



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL

School Council Meeting

Monday, September 27, 2010

7:00-8:00 p.m.

**** Library ****

Chairperson: P. White

Recorder: N. Schram

In Attendance:

Marek Bandur
Tina Bisschop
Brenda Bye
Cst. Dave Cain
Karen Caron

Brock Chisholm
June Dearborn
Michelle Derouard
Carolyn MacCormack
Kathryn Makl

Jennifer Manitowich
Norine Schram
Paul White
Dean Woodbeck

MINUTES

1. **Prayer** D. Woodbeck
2. **Welcome / Announcements** P. White
P. White introduced Dave Cain who is a community member on our School Council and represents the O.P.P.
3. **Celebrating our Learning Community - Sharing Our Story**
Welcome message from P. White, Principal.
 - Mr. White explained that in the high school, there may be fundraising specific to activities, but usually not general school fundraising events.
 - Enrolment is up by about 30 students this year to 625 students.
 - Hiring was not completed until enrolment was confirmed. This prevents the laying off of teachers if final enrolment is below projections.
 - Courtney Jackson, LTO for Nicole Temple's leave, will be helping with the music programs.
 - Bernadtte Verbuyst-Martin – 1.0 LTO – Special assignment to help with math. 2-3 times per week on-line help will be available for students from home. She will also focus on Grade 7-9, assisting students who need additional assistance or have additional challenges
 - Barry Kraynyk – hired permanent

- Victoria Swejda – hired permanent
- Terry Parisien – hired as full-time Education Assistant
- Michelle Queen – hired as receptionist; filling position left open by Sheila Ferguson
- Sheila Ferguson – accepted a position as Librarian at Pope John Paul II School
- Carole Williams transferring to STAHS
- Judy Keller transferring to PJPII
- Carole and Judy switching positions
- A violin/fiddling program has been started. Several new students from Shoal Lake have taken fiddling in the past so will be able to continue.
- Camp Stephens trip went well for grade 7 students. Student return was slightly delayed due to weather.

4. **Growing Success**

- 4.1 School Improvement Plan – More phones have been installed to facilitate better teacher/parent communication.

Percentage of students passing is high.

School performance on Literacy testing has also been good, but statistically, boys having difficulty with literacy. We will be focusing on motivating them to become more interested in reading and writing.

Teachers will aim to teach students based on strengths and different learning styles through Differentiated Instruction

- 4.2 Enrolment Update / New Lockers – 625 students, therefore we do not have enough lockers. Additional lockers are on order and should arrive within a month. The plan is to move the half lockers to the gym and music areas for additional locker space
- 4.3 Diocesan Conference – October 2 – Bishop Lavoie will be the guest speaker.

5. **Principal's Forum**

P. White

- 5.1 Vision for the year

a) Increasing Catholicity – Agenda of events is being developed. The chapel is taking form. Classes will participate in chapel time (especially with grade 7-9) doing faith-based activities at least once per month in addition to religion classes. The Grade 12 retreat will continue to be planned as an annual event. The Grade 9 retreat with the NET team will continue. The grade 11's World Religion Studies will have the opportunity to go to Winnipeg to see places of worship of other religions. Social Justice will also be a point of focus.

b) Increasing academic performance.

c) Fostering partnerships and relationships.

- 5.2 Election of Executive

a) Co-Chairs – Carolyn MacCormack, Tina Bisschop

b) Secretary – Norine Schram

c) Treasurer – Michelle Derouard

- 5.3 Upcoming Events – Open House on Wednesday, Sept. 29 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to informally meet the teachers.
 - 5.4 Health and Safety
Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED) now in office. There are two certified First Aid instructors on staff, over 50% of staff have first aid training and there is a school crisis team in place.
 - 5.5 Role of Student Success Teachers – 3 teachers have an hour a day to provide extra help to students or help them find the help needed.
 - 5.6 Student Success - Math Initiative – Bernadette Verbuyst-Martin.
 - 5.7 Study Hall / Homework Room
If students have less than 60% they are asked to go to study hall during lunch where additional help is available. Parents will be contacted and asked. This program has been so successful that many students who have higher marks are attending for additional help. Grade 7 and 8 students have expressed interest in additional homework help as well. Joanna Krisko, Grade 7 and 8 Guidance Counsellor, will assist with the homework help for the Grade 7 and 8s.
6. **Next Meeting** = Tuesday, October 26th.

