

St. Gabriel School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2014 6:30pm

Present: Mr. Barfoot, Katherine Schmidt, Michelle Chellew, Suzette Berenguer-Reid, Meaghanne Burt, Stephanie Ewasiuk, Jody Boyle, Karen Whalen and Gayleen Sinclair

Chaired by Mr. Barfoot

Welcome, introduction of agenda

Opening Prayer

Principal's Message:

-SLA – grade 3 test to replace PAT. This year was a pilot year so results will not be sent out. Testing took almost 4 days to complete.

-Last years PAT results are in and results are very positive. St. Gabriel scored above the provincial averages in every subject area in both percentage of students achieving an acceptable standard as well as students achieving excellence.

-Surveys – completed by students in grades 4-6 as well as parents of grade 4 students. One area that is down is the response that the children are in a safe and caring school. This survey was completed just after letters were sent home regarding possible attempted abductions in the city. This may have impacted this result. Another area that was down was in the area of Work Preparation, meaning that students and parents may not feel that the school is talking to students about careers.

St. Gabriel School currently has approximately 270 students, down from last year. EEP #s are down here and city wide.

Partnership between School and the Multicultural Association. Grades 3-6 ESL students who require help with homework or general language development can go to Westview School on Mondays and Wednesdays after school for help.

Co-Chair Report:

Jody attended meeting of all parent council chairs on October 1, 2014. Discussion of some ideas presented at other schools. One school planted a garden, another has a point program to encourage being active, one school has a Mother Hubbard's Cupboards that takes in food donations. Next

meetings are at Good Shephard School on February 4, 2015 and May 16, 2015 at Father Beauregarde School.

Mr. Barfoot advised that in previous years if the school was aware of a family in need a request would be put out to staff for donations.

Treasurer Report:

Just over \$2000 in the account from the bottle donations last year and approximately \$11000 in the other account.

This year's fundraiser amounts were way down. Brought in \$2200 this year vs \$5500 last year. One of the contributing factors may have been that this fundraiser did not include chocolate as School Board policy will not allow for it.

Introduced the budget for this school year.

Signing Authority:

Need to make an appointment at the bank to change signing authorities. Gayleen Sinclair, Michelle Chellew and Jody Boyle require signing authority. Need to remove all other names.

Funding Requests and Fundraising Proposals:

Discussion regarding Meadowcreek Farms fundraising proposal. Too late this year but will consider it as a fundraiser for next year. Bring forward to a meeting in the Spring to approve then.

Last year St. Martha's School organized a walk-a-thon. Was very successful. Will consider as an option for St. Gabriel.

Gift Card Fundraiser: This is an ongoing fundraiser once it is set up.

Funding Request made by kindergarten teacher, Stephanie Ewasiuk for a Promethean Board in her classroom. Council purchased these boards for the grades 1-6 classes previously. Motion made by Michelle and seconded by Jody to get an estimate on the cost for a Promethean Board.

Funding Request made by Mrs. Hannigan, librarian, for additional funds to purchase books for the library. Mr. Barfoot advised that Mrs. Hannigan often uses her own money to purchase books and supplies for the library. Motion made by Gayleen and seconded by Jody to provide Mrs. Hannigan \$500 to cover costs of library supplies and books. School will also take book donations.

Meeting dates scheduled for the year:

Parent Council meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, except December and June, when there will be no meeting. Dates are November 18, January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21 and May 19.

Upcoming Events:

Family Dance has traditionally been held in December but December is a very busy month. Plan to move dance to February 12, 2015 (Thursday) and make it Valentine's Day themed.

December 11, 2014 – Christmas concert at Holy Trinity High School

December 15-16, 2014 – Christmas Store

December 17, 2014 – Santa Pack

Additions:

Have a parent council section of the school newsletter. Must have in by Tuesday as it goes to print.

Set up table at Parent-teacher interviews to provide parents with information.

Additional names gathered at Meet the Teacher night of parents interested in participating in parent council as a class rep :

Suzette Berenguer-Reid: suzybreid@hotmail.com -grade 1

Carol White: carol_white81@yahoo.ca -grade 4

Dianne Burt O'Keefe: dburt14@yahoo.ca -grade 5

Katherine Schmidt: k_schmidt2003@yahoo.com -grade 2