

St. Anselm
School Council Advisory Committee Meeting
MINUTES

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING

January 15, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Richard Walo, Len Corkery, Bronwyn Gray, Frank Spizzirri, Maria Wilson, Courtney O’Leary, Agnes Mader, Daniel Garcia, Monica Testa-Zanin, Odette Walker, Barig Hayward, Rob Tadeson, Collette Bright, Jo-Anne Ryan, Andrea Sherwin, Kirk Harding, Nancy Gamble, Marilou Wight, Michelle Koscec, Trish Berry, Kathy Harding, Janessa Mazzuca, Michele Whyte, Alicia Macedo, Barbara Escoto, Rosa Spizzirri, Cathy Ferguson

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Mr. Corkery welcomed parents and called the meeting to order. Ms. Mazzuca and Ms. Whyte led the opening New Year prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With the following changes:

1. Additional items made to the Chair Report under “Communication” and “Committee”
2. Addition of date January 20th under “Math Night”
3. A presentation by Ms. Mazzuca and Ms. Whyte in connection with IPAD and LAPTOP use in the classroom under “Other Items” was tabled.

ON A MOTION from Mr. Corkery and SECONDED by Ms. Gray the evening’s Agenda was approved.

MINUTES

ON A MOTION from Mr. Corkery and SECONDED by Ms. Gray, the Minutes from meetings held October 16th, 2013 and November 20th, 2013 were approved.

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Learning Commons

Mr. Walo spoke in some detail regarding the anticipated layout and space allocation of the new Learning Commons. One of the ideas under consideration is the removal of the current computer desktops (they will be earmarked for individual classrooms) to be eventually replaced with laptops. Given the upcoming 75th Anniversary of St. Anselm it is hoped that the Learning Commons be concluded by the end of this coming September.

District Review

Mr. Walo provided some feedback with respect to the District Review which took place in November of last year at St. Anselm. The educational auditors were focussed on ascertaining

the students' ability to explain what they are learning. Specifically they wanted to determine the level of student involvement in creating their learning goals and success criteria.

St. Anselm performed very well in all areas and was specifically commended for its' work in the area of parent engagement.

St. Anselm 75th Anniversary Planning Committee

St. Anselm will hold an event towards the end of September to celebrate its 75th Anniversary. Invitations will be extended to media, local dignitaries and politicians. A large committee will be created to help organize various facets of the event. As the spotlight will be on St. Anselm we will be requesting the Board undertake painting of areas in need around the school as well as help with some general improvement of the grounds.

Math Night

In connection with our School's stated focus on Math this year, a representative from Nelson Math has been invited to give a presentation on Monday, January 20, 2014 to the parent community. The aim of the presentation is to provide a clearer understanding of the Nelson Math program as well as to provide parents with tips and suggestions on how to utilize the program effectively to assist their child at home.

Student Leadership

With respect to our focus on student leadership, the Grade 7's and 8's will be participating in the 14th annual Agnes Macphail public speaking contest which will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m. in the True Davidson Council Chambers at the East York Civic Centre.

Full Day Kindergarten

Registrations are currently underway. St. Anselm is subject to boundary guidelines and must adhere to cap restrictions with respect to accepting registrations. If we are approaching the maximum cap, then the Board will be notified and asked for direction on how to proceed. All current JK students enrolled are automatically given space for Kindergarten next year. Before and After care for Kindergarten students is expected to be provided at St. Anselm.

Events

The following represent some of the upcoming school events:

- A) Little Red Theatre
- B) Pan Am Games Mascot visit
- C) Dr. Atkinson – will come and speak regarding anaphylaxis

Crossing Guard

In light of the traffic incident which occurred with one of our students, the school will be advocating for a Crossing Guard to be stationed at the corner of Millwood and Bayview.

CHAIR UPDATE

Dinner/Dance Fundraiser

We are looking to generate between \$4,000-5,000 this year in order to proceed with the building of the Learning Commons. In this regard, a dinner/dance idea was contemplated. A number of other ideas were proposed by parents such as a Casino event or movie night. The discussion concluded with the request that ideas for a fundraiser from the community should be brought to the attention of CSAC as soon as possible.

Spring Fundraiser

Ms. Gray provided information with respect to the Spring fundraiser previously known as World Music Night. The date has been set for April 25th. This year the event will feature each grade performing a song from a musical.

Communication

In an effort to cut back on paper waste, a communications plan is currently being developed for dissemination of school information. To date, we have many families who have opted for receipt of the school newsletter via email. Starting next month, newsletters will be delivered electronically to those families who have signed up. The communication plan will attempt to incorporate email lists generated from the classroom parent representative lists.

Committee

A brief review of where we are at with respect to technology acquisition was provided. Currently, we are looking at Phase II of our technology plan which deals with the equipping of classrooms with additional technology (an IPAD for every classroom) and coming up with a three year plan. In connection with reaching our technology goals and maximizing what we currently possess, it was proposed that Mr. Kirk Harding would chair the technology committee given his experience in this field.

Mr. Harding provided an update with respect to some work done by the committee thus far.

1. After some investigation into the matter, it was concluded that the purchase of technology, namely the IPAD acquisition, would be more cost effective through the Board (15% cheaper than other sources).
2. Apple, through its educational division, will be hosting a workshop which Mr. Harding will plan to attend. At this workshop, it is hoped that more information will be obtained with respect to future partnerships in education with Apple. Should a partnership be possible, such as through Apple's "Distinguished Educator Course", it is hoped that future purchases in technology/ software may be more cost effective as well as provide additional information regarding the applications which may be utilized in the classroom.
3. A sample of a "learning library" (a powersync cart) for the Laptops was shown. This is a potential idea for the Learning Commons.

There was a question posed with respect to the scope of the educational division at Apple i.e. is the education primarily focused on utilizing (their) products or does the education extend to matters of curriculum. After the workshop Mr. Harding noted he would be in a better position to address this point.

BUDGET

Mr. Spizzirri provided a brief budget update. In connection with the Family Fee and the Legacy Fund, to date there has been an increase of 30% or approximately \$6,000 over

previous projections based on the prior fiscal period. Both the number of participants and dollar amounts are ahead of previous projections.

Anticipated expenditures are within approved budget.

ADJOURNMENT

On a MOTION made by Mr. Corkery and SECONDED by Ms. Gray the Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm

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