

St. James Catholic High School Meeting Minutes 7:00 pm

Location: School Library

October 20, 2014

Present: Sally Akroyd Bombino, Tim Yawney, Frances Palermo, Camilla Ceroli, Nancy Leidl, Greg Hannam, Erica Gibson, Luc Renaud, Jonathan Parkes, Cindy Hughes

Regrets: Rita Sethi, Nancy Brooker, Viviana Keir

Next meeting: Monday November 24, 6:30 pm School Library

Meeting Minutes recorded by : Frances Palermo

Chaired by: Principal Tim Yawney

Principal's report:

- School website has been re-designed over the summer months and St James will be improving the content of the site soon with dates, pictures, school documents, newsletters and messages.
- Second letter was sent home to notify the grade 9 parents about the School Council meeting
- Parent Teacher Interviews was posted on the web site and a synervoice message was sent home to remind all, especially the grade 9 parents.
- Frances Palermo and Sally Akroyd Bombino agreed to co-chair the council for the 2014-2015 school year.
- Thursday November 27 Grade 9 Parent Information night is being held at St. James
- St James anticipates 190 – 215 grade 9 students will come to St. James in Sept. 2015
- Newsletter will contain more pictures, about 50 – 60 photos throughout the document
- Discussion about changing the Parent Teacher Interview times because some parents find they have insufficient time to meet with all their children's teachers.
- The school is considering utilizing an online option for signing up for Parent/Teacher interview appointments. A parent suggested this can be set up through Google docs. Mr. Yawney to look into this option.
- Discussion: Not all parents got to meet the teachers
- School mass discussion: The Thanksgiving mass had a good number of students in attendance. 28 students did not attend. Attendance at mass is improved when not recorded on the school calendar.
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- Chair's report:
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- School Council completed the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant application in May and were successful. Will receive a \$1000.00 grant.
- With the PRO grant monies, school council members will collaborate to complete a Parent Handbook geared to parents who are new to the school (Grade 9's) but anticipate other parents will find the information beneficial also.

- The Parent Handbook will be professionally published and detail information about St. James.
- Focus was more towards parents of Grade 8 to Grade 9 transitioning students
- The Handbook may be sent home November 15th together with the Midterm report cards and school newsletter
- Parent Handbook to be published and professionally done. Sally to work with the publisher.
- Discussion: Feedback was provided
- 300 Copies will be required to hand out to new Parents of Grade 9 students
- St. James will supplement the cost of the Parent Handbook by another \$1000.00 to provide sufficient copies to distribute within the parent community

Student Council Report:

- Students in the Terry Fox Walk walked from the school to the covered bridge on York Rd. and back again. Lunch was provided to the students, and \$4500.00 was raised.
- The beloved St James mascot – Roary – has received a new costumer in time for the Homecoming event. St. James won the football game against Lourdes 14-12. About 750 students were in attendance.
- Intramurals at Lunch: some teachers participate with the students at St. James.
- Sports/activities currently being offered: golf, tennis, football, basketball, cross country, baseball, football and green team
- Night of One Act Plays is a series of small skits that the students direct, produce and dramatize. Open to all students.
- Student Council hosted the Hunger Race for the Thanksgiving food drive, second year for this event.
- Year reps are chosen from two grades
- Week of Halloween events coming up
- November 19 Semi formal to be held at the ICC with appetizers, tickets to be sold for \$25 - \$30. The dance/social event will be held from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm
- St. James has an international social justice trip to both Peru and Nicaragua in February 2015 where they will participate in building an orphanage
- Star Light Film Festival fundraiser: overnight movies at the Galaxy Theatre with BM, Lourdes and St. James students. Watch movies all night long with free popcorn and drinks.
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- **Discussion about:** Catholic High School students participating in mass and taking religion courses
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- Historic EQAO results for St. James:
 - Grade 9 Academic Math 91%
 - Grade 9 Applied Math 52%
 - Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test 95% passed
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- Mental Health Awareness and Support: Youth talk continues under the leadership of Social Worker Mike Malak. We will be introducing Strengths In Motion to St. James to further support student well being.
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- September 20th was the first school council meeting, only one parent in attendance
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- Staff breakfast may be planned for December. Feasibility and date is to be discussed at next meeting.
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- **Discussion:** mid April 2015 St James will invite all school councils from the elementary 'feeder' schools to dinner and a presentation at St. James, similar to the format of the successful 2014 event.
- Meeting ended at 8:00 pm

Next meeting: Monday November 24th at 6:30pm