

---

# St. Joseph Catholic School Council Minutes

Wednesday March 3rd, 2010

**Attendees:** Mrs. Cino, Mr. DeTullio, Lynne Norman, Mr. Czerniga, Lilli Schikolenko, Pierre Gravelle, Catherine Sennett, Rebekah Jackson-Gravelly, Kaywana Gargarello, Neala Hoad, Paula Linger, Steven Murphy, Mrs. Foley, Mlle. Iaconetti, Mme. Brown, Mme. Crandall, Mrs. Spinosa

**Opening welcome and prayer:** Lynne Norman

**Previous minutes:** Kaywana wished to clarify that she did not hear about the grade nine information night in the newspaper but that it was advertised in the newspaper.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Motion made to approve minutes - Steven and seconded by Kaywana.

## **Principal's report: Mrs. Cino**

1. Announcement regarding last night's school board/parent meeting regarding uniform policy: motion passed (which resulted in the Board revoking the policy which would have required mandatory cresting of uniform tops).
2. No child without program: information cards went home today. Information on the cards include a record of conditions and access for paramedics. Detailed information can be found on the school website.
3. School Soccer Program: There is an opportunity for students and teachers at St. Josephs to become involved in a school soccer program. Carl Horton (a parent in the community) will be leading this initiative.  
**ACTION:** Mrs. Cino will look in to this opportunity further.
4. Facebook/Twitter information night will take place on March 11th. More information is available on the school website.
5. The Social Justice Team will be selling popcorn to raise funds for a student at St. Margaret Mary who suffers from AT disease.
6. French Public Speaking on Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, school gym
7. Grad photos will be taken Wednesday March 24th.

## **TEACHER PRESENTATION: Strategies for learning/understanding Math**

Mme Crandall, Mme Brown and Mrs. Spinosa explained that Math has become more word based in nature and there is a greater emphasis on understanding "why". There are many different methods to teach Math and some of the following strategies have been in use in the classroom.

Mme Brown: (Primary Division) Presented RICE which is an acronym for the following:

**R** - Read for understanding

**I** - Identify the problem (circle key words)

**C** - Choose a strategy to help solve the problem

**E** - Explain using pictures, numbers and words

Mme Crandall/Mme Brown, and Mrs. Spinosa acronym strategy is also used in the Junior and Intermediate classes and there is a corresponding task rubric for RICE. The Junior and Intermediate classes also have a key question book with the RICE and rubric. This approach/strategy will also be used from the primary division through to the intermediate division. Mme Crandall also pointed out the the symbols that are used with the RICE strategy are the same that are used in the EQAO tests.

Parents are encouraged to utilize this approach for homework.

---

## **St. Joseph Catholic School Council Minutes**

A suggestion was made from an attendee to put this information on the website.

An attendee asked if students are helped to identify what the key words are to identify the strategy: Mme Crandall explained that the students have a math dictionary which helps to translate the words into math and the students have to use the math terms used in the chapter.

Thanks was expressed to the 3 teachers who presented at the meeting.

**ACTION:** Mrs. Cino will look into posting the presented information on the website.

### **Parish Report: Steven Murphy**

1. Steven reported that the pasta supper was a great success. There were 135 more tickets sold this year than were sold last year. There has not yet been information available regarding the amount of money raised. Steven thanked Mrs. Cino for permitting the sales of tickets at the school prior to the event.
2. Lenten breakfasts are taking place and the children are enjoying these. Steven encouraged anyone to attend.

### **Treasurer's Report: Paula Linger**

1. Parent Council Account balance: unchanged at \$1600.00.
2. The Valentines Dance raised \$3500.00 which will go to the Green Tux Project
3. The Green Tux Project balance is \$12,500 and this amount will be transferred to a separate account.
4. Secretaries Day is April 1st. Paula asked permission of the council to purchase something for Mrs. Walter. All attendees were in agreement of this. Mrs. Cino pointed out that we do have a part time secretary as well. Paula motioned to buy a small gift for this secretary as well and this was seconded by Neala.

### **Fundraising Report: Catherine Sennett**

1. Catherine shared with the group that the Valentines dance was a great success. There were not as many tickets sold prior to the event this year (201 this year compared with 347 last year) but more tickets were purchased at the door this year. Ticket sales: \$1005.00, cupcake/cookie/glowsticks/raffle sales: \$2385.00. Approx \$500.00 was used to purchase pizza and drinks.
2. 2 volunteers who worked at the school all day preparing for the dance received parking tickets and a suggestion was made to cover the cost of the tickets with the proceeds of the dance. This item was put to a vote and it was decided that the cost of the tickets would not be covered.
3. Fun Fair 2010: Possible dates include Friday June 4th or Friday June 18th. It is the hope of the fundraising committee that the Fun Fair and the Dance a thon take place on the same day. The question of why these events should occur on the same day arose. Catherine and Lynn explained that the Dance a thon creates a lot of energy/excitement that carries over to the Fun Fair. **DISCUSSION:** Lynne asked Mrs. Foley and Mlle. Iaconetti if the JK/SKs need as much time at the Dance a thon as last year. It was suggested that the JK/SKs would attend for 30 minutes and the time for the Grade 7 and 8 classes would be extended to 60 min.

### **Green Tux Report: Lynne Norman**

---

## St. Joseph Catholic School Council Minutes

1. Meeting for Gala planning has taken place. Possible dates would be before Thanksgiving. The committee plans to target those who are vested in our community. Catherine asked anyone who may be able to secure auction item to please let the committee members know. Mr. Czerniga explained that many other events by various organizations such as the Catholic Children's Aid and the Good Shepherd Society usually take place in the fall. This information will be passed on to the committee members and will be discussed at the next meeting.

### Eco Team Report: Rebekah Jackson-Gravelly

1. **Bike racks:** B&G roofing will provide 2 or 3 bike racks and will install them (as a donation to the school). Meeting attendees suggested that a donation plaque be put in place near the bike racks to identify the donor. Bike racks will be put along the fence and can be moved as needed.
2. **Green Bins:** Green bins will be utilized in schools in 6 months. The St. Joseph's Green Team will wait till this time to implement green bins.
3. **HSR education session:** This opportunity is available to Grade 5 students and involves the Green Venture representative and the students travelling to the ECO house on the HSR bus. May 3rd and May 17th are possible dates. It was determined that May 17th would be the best choice for date. There are 53 students in Grade 5 and the cost per student is \$7.00. The parent council funded \$3.00 per student last year and Rebecca requested that \$2.00 per student be funded this year. Due to an insufficient number of voting council members in attendance, it was suggested that this matter be raised at the next meeting and brought to a vote at that time.

### French Immersion Report: Kaywana Gargarello

1. Representatives from the Canadian Parents for French group attended all of the JK/SK information nights in the HWCDSB. St. Eugene's had 8 parents in attendance but this low number was thought to be related to some confusion about date/time. Sts. Peter and Paul school had both Co-chairs of the Parent Council in attendance as well as the Principal and both SK teachers. There was a power point presentation for the parents and some grade 8 students in attendance introduced themselves to the parents and spoke French in the presentation. Kaywana reported that the forum was relaxed and parents were asking questions such as "When do kids start speaking French" and "How do boys do in the FI program". The students answered questions and promoted the culture of French.
2. Grade 8 graduates attending Cathedral High School: St. Eugenes School had 24 students graduate from grade 8 and 18 of these went on to Cathedral High School. Sts. Peter and Paul had 18 students graduate and 12-14 went on to Cathedral. **DISCUSSION:** Question raised re: why St. Josephs kids are attending Westdale (and not Cathedral) for French. Some opinions expressed included: Westdale having more options, a better overall presentation by Westdale and that the location of Cathedral is a concern for many parents. Further opinions expressed regarding students not choosing to attend Cathedral include the fact that St. Josephs students do not "feed in" to Cathedral except for French Immersion and if a student has an older sibling at Westdale or St. Mary's (or many of their friends are attending these schools), parents may be inclined to send their children to the same school as their sibling/friends. Kaywana reports that Dan Crandall of the French Immersion Advisory Committee is waiting to hear about a committee to involve parents in this issue.
3. Verbathon Game: Sts. Peter and Paul school has utilized a verb conjugation game. This game can utilize a team approach to play the game and practice the conjugation of verbs. The game can be purchased from a company in Vancouver. Kaywana will provide more information on the cost etc. if requested.

### ACTION ITEMS from previous meeting: Mrs. Cino

---

## **St. Joseph Catholic School Council Minutes**

1. Sale of Usana products for fundraising: This opportunity will not be considered for now as the Board has an approved list of fundraising in place for the year.

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:15  
Next Meeting April 7th @ 7pm**