

**PARENT SCHOOL COUNCIL 2021/2022**  
**MEETING MINUTES FROM Nov 24, 2021**

**In attendance:**

- M. McCann (Principal), A. Litster (Secretary; and non-teacher rep for the evening) J. Roy (teacher rep), S. Kelenc (teacher rep)
- A. Cunanan (Chair), A. Patola (Co-Chair), N Sarin (Treasurer), A. Pronski (Secretary), Heather Jagiello (Co-Secretary), J. Rye (Community Rep), Sojourner King (OAPCE Rep), Kristin Zeljkovic (parent rep), Ljeoma (parent rep) Nargim (parent rep), Amanda

**Opening**

- Land Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory – recording
- Opening Prayer – A. Cunanan
- Opening as Parish representative – any interest?

**Agenda Items**

**1. Meeting Minutes** – from October

- Approved – A. Cunanan moved for approval & A. Pronski seconded motion

**2. Agenda** – for today’s meeting

- Approved – A. Cunanan moved for approval & N. Sarin seconded motion

**3. Co-Chair report**

- **Student census** – went out this week; it is a voluntary survey for parents & students; it is not anonymous, the child will be identified. A full audit is conducted to ensure the privacy & security of the data. Purpose of the survey is to identify disproportionality in student experiences at school to make improvements over time. Results will be aggregated & anonymized. Children in grades 4-12 will have an opportunity to complete the survey in class; FDK to Grade 3 will have the opportunity to do the survey at home with the assistance of their parents. Fill in before December 17<sup>th</sup>. Was communicated to parents through School Messenger. A reminder will also be sent in SJCGLC newsletter. If anyone has any questions details are online.
- **Multi-year strategic plan (2019-2023)** – Values are “believe, excel, respect, thrive and trust”. With a focus on human dignity, inclusion & diversity, mental health, etc. Available on the school board website. SJCGLC will bring this to life within our local school, once plan is approved by the Board (in next couple of weeks) it will be posted to the school website. *To profile at next Council meeting.* If you have any questions, please raise them to the school council for discussion.

**4. Treasurer’s Report**

Balance (reported Oct. 6, 2021)		<b>\$4,640.58</b>
	Bank service charge	\$4.95
Bank Statement Balance (Oc. 31, 2021)		\$6,220.68
	Standing Items – awards, agendas	\$1,585
<b>Available School Council Funds</b>		<b>\$4,635.68</b>

**5. Donation Update** – current balance = \$2,650, with a 15% participation of SJCGLC families (target last year was 52%, so we have a long way to go to increase awareness & participation):

- Council agreed to send a reminder home in student Agendas to parents – **M. McCann** to create labels for the teachers/ students to include in agendas
- Council agreed to create a “Thermometer” to visually display % participation.– **N. Sarin** volunteered to create a visual. **M. McCann** to include on labels, as well as in future email reminders or newsletters
- Due date is November 30<sup>th</sup>, however we can continue to accept donations throughout the year

- Donations made after December 31<sup>st</sup>, will receive a tax receipt for next tax year

**6. Funded Project(s) Discussion** – council requested input from students & staff regarding what type of projects they believe would add value to the school community. Results are unedited and documented in entirety for transparency, however several would not meet Board approval requirements.

### Student Voice Survey Results

- Sports related requests:
  - Boards for soccer
  - More basketball nets (side pavement)
    - Note: SJCGLC has already purchased this with money from a grant last year. To be installed.
  - Volleyball net
  - Ball hockey area
  - More turf
  - Higher fence so balls don't go over
- Outdoor spaces
  - Playground
    - Note: #1 student request. However, would not meet Board approval. For context, several years ago the Board removed all playground structures due to liability, increasing insurance costs & maintenance reasons
  - Something to jump or climb on
    - Note: would not meet Board approval
  - Sandbox in field
  - Mud/ snow kitchen play area
  - Swings
    - Note: would not meet Board approval
  - Outdoor performance space like stage/ frame for plays
    - Note: would not meet Board approval
- Beautification requests
  - More plants
  - More trees
    - Note: the Board recommends the planting of trees instead of an Awning/ Share/ Weather Shelter, which would not meet Board approval
  - Paint the logs, more logs in field west
    - Note: the council could buy the paint (specialized, safe paint for this purpose) and students could do this as part of a creative art interest activity or club
    - Note: Could explore connections to community partners (i.e. St. Pauls)
  - Paint the benches, more benches/ picnic tables with chess boards on them
  - Paint the bricks (mural)
  - Butterfly garden in the peace garden
  - Pavement painting on side pavement and peace garden (hopscotch, for square, more games)
    - Note: #2 student request and high frequency usage of existing "games"
  - Wind chimes
- Eco friendly requests
  - Bird houses/ feeder
  - Bird bath
  - Flower Gardens (center of kiss n ride)
  - Bug city
  - Greenhouse
- Items to Address
  - Soccer nets have holes
  - Missing grass/ lots of mud puddles
  - Side pavement is slipper with small rocks

- Logs in peace garden are rotting/ holes
- Music wall could use revamping
- Mulch gets very muddy
- Place to sit in side pavement areas
- More sand in sandbox in peace garden
- Clarify boundaries for play areas
- Specific Requests
  - Winter – toys for the snow (shovels, buckets, snow molds); shelter from the wind
  - Summer – sandbox toys; more shade (umbrella, canopy, sun tent)

**Staff Voice Survey Results** – some overlap with student ideas, which is nice to see

- Covered platform in the FDK yard
  - Southwest corner to cover the Buddy Bench
  - Lean to design (for posts & a roof; no walls, so kids can run in & out & around)
  - Open-sides
  - Intention is to mirror the inside classroom space with create play
  - **M. McCann** to connect with the Board carpenter for costs
- Standing Desks for Alternate Workspace
  - Possibly 1-2 per classroom
  - Alpha-Vico Inc. (board approved supplier)
  - Adjustable Height 34" – 42"
  - 30" x 24" maple top
  - \$335.25 + HST / desk
  - Note: School currently has 1 desk from Alpha-Vico Inc. It gets a lot of use from students & teachers
- Additional Four-Square Painted Courts
  - Possibly painted/ decal and additional courts on the pavement outside of the library
  - Comparable cost to the recent completed work
  - \$100 (approx.)
  - Note: This gets a lot of use in the yard, is a "hot commodity". It is also a student request.
- School Beautification
  - More attractive front garden/ entrance to the school
  - Continuation of the additional trees and shrubs
  - Library decor to create a space that is a school centerpiece
- Hallways
  - World map
  - Continuation of the Indigenous art into the junior/intermediate hallways
  - Sensory pathway
    - Note: Students & Teachers are both really enjoying the hallway decals
- Other
  - Soccer nets need repair
    - Question → are there other budgets that could cover this kind of thing, i.e. from the school budget? Yes the school could do this from the school budget based on priorities, but often looks at curriculum things like library books first
  - Mud situation - the mud is always where the turf ends
  - Additional colour printer
  - Additional gardening tools (shovels, trowels, spades)
  - T-shirts for Ecoteam
- Yearly Items
  - Agendas
  - Sacrament
  - Graduation, Awards & Plaques
  - Graduation Tree
  - Bank Fees

- EQAO

### **Discussion & Next Steps**

- We need to understand what would be approved by the Board (beyond the items already ruled out)
- Consider prioritizing ideas based on what can be executed in year, vs. bigger things that require time & funding & board approval; then we can build up to those things for next year
- **M. McCann** will create a chart and send to Council members
  - Highlight what the Board won't approve
  - Highlight costs we are aware of and start to look into other possible costs
- **Council members** to review & continue the discussion between now & February council meeting. At the next council meeting we will review and vote on proposals

### **7. Air Conditioning**

- This was a question asked during the October council meeting. Unfortunately, confirmation has been received that the building/ existing service cannot handle the load for A/C.
- That said, SJCGLC does have mechanical ventilation (in the library for example)

### **8. Awning / Shade/ Weather Shelter**

- This was something the council raised during October's council meeting as a big project we were interested in funding
- Unfortunately, M. McCann connected with one of the Board architects and this is will not meet Board approval. Board's position is they will not permit shade structures to be built in any school, due to the cost of maintenance & liability... they encourage the planting of trees.

### **9. Spirit Wear**

- This was something the council raised during October's council meeting
- Costs are as follows:
  - T-shirt, short sleeve: \$9.75
  - T-shirt, long sleeve: \$16.00
  - Sweatpants: \$21.50 (these are elastic bottom and no pockets); or \$32.25 (with pockets)
  - Hoodies: \$25.75 (pull over); or \$35.00 (zipper)
  - Set-up administrative cost of \$52.00 on the entire order
  - With the option to add a fundraising component onto school orders (e.g. 20% surcharge to the above listed price, with the difference contributing to funded projects that are important to the school community)
- Parents can choose to purchase Spirit Wear for their child(ren) at their discretion, this is completely optional
- Council would like to turn Spirit Wear into an incremental fundraising effort to bolster our ability to fund valuable projects for the school community
- In the past, the council has purchased a t-shirt for all new to SJCGLC students and one year (due to excess funds after a very successful fundraising campaign), the council purchased t-shirts for the entire school.
  - Purchasing for the whole school helps to be equitable and ensure all students had access to Spirit Wear (as students quickly outgrow their 'new student' shirts). Could also enable the school to do regular "Wear your spirit wear days", which helps to increase school spirit. There are ~235 students, so this would cost ~\$2,350.
  - Purchasing for all new students (as done in many prior years). There are ~69 new students (JKs, SKs, plus all the new students), so this would cost ~\$690.
  - If we have enough \$ left at the end of the year we could allocate it to Spirit Wear – however, at that point parents would have already placed their Spirit Wear orders...
- That said, Spirit Wear was not raised by students or teachers as a need/ desire and we have a long list of suggestions that we could fund to add a lot of daily enjoyment/ benefit to the school community life

- Spirit Wear has a lot administrative components for the school, so recommendation is to do this in the New Year. It also takes ~6-8 weeks (plus any covid related supply chain impacts), so wouldn't have arrived in time for Christmas anyways.
- **Council voted on 3 items:**
  1. Offer Spirit Wear for community to purchase, council will cover set-up fee and add on the fundraising component. We are not proposing to make purchases for new students or the whole school.
    - Majority voted for (one vote against)
  2. SJCGLC to put out Spirit Wear for community order in January (prior to next Council meeting)
    - A. Cunnann approved; N. Sarin. And S. King seconded
  3. Fundraising component of 20% to be added to Spirit Wear purchase price
    - jleoma approved; J. Rye seconded
- Council agreed that when SJCGLC sends communications about Spirit Wear, we will profile where we are at with the annual fundraising campaign and introduce this incremental fundraising element
  - Confirmed we are allowed to do two fundraisers, just haven't done so in the past, but council was in agreement that this was a low-effort and strong fundraising tactic

## 10. School Report

- Catholicity
  - School advent mass – December 1
  - Sacraments – traditionally Grade 2 & 7, however available to all
  - Pastoral Plan
- Curriculum
  - Remembrance Day – SJCGLC hosted a beautiful event with lots of student art & participation through a walk to remember. Diversity & inclusivity was an active part through video clips including Indigenous, Female, Black Canadian, etc. veterans
  - Families & traditions – looking at and learning about different cultures & ways of celebrating
  - Where we are in place & time – students used a map to visually display their roots
  - Diverse learner needs – two teachers are available to support unique student needs, always within the classroom environments; two literacy based programs to support literacy learning
  - Catholic school improvement learning cycle
- Co-curriculum
  - Math competition – over 40 students in grade 5 to 8 took part, results will be coming shortly
  - MakerSpace – grade 7 club
  - Photography club – M. McCann shared some of the professional looking photos students too, very impressive!
  - Eco team
- Facilities
  - Masks while on school property – mandatory notice sent from school board; SJCGLC has put up signs
  - Parking – is still a concern; please do not park in the accessible spot or the fire route
  - Lockdown drill – completed lockdown drill for 1<sup>st</sup> half of the school year; talked about the importance of being safe in a non-frightening way
- Other
  - Teacher candidates – 4 teachers candidates from York university in classrooms; have been a tremendous help to the staff and great opportunity for SJCGLC to profile the exemplary teaching at St. James
  - Secondary presentations – hosted several secondary presentations, St. Pauls, St. Martins (regional athletic), arts program, next week a presentation is occurring on the trades

## 11. Executive Council Training – November 25

## 12. Next Meeting – February 9, 2022

13. **Other Items raised** – to be discussed during the February council meeting

- Supports for students & teachers as a result of issues and/or gaps (social or intellectual) due to Distance Learning impacts
- Diversity & inclusion – ensuring students, staff & administration reflects the diversity of Peel. What can we do to attract BIPOC community?
  - M. McCann outlined that last year (for Sept. 2021 start), SJCGLC was profiled through the Board to the entire community and resulted in record applications (over 130), with an increased diversity representation
  - Administration is decided at the board level. Staffing is being addressed by promoting BIPOC representation in teachers colleges

14. **Motion to end the meeting**

- Approved – A. Cunanan moved for approval & S. King seconded motion

**Future meetings (virtually via Zoom):**

Wed. February 9, 2021

Wed. April 6, 2021