

John Paul II School Council Meeting- Wednesday, January 12, 2011

Call to Order: 6:37 pm by Jodie Cowan

Present: Dave Dempsey, Cindy Escott, Cyndi Rehman, Adrienne Menzak, Anne Gauthier, Elizabeth Groat, Jodie Cowan, Pam Schneider, Charlene Lubrerda, Kim Stefura, Tammy Assinger, Jim Leach, Bruce Dreany

Regrets: John McCaffrey

Minutes taken by: Cyndi Rehman

Review/Adoption of Agenda: Accepted as submitted.

Review/Adoption of October 20, 2010 minutes: Accepted as submitted.

Share & Celebrate: Due to Mr. Dempsey's presentation on P.A.T., share and celebrate was omitted this month.

Trustees Report:

- Anne stated that former trustee, Bill Ritchie, has the original shovel used for the groundbreaking of John Paul II School. It has been spray painted gold, and is ours to keep. It was suggested we have a presentation of the shovel to the school body during the Feast of Sharing (May 12). Anne will get Mr. Ritchie's contact information, and Mr. Dempsey will follow up.

Treasurer's Report:

- John was unable to attend meeting. The balance from December and January to be submitted at the next meeting. Currently, Friends of John Paul II bank account has a balance of \$7704.04.

Fundraising Report:

- Hot lunch program is now online. Notices were sent home January 7, 2011, and it is hoped that this will make the program more efficient, with fewer errors for everyone involved. Hot lunch will end in April. A balance of the profit made from the hot lunch program will be given in February.
- Jodie reminded parents to email her regarding any ideas for fundraisers or what to do with money. In previous meetings, discussion about doing something with the area the junior high students use was mentioned, and it was brought forward that that land belongs to the Town of Stony Plain and is zoned residential. Paving the rink so it could be used year round is an idea, and after some consultation with the town, it was mentioned that the Town would provide manpower but the school would be responsible for materials for this project.

- Ideas for future fundraisers included having a magazine fundraiser next October. St. Margareuite School raised \$21 000 doing this. As well, we may want to consider contacting the Rotary club or the Knights of Columbus if we have a specific project such as paving the rink.

Chairperson's Report:

- Letterhead- Elizabeth Groat designed the new letterhead to be used for John Paul II School Council. The logo of a dove with our title over top, is simple yet spiritual, and will be used for any correspondence or thank you letters.
- Volunteers were thanked for all their help over the past few months, ranging from staff luncheon to classroom volunteers to those who clean the school kitchen. It is very much appreciated.
- Jodie received a request for all school councils in the Evergreen district to meet to discuss and share ideas about what is going on in their school.
- The AGM of ASCA is upcoming (April 2011), so council may send a few people to attend the event.

New Business:

- Parent Night- Cyndi Rehman reminded everyone of the "Schools & Bullying" presentation taking place January 19. Katie Kitschke will be the speaker and share information about bullying. Questions will be taken at the end of the presentation. An invitation has been extended to other schools in our area; Westlock's Catholic school will watch via video conference. Kim Stefura moved that we spend \$250 for the presentation. Pam Schneider seconded it.
- Random Acts of Kindness will take place February 14-18. Kim Stefura and Natasha McBride will co-lead this event, which includes providing staff with coffee, muffins and a lunch. Mr. Leach moved that we have a budget of \$350 for R.A.K. Week, and Mr. Dreany seconded this.
- Family Fun Night- Is taking place in March at Snow Valley Ski Hill. We have been approached by another group to share the hill that night, which would decrease the number of tickets needed to be sold in order to make money. Mr. Dempsey suggested we share the hill with another Catholic Junior High School, possibly St. Margareuite's in Spruce Grove. Jodie will email parents to give them information about this night.
- Stony Plain Skate has generously agreed to sharpen the school's skates for \$2 per pair. We will drop them off this week so they can be used next week. A thank you will be sent out with our new letterhead.
- Heart Healthy Week- will be moved to the week of May 16-19. Maria Turner will lead.
- Mr. Barron approached school council and asked if they could replace the school's cross country skis. It would be more cost effective to buy new, rather than used. A discussion whether skis or snowshoes should be purchased, so Mr. Dempsey will approach the staff and ask them what they prefer.

- Upcoming meeting dates- February 9, April 13, May 11. There will be no March meeting due to Ash Wednesday and Reconciliation.
- In September it was mentioned we have a community information table during March Interview times. This will have to be discussed in February.

Parish Liaison Report:

- “Familia” is a program offered to parents as part of the Catholic Church’s Temperment Series. There is an option of day and evening meeting times. Contact Adrienne or the church for information. Information will be posted on the bulletin board.

Principal’s Report:

- See report for details regarding school goals, Provincial Achievement Exams, and Confidentiality.
- Mr. Dempsey gave a presentation on Provincial Achievement Tests. A slide show, available online through the Alberta Education Website, was given. Mr. Dempsey gave us the average of the students’ results from John Paul II, and stated we take the results and work on areas that have consistently needed to be improved on. This year the grade six classes had in-services regarding the new curriculum.
- PATs are given to grade 3 and 6 students at John Paul II school. Math and Language Arts will be written in May by both grades 3 and 6. Social and Science are written in June by grade 6 students. Results for each student are shared with parents at the first report card interview of the following school year so that questions regarding the test results can be answered by staff.
- Mr. Dempsey suggested that parents read nightly with their children. The Book of Awesome is a great book to read as a family.
- Confidentiality of volunteers was addressed. Mr. Dempsey reminded us that as volunteers, although we have opportunities to work with many students at JP II, it is our responsibility to respect the privacy and confidentiality of those students, whether we as volunteers notice strengths or area’s of challenges for those students. This information or observations should not to be shared or discussed with others. Even positive comments shared with parents of students can be misconstrued and potentially harmful for the student.

Next School Council meeting: February 9 at 6:30pm in the school library.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

