

Minutes for St Theresa Catholic School Council October 5th, 2016

Opening Prayer and welcome from Mrs. Carrie Smith-Dewey.

Introduction of attending parents and staff present started the meeting. Great to see several new faces this year bringing attendance to eleven. This year our teacher representative is Ms. Allie Barrett and our student representative is Mr. Taylor Russett. Election of Council commenced and resulted in election of Chair: Mrs. Elaine Russett, Co-Chair: Mrs. Stephanie Foeller, Treasurer: Ms Dany Pelletier, Community representative (tentatively): Mrs. Sherry Barker, Secretarial duties to be shared by anyone who would like to take notes and submit to Council Chair.

Our school website has a new look; including a Parent Council button that will have the meeting dates and minutes posted.

Review of school Council Funds:

Used Uniform sale was a success with the help and support of the school office staff and EA's with intake. Approximately \$7000 was made, after payouts to those who donated we have \$ 2,517.58 in our account.

We hope to receive \$500.00 through the "Parents Reaching Out" Grant, Mrs. Smith-Dewey will inform us when that happens.

Administration Update:

Enrolment is the highest ever at 749 students this year. Over the summer 40 students enrolled impacting class sizes and teacher ratios which lead to the need to hire additional support. Two large classes have been divided now thanks to the additional teachers coming to St. Theresa.

The Grade 12 class will be the largest graduating class. St. Theresa had to cap grade 12 transfers due to class sizes.

Allison Barrett is the new Head of the Science and Technology department.

Titan Head start Camp in August was a great success! 80-100 students entering grade nine had 4 days of peer activities to allow them an introduction to fellow students and life at St. Theresa.

Students in Grades 10/11 who previously weren't successful writing the mandatory Literacy test will use the school Chrome Books for practicing on-line October 20th. There will be 2 sessions. Another set of Chrome Books for St Theresa is in the works.

"Virtual Commons" is an on-line Tool/Program students can access. Students and teachers can post notes, videos, and class updates as a way to connect and learn.

"FireFly" is a new program available now that will benefit students with an IEP (Independent Education Plan). This program will allow access to different texts, readings on-line etc. It can "read" to students, and can print pages. Grade nines will start using it to get used to the system.

Costs for Text book replacements yearly are \$20,000-\$30,000. This can be redirected in the future when on-line texts are available. Most colleges and universities are already using an on-line system for notes, assignments and testing. This is a good tool for our students to become familiar with to ensure a more comfortable transition post-secondary.

Student Update:

School Dance Oct. 14th, the theme is Hawaiian.

Grade Nine day was a success

New Spirit Wear being designed by Student council

Peer Mentoring; visits to grade nine classrooms have yielded positive feedback, good transitions reported, students happy with events planned in the first weeks of school. There will be open mike/coffee house 1-2x/week, all students are invited to contribute and participate.

The 2016-17 Yearbook will have an e-book part, and on-line submissions will be available.

Concern was raised regarding the on-line "Scary Clown" issue; fact or hoax? Concerns with Halloween pending, Mrs. Dewey will discuss with the Community Police Officer to relay concerns. To date there has been 1 class this issue has been already addressed with.

Our Community Police Officer is available for teachers to have in class to discuss any current issues at hand. Mrs. Dewey will ask her to introduce herself to students in the hallways etc. to promote a positive environment in the school community and to familiarize with students.

Other business:

Parents Reaching Out Grant: Previously linked to Wellness Matters Week. \$1000. Creates a link for parents to come onto the school community to discuss issues etc. around well being and provides supports available for our students. November 25th; Keynote Speaker is Allison Tufts. Topics include safe talk/tools/strategies/coping skills/resiliency. Children's Mental Health will speak about after school clinics, healthy bodies/healthy minds/pressures and issues faced by students/how we help mitigate. Let's get the word out to parents through school website, syner-voice, email etc.

Relay for life: May 26, 2017. Tracey Simpson will be our Parent Council representative/liaison.

Students are expected to each raise \$50. Start time to be decided either 10am or 11am for 12 hour duration. In February 2017 organizing students will attend Relay U in Toronto.

Future Fundraisers for Parent Council in early stages of discussion: Community Dinner paired with our school production in the spring, "Dinner and a Show". Used Uniform intake and sale possible during exam week if there is a need for "out grown" garments.

Proposals:

St. Theresa Arts Department would like to do a musical production of "Joseph and The Amazing Techni-colour Dream coat" and is asking for support. The rights to the production and a digital lighting board are in need of purchase. \$2,000.00 is being requested from Parent Council, along with community business sponsors, supplies or raffle items for fundraising.

The teacher-librarians at Saint Theresa would like to continue improving the learning commons by adding 2 moveable shelving units that can be used to create changing book displays. Cost \$2,242.00.

Also a 3D printer is desired to add in the Maker Space of the learning commons which will foster student creativity. Cost \$2,900.00.

Letters from both departments were presented to parent council by Mrs Smith-Dewey and Mrs. Charlene Landry-Kyte. A motion by Stephanie Foeller was made to donate \$500.00 to each the Arts Department and the teacher-librarians. Motion carried.

Next Meeting of parent council will be: Dec. 5, 2016 at 5:30pm. This will be a dinner meeting.

Stephanie Foeller Co-Chair

St. Theresa C.S.S. Parent Council

