

**PARENT SCHOOL COUNCIL 2020/2021
MEETING MINUTES FROM May 12, 2021**

In attendance: M. McCann (Principal), A. Litster (Secretary), A. Cunanan (Co-Chair), A. Patola (Co-Chair), J. Rye (Community Rep), A. Pronski (Secretary), N Sarin (Treasurer), S. Kelenc (teacher rep), J. Roy (teacher rep), R. Johnson (non-teacher rep), D. Tasker (Parent rep), D. Chang

Opening

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

Agenda Items

1. **Meeting Minutes** – from February
 - Approved – A. Pronski moved for approval & A. Patola seconded motion
2. **Approval of today's agenda items**
 - Approved – J. Rye moved for approval & N. Sarin seconded motion
3. **Treasurer's Report**

April 30th bank statement Balance		\$19,576.10
2019/20 – graduation awards, tree	650.00	
2020/21 – metro green apple grant	1000.00	
2021/21 – Standing Items (\$3,000):		
	Raz Kids	443.00
	Grad Tree	505.00
Commitments (standing items):		
	Student Agendas (2021/22)	750
	Grad awards	400 (approx.)
	Bank charges	100 (approx.)
Commitments (benches)		8,299.53
		\$7,428.57
	(-\$802 standing items balance)	
Available School Council Funds		\$6,626.57

- Final balance of \$6,626.57 will likely be higher once standing items are finalized
- Refer to item #11 in the meeting minutes for more details on what we have approved for the remaining school council funds

4. School Report - Playground Project:

- Trees have been planted
- Mulch is coming for the Kindergarten yard
- Seating is currently being built. Expected to be installed before the end of this school year
- Gardens are underway. Some work done this year, some work will be done with students next year
 - Applying to be a platinum echo school; waiting to determine if awarded
 - St. James was awarded as a "Bee School", based on the pollinator garden
 - One student assisted with this application & award as part of their Exhibition Project
 - Another student is doing an application for St. James to get a grant for "greening our Canadian school playgrounds"
 - Great action led by our students!
- Track proposal has been declined by the Board
 - The board does not have the ability to maintain a track at an elementary school
 - Maintenance would therefore have to be outsourced every year and it would be challenging to determine the ongoing annual cost

- In addition, council members are not allowed to make long-term commitments of this nature (i.e. committing every council going forward to pay for the upkeep of the track). M. McCann also does not have this authority to make long-term financial commitments of this nature
- An example was provided by the Board of a school in Brampton who did complete such a track project many years ago. It has since fallen into disrepair due lack of maintenance. Resulting in a challenging situation for the school & board
- Therefore, the track proposal will not be proceeding
- We had a good discussion about alternatives
 - The original proposal for outdoor seating, shade and the track was part of a recommendation put forward by the student body Eco Team & Wellness Team
 - J. Roy shared that the intent of the student proposal was to encourage outdoor physical activity with the track. She reviewed the original proposal which included several ideas. Second on their list of suggestions was games to be drawn onto the pavement (e.g. e.g. four square, hop scotch, etc.; similar to what was been done with the 100's Chart in the kindergarten area last year).
 - Refer to item #11 in the meeting minutes for more details on what we have approved for the remaining school council funds
- The \$4,000 grant that was going to be used to fund a portion of the track project was reallocated to order physical education equipment. Items were selected based on what needed to be replaced, what the school did not have, and to ensure individual classes had appropriate equipment for outdoor play to keep within their class cohort. An additional basketball hoop & backboard was also ordered as part of this grant.

5. School Report – PYP Exhibition & MYP Community Project

- Grade 3 virtual PYP exhibition – self-directed learning project, planned by students, teachers & parents act as mentors. Presented May 12th & May 13th
 - How We Express Ourselves - Exploration of interests and passions inspires learning and action. Topics include: engaging students in sports during a pandemic; robots; benefits of bees; STEM: drawing and mental wellness, visual arts, etc.
- Grade 8 student community projects – May 28th virtual presentation of final project discoveries
 - Focus on community and service – this is an in-depth inquiry that started in October. Identified a goal and presented a proposal

6. School Report – Journey into Learning

- For new FDK students beginning in September 2021 – will be done virtually this year

7. School Report – Technology Purchase

- Chromebook Carts – grade 1&2
- 25 Chromebooks and 34 iPads have reached end of life cycle; there are 74 devices left in the school for 190 students (FDK to Grade 6) + 50 Edwins (for Grade 7 & 8s). A range of between 8-10 devices / room
- The school can purchase a bundle of 10 devices for \$3,500
- The schools hope is to have some funds left at the end of the year (in the school budget) to purchase additional devices. The council can also purchase additional devices. Purchase date is by the end of next week.
- Refer to item #11 in the meeting minutes for more details on what we have approved for the remaining school council funds

8. School Report – Grade 8 graduation

- June 24th is the tentative graduation date
- If school is back in person, Grade 8 grad photos will be done the first week of June
- Ordered graduation hoodies; every single grade 8 student has ordered one
- Each Grade 8 student will receive a graduate composite
- A banner will be hung outside the building to recognize our graduates

- Year books can be ordered through Cash Online.

9. School Report – Summer programs

- FSL and Summer Literacy camp
- Details have been shared via school email

10. Upcoming Events:

- Set a tentative date & committee for fall council election (if necessary)
 - Nomination due by September 24
 - Election if necessary – October 4 (proposed date)
 - Council meeting – October 6, 2021 (if no election); October 13, 2021 (if election is necessary)–
J. Rye put motion forward; A. Patola seconded motion
- Central Committee of Catholic School Councils – next meeting June 10th
- Parent Engagement
 - May 12 – Busy Lives – Restless Souls – Dr. Annie Jamieson
 - May 13 – Bilingualism and Language Development Online workshop for Parents
 - June 8 – Math & Coding (presented by DP Math Team)
- Victoria Day – May 24
- PA DAY – June 7
- Last Day of Classes – June 29th

11. Discussion related to remaining school council funds

- Given the proposed track project was declined by the board, we are likely to have year-end balance of \$7,428. \$1,000 needs to be retained for next year's standing items, leaving \$6,428.
- The council discussed how best to put these funds to use for the benefit of the student body
- \$3,500 will be allocated to the technology purchase of 10 devices (refer to item #7 in the minutes)
- \$3,000 has been allocated as a budget for pavement painting (refer to item #4 in the minutes)
 - This work will require a 3rd party work order and quote
 - Up to \$3,000 has been allocated for this work
 - For context – the 100's chart, in the Kindergarten area was ~\$400
 - The pavement painting does eventually wear off; but usually lasts 3-5 years
 - M. McCann and team will proceed with this work order, quote and project
- Approved – A. Cunanan made the motion for approval; N. Sarin and A. Pronski seconded the motion

12. Thank you – a big thank you to M. McCann, A. Litster, S. Kelenc, J. Roy, R. Johnson and all other school representatives whom have gone above and beyond in supporting this year's council

13. Motion to end the meeting

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

Future meetings:

Next year's council meeting – October 6, 2021 (if no election); October 13, 2021 (if election is necessary)