



**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL**

**School Council Meeting**

**Monday, May 31, 2010**

**7:00-8:00 p.m.**

**\*\* Library \*\***

**MINUTES**

**In Attendance:**

Brenda Bye  
Chisholm, Brock  
T. Copenace  
M. Derouard  
Teresa Gallik

Lorelie Gordon  
Mara Karle  
Carolyn MacCormack  
Kathryn Makl  
Brenda Ossachuk

Norine Schram  
Bérangère Thibault  
Lorelei Van Belleghem  
Paul White

**Regrets:** Dean Woodbeck

- 1. Prayer** D. Woodbeck  
Please pray for Hardy Ervick, former STA teacher and principal who recently died Grade 8 Young Travellers - students departed this morning for Toronto
- 2. OFSAA**  
Due to timing, there is rarely the opportunity to plan ahead and get lower cost airfare. The Board will be paying a portion of the cost of travel for the students to attend their OFSAA Soccer championships this year (Girls in Windsor, Boys in Sudbury). The school is looking into the Aeroplan Latitude program for next year which will allow bulk ticket purchases in advance as students will likely be responsible for the costs in the future.
- 3. O.P.P. re Hip Hop Program-** Program for high risk kids to reduce vandalism, improve relationships with the police. The O.P.P. are open to suggestions for other activities which may be of interest to students.
- 4. Celebrating our Learning Community - Sharing Our Story**  
Artwork for the Chapel: There has been discussion about appropriate artwork for the chapel. It was decided that all the schools in the board would be represented.  
  
Music – New Orleans: There was recently a two page spread in the Miner and News. The students in the music program have done very well. Mr. Ura is looking into expanding the program to include strings.

4. **Celebrating our Learning Community - Sharing Our Story (cont'd)**

Athletic Banquet: There was a good turnout.

SoccerTeams: The teams did well and will be representing the school as OFSAA.

5. **Principal's Forum**

P. White

5.1 District Review

- May 25<sup>th</sup> – Intermediate Review
- May 26<sup>th</sup> – Secondary Review

5.2 Graduation – Thursday, June 24th

5.3 Use of Technology to Gain an Advantage

- most students have electronic devices but not all are using technology appropriately in class
- teachers are looking for ways to use technology in a positive way and are open to suggestions

5.4 Coaching Liaisons

- there are many community members who are assisting with coaching
- we would like to have a staff member as a liaison so that there is someone directly connected to the school to deal with school related issues

6. **Drama Production**

Next year we will have another drama production. With the increase in interest in vocal music, the goal for 2014 is to have a musical production. This will probably require 50 - 60 percent student involvement, as it will be much more costly and work intensive. Support of council and sponsorships will be required.

7. **Parent Reaching Out Grant** money set aside for guest speaker for graduation (\$200) will not be used this year. Council approved the money being contributed to the breakfast program instead.

8. **Accessibility Review**

Accessibility Review has been completed, barriers identified, and prioritized.

9. **St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel**

Carolyn MacCormack attended the meeting and spoke on behalf of School Council regarding concerns that using the chapel as a church would be too limiting. There was discussion regarding how "chapel" is defined and how to most effectively and appropriately use the space. No decisions were made at this time as no senior management was present.

Council discussed the desire to have the space used in a respectful, but inclusionary way. Mr. White will be surveying other schools to determine how their chapels are used. It was pointed out that students' opinions should also be considered. Council members would like to have more details of what the different visions and concerns are so that they can present their thoughts to the trustees before they make their decision. The goal will be to revisit this in the fall.



## St. Thomas Aquinas High School

### Year-end Events 2010

Co-op Breakfast	June 1	7:45 – 9:00 a.m.	T.A. Cafeteria
End of School Year Eucharistic Liturgy	To be determined pending availability of priest		T.A. Gymnasium
Arts Banquet and Stellar Awards	June 8 – open to everyone guest speaker David Bouchard	6:00 p.m. Admission \$17	T.A. Gymnasium
Gr8 Nite (Performances by the Grade 8 drama students)	June 9 (tentative)		T.A. Gymnasium
Safe Grad Dinner and Cabaret	June 12	6:00 – 8:00 p.m. admission \$20	T.A. Gymnasium
Grade 7/8 Awards & Grade 8 Graduation	June 23	10:00 a.m.	T.A. Gymnasium
Grade 12 Graduation Mass	June 24	6:30 p.m.	T.A. Gymnasium
Grade 12 Graduation Ceremony	June 24	7:45 p.m.	T.A. Gymnasium