

# St. Anselm School Council Advisory Meeting

## MINUTES

### Date & Time of Meeting

Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

6:30pm – 8:30

### **ATTENDEES:**

Bronwyn Gray, Len Corkery, Marolou Wight, Christiana Martine, Rodolfo Lucero, Lori DeSimone, Christine Taylor, Daniel Garcia Morena, Michelle Koszec, Ed Abdou, Frank Spizzirri, Jo-Anne Ryan, Scott Pliska, Agnes Mader, Monica Testa-Zanin, David Nespolo, Kathleen Benum, Annie O'Leary

### **WELCOME & PRAYER**

Mr. Walo welcomed parents and an opening prayer was said.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

With the following changes:

- Len Corkery requested to add a motion to approve the \$200 discretionary spending approval for Chair & Vice Chair
- Request was made to discuss rules around snow in the schoolyard

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- ON A MOTION made by Len Corkery and SECONDED by Bronwyn Gray, the evening's agenda was approved.

### **BUDGET UPDATE (RODOLFO LUCERO)**

- We are significantly behind our projected Family Fee fundraiser – tracking at 40% - and hoping to see a strong turnout in the latter half of November.
- Recent expenditures:
  - Teachers have been given a discretionary budget for their classrooms (\$400/class). There was an increase from the initial budget to accommodate 6 additional classrooms
  - Paid \$2,300 for JUMP math program
  - Paid \$2,910 towards Scientist in the School
- The board has requested that all CSAC committees' bank accounts be amalgamated with their respective school's accounts. This will remove CSAC's signing authority and limit access of treasurer to account information, so it's a concerning change for many parents.
  - As a safeguard, Mr. Walo suggested that the bylaw be updated to reflect that any cheques coming from the CSAC budget must be co-signed by both the principal and CSAC treasurer.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Add a link to the official policy on this in the next newsletter
- Side discussion occurred regarding annual budget.
  - We have a \$25K surplus from last year. There needs to be careful consideration about how much to reserve for future initiatives/unexpected expenses vs. what to spend in the current school year. After much discussion, the agreement is that we should ensure

we spend the full budget each year to ensure the children in the current school year benefit. (Note: \$5K is generally reserved for September of the following year to covering operating costs)

- ON A MOTION made by Len Corkery and APPROVED by CSAC executive committee by popular vote, the Chair and Vice Chair are permitted to approve payments/expenditures of up to \$200 ongoing to be used at their discretion.

### COMMITTEE UPDATES

CSAC Committees are listed below. If anyone in the school community would like to put ideas forward, please contact the chairs, who have been italicized below.

- Communications *Bronwyn Gray*, Stephanie Woloviec, Amy DeMelo
- Events *Rodolfo Lucero*, Ed, Christiana Martine, Leila Harwood
- Academics *Christine Taylor*, Bernardo
- Extracurricular *Annie*, Frank Spizzirri, Bronwyn Gray, Stephanie Woloviec
- Safety *Christiana*
- Catechism *Frank Spizzirri*, Courtney O'Leary, Agnes Mader
- ACADEMICS
  - Christine Taylor brought forth info on a program from U of T. Using graduate students, U of T provides in-school workshops. It is very hands-on and includes interesting projects (i.e. extracting cells from plants).
  - Program focuses on STEM (science, technology engineering and math) and workshops can be in-school or at U of T
  - \$1,700 for a full day of workshops for all students
  - ON A MOTION on a motion by Len Corkery, and APPROVED by CSAC executive committee by popular vote, we will proceed with the U of T workshops and the payment will come from the CSAC budget.

### DELEGATION MEETING UPDATE

Len Corkery recently presented CSAC's requests to the board regarding the overcapacity issue:

- We would like a solution in place in advance of September 2015.
- We would like more information on considerations & options (i.e. boundaries, church options, portable option, etc.)
- We would like a long-term solution, whether that's to redefine the boundaries or to permanently increase the size of the school.
- Full report due back from the board on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Parents are encouraged to attend this meeting.

### PRINCIPAL UPDATE

- STAFF UPDATE - Board granted additional staff to St. Anselm and we will now have Ms. D'Souza one day per week
- STUDENT LEADERSHIP

- PALS program is a free leadership program from the Board of Health that provides recommended activities for Junior students to do with Primary students during recess. Mr. Walo reached out to our school nurse for more info on this.
  - The Search Institute – Intermediate/Sr students will be sent a survey, which will help to identify areas of improvement in the school. The Search Institute will then help to provide recommendations on improving the school environment.
  - Roots of Empathy program being done with grade 8's. It's a 27 week scripted program where kids spend time with a baby once per month.
- SAFE SCHOOLS – A survey goes to grade 8's and 6's each year to determine how safe students feel. The school is provided the report and recommended next steps. Some highlights from this year's survey are below:
    - 100% of St. Anselm students report feeling safe
    - 55% of students report feeling safe on the bus (25% improvement from last year)
    - 71% of students report that they have never been bullied
    - 0% of students report feeling discriminated against because of race, gender, etc.
    - 100% of students believe the school makes an effort to prevent bullying
    - 6.7% feel that bullying is a huge problem at the school compared to 51% last year
    - The Safe School plan will be on the St. Anselm website in the coming weeks
- MATH
    - JUMP program is going really well and students are embracing it. The math night went very well and there is leftover budget, so Mr. Walo is recommending that we use the extra money for the second JUMP math booklet.
    - ON A MOTION on a motion by Len Corkery, and approved by CSAC executive committee by popular vote, we will proceed with the purchase of the 2<sup>nd</sup> JUMP math book from the CSAC budget.
- LIBRARY/EXTRA CLASSROOM
    - Wall being put in library the week of Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> to separate the room into a classroom and library
- KINDERGARTEN YARD
    - Ed Abdou to form a committee with another CSAC member, a couple parents from the FDK program, Mr. Walo and a teacher to work on a plan for improving the play area.
- SNOW RULES
    - The children may build forts. They may not throw snow.

## **AJOURNMENT**

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm