

**St. Stephen's Secondary Catholic School
School Council Minutes
Tuesday, February 3, 2009**

Present: Sheeran Rush-Jeanes, Laura Pomfret, Diane Renaud, Susan Drever, Anita Fegan, Valerie McCormick, Monica Hurley, Kayleen Peters, Amy Crawford, Jackie Freeman.

Regrets: Wendy Skan

Father Paul visited Council meeting tonight and before call to order he discussed his concerns about disconnectedness with our youth and the church. Father Paul discussed the importance of Catholic Education and the three tiered system between school, home and parish. He introduced the idea of starting a youth group in Bowmanville and welcomes any ideas we may have to launch this idea. Please see him or any council member with your ideas.

1. Call to Order 8:20 pm

a) Opening prayer: Susie Drever

b) Approval of Agenda: Diane Renaud 1st, Valerie McCormick 2nd, All in favour.

c) Approval of minutes first by Anita, 2nd by Laura. All in favour.

2. Reports:

a) Student Council Report: Amy Crawford and Kayleen Peters

- **Semi formal dance in December was a huge success**
- **Present Drive for the Bethesda House was a huge success**
- **Coffee House planned for Thursday Feb.12**
- **Encouraging all to come out and share their talents**
- **Movie Night to come and will have more details at next meeting**

b) Staff Report: Monica Hurley

- **Semester One Exams are now complete and ran smoothly**
- **Semester 2 began on February 2nd**
- **P.A. Day was spent with prayer service and presentation on Catholic virtues and staff in-service information**
- **Feb 19th is the designated Grade Eight parents' night**
- **Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test is scheduled for April 2nd**
- **Good success rate last year with the strategies the school literacy team implemented and hope to maintain the same procedures to**

ensure student success (Ex. Mock tests for students, corrected and shown where to improve their writing skills).

- Jan Ethier is in the Dominican Republic with students for the Dominican experience and will return Saturday Feb. 7/09
- February 19 is the grade 11 retreat. This retreat will focus on peacemaking and non-violence.
- February 25th is Ash Wednesday prayer service.
- March 1st is the Vow of Silence Service Day
- March 4th and 5th is Development of Peace Think Fast overseas project. Students will participate in a fast and money raised will go to support various organizations. A pot luck will follow at the end of the fast.
- March 12th is a Lenten liturgy given by Father Paul

c) Principal's Report: Sheeran Rush-Jeanes

- Graduation photo re-takes will take place on Feb. 17/2009
- Update for the school addition- construction began January 23rd, will give a projection date for completion some time in June.
- Feb 17th course calendars will be distributed
- Monday March 2nd course selections are due
- Progress Reports go home the week of March 9-13
- Parent Teacher Interviews will take place March 26/09
- Pilot Project- Gains Project- Project is taking place to support student learning in applied Gr. 9 Mathematics. Strategies for teachers to enhance student learning will be taught. Project will measure the effects of differentiated learning and how differentiated learning is impacting student success.
- In service for teachers to gain insight into strategies and resources.
- Teachers attending will be Kelly O'Donoghue and Pauline Lavoie
- Trustees, Maureen Day and Granville Anderson will be attending the next school council meeting (April 7th) to address any questions or concerns that council may have.
- Principal profiles are due to the Board by February 27/09
- Sheeran received resources from the Board for tough economic times that may affect the community.
- This package consists of agency names that can to help the families with specific needs in our school community

d) Chair Report: Susie Drever

- Susie advised that she received correspondence from John Mackle with respect to completing and forwarding to the Board our recommendations with respect to the Preferred Characteristics of Principal for 2009. Susie advised that our council completed this last year and that she would forward what we sent to the Board to

all council members to see if anything needed to be added to our 2008 recommendation before forwarding to the Board.

- OAPCE- Susie received a letter from John Mackle looking for someone who would like to be the Lakeshore OAPCE representative. It is a two year term with meetings held in Peterborough 4 times a year. This nomination had to be in by January 30.
- Susie received a letter from Granville Anderson, head of the Durham Provincial Liberal Associate. There will be a dinner with the guest of honour being Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Education, at the Hilltop Restaurant and Banquet Hall in Courtice. Tickets are \$125.00 each and anyone wishing to attend can contact Donna Paquette at dpaquette@pvnccdsb.on.ca.
- Draft Proposal for the 2009-2010 school Calendar Year to be discussed amongst council and to advise Board which Option council decided on.

e) CWL Report: Susie Drever

- Proposal to all elementary schools- two detectives from Durham Regional Police will be hosting a presentation on Feb. 17/2009 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church Hall to discuss Internet Danger- All are welcome!

F) Policy Report: Valerie McCormick

- Valerie proposed some ideas about the policies which involved transfer students out of boundaries and the vice principal policy.
- School Council proposed five recommendations to the board.
- The Board reviewed our recommendations and will put forward three out of the five recommendations.

g) Treasurer's Report: Anita Fegan

- \$50.00 donation error on last report was corrected
- \$10.00 uniform deposit was made
- \$20.00 in uniform sales to be added final amount and will show on next statement for March report
- Total in the account is \$637.56
- Parent Involvement Account \$1,297.27
- Will discuss spending at next meeting

h) Canadian Parents for French- (CPF)

- French classes every Wednesday are going very well
- 10 students enrolled
- Jon and Susie Drever attended Ontario Street kindergarten registration night as representatives of CPF regarding the benefits of being bilingual. Laura Pomfret and Susie will be attending St.

Joseph's kindergarten registration, hopefully with one of the children to do the same.

i) Parish Rep: Jackie Freeman

- Nothing to report at this time
- Father Paul discussed his concerns before the meeting

j) Laura Pomfret:

- Proposed spending some of the funds for a guest speaker to come in and talk to the parents in the community. Guest speaker will be Dick O'Brien.
- Cost for speaker is approximately \$900.00
- Laura put in motion and Jackie second the motion and everyone was all in favour.
- Laura to reserve Dick O'Brien for April 14th
- Everyone is welcome!!

K) New Business: *Susie Drever*

- *Susie proposed to discuss spending funds for Graduation to take place at next meeting*

Adjournment:

Diane proposed motion, Laura second and all in favour

Next meeting April 7th and we will see everyone there

Meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. First by Anita, Second by Diane and All in favour.
Minutes prepared by: Diane Renaud