

**PARENT SCHOOL COUNCIL 2020/2021**  
**MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 3, 2021**

**In attendance:** M. McCann (Principal), A. Cunanan (Co-Chair), A. Patola (Co-Chair), J. Rye (Community Rep), A. Pronski (Secretary), S. Kelenc (teacher rep), J. Roy (teacher rep), R. Johnson (non-teacher rep) A. Bujdos, D. Crnkovic, N Sarin (Treasurer), Melanie Mullins, Stacy Bholá, Chris

**Opening**

- Land Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory – A. Cunanan
- Opening Prayer – A. Cunanan

**Agenda Items**

1. **Meeting Minutes** – from December
  - Approved – A. Cunanan moved for approval & A. Pronski seconded motion
2. **Approval of today's agenda items**
  - Approved – J. Rye moved for approval & A. Patola seconded motion
3. **Treasurer's Report**
  - #'s from December 31st, don't yet have January's bank balance
  - Funds Raised = \$7,221.
  - Available funds today is \$8,146.11, plus cheque for \$7,221 will bring us to a total of \$15,367.11
4. **Outdoor Space**
  - Reviewed options & costs (please refer to December's meeting minutes for details)
  - Council has recommended we proceed with Phase 1: 3x composite, circular benches.
    - This decision is based on the funds we have available, as well as the recommendation put forward by students (please refer to December's meeting minutes for details)
    - Composite top was recommended to reduce future maintenance costs
  - Approved – A. Cunanan moved for approval; A. Pronski, N. Sarin, J.Rye, and A. Patola seconded motion; 5 votes for, no objections against. Therefore movement has passed.
  - M. McCann will share the details of the project that has been approved with the school community via St. James newsletter, profiling the use of the funds parents raised
  - Objective will be to do to this project in the Spring
5. **School report**
  - Catholicity
    - Virtual certificates (January = self-control; February = Respect). Certificates have not yet been presented, they will happen once students are back in school
  - Curriculum
    - Online learning – policy & program memorandum PPM 64 update. Requirements for remote learning minutes are 225 minutes of synchronous learning for Grade 1 – 8, 180 minutes for FDK students.
      - The school understands this is a lot of screen time, so adapting the schedule, providing asynchronous options, physical education choice boards, etc.
    - Black History Month
      - Integrating into learning and discussion via 4 core values – (e.g. respect: focusing on community building and inclusion; excel: looking at library resources being presented to students to ensure representation, etc.)
      - Senior grades are participating in an AGO Black History Month event
      - M. McCann shared black Canadian history information provided by a parent to teachers for use in classroom lessons
      - Teachers are purposefully weaving in black history content (stories selected for read aloud, pictures and videos shared, etc.)
      - Grades 8's will be participating in a special event celebrating American Black history
    - Term 1 Report Cards

- Report cards will be virtually sent home and digitally signed by M. McCann
- o Student led conferences
  - Feb 11<sup>th</sup> and Feb 12<sup>th</sup>
  - As per the IB curriculum, students have always been actively involved in sharing their work & learning at these conferences; due to COVID teachers are pivoting to a new model:
    - a. R. Johnson shared the approach for FDK parent teacher interviews. The children will go through an activity that is familiar to them and they will be the teacher leading it; thought questions will be provided ahead of time for parents to interact with the student. Each session will be 10 minutes. If you have additional questions afterwards, please message your teachers on Google Classroom and they will arrange a separate phone call
    - b. S. Kelenc shared the approach in MYP parent teacher interviews. Normally parents walk through the gym looking at children's portfolios and students share their reflections/ learnings. This year students will share an example of their work, what they are most proud of. Parents will be given prompts to keep the conversation going. For example: "Where have you shown the most improvement?"; "what are you looking forward to the most in term 2"
- o Experiential Learning Grant
  - Focus will be STEM with grades 1 to 8, as well as a session with FDK students
- Registration Update
  - o Occurred January 19<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup>. 120 applications processed virtually in 4 days. Amazing job Ms. Litster! There are 23 available JK spots, as well as 2 openings in Grade 4 (23 student capacity in Grade 3 increases to 25 in Grade 4); every other grade is full, so spots only become available if a student leaves St. James.
  - o During a previous council meeting a question was asked about how we promote St. James. This year's numbers demonstrate St. James is well known. We had applications from all over – Dufferin-Peel, including Brampton, Caledon, etc.
  - o This year ICT will use an algorithm (which is being reviewed by an outside 3<sup>rd</sup> party for validation) to complete the random selection; this review is the reason the random selection has not yet occurred. After this random selection occurs, all parents will be notified of their spot or # on the waitlist
- Proposal to have 1 additional meeting before the end of the year to discuss end of year items
  - o Proposed Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup> – Council members agreed

## 6. Thank you

- o A huge thank you from the compass for St. James support

## 7. Upcoming events:

- Family day – Feb 15
- Ash Wednesday – Feb 17
- Psalm Sunday – Mar 28
- Good Friday – Apr 2
- Easter Sunday – Apr 4

## 8. Motion to end the meeting

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

### Action Items:

1. M. McCann will share the details of the Outdoor Space project that has been approved with the school community via St. James newsletter, profiling the use of the funds parents raised

### Future meetings (via Zoom):

May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm