**Minutes of the St. Andrew Catholic School Council**

**Date**: November 8, 2018

**Time**: 6:15 p.m.

**Location**: Library, St. Andrew Catholic School

**Council Members In attendance**:

Lorraine Boulos, Michelle Kotulak, Louisa Oliveira, Christine Krueger, Nancy Harrison, Susan English, Marion Bastiampillai, Emilia DeSimone, Kelly Williams

**Regrets**:

Kendra Paiement

**Guests:** Marguerite Murad, Sonia Lancione, Crystal Duggan

**Greeting & opening prayer**:

Susan E opened the meeting and Lorraine B led us in an opening prayer with special thoughts for the Jez family.

**Secretary assignment**:

Kelly W volunteered to act as secretary for today’s meeting.

**Approval of agenda**:

Motion put forth by Louisa O, seconded by Emilia D; motion carried.

**Halloween Boogie-a-thon**:

Emilia D gave an overview of the dance-a-thon. The event went well, including the new practice of having 2 prizes per grade. The younger kids enjoying having the lights on and there was positive feedback about the prizes. The DJ was very good and had playlists tailored to various age groups. Marguerite M suggested the grade 8s make playlists for next year’s dance-a-thon instead of hiring a DJ, however the vetting of the music and oversight required would be too time consuming and problematic to move forward with this idea. $19,600.00 was raised this year. Many thanks given to all those who helped organize, decorate, and clean up the event.

**Council budget updates**:

Emilia D presented the budget of planned income and expenditures and noted the new format that now matches that of the board. Lorraine B showed us how the financial reports/budgets can be accessed from the school’s website.

**Business arising from last meeting**:

X Movement – The cost of X Movement is $8000.00. It is a dance program that teaches dances from various cultures and includes a parent engagement event. Although the funds to pay for this program are coming from another area, council may want to contribute due to the parent engagement factor.

School play – Lorraine B informed us of two options: 1) to book Miss Jackie for next year’s play (June 2020) in a role that would have her responsible for the entire play, including advising us on the Long and McQuade rentals, choreography, organizing the two sets of casts, etc. or 2) have another musical theatre program come in to put on a more traditional musical theatre event where kids would audition and only a select few would be a part of the play. Miss Jackie will cost $10,000.00, plus any cost associated with obtaining a script. Council opted for Miss Jackie. There was a discussion around how much money from the 2018/19 budget should go towards a 2019/20 event. A motion was put forth by Susan E to book Miss Jackie with the down payment coming from this year’s budget provided it does not exceed $2,000.00, Christine K seconded; motion carried.

Numeracy night – Lorraine B gave an overview of the Numeracy Night event. It was a huge success with approximately 350 people in attendance. Further details available in the Principal’s Report.

Wishlist expenditures – Lorraine B showed how she is organizing wishlist items from the staff and gave some examples of items being requested (math books, flexible seating, carpet, etc.) All in attendance went to Ms. Tilley’s classroom to see her non-traditional/progressive classroom setup. Susan E put forth a motion to allocate $3,000.00 to wishlist items and flexible seating, seconded by Marion B; motion carried. Funds will come from Classroom Environment and/or Curriculum categories of the budget. Sonia L asked about donating furniture and standing desks. Lorraine B informed us that donated items are welcome as long as they pass a safety check.

There was also a wishlist item for 20 hockey jerseys as the current ones are in bad shape. Emilia D put forth a motion to approve a $900.00 expenditure for 20 new jerseys, seconded by Louisa O; motion carried.

Almost all teachers are requesting Chromebooks. Lorraine B told us she is hoping to have $8,000.00 to purchase Chromebooks (costing between $150.00-$300 each). Christine K put forth a motion to approve the $8,000.00 expenditure, seconded by Emilia D; motion carried.

BBQ – Kelly W informed us that both BBQ Brothers and Main Event are booked for our June 6th, 2019 school BBQ. It was noted that we cannot request the fire truck until well into the new year.

HCCEF – Council agreed to increase our donation from $200.00 to $350.00. Lorraine B noted that $350.00 was the cost of sponsoring a hole at the charity golf event.

Christmas concert – Council agreed that in addition to Joy Day we would like to see a Christmas concert take place with each grade singing a Christmas song. Lorraine B to discuss with staff and confirm whether or not this event will go forward.

Swiss Chalet – Although a parent from the last School Council meeting said Swiss Chalet should not be part of our Lunch Box offering due to business and food safety issues, council could not verify this and decided to add back a Swiss Chalet option.

**Council of Chairs**:

Susan E and Marion B were both in attendance at the Council of Chairs meeting held on October 17th, 2018. The minutes of that meeting were made available by Susan E. Susan E said the guest speaker was very interesting and spoke about why and how Catholic education is different and how it guides all aspects of learning providing kids with a different perspective. Marion B was welcomed in the Commissioning Ceremony and also thought the meeting was a positive experience. The role of SEAC was discussed at the Council of Chairs meetings and Lorraine B said that we could possibly invite Brenda Agnew to come to a St Andrew School Council meeting to give us an overview of SEAC.

Renewing The Promise – Lorraine B spoke about Renewing The Promise and showed us the ICE (Institute for Catholic Education) website. She spoke of Catholic education as a journey through which we encounter Jesus.

**Principal/Vice Principal’s report – see appendix**:

Michelle K and Lorraine B explained the details of their report. There was a discussion regarding how to get more participation for the Twilight Mass as it previously has had low turnout. Suggestions were made about informing people that it is 30 minute mass followed by caroling and hot chocolate and marketing the “fun” aspects of the evening. Lorraine B also mentioned the possibility of the Holy Trinity band playing.

St. Andrew has a new CYC, Dania Srajeldin joining the staff.

There was a brief discussion about the Breakfast Club needing more supervision and how this issue will be a difficult one to resolve.

**New business for future meetings**:

* Update on wishlist expenditures.
* Invite Student Council for introduction and updates.

**Closing prayer and adjournment**: Council prayed an Our Father and said a Hail Mary for Mrs. Fiesser.

**St. Andrew School Council Meeting**

**Administrators’ Report for November 8th, 2018**

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| **Item**  | **Information** |
| **Catholicity** | * Our next OCGE awards for Collaborative Contributors will take place on November 9th
* Remembrance Day Celebration November 9th hosted by our Grade 3 students
* As a staff, we have been reflecting on the Bishops’ letter – Renewing the Promise
* We will be collecting Gift Cards for food for St. Vincent de Paul Society once again
* Twilight Advent Mass for families is on December 4th at 7:00 pm at MMOG parish
* Twilight Retreat for Grade 7 students at MMOG Parish – students have to sign up with the church
* We had Grade 3-7 Reconciliation on Oct. 18 (Grade 8s at HT for Pink Game that day)
* When Faith meets Pedagogy (Oct. 25-26)- Mrs. Cuggy-Murphy attended
* Bishop’s Dinner in support of HCCEF November 7th Michelle K, Nancy H & Susan E attended
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| **Curriculum**  | **School Improvement Planning** * We have our continued focus on Critical Thinking
* Our Itinerant Literacy/Numeracy teacher has been supporting teachers in supporting critical thinking in their classrooms, especially in relation to teaching Mathematics
* Parent/Teacher interviews/learning conferences; student-led conferences – will be taking place on November 22nd and 23rd, request forms were returned this week, conference times will be sent home with progress reports on November 20th
* Reading intervention programs continue
* We have added in Literacy/Numeracy support on Tuesdays and Thursday offered by Stephanie Thompson and Stefano Giorgio in addition to Wednesdays’ Homework Club
* ESL Lunch and Learn for our teachers (Oct. 19)
* Teachers are beginning to let me know their “wish lists”, flexible seating, carpets, technology
* L2L Mentorship Program began last week
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| **School Climate** | **Family Engagement Events****Pro-grant** – is on hold* Numeracy Night – was a HUGE success, had close to 350 people attend, the Learning Tree was very professional, organized, the games were excellent

**Student Council*** Has been chosen and will be announced at our Remembrance Day celebration

**Nutrition Programs*** Going well, feeding lots of kids, but cereal is making quite a mess in the forum
* Lunchbox orders – will wait to hear from Student Council and then will select a second option
* Pizza days – we’ve had two, still need to iron out a few kinks, but going very well
* Great Big Crunch – special guest was Stephany Balogh – kids were quite excited, it went well

**Mental Health and Wellness*** BRAVO program going well with our Sixes and Sevens
* Mind UP program in some of our Intermediate classes
* Girls Inc for some of our Grade 7 girls – focus on Media, will follow with two more sessions for different girls
* Intramurals have been ongoing with our Junior students
* Halton’s Women’s Place has been in doing some of their programs
* Oct. 17th - Lorraine attended Breakfast at the Health Dept. Re: legalization of Cannabis
* New CYC is starting on Monday
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| **Safety** | **Lockdown and bomb drills –** * Will be taking place this month

**Safe Arrival Program -** * Began Nov. 5th School Messenger – a few minor glitches on the first few days, but seems to be going well
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| **Fundraising**  | * Dance-a-thon –very successful, very positive feedback
* Grand total: $19, 600 (approximate)
* Many, many thanks to the numerous volunteers who helped to organize!
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