

**SJA School Council
MINUTES
December 10, 7:00 p.m.**

Call to Order by Kerri Courville (Chair)

Opening Prayer read by Principal White

Principal's Report (Principal White)

- There have been some staffing changes
 - Robin Gravelle replaces Mme Adou
 - Jennifer Madge replaces Mrs. DeChristofaro
- Father Tom has been visiting with the Grade 4's
- The Advent Mass on December 4th was a success. Thanks to Louise Hennessey.
- Information on the Sacraments of First Communion and Reconciliation were shared through SJA from the parish.
- The girls and boys volleyball tournaments were a success – thanks to Ms. Kralik, Ms. Lawson and Mr. MacGillvary. Next week the girls team will play the boys team, then students will play against the teachers.
- There was a lockdown practice at the school, advance warning was given. The next practice will be unannounced.
- Congratulations to Kevin Leahy, who won the Christmas Card Contest run through the Mayor's Office. The Mayor selected Kevin's design to use for his Christmas card this year, and invited Kevin and his family to visit the Mayor's Office.
- The Young Voices choir and the OCSB choir will be performing on December 11. SJA has 2 students in Young Voices and 4 in the OCSB.
- New custom shelving has been installed under the stairs in the Learning Commons.
- Friday December 20th is a PD Day.

Chair's Report (Kerri Courville - Chair)

- The PRO Grant funds have been released to the School Council.
- Council members have been considering possible fundraising activities:
 - The idea of a "Crazy Dinner" will not be pursued further – there is a low return on investment for the effort, it requires a lot of volunteer time, and may not be appropriate for the age of the children at SJA.
 - We may get greater volunteer participation if a clear focus/reason for the fundraiser (i.e. Council is looking to raise \$x to do y and z) is communicated to parents.
- Rose Hunt has agreed to coordinate the SJA Family Dance.

Action Item: Council members to each ask a friend with a child at another school for an activity they undertake at that school.

- There is a children's Christmas Party at St. John the Apostle Church on Saturday, December 14 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Hot dogs will be served and Santa will attend.

Treasurer's Report (Lorrie Sweet – Treasurer)

- No update.

CSPA Report (Kelly Torrance – CSPA Liaison)

- For PRO ideas for this year, Council could review the projects from other schools that are posted on the CSPA website. A particular focus could be connecting parents who are new to Canada to their school community, and vice versa.
- There was a recent conference “The People for Education” that was held recently, discussing the Ontario curriculum. TVO Parents recorded everything, and will make it available on their website.
- *Action Item: Kelly will bring in copies of the minutes.*

Parish Report (Louise Hennessy – Parish Liaison)

- No update

Focus Items:

a Funds Focus: (Kerri Courville – Chair)

- Tory has given Kerri a list of ideas from the teachers for a focus for our fundraising efforts
- Kerri has the gift card list from Tory for the teachers fund allowance.

b DFS:

- The distribution of products is complete (only one or two items left at school) and the initiative is closed.

c Gift of Technology: (Shari Scott - Secretary)

- The note to parents went home with students the week of December 3.
- Parents were asked to return their form by December 18.
- A question was asked about what was/would be purchased with the Gift of Technology money. iPads, iPad minis, and cases are the focus.

d School Council Boot Camp (Rose Hunt – Vice Chair)

- Rose will provide an update at the January meeting.

e Winter Dance (Rose Hunt – Vice Chair)

- Rose will form a committee and will try to find volunteers. In an effort to reach beyond the “usual suspects”, a volunteer sign-up sheet could be created, listing specific activities and time slots (e.g. ticket sales, drinks sales).
- The dance will be held at St. Paul’s High School again this year.
- Council decided to hold the dance on Friday, February 7, 2014, and to keep it as the culmination of Spirit Week.
- We will need: ideas for a theme, activities (e.g. silent auction – do we want a parent section this year for the auction?) and prize donations, and a DJ.

Action Item: Kerri to report to Council on teachers’ fundraising ideas at January meeting.

f PRO Grant (Kerri Courville – Chair)

Action Item: Council should think about new ideas for next year’s grant.

g) Buddy Bench (Kelly Torrance – CSPA Liaison)

- Kelly raised an idea she had heard of called a “Buddy Bench” – it’s a bench that is put out in the school yard and when a student is feeling lonely or in need of a friend, they can go and sit on the bench. All the students know what the bench is for, and that if they see someone there, they can go over.
- Tory had also heard of the idea, and is hoping to paint the existing playground benches and use them for the same purpose. The purpose of the benches would be communicated to students using the “Bucket Filling” theme that the school has been embracing.

Attendees:

Kerri Courville, Chair
Rose Hunt, Vice-Chair
Lorrie Sweet, Treasurer
Shari Scott, Secretary
Kelly Torrance, CSPA Liaison
Louise Hennessy, Parish Liaison
Laura Kotowski, JK Rep
Robynn Kearns, SK Rep
Paula Wilson, Grade 1 Rep
Lucia DiPrimio-Txogas, Grade 2 Rep
Agathe Rwankuba, Grade 5 Rep
Tory White, Principal
Amy Kralik, Teacher Rep