

SJA School Council
MINUTES
January 21, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order by Kerri Courville (Chair)

- NOTE: There was no quorum for the meeting. No formal decisions were taken or votes held.

Opening Prayer read by Principal White

Principal's Report (Principal White)

- Ms. Nina will be leaving SJA to become the Office Administrator at St. Phillip's, effective February 3, 2014.
- Ms. White, Mlle Hughes, Kevin Leahy and his parents were invited to the Board Meeting to showcase his Christmas card, which won the Mayor's Christmas Card Contest for 2013.
- Kindergarten Registration Week was January 20th to 24th throughout the OCSB. Families can register anytime beyond this week as well. The Grade 6 Tour Guides are touring new families each time a new family registers. Next year SJA will have full day kindergarten. More information on that will follow at a later date.
- The Grade 6 students have been invited to St. Paul's for a day on January 30th. They will shadow a Grade 7 class and take part in a variety of activities. The Parent Information Evening for St. Paul's is scheduled for February 6th at 7:00 p.m., with school tours to follow.
- The students participating in the Board production of ANNIE have two rehearsals at St. Paul's with the "big kid" cast. Their performance date is February 16th. Tickets are on sale at the door at St. Paul's. Many thanks to Mrs. Faloon, Mlle Schlievert and Ms. Lawson.
- Term One report cards go home on February 14th.
- Grades 1-6 have all booked between 2 and 4 trips to the skating rink at Leslie Park, weather permitting.

Chair's Report (Kerri Courville - Chair)

- The gift cards for the Teacher's Allowance have been purchased (\$100 for each full time teacher and \$50 for everyone else). Thanks to the volunteer shoppers for picking those up. Principal White will distribute them in the next few weeks.

- Robert Alger, the parent of two SJA students passed away in December. Council sent a sympathy card and a donation of \$200 towards the childrens' education was sent to Mrs. Alger.
- PIC Grant funds still need to be spent - Council will use the funds for the School Dance or the BBQ.

Treasurer's Report (Kerri Courville)

- No update.

CSPA Report (Kerri Courville)

- There was no CSPA meeting in December.
- There is a workshop on "Technology Tools to Support Your Child's Learning" being held on January 29th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Matthew's Catholic High School.
- The next CSPA meeting is Wednesday, January 22nd at 7:30 p.m. at 570 West Hunt Club Road.
- Kelly Torrance can no longer attend Council meetings or the monthly CSPA meetings, and has stepped down as the CSPA Representative.
- Rose Hunt is willing to take on the role, but as this is a voting position on Council, there may be another parent interested.
- *Action Item: Kerri to check with last year's alternate rep to see if she is interested. Issue to be discussed and voted on at next Council meeting.*

Parish Report (Kerri Courville)

- First Communion compulsory parent sessions are taking place on Wednesday January 22nd at 7:00 p.m. or Sunday January 26th at 11:30 a.m. Both sessions will take place at St. John the Apostle Church.
- There will be a compulsory parent session for Confirmation sometime in March.
- There is a Valentine Spaghetti Dinner and Dance, with a DJ, on Saturday, February 8th at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for children under 13. Tickets will be available soon.

Focus Items:

a) Funds Focus: (Kerri Courville)

- Several ideas were submitted by the teachers, many with a technology focus (e.g. cases and connectors for Smart Boards for the iPads, funds to purchase apps, netbooks). Other ideas included outdoor equipment, Google Chrome books, bringing in a theatre production, holding a dance workshop, and participating in a literacy program run by Ontario libraries called "Forest of Reading".

- Principal White is looking into the theatre and dance workshop. Although some funds are available from the Board, if Council were to also participate in funding, the programs could be enhanced. Teachers are discussing the program options.
- *Action Item: Kerri to follow up with Ms. Stevenson on the Forest of Reading program.*

b) Gift of Technology: (Shari Scott - Secretary)

- The initiative ran from December 4th to 18th, although orders were collected through the first week of January.
- Numbers were slightly down from last year, with 48 families participating. \$931.30 was raised and will go toward purchasing additional iPads and accessories for the classrooms.
- Although participation has been lower, it is not a formal fundraising initiative and is generally well supported.

c) Winter Dance (Kerri Courville)

- St. Paul's had not yet been booked, and Council felt that the initial date of February 7th was too soon. February 21st and February 28th were proposed as alternate dates. NOTE: In the week following this meeting, the date was confirmed for February 28th.
- The Silent Auction will have items for children only. Council funds will be used to purchase the prizes.
- *Action Items:*
 - *Rose to confirm booking with St. Paul's and advise Principal White, who will then tweet the date.*
 - *Rose to send out a sign-up tool for volunteers.*
 - *Anyone interested in participating on the Dance Committee can contact Rose, via SJA School Council.*

d) PRO Grant (Kerri Courville)

- We are still looking for ideas for PRO Grant, as well as someone willing to take on preparing the application.
- One suggestion was a workshop for parents on how to use iPads and tablets for education (e.g. what applications are available, what tablets can do, etc.).
- There is still time to develop additional ideas, as the applications aren't due until spring.

e) Spring Fundraising Ideas (Kerri Courville)

- Ideas included:
 - selling cookie dough and "KnitWits" (knitted character hats), which may be better for fall (pre-Christmas);
 - holding a talent show - admission would be charged;
 - selling Little Cesaer's home pizza kits; and,

- Movie Nights.
- Council liked the idea of holding one or two Movie Nights in the gym, with the sale of pizza and drinks. Two could be held between now and May, one for the primary grades and one for the junior grades.
- *Action Item: Check the OCSB's inventory of licensed movies.*

Attendees:

Kerri Courville, Chair
Shari Scott, Secretary
Robynn Kearns, SK Rep
Paula Wilson, Grade 1 Rep
Rosemary Chiarelli, Grade 4 Rep
Pankaj Sikka, Member
Jane O'Regan, Community Rep
Tory White, Principal
Nicole Gallant-Daigle, Teacher Rep