

Minutes of Meeting

St. Matthew Catholic School Advisory Council

Date: November 18, 2020 6:30 – 7:30pm

Location: Meeting held virtually via Google Meet

Present: Mrs. Johnstone, Mr. Poulin, Diana, Pat, Mrs. Zefferino, Andreas, Shannon, Katie, Sarah, Cecilia, Brenda, Kim, Denise, Jessica, Theresa

1. **Prayer and Land Acknowledgement** led by Mrs. Johnstone.
2. **Meeting Minutes** for October CSAC meeting approved by Sarah, Pat
3. **Agenda** for this meeting approved by Brenda, Shannon

4. **Budget Update** provided by Denise:

Dance-a-thon raised \$7,979.00. Thanks to the school community for the tremendous support!

Operating balance, with dance-a-thon funds included and excluding funding already allocated by Council, is approximately \$13,500. This assumes full amount allocated for teacher reimbursement will be used.

- Council approved funds of \$3,000 toward the cost of gym mural painting. CSAC approved these funds to free up funds for the school to use on virtual speakers and class trips, which normally are paid by the school. The school has limited funds this year because there are no direct school funding events, such as pizza days.
- Council approved funds of \$282.50 for cementing the gaga ball pit into place.
- Council approved budget of \$2,000 for winter carnival event on February 3, 2021.

Effective balance of the CSAC account after approval of these items is approximately \$8,218.

5. **Principal's Update**

- November 22 virtual meeting for first communion and for confirmation.
- Umbrella Project Assemblies have been virtual, children are enjoying them.
- All announcements are being done in the classes rather than the office.
- Thanksgiving food drive, clothing drive and personal items was successful
- Academic focus is on new math curriculum.

- School board has introduced a new system for staff to use for administration and communications, staff are in training for this
- Interviews are Tuesday to Thursday next week, either phone or Google Meet.
- Gym mural is now fully painted and the dividing wall has been repaired so two classes can now be in the gym. Classes are still being asked to go outdoors for recess as much as possible however, unless there is inclement weather
- Angel Tree – will go ahead this year. Kids can pick a tag from the tree, buy a gift and bring it in. Gifts will need to be delivered to school in plastic bag, which will be placed under the tree for 3 days before being moved and delivered to the charity.
- Students bringing equipment out is going well. Not all classes have done it yet, mostly older students and it is helping them be entertained. Reminding students not to throw snow. Building snow forts is under discussion if it can be done safely.
- Wearing masks at recess is at the Principal's discretion. Since our recesses are staggered have not needed to implement this. If they cannot maintain distance, then will make decision to wear masks during recess.
- Since school cannot have regular student generated fundraisers this year (pizza lunches, etc) then virtual guests, other activities do not have sufficient funding this year. Parents may be asked to pay for these virtual events if additional funding cannot be freed up in the school budget.
- Request that Council cover \$3,000 toward the cost of painting of the gym mural to alleviate the school budget. If Council funds \$3000 toward the mural, school budget will be alleviated and can cover costs of these events for classes. Council approved these funds.
- Picture Day in December – no class photos, just individual.
- Advent Mass – possibly virtual. In discussion with Father now.
- School board is obtaining quotes on camera system for school.

6. Parish Update

- Virtual Sunday school on church Facebook feed, these are recorded so parents can watch afterward with children.
- St. Vincent de Paul looking instead to purchase gift cards for families in need this year in lieu of Angel Tree. Parishioners encouraged to donate to SVDP for this.
- First communion and confirmation meetings this Sunday for this year's candidates. Registration is online, candidates are to be registered prior to the meeting.
- The One-Heart, One-Soul fundraiser for the diocese kicked-off this fall. It is a three-year fundraiser to support parishes and initiatives throughout the diocese. Most of the money raised stays at St. Agnes, to get their commercial kitchen working again. The rest supports parishes who are struggling financially, and initiatives such as spiritual care for migrant workers. Father Aleks is asking parishioners to indicate their pledges for the three-year fundraiser.
- Refer to parish bulletin on the parish website to stay up to date with parish news and events.

7. Funding Decisions

- Items are starting to arrive from the gym equipment purchased, with funds previously allocated
- Gaga ball pit being cemented into place \$282.50
- Winter Carnival (see below) budget amount of \$2,000

8. Upcoming Events

Winter Carnival – Madelle Lembo and Mr. Poulin will help to organize a fully outdoor event. Events such as snowshoeing (rental \$3.25/student from Camp Brebeuf), ice sculpting demonstration (approx \$550), tobogganing, and other sporting/snow events which can be played with COVID restrictions. Suggesting date of February 3rd to coincide with Quebec Carnivale. Mostly run by school, with some parent volunteer help. Concern with planning event given potential impact of COVID-19. Move ahead with planning it, all items will be fully refundable should the event not be able to proceed. Diana to send out request for any parents wishing to participate in planning of this event. Further event details to be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Social Media Update provided by Jessica – any announcements coming from school are being shared via the social media feed.

10. Next meeting January 13, 2020 at 6:30pm. anyone who wishes to attend can email stmatthewcouncil@outlook.com to be included on virtual meeting invitation.

11. Adjournment by Diana