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

~ Minutes~

Wednesday January 14, 2026 | Start Time: 6:30pm

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

Present: Jake Turek – Chair, Libimol Devasia: Secretary,Greg Steinbichler – Maintenance,Andrew De Verteuil – Treasurer,Nick Schock - Community Relations,Fathanee Lenchuk - Parent Participation, Sheena Lewis: Vice Principal, Onika Bryson: Principal

1. Faith Formation – 15 minutes – *Nick*

2. Call Meeting to Order: Jake called the meeting to order at 6:43 pm.

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
    a. Greg motioned, Fathanne second -all in favour, none opposed.
4. Appreciations
    a. Jake expressed appreciation and shared that Andrew will not be leaving and will continue serving as Treasurer.
5. Correspondence -NA

6. Review and Approve November Minutes
    a. School was spelled incorrectly and needs correction.
    b. Minutes approved with this correction.
    c. Andrew motioned, Nick second
7. Policy Manual Review – *Nick*
    a. Nick went through policy 108
8. Main Reports:
    a. Archbishop's Rep. Report – *Fr. Richard*- NA
    b. Chair Report – *Jake*
        - A complaint was raised about drop-off and pick-up, including line-cutting and parking lot issues.
        - Onika noted that communication about this went out last week.
        - Jake mentioned the local policy regarding a $50 fine.If this policy is being implemented, it should be brought forward at the AGM.
    c. Principal Report – As Submitted.
    d. Treasurer Report – *Andrew*- As submitted.
        - A question was raised about a deficit; it was clarified that it is a surplus.
9. Additional Reports:

a. Teachers Report: Onika

- Teachers appreciated the gift card.
- Mentioned the new Junior Choir.
- The Grade 5 play was amazing.
- Nick read the Hiring policy.

b. Maintenance Report – *Greg -NA*

c. Fundraising Report – *Kristine*

d. Parent Participation Report – *Fathanee*

- No update. Going well
- **Audit & Volunteer Hours Discussion**: Greg requested an update on the audit, specifically the number of families not completing their volunteer hours.
- Fathanee noted that several cheques have not yet been cashed.
- The committee discussed allowing certain maintenance projects to count as volunteer hours and exploring more maintenance tasks as options.
- A few parents have expressed concerns that they are not receiving enough opportunities to earn hours.
- With the new system in place, auditing volunteer hours will be easier and more accurate.

- Fathanie will submit a full audit report at the next meeting.
- **Expanding Volunteer Options:** The committee discussed offering a wider range of volunteer opportunities, including skilled roles such as plumbers, bakers, and electricians.This would help ensure families have more accessible ways to complete their required hours.

e. Community Relations Report – *Danika- NA*

10. Old Business

a. Asphalt Quote – Onika

- Onika noted that the paving work will not take place during this school year.

b. Fundraising Participation Hours – Kristine

I. Gala Fee Discussion

- The committee discussed the Gala fee, reviewing options of $32 per person or $40 per person.
- Jake noted that he needs additional information before finalizing a recommendation.
- Members agreed that $40 per person is low for a Gala, and a proposal was raised to increase the fee to $50 per person.

- The committee emphasized the need to determine the actual cost of the dinner, with any amount above the cost potentially being eligible as a tax-deductible donation.
- Nick asked whether a tax receipt could be issued for the donation portion.
- The committee agreed that further clarification and calculations are needed before making a final decision.
- Onika noted that principal approval will be required.
- Jake expects to have more information available by the next meeting.

11. New Business

a. Smoke Detector Replacement:

- The committee discussed that the school's alarm system needs to be upgraded, including the replacement of smoke detectors.

b. Computer for Bookkeeper:

- The new bookkeeper noted that her computer needs to be replaced.
- Jake will assess the current computer and check whether a replacement is required.

c. Annual General Meeting:

- The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2026.
- The committee will discuss this item further at the next meeting.

d. Gym Enhancement:

- The committee reviewed the *Gym Enhancement and Priority Basketball Partnership Proposal* document. The committee agreed that a full and complete picture of the proposed enhancement is needed. The proposal includes paying two to three months of rental fees in advance. After the three-year term, REC will conduct a review before deciding next steps, with no automatic renewal. Any rate changes after three years would be based on the Consumer Price Index. Onika will follow up with the group. Any changes will be reviewed by REC. No West Abby Hook signage will be displayed.

12. Our next meeting: February 11, 2026.

13. In – Camera

14. Closing Prayer

15. Meeting Adjourned at 7:37 pm