

Vanier Catholic Secondary School Council
Wednesday, February 20, 2013
VCSS Library
7:30 pm

Minutes

Attendance

Members:

Paul Flaherty
Dianne Tait
John Berg
James Mooney
Terry Prenolso

Secretary/Treasurer:

Yolande Cherepak

School Administration:

Ed Frison
Kyle Janzen

Guest:

Cameron Kos (Holy Family Elementary School Council)

1. Opening Prayer

Paul opened the meeting with the Our Father.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by Terry, seconded by John to approve the agenda with the following additions: Review of Financial Status, New Hire, Communication to and from Chair, Letter from Concerned Parishioners, Receipt of Principal's Report, and Closed Meeting with Minister. Carried.

3. Adoption of January 16, 2013 Minutes

Moved by James, seconded by Dianne to approve the minutes with the following changes/additions:

- *Guest/Parents*
- Item 4. French programming:
 - o *Currently, students are separated into classes by the Grade 8 French teachers under the direction of the department head.*
 - o *Kyle suggested that the department head could meet with Council if requested.*
- Item 5. *Additional discussions:*
- Item 6. *The Chair reported on five issues...*
- Item 8. *John asked who the evaluation committee would be and Terry said that it was yet to be decided.*
- Item 9. *Jamie discussed the previous letter from Ms. Solonick and the Chair confirmed that Ed had responded to her concerns.*
- Item 10. *In camera.*
- Item 11. *John requested a financial update of this Council be available at meetings.*

Carried. John Berg abstained.

4. **Adoption of February 8, 2013 Special In Camera Meeting**

No minutes available as the meeting was “in camera”.

5. **Business Arising from Minutes**

Communication Process Flowchart: Kyle will make sure it is on the school website.

French Department Head: Council says there is no need for the department head to meet with Council at this time.

School Calendar Survey: Results of the website survey were sent to the Department of Education by the deadline date and the result is unknown at this time.

Projector Installation: Total North has the contract and projectors may be installed by the end of next week.

6. **Principal’s Report**

Ed highlighted items from the Principal’s Report (attached).

Same Sex Attraction: The Chair pointed out that initiatives such as the “End Homophobia Now” campaign and Education Week activities are part of the school’s initiatives to address this issue and to move forward in changing behaviour in the school. A parent raised concerns about what Vanier is doing to change behaviour in the school and may come to a future meeting.

Enrolment Summary: Ed reported that the Department of Education’s Data Analysis Coordinator has not been available to complete a more detailed summary of enrolment which is causing a delay. There is presently not enough data analysis available to the administration at this time to determine if there is a concern or not with enrolment numbers.

The summary does not include upgraded students or reflect intake during the school year. It is also unknown if Wood Street students from Vanier are included in previous year stats. This information could be clarified through the Data Analysis Coordinator. Ed also gave a short description of a resiliency survey conducted last year, which focuses on school life and contributing factors to learning, such as home life.

Council requested that the following questions be answered through data analysis:

1. If numbers are dropping, where are students going? (ie. transferred to another Yukon school, dropped out, or left the territory); and
2. Where are students coming from (at all grade levels)?

7. **School Growth Plan**

Refer to Principal’s Report, item 4, as well as School Growth Planning handout.

Ed stated that the SGP will be comprised of a minimum of two Grade 11 students, two council members (Terry and James), two parents, two staff members, and the administrative team (councillors, Religious Ed Coordinator). The goal is to complete the review by early May so that it’s ready for distribution by May 31st.

8. **CEAY Update**

- i) ED position – There are two applicants. Representatives from each Catholic school council, including the Religious Ed Coordinator, will be on the selection committee.
- ii) Education Week – The displays in the CYO Hall after mass will highlight all three schools.
- iii) There will be a meeting of the whole on April 10th.

9. Review of Financial Status

Yolande distributed the 2011/2012 Income Statement (July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012). The Chair provided details on last year's expenditures and gave further examples of how Council has allocated money in the past. A financial report for the period from July 1, 2012 to February 16, 2013 was also distributed. The current book balance is \$5, 728.56.

James moved that Council approve a donation of \$1000.00 to the school for grad portfolio covers subject to approval of the department. John seconded. Carried

Council requested that the closing book balance of the previous meeting, as well as the current balance, be presented at every meeting.

10. New Hire

John raised concerns about the hiring process for the recently posted position of ELL/Religion teacher.

Paul went over the hiring process as described by Superintendent, Mike Woods. In this case, Mr. Woods reviewed the job description before it was posted. Due to a potential conflict of interest, the hiring process was immediately deferred to the Vice-Principal, and Superintendent Woods informed the Deputy Minister about his approach. The 48-hour rule was applied due to the need for a quick turnaround to employ a teacher before the start of the second semester. HR was involved in the entire process.

11. Communication to and from Chair

In the past, the Chair would bring all incoming correspondence to the upcoming council meeting. From now on, the Chair will distribute correspondence to all Council members prior to the next council meeting via email rather than wait for a council meeting.

12. Letter from Concerned Parishioners

Bishop Gary has replied in writing to the parishioners on behalf of all parties to whom the letter was addressed. He has suggested a closed meeting on March 25th or 26th with concerned parties, including Paul (Vanier Council) and Dianne and Terry (CEAY). The purpose of this initial meeting is to clarify, before the entire school council meets, what specific instances the parishioners have concerns about.

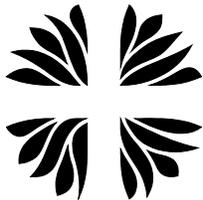
13. Confidential Meeting of Parents and Minister

Two VCSS Council members who attended this meeting confirmed that they attended as parents, not as council members.

14. Correspondence

Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association (ACSTA) Spice/Blueprints Conference – The Blueprints Conference would be targeting council members and if anyone is interested in attending this conference or any others that come up, they are welcome to put in a request to Council.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.



Vanier Catholic Secondary

16 Duke Road, Whitehorse, YT Y1A 4M2
Phone: (867) 667-5901 Fax: (867) 393-6370
www.vcss.ca

Edward Frison, *Principal*

Kyle Janzen, *Vice-Principal*

School Council Meeting February 20, 2013 Principal's Report

1. Activities and Events

- See attached calendar

Highlights - Ash Wednesday Celebration, Feb. 13

- Gr. 8 – 10 Yukon Basketball Championships Feb. 20-22
- Senior Yukon Basketball Championships Feb. 24 - 28
- Vandezvous; Feb. 27
- Second Reporting Period Awards:
 - Gr. 8 = 75
 - Gr. 9 = 57
 - Gr. 10 = 47
 - Gr. 11 = 62
 - Gr. 12 = 64
- French For the Future, Feb. 20
- Martial Arts Anti-bullying program, Feb. 4 – Mar. 1

2. Same Sex Attraction

- The “End Homophobia Now” campaign is a one week endeavor, devoted to raising awareness and compassion towards issues of sexual orientation, and people of sexual diversity. In fostering a culture of Communion and Christian Love, this week will comprise of a number of activities and events including...
Classroom Presentations, prayer over the P.A. and in the classrooms, a school video project, posters and banners being displayed throughout the school, class activities and challenges, and a culminating assembly.

3. Education Week April 14 – 20, 2013

- Part of the activities we have planned for Education week include the “End Homophobia Now” campaign, as well as a Youth Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral on April 14th. After the Mass there will be displays downstairs from all three schools. We will provide a slide show highlighting life at Vanier. This show will also be on display at the DOE during the week. Other activities will be developed as we approach this week.

4. School Growth Plan

- Our SGP Team, comprised of admin, staff, students, and council will meet to review established goal(s) on March 19, at 3:30 pm. The team will look at gathering data to measure our achievement and plan how to modify or update our next goal. This process will lead to collecting input from staff, the student body, School council, and our parent community. We will determine if an open-house process similar to what PCSS used would be appropriate for our school. Please see attached for how the process of updating the plan works. One significant and noticeable change is the measurement of attendance as an indicator of engagement. Last year, we had an average absentee rate of 12 days per student. To date, we have an average of 4.5 per student which is a significant change. If the rate continues as is, this will put us near our target of 8 days

per student by the end of the year. A reduction of even 3 days per student has us increasing attendance by approximately 1200 student days in the year. (400 students x 3)

5. Enrolment Summary

- See Attached

6. Please remember you are invited to attend our Catholic Schools of Whitehorse Professional Development Day featuring David Wells. The theme is, "Faith: Authenticity in Challenging Times". April 25, 26, and 27.