

Governing Board

St. John Fisher Sr. Elementary School

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – February 12TH 2014

Attendance:	Parents:	Bridget Bagshaw Sandra Gesualdi Mike Vallée	Secretary & Vice Chair
	Staff:	Rachel Ethier Nicole Montcalm Laura Sulano	Teacher Teacher Daycare
	Principal:	Tony Di Vittori	
	Commissioner:	Linton Garner	

Regrets:

Gloria Coulter, Community Rep
Rev. Kenneth Scott, Community Rep
Ken Johnston, Parent Rep
Lise Lecompte, Teacher
Balgovind Pande, Chair
Debbie Poirier, Librarian

4.1 Call to Order & Welcome

Having attained quorum, the meeting was called to order by S. Gesualdi at 7:01pm.

4.2 Adoption of the Agenda

13-14-27 *It was moved by R. Ethier to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by L. Sulano, and was carried unanimously.*

4.3 Adoption of Minutes of December 11th, 2013.

13-14-28 *It was moved by N. Montcalm to adopt the minutes of the December 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by B. Bagshaw, and was carried unanimously.*

4.4 Questions from the Public

None.

4.5 Business Arising

None.

4.6 New Business

4.6.1 LBPSB Budget Consultation

No Comment.

4.6.2 Arts & Culture Policy Consultation

Our recommendation as a GB is that grade 7 students be exposed to all four art and culture classes. This will allow the students in the following year (grade 8) to choose one class for the entire year (having experienced the different classes they will be in a better position to choose something that they would like to learn).

4.6.3 Principals' Selection Criteria

The 2013-2014 GB of St John Fisher Sr. agrees that the same line of reasoning as last year's recommendation should be followed.

4.6.4 SJF School Success Plan Annual Report (SJF SSP)

- The report was included in the kit.
- Principal Di Vittori presented the SJF SSP Report (document is in regards to the Sr. and Jr. Schools together).
- Commissioner Garner expressed that 'Tell it from Me' survey is a good indication of what's going on in the school.
- Our school will also do an internal survey concerning bullying to pin point the issues directly related to our school.
- N. Montcalm mentioned how groups are emphasizing a school effort in good citizenship. Students were saying "don't...don't..." and she turned this around to do....do....Discussion continued and the following was mentioned: 'Random Acts of Kindness' can be the new Anti-Bullying week slogan or title. Another idea on the same topic was to have the students to write 'positive post-its'.

13-14-29

It was moved by B. Bagshaw to approve SJF SSP Report as presented. The motion was seconded by R. Ethier and was carried unanimously.

4.6.5 Grade 3 Curling

Grade 3 students will be shuttled to the Glenmore Curling Club in four groups. The Club volunteers will be teaching the students. The cost is \$7. Ratio 1:6 (teachers and parent volunteers will be there).

13-14-30 *It was moved by N. Montcalm to approve this fieldtrip. The motion was seconded by M. Vallée and was carried unanimously.*

4.6.6 Grade 6 NFB Trip

The students will be taking part in the “Animation Image par Image” project. It will involve paper and modelling clay, short movies and ‘clay-mation’. Last year they went for a half day. This year it is for a full day: 8:15am – 3:15pm. Each day two classes will attend: Feb 26th and 27th. Cost is \$24 (there is a cost increase because bussing is more expensive this year and it’s a full day activity)

13-14-31 *It was moved by R. Ethier to approve this field trip. The motion was seconded by M. Vallée and was carried unanimously.*

4.6.7 Grade 4 Science Trip

The students will go to the Science & Technology Center on May 8th and 9th (two groups per day). They will be learning about fossils and rocks (and much more!). There will be a one hour tour and then one hour of teacher organized activities. The cost is \$16. Ratio 1:7.

13-14-32 *It was moved by L. Sulano to approve this fieldtrip. The motion was seconded by B. Bagshaw and was carried unanimously.*

4.6.8 Grade 6 Drug Awareness Trip

The effects of drugs and drinking will be presented by the Station 5 Community Officers at Sarto Desnoyers Community Center in Dorval on March 20th in the morning. All grade 6 classes will attend together. There is no cost for the students (the school will pay the transportation). The presentation will include simulators, sniffer dogs and there will be a discussion on energy drinks.

13-14-33 *It was moved by M. Vallée to approve this fieldtrip. The motion was seconded by N. Montcalm and was carried unanimously.*

4.6.9 Grad Trip

- May 22nd from 9:30am to 6:30pm.
- Cosmodome in Laval to experience simulators (3 hours).
- Students will eat a snack during the visit.
- Lunch at a restaurant (close by): Pizza, pasta and cupcakes.
- Bowling (10 minute bus ride from the restaurant).

- Last year the cost per student was \$62. This year the cost is \$55-\$65.
- Ratio: 108 grads to 14 adults, plus animators.

Noted: Camp Kincora in Saint Adolph d'Howard (Morin Heights) was offered to the school for future activities.

13-14-34 *It was moved by R. Ethier to approve the Grad Trip as presented. The motion was seconded by L. Sulano and was carried unanimously.*

4.6.10 SJF Family Support

M. Vallée presented an initiative concerning acknowledging families in our school community that have had a parent (or student) pass away. The school being the largest community to which most individuals are connected; it would be a nice gesture to show our support (show that we care) to these families. It was suggested that a token gift be given to these families that have experienced such a tragedy. Discussion ensued and since this initiative will involve the school giving out a monetary gift, H&S would have to take on this task. M. Vallée will present this to the H&S committee at their next meeting. As a GB, we agree that it would be a nice gesture and suggest that the token gift be a fixed amount (for consistency) and that the funds come from the community walk (which seems appropriate).

4.7 Reports

4.7.1 Parents' Committee Report

None.

4.7.2 Council of Commissioners' Report

- Two councillors have retired and the new commissioners are Nan Beaton and Domenic Pavone (both previous parent commissioners on the board). The new Parent Commissioners are Laura Derry (secondary) and Alexander Perelmiter (elementary).
- Elections will be in November.
- On Feb 22nd the QESBA (Quebec English School Boards Association) will be hosting a Commissioner Recruitment Class at the LBPSB given by Diane De Courcy (former Minister of Education).
- Student Transportation Policy is out for consultation (ends April 28th).

4.7.3 Home & School Report

- 96 members
- Spring Fair theme: All Around the World.
- Proposed Parent Workshops: Self-defence, digital social media, school nurse to answer parental questions about topics given in the the sex-education classes.
- Approval was given to S. Gesualdi to organize another Shindig & Auction for next fall and to form a Shindig committee.

- Financials: \$53,000 income minus \$36,000 expenses and \$26,000 forecasted spending. Balance \$10,000+ available currently.
- Next meeting March 19th.

4.7.4 Teachers' Report

N. Montcalm presented the report.

- Olympic fever in the school. Bulletin boards are all decorated.
- Speak Out Week: the speeches will begin this week and the finals will be done before the break. Grades 5 & 6 students really like the idea that they can pick their own topic.

4.7.5 Library Report

None.

4.7.6 Daycare Report

- Registration went out in January for lunch program activities: Babysitting, chess, ceramics and photography. Daycare kids are offered art class and soccer. All activities are priced at a flat rate of \$50 (The daycare subsidizes the balance of the fee – totalling \$70 to \$85).
- The second annual Daycare Show is back by popular demand. The kids practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- The cost for dance school hired to teach the kids for the Daycare Show, will be defrayed by the daycare therefore no charge to the parents for this service.
- Several fieldwork students are in our daycare (one EAP student studying ECE within the LBPSB, two Concordia students studying Human Relations will be working with grade 5 girls – promoting self-esteem, self-concept, media influences and more. This will begin in a few weeks).
- Planning for the outdoor playground is still in progress. Summer of 2015 is the project date given at this time.

Fieldtrips:

- March 28th at Woo Hoo. Cost \$15.
- April 25th at Acroport Barani (indoor acrobatic gym). Cost \$15.
- May 16th at Sky Venture/Maeva (surf skydiving and indoor surfing). Cost \$15.

13-14-35

It was moved by E. Ethier to approve the daycare fieldtrips. The motion was seconded by N. Montcalm and was carried unanimously.

4.7.7 Principal's Report

- ✓ Had a great start back to school in January
- ✓ The PELO program started Jan.15th (20 students)
- ✓ Grade 3 Downhill Ski Club has been going well.
- ✓ Students have been training for the x-country ski loppet. Students, parent volunteers, and PE teachers have braved the cold days of January to train. The ski loppet was held today at Les Cedres. Positive comments from students, parents, and staff.

- ✓ Teachers were released through the Professional Development Grant (PDIG) to collaborate on the use of technologies in the class. This professional development continued during the Jan 20th ped day. Great ideas came out of these days and looking forward to seeing the students' projects.
- ✓ News from classes and some student projects have been posted on our website.
- ✓ School nurse has visited the Grade 5 & 6 classes. Has also held a private question period in the library for the Grade 6 girls. A meeting has also been scheduled for the Grade 5 girls.
- ✓ Staff attended LBPSB workshops on Feb. 7th, 2014
- ✓ Two teachers and I attended a conference in Laval (The Connected Learner & Technology in the Class). We are definitely on track with what we are doing here at SJF-Sr with our Media Technology class and in the individual classrooms. Our Digital Citizenship program is better than most schools and ongoing throughout the year.
- ✓ The school play is well underway with practices at recess and lunch times.
- ✓ Exams are under way. The Grade 4 English exam was completed and the students are now working on the Grade 4 French exam.
- ✓ This Thursday, a small group of LPHS jazz students will be visiting and playing for our Grade 3 students.
- ✓ Our Grade 3 concert is scheduled for Feb. 20th.
- ✓ The Grade 5 Concert Series will be held on Feb. 24th.
- ✓ Our 2nd Annual Public Speaking Competition will be held on Feb. 25th (Cycle 3) and Feb. 27th (Cycle 2). Students have been preparing in class.
- ✓ The Phys Ed Olympics are under way during PE class.
- ✓ The Grade 3 math exam is scheduled for March.
- ✓ Grade 6 students will participate in Brain Awareness workshops at SJF-Sr on Mar. 14th.
- ✓ Some Montreal Alouette players will be visiting SJF-Sr on March 24th to speak to our students.
- ✓ The Grade 5 math exam is scheduled for the end of March.
- ✓ The JRHS Band will be visiting school and playing for our students on Apr. 2nd,
- ✓ I have been working with a group of Grade 6 students, Canadian Youth Society (CYS), who would like to have a talent show to raise funds for a worthy cause. Will present to the GB members once plans have been finalized.
- ✓ Two Grade 5 classes would like to visit the Trudeau Airport as part of the math "airport" learning activity. Exercises include measuring the volume of a carryon bag tester, calculating distances and destinations according to a given air miles plan, cost of a meal at the food court, cost of a rental car, etc. Travel to and from the airport would be by public transport (school fare and reserved bus). Will send details along for approval once finalized.
- ✓ The planning for next year has begun as per student numbers.
- ✓ School has been a tremendously busy place with activities each and every day with some students having to make choices in order to avoid scheduling conflicts. Teachers are working extremely hard to manage school activities with classroom pedagogy and maintaining the bulletin boards throughout the school. They must be commended and I'm very appreciative of all that they do in order to give our students a well-rounded and rewarding experience at school. We are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated staff.

4.8 Questions from the Public

None.

Adjournment and the Next Meeting Date: 7:00 pm, Wednesday April 9th 2014.

13-14-36 *Upon a motion by N. Montcalm and seconded by L. Sulano, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm. The motion was carried unanimously.*

The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday April 9th, 2014.