

**St. Stephen's Secondary Catholic School
School Council Minutes
Tuesday, April 7th, 2009**

Present: Jackie Freeman, Sheeran Rush-Jeanes, Laura Pomfret, Diane Renaud, Susan Drever, Shannon Everest, Monica Hurley, Jan Ethier, and Kaylene Peters, Annette Fegan.

Regrets: Anita Fegan, Valerie McCormick, Wendy Skan.

Special Guests: Granville Anderson, and Maureen Day

Presentation by Kendal Daize and Monique Pelland who attended the Dominican Republic Trip with Jan Ethier. They wanted to give some exposure to their trip and presented a slide show.

1. Call to Order 7:20 pm

- a) **Approval of Agenda: Laura Pomfret 2nd Diane Renaud**
- b) **Granville thanked council for all their hard work. He gave a description of the role of trustees and wanted to ensure that all our needs were being met.**
- c) **Maureen explained that her goal was to get out to the school council meetings at least once a year. She explained how policies are always being re-evaluated and this ensures that they are effective. Maureen also explained that all policies can be found on the school board web site and if anyone would like to contribute suggestions to do so, as they browse the site regularly and take all comments seriously. Maureen also indicated that there is a communication audit underway and that there is a random selection across the board. Leadership series - Qualities of Principal - submitted by school councils this provides the opportunity to help select the best administration for their school. She also informed the council that our representative for the lakeshore is Linda Barnett. She also explained the school year calendar and explained that after Labour Day is when school will begin. Maureen explained the "FACE" – friends and advocates for Catholic education is always preparing to meet the challenges that face our Catholic Education system. Maureen was also pleased to explain that now trustees must now have police checks. She informed council about Fun Fest- like a mini world youth day. Will take place August 14-16th by St. Teresa Parish at Holy Trinity. For more info go to the Diocese Website and click on the Bale Banner for more info. She congratulated our school on its web site for being so easily accessible, and how the newsletter keeps**

trustees up to date. Granville and Maureen would love to come to any school events that may be taking place. Anyone is free to contact them to invite them. They both congratulated council and gave them a huge thank-you for all their hard work.

2.

Reports:

a) **Chairperson Reports:** Suzie Drever

- Attendance at Regional meeting for Catholic School Council Chairs on Feb 4/09 at Good Sheppard Elementary School
- They discussed allergy awareness
- Discussed initial steps in developing a school brochure
- Policy Review- Valerie reviewed policies and have no suggestions or comments at this time.
- PVNC Catholic School Election sent to council members. If anyone is interested please nominate and submit name by April 20/09.
- The term will be two years effective Sept.1/09
- Meetings are 4 times a year- 7 p.m. in Peterborough at Board Office and your mileage will be reimbursed.
- OAPCE- Michelle Griepsma- from St. Thomas Aquinas Secondary School was elected director (PVNC) on the Provincial Executive for a two year term.
- On April 23/09 at 6:30-10:00- Motivation Breakthrough- 6 secrets to turning on the “Turned out Child”- Rick Lavoie is a popular speaker about learning disabilities.
- April 23/09 Holy Cross Secondary in Peterborough invites all parents to attend an evening presentation with Dr. Adam Cox on “Eight Essential Brain Skills Every Child Needs to Thrive”.
- List of Council initiatives for 2008/2009 school year to be used at chair recognition social.
- Graduation-letter re-sponsor award for graduation- motion for graduation card

- **Treasurers Report:**
- **Parent Involvement-** \$1,297.31
- **School Council-** \$775.56

b) **Student Council Report:** Kaylene Peters

- Athletic Banquet- catering for the event on Wednesday June 10th
- Ball Hockey Tournament-community day
- Grant for healthy active school-BQ May 23rd
- June 4th is the last school dance-semi formal.
- Yearbooks this year trying to be more formalistic.

- Some suggestions to increase yearbook sales are to include it in school fees. Will discuss more in the near future.

c) Staff Report: Monica Hurley

- Monica informed council of the literacy test and the results of strategies put in place to enhance student learning.
- Money through student success for program in reading ahead. This program uses knowledge of programs similar to face book and MSN. Students log on and a picture that is fictional will appear. This program has different activities for students to work on literacy skills.
- This type of program is geared for applied and locally developed courses.

d) Principal's Report: Sheeran Rush-Jeanes

- Safe School Committee-Restorative Justice was presented by Maureen Maloney.
- There will be a presentation offered to anyone who wishes to attend at the school on April 8/09 at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.
- April 16th is a grad meeting - get package and voting for valedictorian, grad rental, and to remind students that community hours need to be in.
- April 24th is a Special Education focus. Dr. Adam Cox will give a presentation for teachers on their Professional Development Day. This will take place at St. Peter's in Peterborough. There is no cost and everyone is welcome.
- April 27/09 is Report Card Distribution
- Student Trustee Candidate- students who want to be a liaison representative is needed can run for election.
- All students from schools will vote on one representative.
- Literacy Assembly is April 28th-spoken word artist combined with multi-cultural week
- Different activities will be celebrated throughout the week for this event.
- PISA- random 35 children chosen to write a test for international statistics on the competencies of 15 yr. olds in reading, math and science.
- This is a 2 hour written assessment and a 40 minute questionnaire.

F) Parish Report:

- March 30-April 1 was a retreat "Finding our roots and Wings of God" with father Chris Rupert S.J., Danny Bronson and Father Paul. This was well attended and enjoyed by many.
- Holy Thursday at 5:30 at St. Joseph's Parish there will be a dinner and celebration of the very first Eucharist.

- **Upcoming event of our “Spring Concert” at St. Joseph’s parish on April 18th at 7:30 p.m. This will include the Clarington concert band, Father Paul and our youth on fire group. Tickets are available and highly recommended**
- **Our SVDP is in need of peanut butter, jam, mayonnaise, soup etc.. This is tough economic times for many.**

g) New Business:

- **Shannon made the suggestion of possibly hosting a dance a thon to support school technology and purchasing smart boards with the money raised.**
- **This will be put on the next month’s agendas under fundraiser and issue to be discussed at a later time.**

h) Canadian Parents for French- (CPF)

- **Level one French completed and level two French to begin. Anyone interested is asked to notify the school.**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Motion by Laura, and 2nd by Diane
Minutes prepared by: Diane Renaud**