

St Mark School Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes: January 29th, 2024
6:30pm - **On-line Zoom Meeting**

Present: Norma Resendes, Annette Jackson, Melissa Marchewka, Mark Joseph, Joanna Trojan, Trish Christina, Christa Rose-Mant, Herman Viloria

Guests: 1 parents

Regrets: n/a



Opening prayer & Welcome (6:31)

- Opening Prayer & Welcome (Melissa)
- Approval of the agenda
 - Mover: Trish C
 - Seconder: Joanna T
- Meeting minutes from November 20th
- Approval of the meeting minutes
 - Mover: Trish C
 - Seconder: Joanna T

Trustee's Report - Herman V (6:39)

- Faith and Programs meeting
- A student is coming to the Board Office to talk about racism in our Board
- Next AGM is in May
 - Ask the government to make sure there is funding of AI and its use in schools
 - Trustees for Catholic Schools
 - Discuss possible causes of declining enrollment
 - High cost of living
 - Effects of post pandemic - working from home - people can live outside of the GTA
 - Changed demographic as far as immigration are concerned
 - #1 india (Catholics from the missionary states)
 - #2 china
 - #3 philippines (mostly Catholic population)
 - All have effect on enrollment
- Presentation on AI
 - It is here to stay
 - how will it be used as a tool
 - the presentation was made by the director of the Ottawa board.

- Issues of using cell phones in secondary schools
- Issues of vaping in secondary schools
- We will be receiving new rules regarding vaping and cell phones in school
- Curriculum hasn't been reviewed in 14 years - from now on the curriculum will be reviewed every 5 years.
- It was discovered that the female students do not take tech courses - they do not take the pathways
- Shortage of teachers
 - especially french teachers
 - teachers used to complete their training in 1 year but now it is 2 years
 - maybe this need adjustment

Principal's report - Norma R (6:52)

- Graduation photos for SK on Friday
- Christmas Mingle and Jingle was a huge success
- Term reports go home Feb 13th
- Parent/Teacher Interviews Feb 15th and 16th
- Saidat Black history video presentations are coming into the classroom
- March 6th school-wide Confessions
- Good friday - March 29th
- Easter Monday - April 1st
- Catholic Education Week is May 6th - 10th
- Ottawa trip for Grade 8s is May 22, 23, 24
- Grade 8 Graduation is June 20th at 5pm
 - Lunch, dance, and graduation ceremony

Teacher's report - Christa R-M (6:55)

- St. Mark has been a very busy place.
- Tomorrow is the Junior boys soccer tournament, Wednesday is Junior girls soccer tournament
- Auditions for the spring music production are completed and students are excited
- "Scientist in the school" has been in the school and will continue to come in for classes
- Intermediate soccer tournaments for Girls and Boys are next week
- Speeches and public speaking is something that classes are working on and will present to their peers (the competition will be on Feb 23rd)
- Some of our students won awards from the Legion for their contributions on Remembrance Day

- For Black history month classes are getting virtual presentations from Saidat with activities to complete as a class
- Junior girls/boys basketball will be starting
- Intermediate girls/boys basketball will happen closer to the spring
- Father Alex has been in to help support students who will be receiving their confirmation and first communion
- Rosary apostolate has continued
- Card club has continued
- Grades 1, 2 and 4 went to the Living Arts Center to do some fun activities

Treasurer's report - Trish C (6:58)

- Opening balance = \$11,734.89
- Revenue = \$37,063.28
- Total expenditures = \$31,876.07
- Fund remaining = \$16,922.10

Chairs report Melisssa M (7:05)

- With all the great fundraising this year, would we like to give a give back?
- End of November there was a training session for council positions

Fundraising update - Joanna T (7:08)

- Everything is accounted for and progressing well
- Subs sandwich is new for this school year (as in the whole year) - it is going well so far
- Do we need to do a spring fundraiser?
- Looking at the library
 - we have added the smart board
 - added some tables
 - new library shelving (adding wheels)
 - trying to make an open space
 - would we like to see a mural for the library?
 - Mrs. Resendes will bring us the quote.
- Also looking at a new screen for the gym
 - looking for estimates
 - and ideas

Other business (7:30)

- \$500 that we get from the government for parent engagement
 - had used it for Mingle and Jingle
 - had used it for parent engagement

- We could get the public nurse for free - talk about it offline
- We will now have a school council email inbox
- Board has ask to go to a uniform school agenda

Closing prayer (7:43)

“Hail Mary”

Move to close: Joanna T

Secunder: Trish C

Upcoming meetings (all Mondays):

- **March 4th**
- **May 27th**