

**St. Thomas More Catholic School
Parent Council Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2022**

In Attendance: Sandra Fragoso, Tania Ouellette, Kimberly Dreifield, Jen Follwell, Adelina Andreita, Caitlin Lee, Vanessa Rignault, Sheryl Richardson

Opening Prayer: Sandra

Minutes: There were no minutes of the September 20, 2022 meeting to review.

Chair report:

Jen presented a number of items for review and discussion:

1. Bottle Drive September 24 Recap: This was a fun, easy and successful fundraiser resulting in \$325.90. This money has been used to purchase pickle ball equipment, already in use by the senior students.
2. Sport Tent: Mike Lee of Desjardins Insurance has generously donated a sport tent with the St. Thomas More logo on it. It is available for future events.
3. Upcoming Events:
 - a. CC Farms Fundraiser:

Melissa from CC Farms reached out and needed confirmation immediately with respect to the wreath/planter Christmas fundraiser. There was some discussion as to whether we should proceed given the current situation regarding the ongoing negotiations with CUPE. It was decided that Tania would proceed with setting things up online tomorrow via School Messenger with the template from 2021 and a November 8th close date. Final numbers to be conveyed to CC farms November 10th. Sale prices for wreaths and planters will remain at \$30 and \$35 respectively (Purchase price \$25). Drop off at the school parking lot is Thursday, November 24 at noon. Parent volunteers are Sheryl 12-3pm, Kimberley 2-5pm and Vanessa 3-5pm. One volunteer to check off of names on the clipboard and the other pick-up item and hand off to purchaser.

There was some discussion as to where the fundraising monies would be best directed. A few suggestions were put forth. They included outdoor sports equipment as these items wear out quickly, repair of the fish tank in the Life Skills Room and items like a hammock or swing for the Sensory/Quiet Room.

b. Kingston Frontenacs Hockey Game:

Friday March 3, 2023 is not available. We will need to schedule a new date, preferably a Friday. Tickets will be \$21/ticket with \$2 from every ticket coming back to STM. "Chuck a puck" will also be part of fundraising. We can invite team players or the mascot to the school to be part of activities such as gym class or recess, etc. if wanted.

c. Christmas Tree Pick-up:

Saturday January 7, 2023 was set as the date. \$20/tree. Jen will have flyers ready for mailboxes in the neighbourhood, to give out with wreath pick-up, to post on Facebook page in Calvin Park area and on Twitter. An attempt will be made to keep the route simple and just in the immediate neighbourhood. An email request will be sent out later to request parent volunteers.

Principal Report:

Sandra recently attended a Board wide Council Meeting and reported on a number of ongoing items. "C3" – Curiosity Creates Change – this is meant to foster inquiry, student ownership and equity in an attempt to retain more children in the classroom. There is a success criterion to achieve in order to obtain a "C3 School Status". The team is launching the program with the senior classes tomorrow in the learning commons.

ProGrant Funding is available to for various initiatives i.e., speakers. The process is streamlined at the Board office now and is much easier.

The School Improvement Plan is based on the Board Multi Year Strategic 5-year Plan as posted on the Board website. It includes areas of Faith, Scholarship and Equity.

In terms of Faith, this translates to a visual reminder of monthly mass and "homework" from the priest. Last month it was putting "God First". We are also playing faith-based music before class starts in the morning and have connected with the Catholic Women's League and have made prayer pals.

With respect to Scholarship, there is a real focus on K-2 for math and reading. There is a recognized gap in older students due to Covid. "C3", as discussed earlier, is seen as an opportunity for the older children to "own their learning".

Equity is defined as giving each person what they need in the moment. It is not the same as equal. The goal to provide a safe learning community ensures that students can name at least one adult that they feel safe going to for support if needed. There is also a calendar of events and opportunities for outside agencies and community partners to come and engage with students i.e., Pathways, RND staff, Community Police Officers, Parish Priests.

EQAO data will be shared at a later date.

Finance Report:

Diane was not in attendance. Tania reported that no money from 2022-23 has been transferred from the account to date. \$864.00 from 2021-22 was just transferred so that the wreath balance would be \$0 to start.

It was suggested, for audit purposes, that we have a simple form created to have both parties sign off on when cash is handed in from fundraising events.

Community Report: Vanessa reported on a number of items.

- a. Loving Spoonful "Grow Project". Their mandate is to connect with the local community and schools to provide an experiential learning experience around sustainable food system. They are able to provide resources and materials to teachers grades 4-8 and also some curriculum resources for younger grades. Vanessa suggested the possibility of instilling an above ground garden at STM at a cost of approximately \$2000.00 out of pocket. There are currently three other schools in the ALDCSB that have gardens. This is an opportunity to learn in a new way. The build would be best in late spring. Ongoing volunteers would make this work long term. Portsmouth United Church, next door, has a community garden established. Caitlin will help to connect.
- b. 3Bs Organization – Birds, Bees and Butterflies – Their mission is to offer accessible skills training for young adults with intellectual and developmental exceptionalities with the goal of greater independence and employment. They are located on Days Road, an easy bus ride.

Other:

A parent shared how much their family enjoyed the Kindness Rock Garden. There are over 200 painted rocks in the garden which often get rearranged in various ways by the children. Many find it soothing and the children enjoy spending time there. Often on "Fun Flynn Fridays" the kids spend time there sorting, playing and leaving messages for others.

Valentine's Day Dance 2023 possible dates February 9 or 10. The DJ has been reserved for the same price as in previous years. Pizza will be available at a price set only to offset the cost, not as a fundraising initiative. Possible prizes as in previous years to be considered.

Next meeting: January 17, 2023 via zoom.