



St. Thomas More Junior High School

School Council Meeting Minutes February 26, 2024 @ 6:30 PM (TEAMS)

Online Attendees: Kim Fehlauser, Melissa Fraser, Lyndsay Boileau, Angie Gulevich, Latoya Cumberland, Kevin Myskiw, Michael Pagacz, Kathy Borden, Domingo Barretto, Maria Sanchez, Lucy

- 1) Call to Order (Kim Fehlauser) @ 6:32 PM
- 2) Opening Prayer (Michael Pagacz)
- 3) Treaty Six Acknowledgement (Michael Pagacz)
- 4) Approval of Minutes from January 22, 2024 (Kim Fehlauser)

Motion to approve minutes: Lyndsay Boileau

Seconded: Maria Sanchez

Motion passed – minutes from January 22, 2024 were approved

- 5) Principal's Report (Kevin Myskiw)

School Bathroom Door Removal

- Looking for Council feedback on removing the doors on the student bathrooms.
 - Doors are old and noisy when opened, so students hear the door open giving them extra time to “stash” items quickly when supervision comes in. Inappropriate use of bathrooms has become an issue and removing the doors would make the supervision checks more efficient
 - Makes the bathroom a safe place and hopefully discourages the behavior.
- Any concerns from the council?
 - Question: Has there been any feedback from students?
 - Has not been brought up yet.
 - Now that the Council knows, the plan is to introduce it to students.
 - Many schools in the area have already implemented this.
 - Question: Any mirrors where you can see outside?
 - No, had a representative from the division come in to assess, and there are no concerns.
 - Question: With other schools that have implemented this, has there been any push back from parents ?
 - None that Kevin has been made aware of. This has been in place for several years at other schools, so this indicates that there haven't been major concerns raised.
 - Question: Was this sparked by the incident in Oklahoma
 - No, but it is to ensure student safety.
 - Gives supervision extra time to get in there to ensure student safety.
- This will be communicated, perhaps through the Smore, or other means. An avenue will be provided for parents to contact Kevin with any concerns.
- No concerns raised from council, action will be taken

Open House

- Open House went well, about 400 people attended, but there was a bottleneck at the doorway after the presentation started. Seemed as though some parents weren't sure whether to come in and the gym remained partially empty despite

having much capacity left. Some attendees stayed in the hallway which was unfortunate.

- Kevin will find better way to address this in the future
- There was lots of interest in academies
 - STM looking into providing early acceptance into academies.
 - Vimy pushes hard to get registrations, so providing early acceptance would provide some assurance for students/parents.
- Question: Acceptance letters – parents of grade 6 students and grade 9 students have asked questions about acceptance.
 - Grade 6 - St Benedict students– auto acceptance
 - Grade 9 - For FX – all STM students are accepted. Exception is academy students where there are more limited spaces available.

Sensory Room

- Sensory room is well used, and well worth it, have already seen a positive impact
 - Received a thank you note addressed to Council from students – Kevin will share with the council next meeting.
- Question: Are there pictures that can be shared of the sensory room?
 - Kevin will try to pull something together
 - Will not be just used by WIN students, can be good for all students (i.e. kids with test anxiety)
 - Melissa mentioned she took a couple photos at the initial tour, but it was not completely done so we should wait until a couple more things are in place for Kevin to take more photos. (Power to monitor not yet done).
 - Once done, it will be shared with the school community either through school administration or via parent council newsletter, we will see.

Basketball Season

- Coming to an end

PD Day

- Mar 7 – Professional Development Day – will build a STM Treaty Acknowledgement
- Leads to March 14 Pipe Ceremony.
 - Can be a very positive experience, but don't want to force people into it.
 - Will be able to miss end of block 3 and 4 and 5
 - Hope kids both indigenous and non indigenous will be excited by this.

6) Old Business (Kim Fehlauer)

Parent Workshop

- Gary Anika – Understanding the Teenage Brain, April 29, 6:30 – 8:00.
 - Virtual as Gary is based in BC. Project in library and offer individual links
 - For in person, could do a mingle at 6pm
- Create a google form for an RSVP.
 - Melissa to create a sample form – to release after the casino ~ April 1.
- Could supply a meal, may make it a more positive experience, and better attended in person.
 - Can finalize details at the next meeting.
- Question: Is this open for staff to attend?
 - Would be open to them attending, as they could benefit from the workshop as well.

Open House

- 400+ people.
 - Gave a speech on what council does
 - Let parents know there are a number of vacancies for next year.
 - There was a definite interest in council from a parent.
 - Council had a table and spoke to quite a few parents throughout the evening.

7) New Business (Kim Fehlauer)

ASCA News

- Get quite a few emails from ASCA.
- Spoke to Superintendent Terry Harris and he encouraged sharing ASCA information.
 - ASCA 2024 conference & AGM April 26-28. ASCA board nominations are being accepted online.
 - \$499 for the 3 days
 - If anyone would like to attend, can speak to Council
- APEGA Science Olympics are in Edmonton April 7. This is an interactive, inter-school event for Grades 1 to 12. These Olympians use problem solving to develop solutions to a series of challenges that demonstrate how engineering and geoscience impact our everyday lives. The association is looking for volunteers. Refer to website online.
- Community of School Councils (COSC) Meeting -March 6, 2024 at 6:00 PM. All ECSD parents are welcomed to join your Edmonton Catholic Schools Board of Trustees, Chief Superintendent, Division Leaders, and Division staff.
 - Dialog between families and schools
 - Breakout sessions seem very interesting. Refer to the website for a list of sessions.

8) Open questions, comments, concerns from parent community

- No questions, other than ones noted above

9) Next Meeting Date:

Monday, March 18, 2024 @ 6:30 pm

To invite Terry Harris for next meeting

10) Adjournment @ 7:06 PM