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

**Date**: January 24, 2019

**Time**: 6:30 p.m.

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

**Council Members In attendance**:

Lorraine Boulos, Elisa Carey, Christine Krueger, Nancy Harrison, Susan English, Marion Bastiampillai, Emilia DeSimone, Kelly Williams, Kendra Paiement, Patricia Nadal-Droog

**Regrets**: Louisa Oliveira

**Guests:** Marguerite Murad, Sonia Lancione, Crystal Duggan, Claudia Sinisterra and Mrs. Mouchbhani.

**Student Council Reps:** Iuliya Tryguba and Ashley Stevenson

**Greeting & opening prayer**:

Susan E opened the meeting and Elisa C led us in an opening prayer with special thoughts for the family and parent who had recently passed.

**Secretary assignment**:

Marion B volunteered to act as secretary for today’s meeting.

**Welcome of our new Vice Principal:**

Lorraine B introduced the new VP – Elisa Carey. Elisa comes to us from St. Gregory’s Catholic School.

**Approval of agenda**:

A slight change was made to the agenda. Item 7 – Introduction of Youth Minister from MMOG was moved up to Item 3.

Motion to approve was put forth by Christine K and seconded by Kelly W; motion carried.

**Youth Minister Update:**

Debbie Fry, the Youth Minister from MMOG provided the council with a summary and update on completed and upcoming activities in the Parish and Schools.

* Next Youth led family mass will be held on February 17th at 11:00 a.m.
* There will be a Catholic Faith Sharing pilot project initiated in February with the grade 4, 5 & 6 girls. This will be held during lunch. The first saint who is to be discussed is St. Therese. There may be a field trip planned to the Carmelite Monastery at St Agatha’s.
* Children’s Liturgy – This ministry is being promoted to children in the primary grades and their families and is aimed at bringing families back to mass. In order to encourage this, the Youth Ministry will launch the “Have a Blast at Mass” program at the February Youth Led Family Mass.  Week 1 (Feb 17th) will see the youth and the children attending Children’s Liturgy performing the actions to the song “My Light House” in front of the congregation. Week 2 (Feb 24th) - there will be a Photo Booth set up for pictures to be taken with Fr John.  Week 3 (March 3rd) – there will balloon animals for the children. Lorraine will ask the teachers to share these details with parents using their media of communication. Debbie will also be looking into creating labels that could be affixed in children’s Agendas.
* BBQ – Debbie mentioned that the team would like to play a more active role in participating in the BBQ. Emilia and Kelly will reach out to Debbie closer to the date to confirm what can be done to help.
* An update was provided on the Rosary Walk.

**Business Arising from last meeting:**

1. **BBQ**:
* Main Event and BBQ Brothers have been booked. Unfortunately, we will not be having the World of Sports this year. But we do have alternatives, and these are reserved.
* BBQ Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 21st at 6:00 p.m.
* Emilia will send out an e-mail to those who had signed up as volunteers at the beginning of the year.
* Kelly W will be the lead for the event.
1. **Student Council Update:**

The Student Council is in place and there are twelve (12) ministries. Ashely and Iulia who were present at the meeting provide a brief summary on a few of the current activities.

* Newcomer’s ministry enables kids who speak different languages to find a friend who speaks a similar language within the school.
* The Eco ministry has organized an Eco Assembly on Feb 11th. There are several games planned to be run at this assembly to highlight the importance of be eco friendliness.
* The Student Council handed over the poster thanking MMOG, to Debbie Fry.

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

Lorraine B and Elisa C explained the details of their report.

**School Trips:**

* Lorraine stated that there have been a number of unfounded rumours that kids have been caught vaping in the washrooms. **It is to be noted that this is not true. There have been no kids caught vaping in the school washrooms.**
* There was a discussion regarding the grade 7 & 8 ski trips. Lorraine explained the reasons behind why these trips had not been approved. In addition to the stringent guidelines put in place by the Board in 2018 around safety and the requirement to keep ski trip locations preferably in the Halton Region, Lorraine also had to make a judgement call to not approve the trips due to the lack of supervisory staff available to accompany the group.

School trips and are based on the supporting and enriching the curriculum. Each year the teachers meet to plan what trips will best support student learning and put in formal requests for approval in writing. Our “Out of the Classroom Program Safety Guidelines” were revised in January 2018. It is the sole responsibility of the Principal to determine if the proposed trip meets the minimum safety guidelines. Approval for student travel will be given where the primary purpose of the trip is educational. This shall be demonstrated by meeting the educational validity criteria and sound curriculum planning techniques being applied for attainment of educational goals. Based on these criteria no ski trip was approved this year.

Lorraine has approached the Student Council to investigate different options available for a trip.

* A few of the parents present stated that they would like to see the school provide kids with the opportunity to experience a winter sport. Suggestions were made to look into snow shoeing and/or cross-country skiing to enable those kids not wanting to participate in downhill skiing.

**Family Engagement Events:**

Lorraine requested those present to put forward ideas on how best to engage parents and bring them out to attend family engagement events.

**Breakfast and Snack Club:**

There was a suggestion to have a “Dad’s Day” at the school to encourage fathers to be more involved in school events. Lorraine will look into “Dad’s Day” opportunities.

**Council Budget Update:**

Emilia D presented the budget of planned income and expenditures. The Financial Report has been updated to reflect incomes received and expenses incurred since the last meeting in November 2018. It was also noted that we have received the Pro-Grant for $1,000.

Lorraine stated that Ms. Jackie has not yet been booked as a result of messaging to administrators from our school Superintendent Mrs. Pinelli. There is a possibility that this policy may be revised shortly. As soon as this happens, Lorraine will proceed to book Ms. Jackie for the school play in 2020.

**Joint School Council Meeting /Mental Health and Wellbeing Night:**

On Feb 12th Holy Trinity will be hosting an evening for parents beginning at 7:00 p.m. The theme of the evening is **“We’re in it Together: Raising Healthy, Strong, Resilient Kids”.** There will be several information booths being run at this event. A number of these booth will be managed by Grade 8 students from the Family of Schools. St. Andrew’s will be represented as well. All parents are welcome to attend.

Lorraine will confirm and advice Council whether there will be a Joint School Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. prior to this event.

**New business for future meetings**:

* Selection Criteria for Principals – Response due by February 1st;
* Update on BBQ:
* School Play;
* Breakfast Brothers.

**Other Business:**

* Iulia asked if the school look into purchasing Science text books as the ones currently in use are worn out. Lorraine will check with the Board to see if there are any changes being made to the curriculum in the near future, and if not, will look into purchasing new books.

Lorraine will also look into whether the school has digital copies of text books and if these can be made available to students.

* A question was asked about the Grade 1 yard in the school and how recess supervision is managed. Lorraine provided details on the layout of the yard. She also mentioned that the kids are reminded during assembly about boundaries and rules around staying in their own yards. She also stated that teachers on duty during recess are very vigilant and strictly enforce the rules.

With regards to safety and outsiders entering the school yard – Lorraine stated that all teacher supervisors wear vests and are easily identifiable. They also carry walkie-talkies to keep in touch with each other. The yard is very safe for the kids.

* A concern was raised about the parking lot near the Kindergarten classes during the YMCA drop off time – around 7:00 a.m. There are cars left running while parents go into the school to drop off their kids at the YMCA program.

Lorraine stated that this is an ongoing issue and as a concern has been raised, she will advise the By-Law Police. She said that parents could also call the by-law offices and report these incidents as well.

**Closing prayer and adjournment**: Elisa C led us in our closing prayer and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item**  | **Information** |
| **Catholicity** | * **Grade Two Reconciliation** took place on December 1st
* **Tree of Love** - St. Vincent de Paul Society was extremely appreciative of all of the Gift Cards that were donated by our St. Andrew families in December for families in need.
* **Joy Day** was a big success, students and staff participated in many different activities including a Christmas concert and making Christmas crafts. Our Kindergarten classes invited parents to join in on the fun.
* Our **Twilight Advent Mass** took place at MMOG Parish on December 4th. We had an amazing turnout, the church was full, the feedback was very positive.
* Our **Grade 7 Confirmations** will take place this Saturday, at MMOG, at 10:00 AM.
* We will be starting a Rosary Club during the lunch hour
* Our **OCGE Award** that we are currently working on is being an Effective Communicator
 |
| **Curriculum**  | **School Improvement Planning** * We continue to work on our book study*, Creating Thinking Classrooms*. Teachers are developing more and more opportunities for students to approach the curriculum from an inquiry stance. You can see many examples of this on Twitter.
* We have ordered more flexible seating options – the latest is our new wobble stools that are in Mrs. Wilkinson’s, Mrs. Tilley’s and Mrs. Galluzzo’s rooms. We’ve also purchased some bean bag chairs, new trapezoid tables, standing desks, and some new tables for Mr. Giorgio’s room
* Mrs. Chiarotto continues to run a Reading Intervention program for children who are struggling to read. We continue to have Lexia running, we bought some more licenses because we are having a lot of success with this program.
* Our L2L program ended last week, this was a peer-mentorship program where older students mentored younger students in math.
* We have both a Literacy and Numeracy after school support program running for Intermediate students weekly
* Our BBBS Homework Club continues weekly after school
* This year, instead of hiring Les Chefs a l’Ecole, our French teachers decided to turn our Grade 8 students into chefs themselves. They chose their own food items, wrote the recipes, and cooked the food.
* Friday, February 1st is a PA Day, there will be no school for students, it is our Report Card Writing Day. February 15th is also a PA Day, the focus is on Equity and Inclusion.
* Report Cards go home on Wednesday, February 20, 2019
* Our Public Speaking Contest will take place on Feb. 19th.
* We will have our first ever Science Fair on Feb. 21 and 22
* X-Movement/X-Dance begins on Friday and continues through next week

**School Trips** School trips are based on the supporting and enriching the curriculum. Each year, the teachers meet to plan what trips will best support student learning and put in formal requests for approval in writing. Our “Out of Classroom Program Safety Guidelines” were revised in January 2018. It is the sole responsibility of the principal to determine if the proposed trip meets the minimum Safety Guidelines. Approval for student travel will be given where the primary purpose of the trip is educational. This shall be demonstrated by meeting the Educational Validity Criteria and sound curriculum planning techniques being applied for the attainment of educational goals. Based on these criteria, no ski trip was approved this year.  |
| **Culture and Community** | **Family Engagement Events*** Feb. 5th – X-Movement Dance for families

**Student Voice** * Our Student Council has been very busy, we’ve added to their roles, they support all school events and activities

Sydney - Minister of SJ, charity, ecoLeah - academicsEmma - financeJacob - ministry educationGisela - safety and wellnessOlivia - student voiceAshley - spirit, yearbookIulia - new comersLuke - faithEliot - technologyCarter - food and nutritionJulia - equity and inclusion* We had our Conduct Assemblies, we made them interactive whereby students could share what they thought was going well and what needs to be worked on. Issues about inappropriate cell phone usage came up during the Intermediate assembly, and we met as a team to discuss, and as a result, we renewed our electronic device contract, and an email was sent home to all Intermediate parents.
* Ministry just announced that they are instituting Speak Up grants again

**Student Safety, Health and Well-being*** Raising Resilient Children – Joint Family of Schools Parent Evening on Feb. 12 at HT
* Bus Safety Presentations taking place Feb. 27.
* Once again, we have our FOS SW working with our CYC on a special program to support students in coping with stress and anxiety
* Martial Arts during the lunch hour with Paterson’s Karate Works has been a HUGE success, 52 students in grades 1 – 6 are participating

**Breakfast and Snack Club*** Our program started up again last week, it remains very popular with our students, but Stefania has had to cancel on occasion due to lack of volunteers
* February will be “Feeduary” – support for HFFT

**Treat Lunches*** It continues to run very smoothly thanks to the amazing coordinators and the many volunteers. The parents also hold aside some left-over pizza for us that we keep frozen for students who are missing lunches.
* **LunchBox Orders** – Swiss Chalet is back on, very few people ordering, so we will do an advertising push

**Kindergarten Registrations*** Early registration took place this week. Notification went out to parents, appears on board and school websites, is in Church bulletin, and is on our Twitter feed.

**School Teams*** We have purchased new gym equipment
* Our Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball teams have been selected and have begun their season

**Staff Changes*** Mrs. Vukovic took a position at Sacred Heart of Jesus School
* Mrs. Forsyth leaves for her maternity leave soon, her last day will be on Feb. 1st.
* We have a new VP, Mrs. Elisa Carey, who began on January 7th
 |
|  |  |