

Vincent J. Maloney Catholic Junior High School
Minutes of October School Council meeting
January 28, 2014

Attendees: Greg Lamer (Principal), Lorne Pedersen (Vice Principal) Linda Boyd(Chair), Raynel Constantine (Vice Chair) Billie-Jo Grant (Teacher Staff Rep), Jim King(Teacher) Heather Dayman, Sheri Tchir, Cathie Sarafinchan, Tara Hergott, Angie Christman(parents)

Regrets - Bev Famulak (Compassionate Friends)

1. Welcome – Linda opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.
2. Prayer was given by Greg
3. Introductions
4. Approval of Agenda - The agenda was accepted
6. Approval of Minutes – November minutes reviewed

Administration Report

School Activities

Mr. Pedersen provided school activities report (attached) Many great things going on at VJM!

Review of 2014/15 Draft School Year Calender

Mr. lamer went over the proposed school year calendar. There was no concern regarding the calendar. Mrs. Constantin asked some questions about the possibility of year round schooling. Mr. Lamer explained that there are a few schools in Alberta that offer this but it is usually based upon enough parent interest.

School Fees

Mr. Lamer provided some information on past fees. Administration has very reluctantly made the decision to recommend an increase in school fees. The total would go from \$165 to \$176. Background information included rational for the increase. Parents were informed that there has not been an increase at VJM for at least four years. Rising material costs and costs related to programming have necessitated these changes. Mr. Lamer recommended that the school fees for 2014/15 be set at the following:

Learning Resource Fee (District Fee)	\$70 – this fee is determined by School Board
School Learning Resource Fee	\$35 – increase from \$5
Technology Fee	\$15 – no change
Option Fee (Standard)	\$25 – increase of \$5
Student Activities Fee	\$20 – no change
Agenda	\$9 – increase of \$1
Locker Rental Fee	\$2 – no change
Total Compulsory Fees	\$176 – increase of \$11

After discussion Mrs. Hergott made the following motion, “ That the recommended school fee of \$176 be approved for the 2014/15 school year”

Second to the Motion, Mrs. Tchir

The motion was passed with none opposed.

Hwk/Support Trial Schedule

Mr. Lamer and Mr. Pedersen provided an information presentation on the Hwk/Support Block Trial Schedule that will run at VJM from February 24, 2014 – March 21/14. Parents in attendance were very supportive of the idea. Mr. Lamer stressed that parents will be given an opportunity to provide feedback on the trial schedule. Parents wanted more information regarding the possibility of tutoring during the schedule. There was a parent concern regarding confidentiality. Mr. Lamer stated that he would review with staff.

Differentiated Instruction Presentation

Ms. Grant provided an informative presentation on Differentiated Instruction

Generative Question

Mr. Lamer provided some information related to Generative Questions. These are Questions that have been raised at Stakeholder forums. We looked at some past questions and were asked to submit ideas on possible new questions to Mr. Lamer Prior to February 18. He also said he would try and meet with our Chair and Vice Chair to explore some ideas related to this.

Mr. Lamer and Mr. Pedersen expressed their heartfelt thanks on behalf of all staff for the wonderful luncheon that was provided by the parents.

7. Trustee Report – Rosalie McEvoy

- Trustee Report(attached)

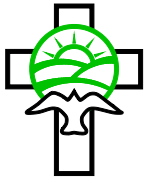
8. Chairperson Report

Linda reported on the success of the Staff Appreciation Luncheon. She thanked all parents who contributed.

Mrs. Boyd thanked all of the new faces(parents) who came to our January meeting and encouraged them to come back to our next meeting in February. Their input is valued and Appreciated.

9. Next Meeting – Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting on February, 25 2014 in the library at 7:00 pm.



**Greater St. Albert
Catholic Schools**

Board Meeting Summary

January 27, 2014

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The last regular meeting of the Board was held in St. Albert at the District Office, on Monday, January 27, 2014.

GOOD NEWS

Awards and Recognition

- Alberta Education has asked Richard S. Fowler to be featured in a video series about the role of technology in education. The Ministry recently released the Learning and Technology Policy Framework (www.education.alberta.ca/LTPF), a new policy document that describes a common vision for school authorities and government. In this vision, technology is integrated seamlessly into the learning environment and students, themselves, are using technology to achieve learning outcomes. This video series will highlight examples of schools from across the provinces that are leading the way in realizing this vision.

School Updates

- GSACRD hosted its annual Preschool/Kindergarten EXPO which was very well attended by the St. Albert & Morinville Communities. We look forward to hosting all of the new families at upcoming open houses which are being held over the next several weeks in our schools.
- MCHS received a generous donation of a new water fountain for the gym from a parent. The water fountain is being used to fill reusable water bottles. This fountain has a counter on it that records the number of plastic disposable water bottles that it saves from use and after the first two days of operation, the counter was over 500 water bottles filled. This is a fantastic way to encourage wise water use and environmental responsibility.
- The response to the Morinville Community Conversation was very positive and the information shared during the evening, both by the school and by the participants, has assisted to further a positive environment that will be used to grow and diversify the school.
- Ecole Father Jan is pleased to announce that Les Tournesols the French Immersion preschool will be hosting their program out of the school beginning in September 2014. This will provide added convenience for families with preschool and school aged children.
- R. S. Fowler senior boys basketball team were champions at the recent SAPEC tournament. Congratulations!

ACTION ITEMS

- The Board approved the 2014-2015 School Year Calendar. It is posted on the website and will be distributed to families this spring. Please note there is a fall break this year which includes an additional day off for families over the Remembrance Day weekend based on how the calendar dates fell. The calendar includes one additional instructional day (180) than in 2013-14 (179).

NEW BUSINESS

- The Board discussed the growing concern seen in the work of our schools with regards to students who find themselves in difficult situations some of whom are homeless and the need to support area agencies to provide solutions.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- The Board received a note from the Mayor's office indicating their approval of \$20,000 for organic waste collection in St. Albert schools. J.J. Nearing successfully piloted this program.
- Superintendent, D. Keohane highlighted two initiatives that confirmed the district's leadership position in the province including
 - Being one of three districts that was invited to share best practices for success in their systems with a large U.S. Delegation seeking to improve their education systems.
 - Alberta Education will be including R. S. Fowler in a video showcase to demonstrate how the school is successful in use of personal technology in the classroom.

UPCOMING INITIATIVES FOR THE BOARD

- Help us Shape Our Future: The district is working with Dialogue Partners a consultation firm to broaden the community conversation in St. Albert to understand "What GSACRD high schools should look like in the future? We encourage families, staff and students to join the conversation by linking into the public forums and the online forum that is currently live. You can view the details through the district website.

**The next Regular Meeting of the
Board of Trustees is scheduled for
Monday, February 10, 2014
7:30 p.m. at District Office
6 St. Vital Avenue, St. Albert, AB**

VJM Events

Past:

December:

Advent Mass at SAP followed by the annual Grade 9 Dance Competition

Parent Teacher Conferences

Nov. 27 & 28 and January 23

Basketball Season

Seniors

Boys coached by Mrs. Urschel and Mr. Kelly

Girls coached by Mr. Rawcliffe- 3 for 3 in tournament victories

Juniors

Boys coached by parent volunteers Mr. Spillers & Mr. Bradley

Girls coached by parent volunteer Mrs. Wagner

Wrestling

Coached by parent volunteers Mr. Brown and Mrs. Sarafinchan

Grade 9 Immunizations took place on the 5th.

Many grade 9s attended the St. Albert PARTY, (prevention of alcohol related trauma in youth) program Operated by: Sturgeon Community Hospital (Alberta Health Services)

Staff Appreciation Luncheon hosted by School Council on January 24th was
MAGNIFICENT!

Upcoming:

Semester change on January 30th. Students change to semester 2 options with the exception of French.

VJM website switches over on January 31st.

February 5th- Grade 9 Speak-Out at D.O.

Speak Out is an opportunity for Alberta's youth to share their experiences and ideas in order to help the people who make decisions about their schools understand the issues that are important to them. A random sampling of VJM students will spend a morning at D.O. giving feedback on a variety of school issues to better guide us in programming to meet their needs.

Teacher Convention on February 6th & 7th

VJM School Council
January 28th, 2014

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The last regular meeting of the Board was held in St. Albert at the District Office, on Monday, January 27th, 2014

GOOD NEWS

Awards and Recognition

Alberta Education has asked RSF to be featured in a video series about the role of technology in education. The video series will highlight examples of schools from across the province that are leading the way in the use of technology for learning.

The National Public Education Support Fund (NPESF), a prominent educational lobby group in the United States has planned a study tour to provide US policy makers and state education officials with the opportunity to learn directly from the Deputy Minister of Education, his executive team, and selected school districts about their strategy for preparing students for the evolving world. Three high performing school districts in the province have been selected to present their best practices and GSACRD was one of them.

School Updates

GSACRD hosted its annual Preschool/Kindergarten EXPO, which was well attended by the St. Albert Community.

The Neil M. Ross We Day team raised over \$2,200 to support the Philippines typhoon relief effort by selling ice cream and treats all kindly donated by area businesses. Their campaign titled "Scoop up the Love" was a tremendous success.

Vital Grandin Choir was invited to sing at the Catholic Women's League dinner at Holy Family Parish and shared their talents with those in attendance.

The District received a certificate of appreciation for the funds donated to Christ the Redeemer School District in High River to assist with the flood relief. Thank you to all those who contributed.

ACTION ITEMS

At the January 13th meeting, the Board approved instruction fees for the 2014-2015 school year, with NO increase to existing fees for all areas with the exception of Out-of-Province Tuition, which will see a small increase.

The Board also approved transportation fees at the same level as they are currently at for the 2014-2015 school year

The Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement with the ATA Local No 23 to ratify

the agreement with teachers for the next four years. A news release can be found on the district website with the specifics agreed upon.

At the January 27th meeting, the Board approved the 2014-15 Instructional Calendar And board development plan.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Superintendent David Keohane presented a report on the success of the District in providing a safe and caring environment in GSACRD Schools. Schools are measured through input from their community, and measures on the hope and well being of students as measured by the Gallup group. The more engaged students are in their learning and at school, the greater likelihood that they will experience success in their studies.

An update was provided on the accomplishments of our First Nations Métis Inuit (FNMI) students. When compared to the rest of the province students who self-identify as FNMI are more likely to experience success in our district vis-à-vis other opportunities.

If you haven't followed us yet please be sure to check out GSACRD's Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Superintendent Keohane presented a report on the Community Conversation that took Place at MCHS. Over 90% of the participants felt that the session met their expectations And valued the format.

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Monday, February 10th, 2014 7:30 p.m. at District Office 6 St. Vital Avenue, St. Albert, AB. All are welcome.

**Submitted by: Trustee McEvoy
VJM School Liaison**