

St. Anselm
School Council Advisory Committee Meeting
MINUTES

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING

November 20, 2013, 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Richard Walo, Len Corkery, Bronwyn Gray, Frank Spizzirri, Maria Wilson, Courtney O’Leary, Annie O’Leary, Agnes Mader, Daniel Garcia, Monica Testa-Zanin, Ana Almeida, Dawn Smith, Marilou Wight, Michelle Koscec, Kate Kirvan, Annie O’Leary, Trish Berry, Agnes Mader, Kathy Harding, Janessa Mazzuca, M. Denicolais, Kirk Harding, Alicia Macedo, Johnathan Cruikchank

WELCOME AND PRAYER

Mr. Corkery welcomed parents and called the meeting to order. Mr. Walo led the opening prayer.

TECHNOLOGY PRESENTATION

Mrs. Whyte gave a presentation entitled “Skype in the Classroom” to showcase the new technology in the school and its many uses. Currently various classrooms are taking advantage of the new technology and are skyping with many parts of the world in order to delve more deeply into the curriculum.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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. Wilson, the Minutes for the OCTOBER 16th, meeting were deferred until next meeting.

PRESENTATION BY STUDENT COUNCIL

Johnathan Cruikshank, VP of St. Anselm’s Student Council, provided an update with respect to various activities student council has been involved with such as the Halloween dance and the Philippines Disaster Relief Fund and provided a look at initiatives being currently explored by student council. One initiative presently underway is the selection of a school mascot.

BUDGET

Mr. Corkery discussed two aspects of the current budget –

1. Family Fee

In connection with the family fee there has been an increase of 2-3% in participation from previous years. The target number for Family Fee was \$10K and \$10K for the Legacy Fund. To date we have a total of \$24K from both accounts.

There was concern voiced with respect to the weak participation from the upper grades. There was some confusion as well as to cut-off dates families could continue to send in money. Action- Mr. Walo to meet with Mr. Corkery to strategize how best to proceed to increase participation.

2. Curling Night

It was a very successful event with record participation. Curling night raised \$2,500 in profit.

21ST CENTURY LEARNING COMMONS

On a show of hands, it was unanimously voted that a sub-committee would be put in place to proceed with the development of a plan to build a learning commons.

UPDATE ON BOOK FAIR

Ms. Harding provided a summary on this year's book fair. It was another successful fair. \$1,000 will be earmarked from book sales towards the purchasing of new reference books for the library to replace those currently out of date.

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Mr. Walo provided an academic update and spoke about the academic direction for 2013-2014. The update provided a general context for the school's specific focus on math and student leadership as outlined in the School Learning Improvement Plan (SLIP). Mr. Walo provided some strategies St. Anselm will employ to meet their academic goals. Some of these strategies to support their math goal include:

1. Strategic support with education assistants
2. 60 minutes of uninterrupted math period
3. Lunch and learn opportunities for staff
4. Use of technology
5. Math buddies
6. Problem of the week
7. Nelson speaker in January
8. Flipped Classroom

In connection with literacy goals for this year, students from grades K to 3 are currently involved in a program called Raz Kids which is a program designed to foster the development of reading by listening for modeled fluency and reading for practice. Students in the upper grades will be involved in the Forest of Reading program.

With respect to student leadership, Mr. Walo presented a look at the Search Institute's Development Asset program which is currently being piloted in some schools in Toronto and after further investigation might be adopted in some way by St. Anselm.

ADJOURNMENT

On a MOTION made by Mr. Corkery and SECONDED by Ms. Gray the Meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm