

# MINUTES

St Francis Of Assisi

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*Monday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 @ 6:30 | Meeting called to order by Vicki Santaguida*

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## In Attendance

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John Del Guidice, Pat McGinness, Cheryl Nieuwendyk, Marie Paterson, Cathy Reitzel, Vicki Santaguida, Karen Truyens (Via Skype) Mark Witter,

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## Approval of Minutes

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Minutes Approved – Cheryl Nieuwendyk and Marie Paterson

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## Chairs Report – Vicki Santaguida & John Del Guidice

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Future meeting dates were discussed and agreed upon by all present

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## Principal's Report – Mark Witter

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Focused on Achieving, Believing, Belonging

### Achieving

- Diagnostic assessments are complete
- Teachers / Staff are creating structural pathways – these are specific to students/ classes
- Lots of workshops are being attended by staff and information gathered is being shared with those note in attendance
- Progress reports are underway to be sent home on November 21<sup>st</sup>
- Parents able to book interviews online as of 12:00 p.m. today
  - There was some discussion amongst council regarding some experience difficulty with the system and/ or not having received the communication with the code etc.
  - Mr. Witter will email code/ reminder home to families
  - St. Francis, along with four other schools is piloting this new system for one more year
  - Board plans/ hopes to go board wide with the online system next year
  - Teachers are instructed to follow up with parents who have not booked
- There have been many school trips, including but not limited to
  - The Water Festival, The Forest Festival, The Safety Village, Camp Brebeuf
    - Many more coming up
- There are many clubs on offer for the students to join such as The Colouring Club, Choir, Eco Falcons, Me to We, and many sports teams
- St. Francis celebrated both Orange day and Purple Day
- November 17 marks Red & White day with a Toonie donation asked for in support of United Way
- November 10<sup>th</sup> every student will receive a poppy – donation box in office

## Believing

- October 12<sup>th</sup> – First School Mass
- November 7<sup>th</sup> - First Reconciliation for grades 3-5. We will have 5 priests in attendance.
- St. Francis continues to focus on the Indigenous Grandfather Teaching of Courage this month
  - Grades 3-8 participated in an art project
  - Liaison is very happy with our efforts re. Truth and Reconciliation
- December 5<sup>th</sup> – Family Advent Mass – Mrs. Reitzel
- December 14<sup>th</sup> – Annual Family Advent Night

## Belonging

- Therapy dogs visit monthly
  - Cheryl Nieuwendyk brings her dog in and reports the program is amazing!!
    - Children really respond. They're quiet, respectful
    - Structured Teaching classroom especially loves the experience
- October 26<sup>th</sup> – Healthy Eating Promotion – The Big Crunch took place
- Next week Wednesday begins our salad cart program
- Healthy Snack bins have been launched
- November 29<sup>th</sup> Director of Education coming to our school for a visit
- Mrs. Reitzel working on Christian meditation
- Many different programs/ teams/ assemblies being offered to students
- Family Night – Sub-Committee to be formed
  - Council should forward ideas ASAP

## Tell Them from Me

- Mr. Witter reviewed this data with council. It is now 2 years old and we hope to see improvements
- Students are using outdoor classroom and it has become a safe space as was intended
  - We hope to continue to build on it

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## Budget

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Budget was reviewed by council. Council discussed our goals for funds and where money has been spent to date.

- Mr. Witter has appealed to board to have school gym painted
- Mrs. Reitzel suggested having scripture painted/ placed around the school
- John Del Guidice suggested the students could use new team uniforms and or t-shirts to represent the school – Mr. Witter will look into prices, use of new logo etc.

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## Chairs Report

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## Other Business

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Halloween Dance –a – Thon – Kim Zangrilli

- Funds are really down, especially if we don't consider the one very big donation

- Cheryl advised we've received one big donation from a very generous company for many years
- Unsure what the solution is, we've run the dance with many different formats from individual prizes to class prizes to school prize
- Marie Paterson shared information gathered from Holy Cross CES and advised they still use envelopes
- As a whole the council is happy to keep the school wide prize
- Kim concerned online payment is putting people off making the smaller donations
- Mr. Witter advised bigger schools are struggling too
- Council agreed after much discussion to continue hosting the dance-a-thon at Halloween
  - Sub-Committee of parent volunteers will be formed to work with a Sub-Committee of students
  - Things to be considered would include more decorations/ sourcing a volunteer DJ from our school community, get the students involved in promoting it as well as promoting the dance with photos/ reminders
  - Should send out to parents photos etc. of the goals we hope to achieve with funds raised to motivate them
  - Council agreed to revisit this item in June
- Pizza Party – Kim waiting on confirmation of milk donation. Tentative date is November 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Marie, Vicki and Pat agreed to help on the day as Kim is unavailable

#### Family Advent Mass/ Night

- December 14<sup>th</sup> – School will host both Family Advent Mass and Family Advent Night
- Gingerbread houses/ photos/ chocolate milk/ advent baskets and classroom crafts will be part of the evening
- Grade 8's will be asked to help out. Grade 9's interested can earn their volunteer hours
- Staff has a committee to organize the evening

#### School Uniforms - A Committee should be formed if we are to go ahead with a School Uniform Vote

- After much discussion the council voted unanimously against putting it to a vote with the parents\
- A Sub-Committee has been formed to review the current dress code policy
  - Members include: Mark Witter, Kim Zangrilli and Marie Paterson
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#### Lunch Box Orders

- Mr. Witter brought forth some concerns regarding allergies and our use of the Pita Pit
  - Mr. Witter presented an alternative. We can use a company called "Lunch Box Orders" to vet and oversee all our vendors.
    - No cost to the school/ parents
    - Reduces liability
    - Small fundraising component
- Council voted unanimously to pursue this option

#### Cross Country Meet

- Pat McGuiness expressed frustration that the students didn't have a tent to gather at/ under during this event

### Spirit Wear

- John suggested sourcing new uniforms and t-shirts
- Vicki advised she has had parents inquire about spirit wear
- Kim has had parents inquire about personalizing team uniforms with students name
  - Mr. Witter has agreed to look in to options
  - John advised he can assist with pricing etc.

### Math Packages

- Mr. Witter has set up a sub-committee of teachers to collaborate with council
  - Looking for feedback on what we want to see in the bags
  - Hoping to engage parents and get them involved in their children's math
- Goal is to have them ready for home by end of January or early February

### Food Truck Update

- Cheryl has been unable to rebook them for next year at this time but will continue to try

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### Next Meeting

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Monday, February 5, 2018 at 6:30pm in the Learning Commons

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.