

St Vincent School Council Minutes

Monday January 20, 2020.

Meeting began at 7pm.

In attendance were Ms Uniacke, Mrs Vanhooydonk, Regina Dykman, Sharon Moore, Tracy Sonnemann, Michelle Kent, Susie Millington, Gina Millington, Monique Craigen

Prayer led by Regina Dykman

Minutes approved by Regina. Seconded by Sharon.

Principal's report

- **Catholicity**
- Dec 17th our Grade 7 class led the Advent mass. Our New Year's liturgy will be held on January 12th.
- Feb 1st& 2nd is our Confirmation registration mass at St Andrews Parish.

Curriculum

- Junior division went to see "Mathilda" in December
- The Homework Club continues to be offered before and after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- The Ministry has approved Learning Support grades 3 & 6 literacy and numeracy support. Will begin soon.
- Raz afterschool club – continues – before and after school 2 days/week.

Community

- New registrations for Kindergarten begin this week. We are excited to welcome new students to the school.
- Next PA day is January 31st
- Report Cards go home on February 18th
- We are looking at holding spirit days every Tuesday in February. Details will be communicated to the school community directly. (Crazy hair day etc.)
- Next civvies day will be January 30th - Jersey Day. Donations will go to support the United Way.
- Holocaust Memorial Day is January 27th – a special prayer will be read over the PA
- February is Black History Month. Students will enjoy a presentation by Leslie McCurdy from Prologue theatre on "The Spirit of Harriet Tubman." Important events and people from our History will be shared over the PA for the month of February.
- Good luck to our boys and girls Basket Ball teams who are both competing in tournaments next week.
- HCDSB is celebrating its 50th anniversary and is sharing the contents of a time capsule that schools put together 25 years ago. Contents will be available for viewing by the St Vincent community.

Safety & Facilities

- A discussion was held about the late busses. In some cases the bus is 30 – 40 minutes late and parents have not been notified. This is an issue with the bus provider and is not within the control of school staff or administration.
- On January 27th our Grade 7 students will receive vaccinations.
- Reminder to please send kids to school with proper outdoor attire.
- Susie Millington emailed the Board to ask about water quality – has not yet had a response.
- We have received the “go ahead” to designate a crossing area in front of our school. This will give students a safer place to cross when moving from the school to the street, crossing the busy drop off/pick up/bus lane. Facility staff will undertake this in the spring.

Financial

- The final items to be purchased from Dance a thon funds are fidget chairs. They will be ordered soon.
- New sports equipment has been purchased.
- Dance X has been booked.
- Sacramental kits for special needs kids have been purchased. This will enable students to “practice” their First Holy Communion before the event.
- \$1600 has been donated to Kerr St Ministry, representing the proceeds from our Xmas shop and poinsettia sales.
- Some instruments have been repaired as needed.
- Buddy Benches have been delivered and will be installed once the ground thaws in the spring.

Council Chair’s Report

- Echoed earlier comments about the Xmas concert. It was wonderful to have all of the grades represented and nice to see a strong turnout for both sessions.
- Discussed the possibility of using as a prize or incentive, 2 reserved front row seats at the Christmas concert. To be discussed next fall.
- Xmas shop. Great gifts, wonderful group of new volunteers. Great set up in the wrapping area. Very well done! Discussion was held on possibly selling “gently used” items rather than new in an effort to reduce waste.
- Discussion was held around student lunchtime supervision. There is some concern about junior grades not being sufficiently supervised. Currently one volunteer roams from one room to another, checking on several classrooms. Volunteers are not an option because of the special training they must undergo, and the fact that they must commit to 5 days/week. There is currently one opening for a paid position – which would need to be vetted & trained through the Board. Older students are often in the rooms to help supervise the younger grades, as well as EAs. Ms Uniacke agreed to look at increasing the presence of older students in each of the younger grades.
- School uniform consultation – the Board held 2 sessions throughout the district to gather suggestions/concerns for future uniform provider/pieces.

- Mrs Craigen shared some information about all the wonderful ways in which St Vincent School takes steps to welcome its new families. This often begins with the Welcome Back Barbeque, and is followed by other social activities. Feedback has been excellent from new and not-so-new school families. Thank you to Monique and her team for contributing to our school community in such a meaningful way.

Closing Prayer – Tracy Sonnemann

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm