

**St. James & St. Ann's Regional Education Committee**

**MINUTES (Approved October 23, 2024)**

**Wednesday, September 25, 2024 | Start Time: 6:30pm**

**Location: St. James & St. Ann's Elementary School**

Present: Tasha Mijinke: Secretary/Community, Marc Vella: Parent Participation, Greg Steinbichler: Maintenance, Gianni Bittante: Principal, Fr. Richard Zanotti: Archbishop Representative, Andrew deVerteuil: Treasurer, Greg Kenny: Chairperson, Kristine Quisias: Fundraising, Sophia Bowman: Teacher Rep, Tara Gaudet: Teacher Rep, Sheena Lewis: Vice Principal

Regrets: Jake Turek: Vice Chair

1. Faith Formation – 15 minutes -Fr. Richard
2. Call Meeting to Order - *Greg K. called the meeting to order at 6:46pm*

*We acknowledge that St. James and St. Ann's school is located on the unceded and traditional lands of the Sumas (sue-mass) and Matsqui (mats-sqwee) First Nations people, and the Stó:lō (staw-low) people." With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers.*

3. Amend / Adopt the Agenda - **MARC/ANDREW**
4. Appreciations - *Greg K. shared an appreciation for Kristine stepping into the role. Tasha shared an appreciation to the REC members, staff, and teachers who stepped up and put on a great meet the teacher BBQ.*

5. Correspondence - *To be shared In camera*
6. Review and Approve August Minutes - **MARC/ANDREW**
7. Policy Manual Review – *Jake (Policy 304 Dismissal & Non-Renewal of Teachers' & Principals' Contracts)- In Jake's absence Greg K shared a summary of the policy regarding the written process of termination of the contract by the employee and/or the employer. He spoke of the written notice and rationale for not renewing a contract and seeking approval from the Superintendent. Appeals can be made utilizing Policy 302. Marc asked a question regarding the Catholicity clause, and Gianni replied with his example and understanding.*

**8. Main Reports:**

- a. Archbishop's Rep. Report – *Fr. Richard - Shared that the list has been made for the priests that will celebrate the school masses throughout the year.*
- b. Chair Report – *Greg K.- as discussed*
- c. Principal Report – *Gianni - as submitted*
- d. Treasurer Report – *Andrew - Andrew met with Lori at the beginning of September to go over things for the year. They have been able to move to electronic reimbursements rather than cheques for teachers who submit expenses.*

## 9. Additional Reports:

- a. Teachers Report – *Sophia and Tara shared an extensive report from each grade of how each class is settling into the new school year. New concepts such as soft start and nature first have been introduced in grades 1 and ½ and class buddies have been assigned. Grade 5's have been working on a research project about Terry Fox and will resume their Tabor Court visits in October. Grade 4's hosted mass in September.*
- b. Maintenance Report – *Greg S. - Greg shared that he has been in the school kitchen to get a scope of the project and is looking further into contractors such as flooring, plumbing, cabinets, and appliances. Greg K. and Gianni shared contact information for further discussions.*
- c. Fundraising Report – *Kristine - Kristine is new to her role and did not have a formal report to present. Tasha shared the contact information for Nicola Humphreys and offered to help get her up to speed.*
- d. Parent Participation Report – *Marc - Marc shared a report from Heather and Fathanee who are overseeing the parent participation app.*
- e. Community Relations Report – *Tasha - Tasha has sent out cards to all new families on behalf of the 24/25 REC to welcome them to the school. She is working on securing a date with the Abbotsford Canucks for a community night, and will wait until the budget comes back in October to finalize a booking for a skating event with the COA. Parent Music bingo night may be in November or March.*

## 10. Old Business

- a. Kitchen Renovation – *Gianni/Greg S. - Shared in Maintenance report*
- b. Back to School Barbecue/Meet the Teacher Night: Thursday September 19, 2024 – *Gianni/Greg K. - Shared earlier in meeting with the addition*

- of Greg K. suggesting that all four parish priests be invited in future years.*
- c. *CCSTA Endowment Fund Tuition Assistance Program – Gianni - Gianni said that we will talk about it again in January when we have more information.*
  - d. *Manhole Cleanout - Gianni confirmed that each group (St. James Parish, SJB, and SJA) will pay \$450 (aprox) for the manhole cleanout.*

## 11. New Business

- a. *After Hours Security – Gianni - Gianni shared the neighbours concerns regarding people accessing the property and playing basketball until the early morning hours. He also shared that each morning he does a walk around the property picking up garbage from the public. Both of the school gates get locked each night; however, the parish gates remain open at times because of parish events. After speaking with the community police officer for our area, they suggested that we try “Going Dark” and turning off the lights when there are no events happening at the school or parish. This, along with locking all the gates on the property should deter the public from using our property during off hours and keep any garbage and vandalism at a minimum. Gianni will keep us updated.*

12. Our next meeting: Wednesday October 23, 2024.

13. In – Camera

14. Closing Prayer

15. Meeting Adjourned *at 8:36pm*

*NOTES: CISVA AGM - November 5, 2024*