



## Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School Council

Monday, February 6, 2017

Attendees – Gino Montanari, Sammi Khachi, Holly Roberts, Suman Khan, Karen Ditoro, Josie Halycz, Clarence Walters, Lenie Dsouza, Kevin Wong, Nikki Rang, Lily Gall, Liam Dick.

### Welcome - Gino

### Opening Prayer – Prayer led by Karen

### Approval - Karen

- ❖ Agenda: No additions made by those present, moved to close and second by Lily
- ❖ Meeting Minutes- Handed out to all from December 7<sup>th</sup>. No comments received. Moved to close by Karen and second by Lenie.

### Principal's Report – Gino

- ❖ School Changes: 2 large banners are now up in the school with Jean Vanier quotes on each, along with a collaborative mural done by the grade 12 art department students. Potted trees will be added to the school to create a warmer and inviting environment for the students and enhance the beauty of the school.
- ❖ The rolling dry erase boards are successfully being used by students in the atrium.
- ❖ School Growth: currently there are 1320 students enrolled in the school with that number forecasted to increase up to 1500 by next year. 5 new portables are being introduced to the school. No specific grade or courses are allocated yet to the portables yet.
- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> Syrian family have arrived and enrolled into J.V the school is at capacity for international students however are able to welcome refugee status into the school.
- ❖ New uniform item: Vote on the new hoodie design took place and was 51/49 (%) for the logo by the kids at JV.
- ❖ Parents voted 4-3 in favor of the lettering vs logo. Due to the overall vote a new design will be presented to the school incorporating design aspects from both hoodies into one.
- ❖ Graduation plans are under way and will take place at the Velodrome.
- ❖ Student Activity Fee: \$65 fee is not a registration fee. However, it is a voluntary fee paid by the students to go towards; the yearbook, agenda, school events and things such as start up funds for new clubs etc. This fee goes directly back to the students. There is a full detailed explanation on the J. Vs website!
- ❖ Money Raised by Parent Council Fundraisers: these funds will no longer be allocated to specific departments for material etc....the money will now be put into a pool to contribute towards things such as computer upgrades, purchasing an electronic marquee. . Gino will notify council how they are used.
- ❖ Problem of Practice There are 6 areas in which students struggle that the school has seen crucial for school improvement plans. This will be a 3-4-year goal to target one of these areas and focus on its success for the student as a whole. The vote will be taken to choose one of the following 6 areas;

1. Resiliency: Kids are mark driven and struggle with Failure
  2. Initiative: Kids are not sure what to do next. Look to teachers to guide them in decisions and choices.
  3. Critical Thinking: Kids are taking information at face value vs challenging or researching the actuality of fact vs fiction.
  4. Time Management: What do first? Kids are finding prioritizing tasks difficult.
  5. Independent work : Teachers are finding that students are struggling with working on their own. The group work vs independent are not balanced in some cases.
  6. Career Planning Piece: Kids are unsure what to do post secondary school. Some pressure from home to follow parents wishes vs. students. Also, students unaware of what careers or occupations fit with their interests.
- ❖ Next year a post secondary info night (replacing Curriculum Night) is in the works to inform and enlighten parents and students on alternative career paths and the success they bring. Also, guiding kids to show what each course section can lead into future career options and paths.
  - ❖ Career Caravan upcoming for kids at J.V. Different format proposed- open house style in Dome vs. speakers in classrooms.
  - ❖ Pro Grant: The \$1000 grant was in discussion to be pooled with OLF to be used as a group event potentially in April. Lily and Kevin will collaborate and look further into the details.

#### **Student Rep – Liam**

- ❖ Wii Wednesdays will now take place in the Cafeteria: allows groups of kids to join in games such as Mario cart.
- ❖ Carnations are for sale for Valentines day at the school
- ❖ Valentines day Photo booth will be in place for the kids to utilize during lunches.
- ❖ Peace ASAP: There's a weekly focus that's environmentally themed in place.
- ❖ This Saturday at the Hamilton Library: the Documentary: Vanier Way will be shown: based on the students of J.Vs trip to Paris and the documented visit to Jean Vanier himself.
- ❖ The Knights for Life – leadership conference will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> in Ottawa and reps from J.V will be in attendance.

#### **Chair's Report - Karen**

- ❖ Graduate Awards: Annual monetary award of \$100 each given in 6 categories. All in attendance voted to remain the same categories. Lily stated that awards were given in 6 categories last year; Gino will check records to verify.
- ❖ Calendar Update: all on track and a proposed additional grade 8 parent info night to be added improved from last year.
- ❖ HCDSB - Lily  
Reported on election results
- ❖ Criterial for Principal Selection was voted at end of meeting.
- ❖ Religion Course Exemptions – Gino
- ❖ It is a requirement for graduation to take religion in all four years.  
Families requesting exemptions are to contact either the Director or the principal of the school through a letter of request. There is a process in place. We are a faith based school and we actively maintain our traditions and practices in all our courses and school activities.

#### **Sub-Committee Activities – Sammi**

❖ **Parents Engagement**

Multicultural Dinner update - Looking for more Parent volunteers for this event. Help with Continent tables for food only for the food portion, then parents are welcome to enjoy the rest of the evening.

Council member's assistance needed to help sell tickets to the event. Potentially allocating each member 10 tickets to their name to sell. Please contact Sammi or Lenie for further details.

Suggestion: To better inform the students of the event and encourage ticket sales, having a table set up in cafeteria during lunches the next few week to encourage kids and families to purchase tickets.

Preps Events is underway FOOD,SILENT AUCTION, DOOR PRIZES all moving along smoothly.

The multicultural fashion show and mannequin challenge will be held in the theatre. Rehearsals are now taking place.

**Faith Development – Lenie**

- ❖ Adult Faith Formation series – now complete of “What Catholics believe”
- ❖ Topics are open for suggestions as feedback for next set of sessions.

**Josie**

- ❖ Numbers games taking place in the Dome a series of math activities with teams to encourage team building and numeracy.
- ❖ Vanier way – replace Academic Awards ceremony of past years. Awards will now also recognize students that bring change and positive culture in the school. Will take place March 21<sup>st</sup> . Chair and Vice-chair invited to attend.

**Karen Moves to Adjourn the Meeting ! (Who seconded it?)**

**Next School Council Meeting: Monday, April 3rd 6:30pm, JV Library**