

**PARENT SCHOOL COUNCIL 2019/2020**  
**MEETING MINUTES FROM October 7, 2020**

**In attendance:** M. McCann [Principal], J. Rye [Old Chair/ New Comm. Rep], A. Cunanan [New Co-Chair], A. Patola [New Co-Chair], S. Angeles [Old Secretary], A. Pronski [New Secretary], N Sarin [New Treasurer], S. Anderson, R. Crnkovic, M. McCann, R. Johnson, J. Roy, A. Giansante, M. Erochko, A. Litster, C. Tayler, S. King-Balfour, J. Anderson, S. Kelenc, A. Padzik, A. Padzik, E. Bujak, M. Mullins, C. Munro,

**Absent:**

**Opening**

- Welcome to the final meeting of the 2019/2020 school year, by Chair Ms. Jen Rye
- Opening prayer - Ms. Jen Rye
- Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory - Ms. Jen Rye
- Approval of February 2020 minutes:
  - Jen moved for approval
  - Sojourner seconded motion
- Treasurer's Report:
  - Final balance: \$11,146.11 carried forward to new year
- 2019/2020 council dissolved

**2020/2021 council commencement**

- Acclaimed members:
  - V. Arulsundaram
  - A. Cunanan
  - A. Patola
  - A. Pronski
  - J. Rye
  - N. Sarin
  - D. (Crnkovic) Tasker
- Staff
  - J. Roy/ S. Kelenc
  - R. Johnson
- Assignment of council roles:
  - Chair/ Co-Chair – A. Cunanan and A. Patola
  - Secretary – A. Pronski
  - Treasurer – N. Sarin
  - Parish Representative – TBD
  - Community Representative – J. Rye
  - OAPCE – TBD
- Note: S. Anderson offered to be a voting member in the Zoom Chat

**Agenda**

1. **Council dates** (4 required)
    - October 7, 2020
    - November 4, 2020
    - December 9, 2020
    - February 3, 2020

- Discussion about setting up a separate meeting with a sub-committee regarding fundraising as leaving that topic to November 4 would be too late. Decision to add this discussion to today's agenda.
  2. **Fundraising**
    - Final balance remaining from last year's fundraising efforts is \$11,146.11
- Fundraising Approach**
- Decision was to take the same fundraising approach as last year by distributing a letter to school community requesting a one-time donation.

- Suggested donation amount is \$55/ student (same as last year). If 52% participation rate that would generate approximately \$12,000.
- Discussion about the amount... should it be less given we have a surplus from last year? Subject was voted upon and agreed that the suggested amount should remain at \$55 (4 out of 7 voting council members voted for)
  - Donations can be made via School Cash Online. All donations made prior to November 30<sup>th</sup> will receive a tax receipt
  - J. Rye read through the suggested letter copy (same as last year), with one exception: we will remove the request for parents to complete a survey to identify their priorities for what the funds will be used towards
    - Last years survey was comprehensive and the belief is that the priorities would not have changed much year over year
    - Ms. McCann will look to share last years survey results with the school community which identified parents priority items for \$ fundraised
  - Motion to approve fundraising approach: A. Cunanan
  - Motion was seconded by: J. Rye and N. Sarin

#### Fundraising Priorities Discussed:

- \$ Fundraised can be used for standing items (see list below), as well as for a suggested outdoor space to honor both Mr. Giannobile, as well as Mr. Diago
- The wellness committee had schematics put together by the Boards landscape architect. The cost was ~\$20,000 for the suggest outdoor space. This could be completed in stages over 2-3 years. To be further discussed at a future meeting.
- Standing items generally require ~\$3,000. These include:
  - Bussing students 1 time/ year to Mass, EQAO (note: this is being differed this year), Sacraments, Outdoor equipment (e.g. balls, skipping ropes, etc), Grad Tree, Awards for Graduates, Yearly bank fee, Student agendas, Graduation, Raz Kids, Certificates & Awards, etc.
- (as outlined above) last years parent survey of priorities will be disseminated by Ms. McCann
- Outdoor space will be added to next Council meeting agenda
- Motion to set aside \$3,000 for standing items: J. Rye
- Motion seconded by" A. Cunanan

### **3. Visit by Trustee, Mario Pascucci**

- Opportunity for parents & council members to ask him questions and/or request that he asks the Board questions at their meeting next Tuesday
- Q: Is the board considering a hybrid classroom/ virtual model where teachers teach both learners at the same time?
- A: Not sure, will follow-up with the board. The Board is considering many different models (portables, utilizing shuttered classrooms, etc.). The challenge is when parents switch between learning modes after the deadline, as it impacts class sizes, staffing, etc.
- Q: Is October 13<sup>th</sup> the last opportunity to switch platforms or will there be another opportunity later in the school year?
- A: Good question to ask me next Wednesday after the Board meeting (Tuesday)
- Q: Will the Board decide to shut down and if they do, will it be synchronous learning?
- A: The Board is taking direction from Public Health. They are considering all options, both synchronized and non-synchronized (pre-tapped video's, etc.). More details after Tuesday.
- He expressed his sincerest thanks to the parents & students of St. James for being so tolerant. This has been the most challenging school start in his 37 year career. Ms. McCann echoed that.

### **4. Principals Report**

- Plans to honour Mr. Giannobile
  - There is a large shadowbox being made to display art made by students in his honour

- A jersey is being retired with his favourite number on it and will be hung in the gymnasium (once the school is able to gather together to do so)
  - He was honoured in the yearbook and a copy was sent to his wife
- Catholicity
  - Confirmation – St. Mary Star of the Sea
  - Virtue Certificates
- Curriculum
  - IB Learner Profiles – staff are reviewing and assigning an attribute to each class so they can show their respective representation which will be displayed in the school
  - Inquiry walls – to strengthen understanding; a cycle is used to capture learning and kept outside PYP classrooms; approach provides flexibility
  - Math curriculum – 1 mark for math for term 1 and term 2
  - MYP parent information – was shared last week with parents
  - Technology – 26 devices are in for repair. This will be a large focus of the school budget
- Co-Curricular
  - Terry Fox Event and Orange Shirt Day
- Facilities
  - September – Focus on health & wellbeing safety protocols
  - Fire Drills – will be practiced but in a safe way (individual classes at a time; but the bell will be rung so students get familiar with the sound)
- Other
  - Parent Survey closes October 13<sup>th</sup>. Please refer to email from the Board titled: “DPCDSB Request Form to Change Learning Mode”. This is important to express your intent if you are switching learning modes on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
  - Arch Bishop thanked St. James for donating \$3,319 over 3 years to ShareLife
  - Discussion about Kiss & Ride. Frustrations about people parking and chatting and the dangers that presents to children walking/ cycling as other cars try to maneuver around. Teachers on duty are trying to address it, as is school in communications to parents. Suggestion to revise language to “parents not allowed to exit vehicle in kiss & ride zone”. Police may be involved if it is deemed necessary.

**5. New Business to discuss next meeting:**

- Kiss & Ride
- Outdoor space
- By-Laws - any changes required

**Action Items:**

1. Council members to review Bylaws (available on school website) prior to next meeting
2. Council members to send email to [st.jamescglccouncil@gmail.com](mailto:st.jamescglccouncil@gmail.com) with your name and number and Adam will set-up a WhatsApp group for us to stay connected between council meetings
3. J. Rye to share Survey results with council members
4. Ms. McCann to share Survey results with school community
5. Ms. McCann to share schematics of outdoor space with council members

**Future meetings (via Zoom):**

November 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30

December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30pm