

ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL COUNCIL | MINUTES

Meeting date | time Oct. 5, 2021 | 6:00-7:00pm | Meeting location Virtual via Teams

Meeting called by	Julie Riesberry	Attendees:
Type of meeting	November Council Meeting	Julie Riesberry
Facilitator	Julie Riesberry	Mike Schlee
Minutes	Alice Pawlowska	Jess Dsouza (absent)
		Lisa Soroko
		Alice Pawlowska

AGENDA TOPICS

1-Introduction

- First Council Meeting of 2021/2022 school year
- Small council team again this year. We are missing a Parish representative. Julie is looking into another school to act as Parish rep.
- One nominee interested, but no forms submitted to date.
- Initiative to recruit more council members this year. Beginning with Kinder and YMCA.

2- Believing

- Moving forward with believing initiative.
- Supporting Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations
 - What does it mean to be an Ont. Catholica Grad?
 - Initiative supported through Curriculum and via Bulletin Board posts
- STEM at St. Michael's
 - \$5000 investment in Robotics
 - Previous years we had \$0.
 - We purchased six (qty: 6) Botlies (mini robots) with focus on coding for grades K-8.
 - We purchased six (qty:6) wonder robots (larger robots) with focus on commands through coding. Purchased for \$700 each. Wonder robot will be piloted through grade 7 class for programming.
 - Qty: 18 Spirrow – largest purchase for coding.

- Plan for robotics is to catalogue and get them out to students to play and learn and teach each other and even teachers.
- Teachers will use half a PA day to learn through play as training.
- Lego wall was purchased all new.
- This year we purchased 35 new chromebooks for distribution.
- Last June we loaned a total of 75 computers for virtual learners.
- Alice to follow-up if Samuel donation laptops are still a possibility for 2021/2022 school year and advise principal.
- We have a new gym floor and new gym equipment
- New learning garden outside
- Library books have been updated
- New office furniture in Principals office
- HVAC has been updated
- Leak issues in gym being resolved this week. Status to be advised on next meeting.
- Currently our school has no mask exemptions
- Safety is still our schools top priority
- Enrollment: total 246 students
- Virtual: 11 students
- All 246 students are out at recess this year, in cohorts.
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3- MISCELLANEOUS

- Bus Transportation – largest issue
 - We are sharing busses with Montclair
 - Montclair has different masking rules and we are the second pickup which raises concerns with our parents.
 - We are working with Halton transportation to resolve this.
- School visitors: 3 step process
 - Proof of double vaccination
 - If no proof of vaccine is available, a valid test within 24hours is acceptable.
 - Awaiting direction what test types are acceptable, rapid or other.
- Hygiene
 - Ongoing issues in women's washrooms
 - Current solution – custodian checks washroom on hourly basis
- Extra-curricular
 - Through parental consent
 - Uniforms not ideal – unisex, potentially looking at upgrading
 - School trips are currently not on schedule as transportation costs are high, and covid is impacting and impeding volunteers
 - Ski trip is pending at this time. To be reviewed and announced at a later date.

4-Achieving

- School is recognizing that there are learning gaps from K through 8.
- Grade 8 completed a common task for math to identify gaps and strengths.
 - Data expected next week
- School engaged in programs to aid reading, writing and math.
 - Some programs include:
 - Lexia – reading license for in-risk readers
 - Mathology
 - Homework is deemed non-essential for k-8.
 - Not being pushed as method to merge learning gap
 - Homework is on individual basis and teachers are encouraged to individually assess need if required for a student.

5-Fundraisers

- One major fundraiser allowed per school
- Principal is suggesting write the cheque campaign.
 - Upon discussion council recommended to provide parents/community with option to write a cheque is participation in fundraiser is not of interest.
 - Given that our community demographics for fundraising have been known to be low.
 - This year, will be the first of such kind, and will act as a target for future years.
 - Deadline by End of November, 2021.
- Other fundraising ideas:
 - Solicited coupons to be raffled off (by council members)
 - Pasta Wednesday (all food must come individually packaged).
 - Pizza Tuesday (Alice to follow-up with local pizza vendors and look into individually packed slices and pricing).
- Community Engagement Ideas
 - Virtual science night
 - Bring in speakers such as authors.
 - Family pumpkin carving night
 - Alice to look into pumpkin suppliers/wholesalers, deliveries, costs.
 - i.e. distribute to families before Halloween
 - host a carving night and submit pictures to select a winner per class.
 - Pumpkin to cost i.e. \$5/pumpkin and have a pumpkin drive by pickup.
 - Alice to advise no later than Tuesday next week

6-Coming Up! A look Ahead.

- Oct. 29th – Halloween dressup fun fair at school
- Dancathon

NEXT MEETING: November 1, 2021

Meeting Adjourned