

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL

School Council MEETING

Monday, Feb 1. 2010

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**** Library ****

MINUTES

In attendance: P. White, M. Derouard, C. McCormack, K. Makl, N. Schram, B. Bye

1. **Prayer** D. Woodbeck

2. **Celebrating our Learning Community - Sharing Our Story** (5 min.)
 - Kathy Valentini – 2008/09 Yearbook
 - All Staff – Carry the Torch Celebrations
 - Haiti Relief
 - Music Department – British Invasion – February 5 at 7 p.m.
 - T.A. Clothing Fashion Show – February 25 at 7 p.m.
 - Pennies for Penicillin – ongoing

3. **Principal's Forum** P. White
 - 3.1 TA Day, February 2 – there will be a free lunch for all students.
 - 3.2 SynerVoice – The new call-out system was given its trial run when exams had to be postponed due to the weather. Its use will likely be reserved for notices of events which involve the entire student body.
 - 3.3 New Peer Tutoring Course – suitable students are being selected to be trained for peer tutoring.
 - 3.4 AED's in the school – We will be getting one for the main office in the near future, and later on, one for the gym. The goal is to eventually have all staff trained in First Aid. Currently all the custodians and EA's are trained.
 - 3.5 After School Programs for Math and Literacy – for grade 7 and 8. There are 38 students signed up. There is an after school bus to take home. Interested students can still sign up.

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Students who have shown areas of need in the grade 10 literacy test will be provided with assistance in the areas where they need to improve.

- 3.6 Honeywell Energy Efficiency – The school was given a free energy assessment. They concluded that the light fixtures and ballasts cost more in energy use than the cost of replacement. All fixtures are, therefore, being replaced.
- 3.7 Telephones (4 in each of the teacher work rooms) – These phones are strictly for use to communicate with parents. This is an additional effort to ensure student success.

- 3.8 Gr. 7/8 Olympic Unit – Olympic banner is currently replacing the “Welcome” banner in the foyer. There will be a lot of Olympic-focussed activities, including showing Olympic events on the TV in the cafeteria. On March 3, Amie Matthews, a former TA student, will be coming to talk to the students about her experience grooming the cross country ski trails for the Olympics.
- 3.9 It is now a requirement of the school insurer that all students must wear helmets when they go skiing or snowboarding.
- 3.10 Vestments – Now that we have a chapel, the priests have been offered the opportunity to keep vestments at school for use when doing services here. Father Darren has purchased new vestments and is having the TA logo applied as well. Father Rudy’s preferences will be determined when he returns from vacation.

4. **Ministry Updates**

- 4.1 Bill 157 – Keeping our Kids Safe at School – Effective Feb 1. 2010.
Any time a teacher sees a student doing something that would be grounds for suspension, they are required to immediately report it to the principal or vice principal (even if it occurs away from and outside of school). This is in case the behaviour is in response to an incident which occurred at school or carries on back into school. The incident will be reviewed with the principal or vice principal, the type of incident and appropriate response identified (i.e., suspension). The victim’s parents are notified unless it poses a risk to the student. If the student is 18 or older, students have to sign a release form to allow parents to be notified. Some students under the age of 18 who are living independently will also be required to sign a release.
- 4.2 Accessibility Standard for Customer Service – Effective Jan 1. 2010.
All schools have been reviewed. Many accommodations to make schools accessible are already in place.
- 4.3 The School Food and Beverage Policy – Effective Sept. 2012.
The new policy will apply to any food items sold at school. It is very stringent and includes food at extracurricular activities. As of September 2012, there will be no fried food, no caffeinated beverages, no pop, no sweetened or altered water or supplemented water over 40 calories (leaving water, milk and juice) allowed in schools. There will be 10 days per year allowed to disregard the guidelines. Candy/chocolate fundraisers can continue as long as there are no sales made on school property. The cafeteria management claims that currently 80% of their current profits come from fried foods.

- 4.4 A capital plan is in the works for the Tourism and Hospitality program. The school is considering removing a wall and ovens to be replaced with commercial gas stoves, refrigerators and dishwashers. They may then do a monthly dinner service. The program is continuing to be done in partnership with Confederation College and could potentially be followed by co-op placements.

5. **Correspondence**

Doreen Luby sent a letter to request an invitation to a school council meeting to promote the Thunder Bay campus of Confederation College.

6. **Ideas for Chapel – Update**

B. Bye, C. MacCormack, D. Woodbeck

A brainstorming session was held to discuss options for furnishing the chapel, the altar, and soundproofing to transition from a "multipurpose" room. Pieces of furniture that are movable or easily rearranged were preferred. The doors could be changed to include stained glass to make it more "chapel-like". The office wall may need to be changed for more efficient use of the space. Used furniture should also be considered. Screens and projectors, speakers are being considered. The chapel has been identified as an ideal space for pictures.

7. **Music Fundraisers**

Proceeds from every Friday Beef on a Bun Fundraiser at Haps during the month of February will go towards the band trip to New Orleans.

There will be a spaghetti dinner on February 9, 2009 in the TA cafeteria from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

8. **Next Meeting – Monday, February 22, as previously scheduled.**