



St. Thomas More Junior High School

School Council Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2025 @ 6:30 PM (In Person and MS Teams)

In-Person Attendees: Kevin Myskiw (Principal), Michael Pagacz (Vice-Principal), Nicole Cooper (Chair), Sarah Lartey (Vice-Chair), Erin Solano (Secretary), Savannah Palmquist (Director at large)

Online Attendees: Kim Holder (Fundraising Coordinator), Kathy Borden (Parent)

1. Call to Order – 6:37 PM (Cooper)
2. Opening Prayer (Myskiw)
3. Treaty Six Acknowledgement (Pagacz)
4. Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2025

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES: Sarah Holder

SECONDED: Savannah Palmquist

MOTION PASSED: Minutes from Jan 20, 2025, were approved

5. Principal's Report (Myskiw)
 - Open House – held on Jan. 30 with over 550 people attending.
 - Ringette academy – meeting was held and a few more student registrations had come in. Staff will need to decide in the next few weeks if the 2025-26 program can be run.
 - Shrove Tuesday – March 4 with pancakes being provided for the whole school by Denny's
 - Basketball court project – Application is due March 7. We have received a letter of support from trustee Harris.
 - Basketball teams – At the St. Joe's tournament the STM girls team won silver. The STM boys' team is in the semi-finals.
 - Badminton – 72 students have signed up
 - Student Led Conferences – March 13 in both the afternoon and evening. Notice will go out to parents to sign-up. Event is occurring earlier than in the past to improve communication between parents and teachers and allow time before the end of the school year to see student improvement.
 - STM got talent – was a great event. Very brave of students to showcase their abilities.
 - Father Michael Mireau Youth Faith Day - March 18, Grade 8 students will participate in activities at St. Charles Church.
 - Community of School Councils session - next week
 - Registration – soccer and hockey registration numbers are well above projected
 - EAP Classes – 2 more EAP classes have been added. Currently sitting at around 6 EAP classes; 2 in each grade
 - ECSD Leadership allocation – Both Myskiw and Pagacz have requested to stay at STM
6. Old Business (Cooper)
 - 6.1. Insurance – was renewed and paid (\$1066 fee)
 - 6.2. Open house – was a success. Four parents left emails to connect with the school council
 - 6.3. Basketball grant – Financials were updated and sent. A letter of support was written from the school council regarding the project. The grant representative called and said she's flexible with submission date. If an extension is needed to let her know.
 - 6.4. Communities of School Council – Event is March 11, and includes refreshments and two breakout sessions.

7. New Business

7.1. Track and Field meet

- (Cooper) Need to start canvassing for volunteers and send out a save the date. Event is May 27.
- (Myskiw) School will provide Cube truck with 4 BBQs, tent for shade, tables and chairs for School Council (SC). The school will also provide eating supplies.
 - Location is Coronation Park by the new velodrome.
 - Last year the school bought back the unused food. This year the food may need to be donated or given away in another way as the school will not be able to purchase back the food.
 - Need to determine who will pay for staff meals; school council or STM.
 - SC needs to provide food, servers, cash and volunteers. Last year burgers were provided, no hot dogs. Gatorade and freezies went fast.
 - 320 hamburgers at last years event were too many. This year's numbers will need to be adjusted.
 - Had a lot of success last year with parent involvement
- (Cooper) Next meeting the group will go over the specifics, execution and volunteers.
 - Can offer split shifts for those who can't volunteer all day.
 - Cooper will firm up details.
- (Palmquist) Lets send out the save the date for parents to book the day off from work as SC is going to need help and many volunteers.

7.2. Council members and parent engagement

- (Cooper) Would like to draw in more parents for engagement. Funds are approved. Perhaps a casual event with 20 parents. Ideas include Fitset ninja, or a meet and mingle parents' night.
- (Palmquist) At a past parent's event she attended their group chose a restaurant and enjoyed appetizers. Parents bought their own drinks.
- (Cooper) Will explore ideas at a future date

7.3. 2025/26 Council members

- (Cooper) Need to let Chair know if current school council members will continue
- (Solano) Is stepping down from secretary position. Will need to fill this position with a new volunteer for 2025-26.
 - Could we have a SC table and a few members to meet and chat with parents at the upcoming student-led conferences? Would allow us the opportunity to let parents know about upcoming vacancies on the council and get parents signed up for the BBQ.
- (Cooper) Coffee, opportunity to chat with parents. Myskiw didn't see any issues with SC being present.
 - SC will communicate council vacancies and volunteer opportunities (BBQ)
 - Two shifts: 1-4 p.m. and 5 to 7:30 p.m.
 - Day shift: Palmquist and Cooper; Evening shift: Solano, Lartey and Cooper
 - SC will provide coffee, BBQ and Council positions (casino chairperson)
 - Cooper will create communication material to share with parents
- (Myskiw) School will provide cookies

MOTION TO SPEND up to \$100 for coffee for Student Led Conference night: Nicole Cooper

SECONDED: Sarah Lartey

MOTION PASSED: Motion approved

8. Open questions, comments, concerns from parent community
 - None
9. Next Meeting Date: April 28, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.
10. Adjournment 7:10 p.m.