



St. John Paul II Collegiate – Parent Council
Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2017

1. Welcome/Opening Prayer:

Genelle called the meeting to order at 7:04pm and led us in the Lord's Prayer.

Attendance: Genelle Garagan, Mariette Moss, Lauren Ingalls, Suzanne Chateau-Fuhr, Robert Fraser, Amber Cherneski, Nadine Pope, Andrea Keenan, Ron Schreiber

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion carried.

3. Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes

Motion carried.

4. Principal Report – Mariette Moss

Faith

Division-Wide Adoration – The entire Christ the Redeemer school division will be celebrating Adoration (of the Blessed Sacrament) on various days; St. JP II will be having this celebration on Tuesday, November 21st. Fr. Luciano will be present, and will be available for Reconciliation also.

Monthly Masses – St. James Church (3-4 classes on 2nd Thursday of the month). Next mass is Thursday, December 7th. The four classes attending this time will be 7-1, 7-6, 7-8, and 9-5. Thanks again to the Catholic Education funds for helping support the cost of busing students to St. James Church.

Backpack Campaign – Begins November 20th. This is a massive annual fundraiser. Donations may be brought to St. JP II. These backpacks are filled with items for families less fortunate; recipients of the backpacks are families in the Okotoks/High River/Black Diamond area.

Advent Celebration – In classrooms as the season approaches.

Sacramental Preparation – Confirmation will be for students in Grade 6/7/8. Confirmation Sunday is May 7th.

Learning

Annual Education Plan – Mariette referred to a document entitled “Annual Education Plan, October 2017” summarizing the grade 9 Provincial Achievement Test results, school improvement, staff/student/parent surveys. A tremendous amount of data is available in this report. Overall, St. JP II’s achievement is excellent. In the area of school improvement, St. JP II either maintained or improved in most categories. Of special note is that our Late French Immersion students (who enter French Immersion in grade 7) are writing the same PAT as students who have been in French Immersion since kindergarten; incredibly, their results were still above provincial average.

Parent Teacher Interviews – Thursday, November 23rd (1 – 9pm). Students have a half-day of school. Parents need to login to Powerschool.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Band Concert – December 5th at 7:00pm.

Student/Staff Hockey Game – December 1st at Scott Seaman arena.

Reveillon – December 20th. This is for Grade 7 French Immersion classes.

Dance Unit – Part of Phys Ed; occurring all month of December.

Student Dance-Off – Thursday, December 22nd.

5. Board Report – Ron Schreiber (Trustee)

Ron referred to the Wellness curriculum. Media coverage has been ignorant to the fundamentals of Catholic education; for example, the curriculum taught in Catholic schools is no different than the public schools. Our education system presents a Catholic perspective alongside the government curriculum. Documents have been taken out of context. Ron is distressed that Minister Eggen is not understanding the Catholic approach, and ignoring the considerable achievement of Catholic schools like St. JP II.

Concerns with notification to parents regarding gay-straight-alliances (GSAs): We are very careful with what we do, students’ needs are dealt with on individual basis. Don’t be fearful of Bill 24. The Life Framework follows the Law.

The problem with Bill 24 is that it tries to usurp the role of the parent as a primary educator. The parent should be primary in the life of the child, and aware of what’s going on in a child’s life. Parents have a right to be primary educators of their children, not government. Bill 24 takes that responsibility away from parents and shifts it to government, which is certainly not ideal.

6. Treasurer – Amber Cherneski

Balance is \$2181.74. Updated after paying for Shane Peacock presentation (\$500).

7. Parish Events – Genelle Garagan

Youth Nights for Junior High – November 12 and 26th following the Sunday 5:30pm masses.

Youth Minister – Amy Heggenstaller-Boone will be present here at St. JP II to connect with kids and pump-up youth group.

8. Chair Report – Genelle Garagan

Attending WARD meeting and Council of Councils meetings.

9. Old Business – Genelle Garagan

Potluck – Next Thursday, November 23rd. Not many volunteers right now. Genelle suggested putting out another email for volunteers. If still not enough, could pay to order food.

10. New Business – Genelle Garagan

Parent Advocates for Catholic Education – information will be forwarded to this Council. A letter was also drafted to send to Minister Eggen regarding Catholic Education and the effect of Bill 24. Motion carried.

11. Good News and Accolades

Mariette mentioned that staff purchased 38 Chromebooks through the Classroom Improvement Fund (CIF) funding, and Phys Ed purchased additional equipment (including snowshoes!)

**Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm by Genelle
Next meeting is January 9th 2018.**