



MAY 2 – MAY 7, 2010

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS HIGH SCHOOL

School Council MEETING

Monday, Feb 22. 2010

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

**** Library ****

MINUTES

In attendance: L. VanBelleghem K. Brown Mme B. Thibault
D. Woodbeck T. Gallik P. White
N. Schram, M. Karle B. Ossachuk
K. Makl

1. **Prayer** was led by Dean Woodbeck.
2. **Approval and Additions to the Agenda**
3. **Celebrating our Learning Community - Sharing Our Story**

Kathy Valentini – 2008/09 Yearbook – The yearbook is complete. We have signed a 3 year contract with Josten's enabling us to have a coloured yearbook at the same cost of black and white.

All Staff – Carry the Torch Celebrations – Prayer service was followed by Literacy and numeracy activities on Olympic units, based on various countries and sports.

Haiti Relief – To date, \$1200 in pennies have been taken to the CIBC. The bank has been very accommodating.

Music Dept. – *British Invasion* Vocal Show, held on February 5 at 7:00 p.m., raised about \$1700 for Haiti Relief.

Fashion Show – February 25 at 7:00 p.m. – Proceeds to go to Schools Building Schools

Fish Derby hosted by Wauzhushk Onigum (on Matheson Bay) - has offered to split proceeds with Fellowship Centre and Haiti Relief.

Credit retention through all grades is 97% thanks to extra effort by teachers to keep students engaged and help them succeed focussing on their strengths.

4. Principal's Forum – P. White

- 4.1 Girls 'A' Volleyball OFSAA – March 9 and 10 – Jo Krisko and Bob Kowal are convening with 35 staff volunteers helping to represent our school. Games will be held at PJP, TA, and Beaver Brae on March 9, finishing at TA on the March 10.
- 4.2 FACE Presentation – March 9 – Preparing presentation focussing on the values to support Catholic Education in case, in the future, the government wants to convert to a single school system.
- 4.3 Board Meeting Presentation to Trustees – March 23 – Teachers will present videos about their programs. The videos will later be presented to our School Council.
- 4.4 Friday, March 12 Activities – (The day before March Break). Remaining student activity fees will be applied to choices between downhill or cross-country skiing, skating, curling or gym activities. Bussing and equipment rentals will be provided.
- 4.5 PRO Grant – We were successful in being granted \$1000 to improve our communication. It will help off-set the cost of the new Synervoice system. If someone needs help with transportation so that they can attend School Council meetings, funds can be used for that. About half will be applied to the end of the year celebrations.
- 4.6 Schools Building Schools – Was started by a lawyer in Dryden. He expressed at a recent Rotary Club meeting that he has been very impressed by the level of commitment and involvement by our students. Fundraising projects continue, including t-shirt sales and music videos. The student involvement also sparked interest by the teachers who have also done fundraising activities with their classes. The interest and enthusiasm continues to build. The goal is to raise \$50,000 to build a school in Guatemala. One of our students, who is from Guatemala, was able to take video at Christmas of the community where the school is to be built.
- 4.7 The main goals of the school are to increase Catholicity and improve academic performance. The sports teams are again doing well. The music program is also revealing some exceptional talent. We want to keep working to continue to improve.
- 4.8 Council was asked if there is a need for additional supports.
 - is there more the school can do to assist students with post secondary applications to specific faculties that may require extra pieces in the application process (e.g., auditions for music programs, letters of recommendation)?
 - help with completing required components of application.
 - Mr. Woodbeck suggested getting Mrs. Kurtz to organize sessions to help students with common post-secondary interests to meet and discuss options. Students may also be able to help each other. (Mrs. Literovich helps special needs students prepare for post-secondary programs.)
 - suggestion for need to have extra guidance staffing so that one guidance counsellor can deal exclusively with post secondary applications at this time of year; however, it was recognized that this is a financial/funding issue
 - students are reminded to complete volunteer hours.

5. Next Meeting – Monday, March 29, 2010