



St. Thomas More Catholic
Junior High School

St. Thomas More Junior High School

School Council Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2024 @ 6:30 PM (In Person and TEAMS)

In-Person Attendees: Kim Fehlauer, Melissa Fraser, Kevin Myskiw, Michael Pagacz, Latoya Cumberland, Lyndsay Boileau, Domingo Baretto, Alisa Taylor, Maria Sanchez

Online Attendees: Kathy Borden

- 1) Call to Order (Kim Fehlauer) @ 6:32 PM
- 2) Opening Prayer (Kevin Myskiw)
- 3) Treaty Six Acknowledgement (Michael Pagacz)
- 4) Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2023 (Kim Fehlauer)

Motion to approve minutes: Lyndsay Boileau

Seconded: Melissa Fraser

Motion passed – minutes from November 20, 2024 were approved

- 5) Principal's Report (Kevin Myskiw)
 - Kevin and Michael toured the School Council members through the new sensory room. It is located across from the WIN program. Equipment was purchased in December. The room has already been used by a number of students.
 - School's Assurance measures were presented. General trend is either holding or improving in all academic areas, however still low. The general consensus is that STM is achieving the goals it is setting within certain groups and has measures in place to improve yearly. Having more students participate means numbers will fluctuate and STM is on track with other current junior highs results.
 - PAT encouragement and motivation amongst students encouraged a positive exam period
 - Catholic high schools are currently presenting high school options for grade 9 students. St. FX and St. Joes have already come. St. Romero and MAC, for those students interested, are scheduled to visit the school.
 - Basketball season has started. Need more junior girls interested, welcome to join!
 - Winter ARTS showcase will be held January 25
 - Grade 9 immunizations will be held February 21-23
 - STM will host the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition for the feeder schools on Saturday, January 27, 2024
 - February 1, 2024 marks the start of semester 2
 - STM will host a pancake breakfast (Shrove Tuesday) and dance on February 13, as Ash Wednesday is on February 14th. The Valentines Dance will be held on the 13th.

6) Old Business

Parent workshop

Kim Fehlauer

Discussed use of the \$500 ASCE grant. The following information was presented:

- “Understanding the Teenage Brain” 1.5 hour seminar presented by Gary Anaka (Brain Coach, brain wellness motivational speaker and brain based learning specialist).
 - Gary provides public workshops in the new emerging field of Applied Educational Neuroscience. He teaches practical, and meaningful information that can be used immediately in any work or life situation. Participants will acquire skills on how to support them to become healthy, happy, life- long learning adults.
 - Virtual presentation. We would offer a “classroom” setting at the school and virtual links for parents to join the presentation independently as well.
 - <http://www.braincoach.ca/>
 - Cost - \$420
- “Parenting Teens” 1.5 hour course presented by The Family Centre (condensed version of their 7 hour course)
 - Presentation in person + virtual link offered
 - Participants will learn practical ways to help guide children through the challenging teenage period. This presentation will cover stress, parenting styles, active listening and communication, resolving conflict (repairing relationships), and tips on helping teens with bullying.
 - <https://www.familycentre.org/classes/parenting-classes/teenagers>
 - Cost - \$450
- SC members decided on using the ASCE grant money for Gary Anaka’s “Understanding the Teenage Brain” presentation. Kim will follow up with Gary to find a date for the end of April.

Liability Insurance

Melissa Fraser

- The Fundraising Association’s liability insurance renews Feb 2, Intact has increased premium to \$1,021 this year. We are exploring switching providers as ASCA has recently announced a new partnership with Lloyd Sadd and they can provide a special policy specifically designed for School Council organizations. Melissa and Latoya are in the process of discussing the new policy with Lloyd Sadd member and will have application put together before our current policy expires Feb 2 so that we can get a quote. SC agreed that if the fee is less than \$1,021 to move insurance to Lloyd Saad, otherwise will pay Intact prior to Feb 2. If transfer occurs, Kim will cancel Intact insurance. Will follow up status at next meeting.

Website Update

Melissa Fraser

- Website is 95% up to date. A couple of items will be added this week with some changes to existing written content. The video will be changed to be generic, removing names for titles, to be used next year and years going forward to make for less work.

7) New Business

- Approval for spending of casino funds

SC approved \$45,000 spending in October. School purchased and presented in November:

Item Description	Amount
Chromebooks	\$24,557.40
Drama Equipment (makeup, props, costumes, stage equipment)	\$800.00
Construction CNC Cutter	\$3,608.95
Music Instruments	\$7,600.00
Score Board	\$1,750.00
Yearbook Camera	\$1,800.00
Comm Tech - Bitbox Coding Software	\$800.00
TOTAL	\$40,916.35

TOTAL APPROVED SPENDING	\$45,000.00
SPENDING REMAINING	\$4,083.65

\$4,083.65 remains with approval for \$2,500 Foods camera and \$2,200 Science microscopes and slides.

- On Dec 15, 2023 Kevin presented a shift in the school's priorities towards creating a Sensory room by the end of January and was looking for support from SC. A sensory room supports dysregulated students as well as offers a quiet place for work, assessments or small group work.

The following items were purchased by the school:

- 43" TV with mount = \$750
- Crash Pad = \$350
- Bubble Tube = \$1300
- Foam Tiles = \$110
- Fiber Optics Light Source = \$425
- Tangle Tube = \$30
- Construction Cubes = \$275
- Bean bag seats = 4 x \$170 = \$680
- Weighted Blankets & Stuffedies = \$100

Total = \$4,020

- SC discussed the change in school priorities and use of the remaining casino funds to support this project with the understanding that purchase of science equipment be presented next year.

Open House School Council attendance

Kim Fehlauer

- Open house scheduled for February 22. SC will present a brief speech as well be present at a table to have open discussions with parents throughout the evening. SC discussed ways to entice potential students and parents to the table using guess the number of jelly beans in the jar and SC information signage. SC discussed using the remaining ASCE grant money, up to \$80, for SC promotional material i.e., signs for open house, meet the teacher, BBQ events which will include items purchased in the past, positions available, general volunteering, and why SC is important.

Community of School Councils meeting

Kim Fehlauer

- Save the date email for March 6, 2024. More information on session details will be available January 31. Kim will forward email to Kevin and Melissa.

8) Open questions, comments, concerns from parent community

- Parent question: When will the information regarding the ESCD parent survey be available for review? Kevin stated that the information will be shared in the coming months at a future meeting and also available online. Survey results could be released as early as April
 Parent concern: Specific concerns were brought forth from parents regarding coaching approach, respect for athletes and the need to foster female students in sports at STM. Although specific details were not provided, they were based on the families' experiences in the sports academy and on non-academy sports teams. The issues were brought to the principal's attention and in-person meetings were held with Mr. Myskiw. A couple of resources that the school could consider offering to their coaches to improve the coaching experience for STM students were proposed. The two courses were [Respect in Sports Activity Leader/Coach Program](#) and [Keeping Girls in Sports](#) as they focus on ways to encourage respectful interactions between coaches and students (especially female athletes).

Mr. Myskiw stated that since these meetings with the parents, he has developed and implemented a new strategy document that has been shared and reviewed with coaching staff, volunteer coaches and staff. He hopes to see some progress with student interactions in the future. Mr. Myskiw focused on moving towards working with the coaches, and fostering a learning environment for them, including offering to mentor new coaches and encouraging good relationships between coaches and athletes.

Mr. Myskiw also made the council aware that he recognizes the special relationship between coaches and players and would seek advice/consult with his colleagues (e.g.,

neighbouring schools, Academy Advisory Committee, etc.) to see what is being done elsewhere on issues of this nature.

9) Next Meeting Date: February 26, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

10) Adjournment @ 7:34 PM