



St. Thomas More Junior High School

School Council Meeting Minutes January 20, 2025 @ 6:30 PM (In Person and MS Teams)

In-Person Attendees: Kevin Myskiw (Principal), Michael Pagacz (Vice-Principal), Sarah Lartey (Vice-Chair), Erin Solano (Secretary), Latoya Cumberland (Treasurer), Kim Holder (Fundraising Coordinator)

Online Attendees: Nicole Cooper (Chair), Lyndsay Boileau (Director at Large), Kathy Borden (Parent)

1. Call to Order – 6:43 PM (Myskiw)
2. Opening Prayer (Myskiw)
3. Treaty Six Acknowledgement (Pagacz)
4. Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2024

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES: Kim Holder

SECONDED: Sarah Lartey

MOTION PASSED: Minutes from November 18, 2024, were approved, with the following changes required (Note: Corrections are indicated with **Bold, underline**)

- a. Page 1, 4. Approval of Nov minutes, Motion to approve, Sarah **Lartey**
- b. Page 1, 4. Approval of Nov minutes, Seconded: Kim **Holder**
- c. Page 2, 6.2 MOTION: Approve up to \$400 from the AGLC account for the purchase of a telescope: **SECONDED: Kim Lartey Holder**
- d. Page 3, 6.2 MOTION: Approve up to \$800 from the AGLC account for flip charts: **SECONDED: Kim Lartey Holder**

5. Principal's Report (Myskiw)

- The Treaty 6 land acknowledgement has been updated. The new version, read earlier by Pagacz, will be shared with the school.
- Vision/Mission Statement
STM staff have created a new school mission statement
 - New statement: The mission at St. Thomas More school is to provide a Catholic education that inspires our students to engage in a balanced and holistic journey of learning and excellence.
 - SC attendees support the new statement.
- Open House
 - Next Thursday, January 30, there will be 14 school visitations focused on the academy programs. There is increased enrollment interest.
- 2025/26 Enrollment
 - Enrolment is looking healthy, 165 students have registered from feeder schools alone, and another 50-60 students are expected for the academy programs.
 - Will be able to retain staffing assignments
- Staff changes
 - Morgan Weisgerber, Phys-Ed, Science, English and Art
 - Mr. Biro has retired, and Mr. Castillo is his permanent replacement.
 - Ms. Mataska is teaching Soccer Academy and Science 7
 - Ms. Deseree
 - Full staffing is in place
- Academy Growth
 - Growth in all academies except ringette

- Basketball
 - Boy's basketball team is in the running for city finals
 - Mr. Castillo is now a coach for the girl's basketball team
- Knight spirit-wear
 - \$35 each, parents can order through PowerSchool
- Science equipment
 - The science equipment that was approved for purchase in the last SC meeting in November 2024, has been purchased and is in use in the science classrooms.
- School Trustee
 - ECSD Trustee Terry Harris will be attending the STM SC meeting Monday, April 28 at 6:30 p.m. He will also be attending the Open House, Jan. 30. Trustee Harris has decided not to run in the next election.
- Hot lunch
 - Myskiw – requests that Fridays are avoided as a designated hot lunch day as Fridays will be pizza day. The school can have two days during the week for lunch offerings. A list of student name's that have ordered hot lunch will be provided to teachers. Teachers will verify which students ordered hot lunch to lesson confusion. The school office will contact parents whose children weren't able to collect their hot lunch.
 - Cooper – suggests Wednesday be the other hot lunch day.
- Church Raffle
 - Annunciation Catholic Church is holding a raffle, each ticket is \$50. The funds are going towards the building of a brand-new church building.

6. Old Business

- Parent Workshop
 - Cooper – working to find a suitable workshop. Will revisit this at the next SC meeting.
- Engagement Survey
 - Tabled for a future SC meeting

7. New Business

- Basketball Court Grant Application (Cooper)
 - Cumberland assisted with the application process and the school has applied for the grant.
 - Cooper/Cumberland – The basketball court project will cost approximately \$138,000-140,000. \$70,000 will be withdrawn from the casino account, and \$70,000 provided through the grant. The council expects to hear back regarding the grant in March 2025, with September implementation. This means the majority of the GIC would be withdrawn.
 - Cumberland – \$37,000 is available for withdrawal at any time, with an extra \$5,000 from the casino account.
 - Myskiw – Any other spending requirements (music, other programs, jersey's), the school will pay for. With \$15,000 available, Myskiw will ensure the other goals are met.
 - The cost for casino advisers will also need to be considered.

MOTION: To spend upwards of \$78,000 for the basketball court project from the casino account: Kim Holder

SECONDED: Sarah Lartey

MOTION PASSED: Motion passed

- Community of School Councils Event (Cooper)
 - Save the date, March 11, 2025, refreshments and two break out sessions at the Lumen Christi with Chair Palazzo. Invitation is for all members of council and is a free event. Myskiw will also be attending.
- Open House Planning (Cooper)
 - Jan. 30, Cooper will attend on behalf of the SC and speak to the attendees about the enhancements to the science program, hot lunch initiative, and possibly announcing the basketball court initiative.
 - Boileau and Cooper to arrange set up at the open house (small contest, candy dish to create engagement), Myskiw to bring easel. Lartey will also attend.

MOTION: To spend up to \$50 to purchase candy and supplies for the school council open house draw: Nicole Cooper

SECONDED: Kim Holder

MOTION PASSED: Motion passed

- Insurance renewal
 - SC insurance is up for renewal, the cost is \$1066
 - There are no changes to the policy

MOTION: To spend \$1066 on insurance coverage fees from the casino account:

Nicole Cooper

SECONDED: Kim Holder

MOTION PASSED: Motion passed

- Upcoming events
 - Track and field meet day, in May 27.
 - Will table the planning for a future meeting

8. Open questions, comments, concerns from parent community

- Parent asked about the Grade 9 Farewell Day
 - Myskiw – the grade 9 farewell day will be Monday, June 2. Grade 9 students will spend the day at Nakamun lake.

9. Next Meeting Date: March 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment 7:29 p.m.