**St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic School Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

Date: October 4, 2023

Members in attendance: Catarina Chagas, Veronica Saunders, Charlene Jones, Aimee Warren, Brandy Nguyen,

Amanda Gadbois, Jeanette Korzeniowski, Karla Cordova, Klodiana Kolomitro, Paul Brioux, Sandeep Mendiratta, Stacey Porter (Principal), Concetta Buragina (Vice-Principal), Kate Millen (Teacher Rep), Melinda Mushoga, Von Tavaziva

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| Topic  | Discussion | Action Items/Follow up/ Next Steps |
| Constitution Amendment  | Name change and by-laws updated reviewed by members. Motion to move forward by Amanda, second by Carla, voted and passed.  |  |
| Open House and BBQ Recap  | Amanda provided update: 139 responded to RSVP email, many more showed up; all 600 hot dogs were eaten; only a few gluten free/veggie dogs were eaten; Amanda secured buns through donation; event came in under budget at $495. Very popular event, overall success.  | Suggestions for next year include: * No BBQ and opt for chips/drink to reduce cost and dietary requests
* Earlier event from 4:30-6:30 with BBQ after classroom visits
* Set BBQ in the school yard/use tents. Front if rain is expected.
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| Kindergarten sandbox  | Karla proposed purchasing sand for existing garden box to turn into sandbox in Kinder yard. The Kinders already play in the dirt box using pots/pans and this would provide a relatively low cost play area (quoted 1 cubic meter/$250). Concerns raised over mess, inability to cover box from rain/animal waste, sand being dumped out/needing to be replaced, asthma triggers from dust. Motion to move forward with allocating $100 for sand as a trial run proposed by Karla, voted and passed.  | Karla will purchase and overlook this project. Council allocated $2000 in last year’s budget for Kinder yard TBD |
| Retirement Trees  | Karla secured a quote from Potter’s Nursery for 2 trees (maple autumn blaze and/or maple brandywine) including delivery and planting of tree for $846.87. Trees were recommended for good shade, resistance to pests, low maintenance and fast growth. Original budget set aside was $800- only slightly over budget for original quote or select 2 brandywine to come in right under budget. Motion to move forward by Karla, second by Catarina/Charlene, voted and passed.  | Karla will move forward with Stacey to coordinate logistics of purchasing and planting, ensuring all safety concerns on school yard are maintained for planting in the fall.  |
| BINGO fundraising volunteers  | Concetta received application to move forward with BINGO volunteers to raise money for school. School would need to secure parent volunteers for approx. 4 shifts/month. Money raised could go toward purchasing new team jerseys, reflecting new school name and logo. All agreed to move forward.   | Concetta will submit application and with the help of council secure volunteers.  |

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| New school logo  | Aimee’s fiancé Justin created several new designs reflecting the new school name and incorporated existing mustangs logo. Designs were passed around and council given the opportunity to provide input/select their favourite design.  | Council will review next meeting  |
| Spookathon  | Aimee and Brandy drafted a new letter to send to families with updates for this year; including moving away from individual prizes and having school wide prizes for monetary milestones reached. Possible reusable whiteboard thermometer available for approx. $50 on Amazon. Monetary goal set for $12 000. Sandeep suggested reaching out to business in the community for school donations. Agreed this can be done for prizes and can be explored as an option next year. Milestone and prizes included: $1000 – extra recess; $3000 – board game afternoon; $6000 – movie and a snack; $9000 – milkshake from Reid’s Dairy; $12000 winter themed dance (possibly “fancy” or dress up) for December (suggested date Friday Dec 22). Sign up sheet for decorating, day of volunteering and takedown circulated. Decorating setup on Monday Oct 30 (1-3); morning and afternoon shifts on Oct 31 and takedown at 3:15.  | Aimee and Brady will send letter to Stacey to distribute before Thanksgiving weekend. Updates done on the Fridays leading up to Halloween. Aimee volunteered to monitor thermometer and keep up to date. Stacey will add to School Cash for $5, $10, $25, $50 and $100.  |
| Budget line item allocation  | Stacey suggested to keep budget items as is, voted and passed.  | Council will review other budget line items in next meeting after Spookathon funds raised.  |
| Busses for school trips  | Kate reported teachers really liked funds allocated for buses and wanted to know if this would be done for this school year.  | Will review after Spookathon to see if funds can be allocated again this year.  |
| Principal’s report  | Stacey provided principal’s report, including upcoming PA Day reminder, Terry Fox Walk reminder and Community Engagement Survey to be circulated soon.  |  |
| Other Items  | Charlene asked if Terry Fox School Cash donations can be opened until end of the week. Charlene inquired on hot lunch donation option as Lunchbox mentions a donation option. Stacey confirmed this is an option as many hot lunches are often going to waste due to absences. Parents can also email teacher if they know child will be away and they will not be collecting item. Stacey also noted fundraising for Food Share will be coming later this school year.  | Stacey will look into opening Terry Fox donations until Friday.  |