

SJA School Council Meeting
October 1, 2013
Minutes

Call to order 7:00pm by Doris Parolin (Co-Chair)

Around the table introductions

Opening prayer read by Principal White

Principal's Report - Principal White

- Staffing Update:
Welcome to: Melissa Schlievert (JK/SK French, Primary French), Mackenzie Moreland (JK/SK), Jennifer Perrier-Raina (Grade 1/2 maternity leave for Mrs. O'Donnell), Sarah Faloon (Primary/Communication Class), Abi Goss, Megan Garner, Leanne Ledlow (Educational Assistants)
Good bye to: Shannon Young (Grade 2) who secured a permanent position at another school
- Capital Plan from the Planning and Facilities Department at the OCSB that provides a summary for future elementary and secondary school projects segregated into three time periods: Immediate (completion by 2016-2017), Medium-Term needs for the subsequent 5 year period (2017-2021), and Long-Term needs required after 2021 (documents attached) - feedback can be sent to planning@ocsb.ca
- Board Theme: "By Our Works We Show Our Faith" (2nd Year for this theme)
 - a strong focus on prayer
 - a prayer for each grade
 - Grade 6 Confirmation is returning
 - Father Tom Riopelle (SJA Parish) retiring May/June 2014
- Sports:
 - Boys & Girls' Soccer finished in September
 - Cross-Country October
 - Volleyball November
- Crazy Socks For Terry Fox
 - Held on September 30th
 - our goal was \$1000 and if reached by Friday, October 4, Ms. White and Ms. Latour will be dying their hair
 - current total (as of Oct. 1) is \$958....just \$42 to go!
- Learning Commons
 - structural work (wall removal) completed during the summer
 - painting completed in September
 - bookshelves to be installed under staircase
 - more furniture and technology on order
 - the changes to the space are even more apparent during the day with how the students use the new space

- Tuesday, October 15 photo day
- Friday, November 1st progress reports go home
- Ms. White met with the architect (today, Oct. 1) about the addition to be built on the Kindergarten side of the school, in order to accommodate Full-Day Kindergarten in September 2014
 - we are anticipating 3-4 full-day kindergarten classes
 - don't know yet if there will be before/after school care available

Treasurer's Report - Lorrie Sweet

- at end of 2012-2013 school year we had \$3900 in the bank (less reserve) leaves a balance of \$2400 available for spending now
- SJA School Council Purchases last year included:
 - final smart board
 - gym equipment
 - teachers' allowance
 - field trips and workshops
 - gift of technology (iPads)
- what does the school need this year????

CSPA (Ottawa Catholic School Parents' Association) Report: Megan Fox

<http://www.ottawacspa.ca/>

- CSPA council position open, as Megan cannot do it this year
- May 2013 CSPA meeting summary:
 - OSTA presented (Ottawa Student Transportation Authority - school bus coordinator) - what they have done to align delivery of students between the two boards - they are committed to being more responsive to parents
 - Guidance League at OCSB (intermediate and high schools) - to help students with career options, the students are asked "what skill set do you have" and what job options that skill set could lead to are investigated (rather than just asking "what do you want to be when you grow up?")
- September CSPA meeting: Megan wasn't able to attend (minutes attached)
- next meeting October 23, 2013
- next Parenting Now workshop:
 - Saturday, October 26, 2013, 7:45am - 12:50pm, St. Patrick's High School, 2525 Alta Vista Drive
 - Keynote Speaker: "Child and Youth Mental Health: What Parents Want To Know", Michael Baine, Lead Consultant for the Child and Youth Mental Initiative

Funds Focus (Danielle D'Amico - Co-Chair)

- Teachers' Allowance (\$100 per full-time teacher, \$50 for everyone else, including part-time teachers and education assistants) - we would like to be more specific with how the teachers should use the money
 - Ms. White suggested iTunes gift cards to purchase apps for classroom iPads, so that the money isn't used for consumable or Dollar Store items, as the school is able to cover the cost of these small things
 - it was also suggested that the EA's money be pooled in order to buy more expensive developmental learning tools/toys
 - Jane O'Regan commented that money from School Council is a gift and an acknowledgement that the teachers and EA's do indeed spend their own money on classroom items during the school year
 - give teachers a choice of the gift card they want - start by asking the teachers what type of gift cards they'd be interested in receiving (eg. Scholars Choice, Staples, iTunes etc)

Motion by Danielle D'Amico (co-chair): to give each full-time teacher \$100 and everyone else \$50 (in the form of some kind of gift card), for the 2013-2014 school year - PASSED

Motion by Danielle D'Amico (co-chair): to pay for one bus for a field trip per class, for the 2013-2014 school year - PASSED

- PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) Funding
 - a \$500 grant from the government of Ontario, given to each school
 - to be used for a parent attended event
 - has to be used by the end of June 2014
 - usually we use this money for the Welcome Breakfast, but it was cancelled this year
 - use it towards the Advent Mass Reception or the BBQ?
 - it was decided that we would wait until after the first fundraiser, to see where this money was needed
- PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant
 - Council applies for this grant and it is approved for up to \$1000 (to be discussed later in the meeting)

SJA School Council Initiatives (Danielle D'Amico and Doris Parolin Co-Chairs)

- Pizza Day (Mari)
 - every 2nd Wednesday (from Domino's pizza)
 - thinking of increasing pizza to EVERY Wednesday in the 2nd term, as we have discontinued the Lunch Lady program (Lunch Lady did not allow for us to provide lunch for kids who could not afford the program)
 - pizza not really a profit making initiative for the School Council
- Fundraising - Council is allowed two fundraisers per academic year
 1. DFS Catalogue Fundraiser (Danielle D'Amico, Co-Chair)
<http://www.dfscanada.com/>
 - over \$5000 raised last year - our school did so well last year with this fundraiser, that we have received "Elite" status with DFS - catalogues going home soon - think Christmas Shopping!
 2. E-Waste Recycling (Jane O'Regan, Community Rep)
<http://www.moneyformetal.calls.net/schoolprogramfinal.pdf>
 - AIM Metal Recycling
 - \$1346 raised last year (over 2 weekends in May 2013)
 - amazing community building experience
 - Jane asked if we're able to do the metal collection more than one time per academic year and still count it as one fundraiser, Danielle could see no reason why not
 - we later found out that we have a student connection at the company
 - member, Lucia DePrimio-Tzogas, asked if we did well enough last year for the company to increase our cut?
 - member, Kelly Torrance, suggested getting word out to parents' places of work - as we could get a huge dump of E/metal waste from a company
- Advent Mass (early December)
- Gift of Technology (instead of buying a Christmas gift for child's teacher, make a donation to "Gift of Technology" to buy technology (iPads) for school)
- Winter Dance (Jan/Feb) - usually held in SJA Church Hall, but so popular last year had to change to a bigger venue at St. Paul's High School
- BBQ (June)
- Grade 6 Grad Reception in SJA Church Hall
- T-shirts for Grade 6 Grads

Nominations (Doris Parolin, Co-Chair)

Both Co-Chairs (Doris Parolin and Danielle D'Amico) are stepping down this academic year, so that leaves the position of School Council Chair open.

Kerri Courville nominated by Doris Parolin for the position of Chair. PASSED

Chair: Kerri Courville

Vice-Chair: Rose Hunt

Secretary: Shari Scott

Treasurer: Lorrie Sweet

Grade Reps:

JK: Laura Kotaowski

SK: Sarah Drader?

1: Paula Wilson

2. Lucia DePrimio-Tzogas

3. Andrea Guzzo?

4. Rosemary Chiarelli

5. Agathe Rwankuba

6. Tracey Knudson

CSPA Rep: Kelly Torrance (voting member) and Helen Showland

Community Rep: Jane O'Regan

Parish Rep: Danielle D'Amico

PRO Event "I Love Your Brain" - Kelly Torrance (CSPA Rep)

Tuesday, October 8, 2013, 6:30-8:00pm at SJA School

- SJA School Council applied for a PRO (parents reaching out) grant last year, and we received the full \$1000
- with the funds from this grant, SJA School Council is hosting "I Love Your Brain" - an evening devoted childrens' mental health
- 6:30-7:00pm Family Yoga: in SJA gym with Bradlee Zrudlo (Canadian Yoga Alliance Certified Instructor)
- 7:00-8:00pm Guest Speakers: in the Learning Commons
 - kids' activities continue in the gym with supervision
 - parents are invited to join Dr. Anand Prabhu (Psychologist) and Margaret Sargent (Coordinator of Parenting Programs, Family Services Ottawa) in the Learning Commons as they present and answer questions about: "Helping Children Cope With Fear and Anxiety"
- Free Admission, Pre-Register at <http://sja.eventbrite.ca>

Funds Focus Continued (Danielle D'Amico)

- \$2400 to spend (current Council account balance)
- more iPads (Ms. White) - as once the old desktop computers die the board is no longer replacing them
- Blues In The Schools (Paula Wilson)
- Choir teacher (Principal White, Danielle D'Amico)
- concern was voiced by Kelly Torrance and other members over amount of screen time the kids are getting while at school (while using iPads, Smart Boards etc.)
- Feedback from parents last year, was for more arts in the school
- Response from Doris Parolin: the school is teaching the kids how to use technology as a learning "tool" - technology is in the Board's curriculum so in order for our students to keep up with the curriculum, the technology needs to be purchased

Meeting Adjourned 8:23pm (Danielle D'Amico)

Attendance

1. Doris Parolin
2. Kerri Courville
3. Cheryl Thompson
4. Agathe Rwankuba
5. Jane O'Regan
6. Rosemary Chiarelli
7. Megan Fox
8. Wendy Darr
9. Victoria White
10. Shari Scott
11. Lucia DePrimio-Tzogas
12. Laura Kotaowski
13. Kelly Torrance
14. Mari Dressler
15. Lorrie Sweet
16. Rose Hunt
17. Danielle D'Amico
18. Paula Wilson