

ST. VINCENT SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday November 18th 2019, 7pm

In attendance, Barb McCarter, Carolyn Hughes, Regina Dykman, Ms. Uniacke, Mrs. VanHooydonk, Siobhan Kukolic , Tracy Sonnemann, Michelle Kent, Susie Millington, Gina Millington, Patricia Glynn, Sharon Moore, Mrs. Glinski

Welcome and Introductions – Regina Dykman

Opening prayer – Siobhan Kukolic led the group in a prayer from our student prayer books.

Approval of Minutes – Recommended by Regina, Seconded by Susie Millington.

Principal's Report:

- Liturgy on Kindness held, Remembrance Day Liturgy held.
- Parent meetings for First Communion and for Reconciliation were held last week.
- On December 17th the school will celebrate our Advent Mass.
- New class prayer books have been distributed to students and to Parent Council Members. Each class has created one prayer to be included in the book. Each day after the morning announcements, one of these prayers is read.
- Curriculum: Student vote was held recently for our grade 4 – 8 students. It was a great learning experience for the kids and they seemed to really enjoy this hands on method of learning about the Federal election.
- Homework club is meeting before and after school every day – helping students with math & literacy
- Our Grade 8 Students have recently visited STA. Grade 6 students will travel to STA on December 5th.
- School Administration is looking at reducing the number of Grad awards this year due to smaller Grad class size. Perhaps putting more focus on Catholicity. This is being looked at as a way to ensure the awards are meaningful.
- Progress reports go home November 20th, with parent conferences happening on the 21st and 22nd.
- December 11th Christmas Concert will be held for ALL grades. Council was very pleased that the entire student body will be involved this year. There was some discussion about having an evening performance to ensure all parents could attend. Decision was made to see what attendance numbers are like this year now that all grades will participate. Evening performances are difficult to manage because of the high number of kids involved in extracurricular sports/clubs and limited availability of school staff.
- NOTE: in 2020 we will consider scheduling the Christmas concert and Christmas Shop in different weeks – it is often difficult for parents to attend both in one week.
- Next Civvies day December 20th.

Safety & Facility:

- Changes have been made to the parking lot – painted parking spots were removed from the Kiss & Ride lane to promote continuous flow through the area. Discussion was held on the fact that there are currently no “marked” crossing areas from the front of the school to the sidewalk. Kids and parents cross at many points which makes it more dangerous when buses, cars are driving in the lane in front of the school. Mrs Uniacke will take this away and see what can be done.
- Water Quality – problems identified and sent out to parents via email were actually for another school. The Board sent out a follow up notice indicating that St Vincent’s water quality was within Provincial Standards. Susie Millington asked why there is a discrepancy between Provincial and Federal Standards (St Vincent is within Provincial, but below Federal Standards). This will be investigated and an update provided at a future Council meeting.
- Buddy Benches have been ordered and are on their way.
- School Cash Online – while very convenient and desirable, does come with a hefty price tag - \$2600. Council to monitor the use of this program.
- Regina asked that we pull together a list of all St Vincent fundraisers, and indicate where the funds go for each. Carolyn Holmes will pull this together for a future Council meeting.

Council Chair’s Report (Regina)

- Regina recently attended the Council of Chares – enjoyed the opportunity to meet/mix with other School Councils. Feedback was that not all communication from the Board makes it to the parents/is easily understood by the parents. This needs to be a focus going forward.
- CPIC (Catholic Parent Involvement Committee) – last year St Vincent obtained a grant of \$1000. This year – that grant will be given to a family of schools. (St Vincent, STA, St Luke’s & St Dominic) The grant will be used to bring in a guest speaker on February 27th, 2020. Sherry Campbell will speak on “Raising Resilient Children”. This speaker is well known for her easy to understand, highly informative talks. All parents are encouraged to attend – more details to follow.

Committee Reports:

- Staff (Mrs Glinski) – The grade 6 class will lead a Shoebox Initiative. During a couple of lunch periods, the grade 6 students will decorate shoeboxes donated by the school community. The entire school body will be asked to donate the empty boxes, and items to fill them (list of requested items will be provided). These shoeboxes will be distributed locally to families in need.
- Parish (Sharon Moore)
 - This Sunday, St Andrews Parish is hosting an Advent Family event. After mass, families are invited to enjoy some refreshments & make an advent wreath.
 - A sensory Friendly Mass is scheduled for December 10th.
 - De Mazenod Advent Brown Bag Drive is underway at St Andrews Parish. Council asked that the school bring in some of these bags for families who wish to participate but perhaps can’t make it to mass this weekend.

- Volunteer (Carolyn) – Christmas Shop Update- only 25% of St Vincent families have returned the Christmas Shop form. This makes it extremely difficult for the volunteers to plan & purchase items for the shop. Council will promote through informal communication within the school community to try and get many more forms returned by the deadline.
- New Business (Group) – Council agreed to change the date of the January Council meeting so that it did not coincide with the very busy first day back after Christmas Break. Next meeting now set for January 20th instead.
- Closing Prayer (Tracy Sonnemann)
- Adjourned at 7:47