

St. Thomas Aquinas School School Council Minutes

Date: November 29, 2022

Time: 7:00pm

‘Inspired by Christ on a Journey to Encounter, Nurture, and Serve’

1. Call to Order at 7:00 pm - Ian

Ian Stang, Mike Kelly, Kristie McCullough, Tara Lawrance, Mark Haggis, Jackie Cormier, Erin Buckland, Chantelle Loewn

2. Opening Prayer - Mike

3. Introductions- Mike

4. Approval of September, 2022 minutes - Mike

- Review of the Agenda: Mike
 - Motion to approve: Mark
 - 2nd Jackie

5. Principal Report: Ian

5.1: Questions arising from Principal's Report: Please see attached report.

6. Trustee Report: Cynthia Leyson (Ian)

6.1:

-RDCRS is experiencing a higher than normal absenteeism due to various illnesses like cold symptoms and stomach flu symptoms.

-We currently have 3 schools with 10% absenteeism.

-The secretary treasurer updated the board of trustees about St. Lorenzo Ruiz Middle School Capital Project and shared the division the continuous to work toward the goal of construction completion by June 2023.

-RDCRS in partnership of Chinook Edge Division was granted by AB ED the 1.4 M budget towards mental health, originally we asked for 1.8 M. Also AB ED will grant \$5,500 to every Ukrainian student, currently we have 50 Ukrainian students enrolled in our schools.

7. New Business

7.1 - Re-visit School Council Positions: Kristie

Co-Chair: Jackie

Co-Chair: Mark

Secretary: Tara

Treasurer: Carla

7.2 - Update on items discussed at Sept meeting - Mike

PowerSchool Cumulative Average Calculator - At our Sept meeting, we discussed the use of a cumulative average calculator within the PowerSchool App. The feedback that we received was that this App was not functioning properly. We have investigated the use of this application and want to make you aware that this function should be operating correctly now. If for some reason, this calculation is not working on your App, please reach out to Kathy Heisler at 403-346-8951 here at STA and she can answer any questions you may have.

Cafeteria Menu Availability - At our meeting we discussed the timelines associated with the monthly menu being made available to parents for pre-ordering. We are committed to ensuring that this menu is made available on our website at least one week prior to the start of each month. Additionally, we discussed the potential of moving to an online ordering system for pre-orders and are exploring the possibility of offering this to parents prior to the end of June. Details have not been finalized, but we plan to gain feedback from parents in the new year to find out if this is something that parents would like to try. That feedback will inform our next steps.

7.3: Sharing of Budget: Carla / Ian

- Budget illustrates that we will need to complete some fundraising this year to ensure that we have some reserve funds for the 2023-2024 school year.
- [Student fees balance to date \\$4185](#)
- [See budget sheet for proposed spending- discuss possible fundraising later in the meeting](#)

7.4: Photography Update: Ian

- Edge vs Lifetouch
- [Some previous issues with current photographer- service contract is over this year](#)
- [Provided comparison sheet between the two providers](#)
- [Working with a few other schools to make this decision](#)
- [Welcome any input that you have as a parent group](#)

7.5: School Fundraising Committee- Kristie, Jackie, Chantelle, Erin

- Ideas for fundraising / next steps.
- [Consider looking at fundraising for the spring](#)
- [Brainstorming to get ahead of things for the following fall](#)
- [Plant Sales?](#)

- Fruit Fundraiser? Fits well with the nutrition protocol
- Cash Raffle? Check if this would be allowed? Touch base with Secretary Treasurer
 - Booklets can be ordered
 - \$5 Tickets
 - \$5000 Prize
 - Stand to make a very large profit
 - Could impact amount of field trips
- Survey to parents about fundraising activities

7.6: Staff Appreciation- Kristie, Jackie and Chantelle

- Proposal of payment for STA staff hats to align with our safe, caring and welcoming focus this school year.
- Parents supported this proposal to have this come from School Council funds

7.7 - Alberta Education School Council Engagement Grant Feedback: Mike

- \$500 per School Council, we agreed in Sept to cost share with other RDCRS Schools
- We are looking for feedback from parents on potential topics/speakers this evening.
- Any ideas - ?
 - Bring forward any ideas to admin team

6. Examples of parent engagement activities and projects that funds can be used for include:

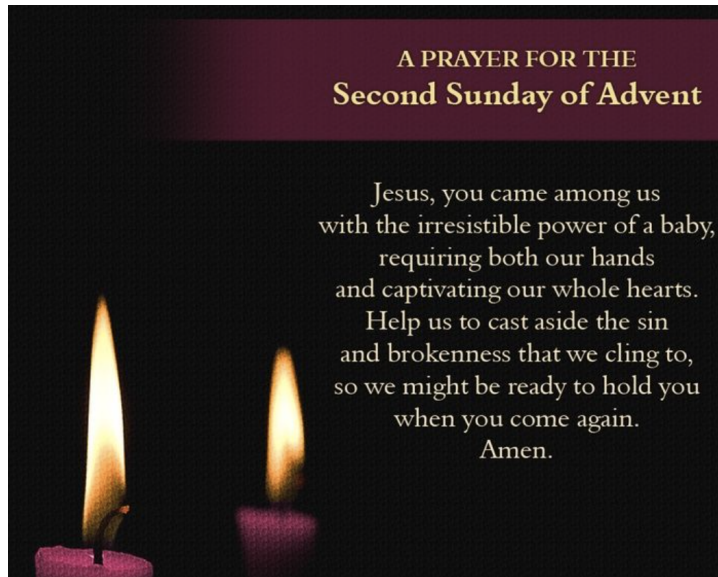
- workshops for parents to increase capacity for school council members;
- information sessions on how parents can support student learning at home and at school;
- parent resources and workshops on important topics such as, mental health and well-being, cyber bullying, healthy living, etc.;
- programs to support multi-cultural and Indigenous families including, English language learners and First Nations, Metis and Inuit learners;
- parent resources and tools in multiple languages;
- events to engage parents on important local issues;
- parent engagement in promoting the value of arts;
- trainer/facilitator costs for the professional development, workshops or sessions associated with the above.

8. Announcements/ Correspondence: Mike

- Questions?
 - feedback for Volleyball, communication to parents missed, sharing of information- finals, communication of times and dates earlier would be appreciated- how to help new coaches?
 - Graphic novel concerns- come to admin and speak to staff member about future book recommendations

8.2 - Next meeting date will be: January 31.

10. Closing Prayer: Kristie



13. Adjournment: Ian [7:51](#)