

Holy Spirit School Parent Council Meeting  
Wednesday October 13, 2010 7:00pm

In attendance: Principal Don Marceau, Maureen Kerwin, Jeanne St. John, Tera Gariepy, Melanie Sczesny, Alayna MacGillivray, Bonny Funke, Pam Cholak, Angelique Summers, Chris Cicchini, Helen Wovk, Dolores Chalupa

**1.0** Maureen called the meeting to order. Don read the opening prayer.

**2.0 Approval of agenda.** Added item 6.5 Fundraising presentation by Angelique Summers. Maureen motioned, Pam 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**3.0 Approval of Minutes.** Maureen motioned Pam 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**4.0 Financial plan for parent council.**

Maureen: This is a big process, what areas do we want to focus on? Do we want to be parent driven and let the parent council choose what to spend money on? Do we base it on teacher requests? We have approximately \$12,000 to spend. There are still outstanding requests/ideas from last year...ie sound system upgrade, smart boards and accessories. Topic open for discussion.

Don: Another school (possibly FKK) tried to purchase a smart board. The division said no due to the technology plan. Equipment is leased not owned; changes happen so fast it makes sense to lease items. While it is a great idea to want to purchase more smart boards it is unlikely the board would approve such a purchase.

Maureen: What about accessories for smart boards? Would it be a good idea to purchase these or are the boards going to be replaced every 3 years?

Don: It is likely they will be replaced.

Pam: Brings up the thoughts she has heard from other parents that money raised should go towards the whole school. Children in each grade should benefit from the funds raised and not be geared towards classroom specific items/purchases. Some parents would also like to see a portion of the money put towards saving for large items. How do we then tie together what the teachers want and what the parents want as well as the goals in the 3 yr education plan? One large item mentioned was replacing/removing the sand in the playgrounds.

Maureen: Parent council should be funding "extras" not necessarily things that should be provided by the school i.e. Text books, balanced literacy books etc. One theme to focus on is "Healthy Living" not necessarily just PE equipment but also things like programs/presentations on self esteem, healthy habits, body image etc.

Chris: Parent council should have a program/philosophy to guide us. This would allow future councils to have a focus and continuity from year to year regardless of who is on council.

Don: This topic was brought up last year and is a good idea. Parent council should have an identity/focus. People are more willing to donate time and/or money when they know what it is going to be used for. The schools 3 year plan has a large focus on literacy (the division also has literacy as a main focus) Teachers are being sent for extra training, Early literacy is very important. Monday morning assemblies, large cultural activities, bullying etc, these are things that will not be going away. Money could be spent each year on a bullying program. The current sound system is not great. Teachers are also aware that the items they request are "wish list items" and will not necessarily be approved. Parent council can go any way...fund all, none or plan for one big ticket item. It is up to us.

Bonny: We should allocate a percentage of our budget to specific areas.

Don: The healthy living/relationships/bullying ideas discussed are doable.

Other items discussed around the table : Artist in residency (Chris) 7<sup>th</sup> rain (Don anti-bullying) all good ideas and would be geared towards all students.

Don: Council should write up an objective/statement that says this is our plan, we will purchase x amount items, or direct or money towards these areas .

Bonny: Suggests the theme of “Positive Living” which can include all areas we have been discussing...healthy habits, bullying, etc.

Maureen: we can also include parents in this theme...have speakers for the parents. Do we wish to go with “Positive Living” as the focus? What about technology related items?

Pam: We should leave (approximately) 20% each year for items that fall outside of “Positive Living”

Chris asks if the sound system needs to be replaced or just added to.

Don: Explains that the system is not great and can be enhanced Currently videos for students/parents are shown on the wall of the gym. A remote control screen would be great. (approx. \$1500) A data projector would be nice as well (approx. \$6-800) Approx. \$3500 would be an amount to allow improvements.

Discussion regarding amounts to allocate to each area, what areas to include, and also about informing parents of where their money is going.

Maureen: Motion made to allocate 50% towards Positive Living (approx. \$6000) 25 % towards technology (approx. \$3000) and 25% towards literacy (approx. \$3000) Alayna 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favour.

Small committee (Pam, Maureen, Tera, Angeliqne) to meet with Mr. Marceau next Wednesday Oct 20 at 9am to discuss each of the 3 areas in depth, come up with more specific ideas and bring them to the November parent council meeting.

### **5.0 Parent Council Website**

Maureen: Concerns have been brought up regarding personal information posted and protecting privacy. Maureen removed all personal info once concerns were voiced. The parents all consented to having their info posted when an account was created. The concern is that any person can create a fake account and access class lists, email etc.

Don: Prefers info not on the website. States the less personal information posted (anywhere) online the better off we are.

Pam: can we possibly have class lists from teachers be sent home, safer than posting info online. Pam made a motion to have information on the website removed and available to parent council only. 1<sup>st</sup> Maureen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alayna. All in favour.

Maureen: The website also has a calendar available to post community events and a place for classified ads, such as childcare offered/wanted ads. Maureen would like to see this used . It would increase traffic flow to the website and possibly encourage people to use the site more. Hopefully parents would then read the news/minutes regarding meetings etc.

Don: A good idea but too many things could go wrong and have negative impact. Ads would need to be run through the Superintendent first.

Parent council decided to not use the classifieds/calendar at this time.

## **6.0 Concession**

Don: Currently staff (mainly 2) are running concession which includes working on their lunch hour as well as shopping for food. Staff wanted to know if parent council wants to take over running the concession and use it as a fundraiser. Some staff members also wonder if the concession is a service or a disservice to students. Mr. Corrigan has approached Save on Foods and asked if they could supply us with a fresh basket of fruit each week which they agreed to. Students are now given a piece of fruit instead of a concession IOU note if lunch is forgotten. Perhaps this is a healthier alternative. The concession could be open a few days instead of the current daily operation or it could be shut down. Closing the concession is an idea also and people would adjust to it.

Maureen: Staff should not also be working concession, they do enough as is and parents should be responsible for providing their children with a lunch each day not relying on the concession.

Chris: Running the concession is too much of a time commitment for parents, hard enough to find volunteers for current activities (i.e. hot lunch) . All agreed.

Jeanne: Would like to see the concession closed.

Maureen/Angelique brought up the idea of storing a box of dry goods for those students that do forget their lunch.

It was decided that parent council would not take over running the concession.

## **6.5 Fundraising idea presented by Angelique Summers**

Angelique: Sells Avon, they have some nice Christmas ornaments that Angelique can get below cost. Students can then canvass orders and we can resell the orders with a large profit going to the parent council. Example. One item she can get for approximately \$3, we sell it for \$5 and can potentially earn \$2500 if every student sells one decoration.

Pam: Can we have a tree with the ornaments set up at the Silver Bells night and have people view the tree and submit orders then? Have 20 or so of each decoration on the tree to sell with the ability to take orders if we run out. Should the upfront cost be covered by parent council or y Angelique?

Dolores: thinks a space can be allocated in the gym for Angelique

Angelique is to confirm through Avon that we can get this large of an order filled and delivered prior to the Christmas break at school. She will also confirm prices.

Maureen made a motion to have Angelique speak with the Silver Bells committee. If they agree to the idea and would like to go ahead with it then parent council will commit to purchasing \$500 worth of decorations to sell at the Silver Bells event with Angelique running the "station". 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeanne. All in favour.

At this time Don Marceau publicly acknowledged and thanked Pam Cholak for her work during read in week. It was a great week with excellent guest readers. Thanks Pam.

Thanks also to Melanie Sczesny who's family donated Sobey's gift cards for four families. Thanks to Melanie and family.

The next parent council meeting will be November 16, 2010 at 7:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.