

St Thomas Aquinas School Council Meeting

September 24, 2024

Attendees: 26 Parents, 2 Staff

Parents:

Selina Kunadu-Yiadom

Janice David

Chelsey Howat

Danielle O'Neill

Dhanya Kurian

Nelson Stin-Joseph

Kwaku Amoako

Desmond Appiah

Ikechukwu Nuramordi

Rachel Siderius

Sarah Palmer

Manusha Phoolbosselq

Shikha Batra

Ashley Lundstrom

Courtney Unrah

Victoria Kuras

Adam Brown

Shawn Farrer

Janine Basergo

Jayson Buck

Isaac Osei-Anim

Alfred M. Lukhanda

Vivian Okelue

Shalom Ayyei

Carol Caines

Melissa Gibson

Staff:

Anna Gomez

Kathy Voth

Call to Order 6:06

Prayer

Land Acknowledgment

Introductions. Ashley has served as the chair the last few years and will be stepping down. This will be her last meeting as chair.

Approval of previous minutes. Approved by Vicky K, seconded by Adam Brown.

Principal report (Mrs. Gomez)

-High number of attendance at Meet the Teacher night. Teachers were asked to send a welcome letter to families.

-As per Alberta Education, Grades 1-3 had screening, this helps teachers know where students are at.

-Thank you families for donating to the Terry Fox run. Due to the large numbers, teachers decided when was an appropriate time for their class to go.

-Last Thursday staff had PD sessions; one session focused on how to communicate assessments to families. New program for SpacesEDU, (live portfolios) Portfolios document the progress of students' learning throughout the year; some will be receiving online portfolios as some teachers are learning new technology.

-Bylaw officer came out and will continue to come out periodically for unlawful parking. Today warnings were given out but no tickets.

-The school continues to grow, we are at 1312. Portables are coming and the estimated date that students will be moved in is January. The new portables will help to alleviate some of the high class sizes.

-The fenced area will be a new parking lot for the staff. Currently half of the staff are parking on the streets, this new parking lot will help to alleviate some of the traffic congestion.

-A couple parents expressed that the traffic is very congested going in and out of Desrochers. Mrs. Gomez encouraged parents to call 311 to advocate for another route into Chapelle.

-A parent asked about the new Catholic school and the timeline. Two new Catholic schools will be built in Cavanagh and Hays Ridge, estimated time is approximately two years from now.

Alberta School council engagement grant (\$500 this year)

This grant can be used for activities and projects for parent involvement, learning, resources, etc. Any ideas for how to best use this grant are encouraged, and will be discussed at our next meeting.

School council and its role- consists of a majority of parents, principals, teachers, secondary students, and community representatives that work together to support and enhance student learning. It serves as a bridge between the school and the community. Conversations are broad focused.

Elections

Chair-Adam Brown

Co Chair-Sarah Palmer

Secretary -Rachel Siderius

Treasurer-Courtney Unrah

Members at Large -Ikechukwu Nwamordi, Carol Caines, Janice David, Selina Kunadu-Yiadam, Jenna S, Victoria Kuras, Ashley Lundstrom

Open questions/comments

A parent expressed concern about the crowding of students as they enter/exit the doors on the west side since the fencing has gone up, especially the Kindergarten students and students off the bus. Could the Grade 1 and Grade 2 classes shift where they line up? Admin will talk to the teachers about this.

Large amounts of dirt on heavily trafficked areas are creating a lot of mud. Mrs. Gomez spoke to landscaping about this before and will ask again for grass on these areas.

Several parents would really like to see a Christmas concert. Mrs. Gomez is already brainstorming creative ways to explore this option and is looking into different venues. Our gym can hold 600 students.

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday October 22nd, 6:00 PM

Tuesday November 19th, 6:00 PM

Tuesday December 17th @ 6:00 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:03