the end of April
 - April 13th to May 4th
- THANK YOU to the parents & community for rallying around this and bringing in so many amazing items
- School is learning about how best to come out to the community
 - E.g. doing blocks to spread it out over a longer period of time
 - Students want an email about their own project, M. McCann is trying to group messages together
 - School is having students reflect on time management so they don't end up in crunch time
 - School weekly emails could have reminders of community project dates/ items requested by X deadline date
- Grade 5 Exhibition is in May. One of the expectations of an IB school is to connect with the broader school community, looking to collaborate with another IB school
- There is no Grade 8 Exhibition
- Co-Curriculum
 - Basketball

- Chess tournament – primary placed 3rd (included 2 Grade 2s – Kuba & Maxwell); intermediates placed 4th; juniors didn't place but had a great time
- ECO – getting ready for Earth week activities
- Choir – singing at all virtue assemblies
- Yearbook – goal is to have Yearbooks done by June, so kids can get it signed, but as a result will miss a few sports
- Games Club – for grades 3,4&5
- Facilities
 - Teacher Candidates – 4 teachers in FDK, Gr 2, 3, 5
 - Fire Drill & Lockdown
 - Long Jump Pit – will get it cleaned up before track & field
 - Graduation tree – has been ordered & the tree hugger arrived this week
 - Soil & Mulch – ordered for the eco team to spread on the gardens
- Other
 - PYP Exhibition – all parents are welcome to attend
 - MYP Community Projects
 - Grade 8
 - Get Ready Aug. 28-30
 - Summer Credit - July 4-31 (can get a high school credit: GL204 is the program code)
 - International & Indigenous Languages - September 23-May 11 (can get a high school credit attending Saturday morning classes)
 - Music (e.g. Piano, Vocal) at a certain grade level can qualify students for an arts high school credit
 - Language classes outside of school (e.g. Polish school) also can qualify students for high school credits - Adult & Continuing Ed on the School Board website – lots of International languages are offered. Registration is active now and classes start in September. Cost is only \$25 for the whole year. Ukranian, Polish, etc. Even if you didn't do elementary years you can start right at high school. These classes are on Saturdays
 - These extra credits are helpful, because students take Religion class reduces available spots for electives

13. Upcoming Events:

- Power ME Up - April 25
- Admin Assistant Day - April 26
- Ottawa - April 26-28
- Catholic Education Week - May 1-5
 - Feast of St James - May 3rd
 - PYP Exhibition - May 4th
 - EQAO - Grade 3 & 6 - May 10 - June 14
- Journey Into Learning - May 17
- Track & Field - ME June 13th Board - June 22
- Swim to Survive – 3 sessions targeting grade 3 students; to teach them basic survival in the water

14. Other

- Grade 8 Grad – 10 year anniversary of St. James. School opened in 2013, some of the kids graduating were the original JK class. Important time to celebrate St. James staff as well
 - Trustees are invited (e.g. Mario always comes)
 - M. McCann spoke to Grade 8's – liturgy of the word is 1 or 1:30, then awards, then social downstairs (is hosted by the parents); then parents can drive students to offsite social location. M. McCann asked the students if they wanted the other teachers to be invited, BUT the students wanted it to be the way it always has been (in the afternoon, focused on graduating class)
 - MYP teachers are all involved with Grad; parent committee to organize and host the social after the ceremony

15. MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING (@ 8:20pm)

- Approved – A. Cunanan moved for approval & A. Pronski seconded motion

Future meetings (St. James School Library & Virtually via Zoom):

Thursday October 5, 2023