

Jean Vanier Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting – Monday October 6th, 2014

Attendance

J.V. - Mr. Pat Daly and Ms. Joanne Lepore

Parents: Sammi Khachi, Lily Gall, Rodolfo Rivas, Lee Weare, Joanne Jones, Tracy Taylor, Kalani Tandon, Emil Mlinarevic, Karen Ditoro, Ruth Staple, and Angela Jordan.

Minutes

1. Opening Prayer – Mr. Daly

2. Selection of Council Positions

Chair:	Sammi Khachi
Co-chair:	Lily Gall
Treasurer:	Rodolfo Rivas
Secretary:	Lee Weare

3. Meeting Dates: always on first Monday on Month starting at 1830 hours / 6:30 p.m.

November 3rd, 2014
December 1st, 2014
February 2nd, 2015
April 7th, 2015
May 4th, 2015
June 1st, 2015

4. Update: Sammi Khachi

- i) September 2014, the curriculum night BBQ was not well attended and monies raised will be directed to the Knights of Columbus to recover their costs.
- ii) Parent Council Guidebook – still in the process of completing. The intent is to have some hardcopies available but the preference would be to have the school website link this document to the parent council drop box.

Action item: Sammi to disseminate draft to group members for feedback.

- iii) Magnets - carry over from last year's action items. Fridge magnets to be ordered with the school name, address, phone number, attendance phone number, and website displayed. Pricing to be sourced for 1000 or more depending on price to be handed out at school events, etc.

Action item: Sammi to follow up with order with the hopes they will be ready for the next parent teachers interview date: October 23rd, 2014.

- iv) Funding last year was spent on Social Media Speaker (Chris). Poorly attended in evening sessions and consideration for alternative delivery methods such as webinar for future educational initiatives.

Action item: Mr. Daly to ascertain the possibility of having JV's public health nurse attend a parent council meeting to discuss their catalogue of webinars that may be appropriate for parents information sessions.

5. Update: Mr. Daly

- i) St. Benedict's Parish – J.V. is hosting their feeder schools grade 7 retreats.
- ii) Advent – last year J.V. sponsored an Advent campaign "Good Night's Sleep" and students were asked to provide pajamas for those less fortunate. Similar initiative will be conducted during this year's Advent with St. Benedict.
- iii) Looking for ways for Council to increase parent engagement within the school community.
- iv) Looking for ways to increase J.V.'s social media branding.

Action item: Mr. Daly to look at a school official twitter feed.

- v) Opening of school this year went smoother than last year. Attendance today sits at 881 students, which resulted in an increase of 20 teachers being added to the team. 270 grade 9 students this year with similar growth anticipated for September 2015 – subject to numerous community impact factors.
- vi) Clubs / Teams – several new teams and clubs commenced this year.
 - DECA Club – M.s Mann and Mr. Lopez started a business and academic club geared and developing business orientation for students.
 - Mock Trials – will be starting this week

vii) Programs

- Tutoring programs – looking to assist kids that might be struggling using volunteer tutors from senior grades.
- Open classroom during lunch periods – used to provide an alternate environment for students who may not be comfortable with crowds in cafeteria.
- Grade 11 students assigned as mentors to grade 9 students to assist with transition into high school.

viii) Academics

- More consistent use of blended learning techniques.
- Access to school materials after hours through class portals to review homework assignments and in some situation to submit their assignments to teacher.

ix) New policy

- Requirement to provide career path information from grade 1 to 12.
- Trying to focus on discussions about possible career choices and the multitude of ways that may be required to achieve these goals.
- Committee formed within the school and they have already had their first meeting but they are planning on meeting twice a semester and are also seeking a parent representative.

Action item: Joanne Jones – volunteered to be on this committee.

6. Goal Setting – Sammi Khachi

i) Cultural Dinner Committee

Discussions held regarding the possibility of hosting a cultural entertainment night. Tentative date would be within the first week or two of the second semester starting but would have to be before the start of Lent. (Ash Wednesday is February 18th, 2015).

Action item: Lily Gall, Karen Ditoro and Kalani Tandon volunteered as a sub-committee to look at organizing this initiative. Other council members are welcome to join this sub-committee.

ii) Career Fair Committee (Students and Parent information session)

Discussions held regarding the possibility of hosting a career information session utilizing community contacts in various trade / professions. Plan would include a day component for students and an evening session for parents and students.

Action item:

- 1. Mr. Daly to reserve gym for presentations – date May 5th, 2015**
- 2. Tracy Taylor and Ruth Staple volunteered as a sub-committee to look at organizing this initiative. Other council members are welcome to join this sub-committee.**

iii) Faith Development Committee

Discussions were held regarding the creation of a Faith Development Committee.

Committee members: Lily Gall, Karen Ditoro, Kalani Tendon and Mr. Daly.

iv) St. Benedict Parish Representative

Discussion about having a parent representative as a Parish liaison representative for J.V.

Action item: Karen Ditoro volunteered

7. Parent Council Events

October 23rd, 2014 – Parent Teacher interview night starts at 1830 hours.

- Parent Council to set up an information table (with magnets)
- Possibility of parent council representative speaking with parents about school and importance of parent engagement

November 5th, 2014 – Grade 8 student / parent orientation starts at 1830 hours

- Parent Council to set up an information table (with magnets)
- Possibility of parent council representative speaking with parents about school and importance of parent engagement

Action item:

- 1. Volunteers required to staff the Parent Council table – please email Sammi regarding availability and commitment to attend either of these events.**
- 2. Volunteers required for both dates to advocate for parent engagement during group address. (I am available to attend both for this purpose subject to anyone else being interested or wishing to join me).**

Next Meeting: Monday November 3rd, 2014 at 1830 hours.