

SVPS School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, February, 9, 2023

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Meeting held via Zoom Conference Call

Welcome & Sign-In (Persons in Attendance):

**Meeting commenced at 6:34 p.m.*

Meena Sharma, Principal

Jackie Ventresca, Vice-Principal

Joella Connaught, Secretary

Joanne Marcano, Chair

Simone Lewis, Treasurer

Rishma Ramdath-Moorgen, Parent Member

Bridgette Rafuse, Parent Member & Faculty Rep

Alicia Ali, Parent Member

Babak Nikmard, CSW

Lorrie Harris, Middle Years Coach

Vaasny K, Parent

Shakirah, Parent

Ajeesh, Parent

Sparsh, Parent

Shan, Parent

Regrets: N/A

Minutes Approved from January 2023 meeting: **Yes**. Joanne M, (first motion), no second motion recorded

- **Principal's Report (school report):**

Food Program (Lorrie Harris, Middle Years Coach):

- The food program focuses on food security, food waste, nutrition and gardening with students.
- The program will work with Chef Bashir and Nutritionist, Idil. They worked with the school last year to share some nutritious recipes and meals. This year they will work with the grades 5, 6, and 7's.
- There will be a workshop for parents and students on making simple and healthy meals.
- Nutritionist and chef will provide food ideas/recipes but food will be at a cost of the school.
- Potential date for this event is February 27, 2023 or a date after March break. For parent workshop, Lorrie will send out registration form and prospective date to parents. Lorrie also to follow up with Bashir and Idil on what date would work best for them.

SVPS CSW:

- Babak Nikmard, introduced himself and explained his role for the student body and parent/caregivers.
- Position entails creating opportunities for engagement for parents/caregivers and students. Role also includes providing community resources to students and caregivers; for example, the essential skills training programs for parents/caregivers.

SVPS Open House:

- Update provided on how open house went. Small attendance, but good conversation and information sharing was had.
- February 16, 2023 is the deadline for enrollment applications.

Black History Month:

- On February 6th, students in grades 3 to 8 enjoyed a guest speaker from Jeff Martin to kick off Black History Month.
- The presentation went well. The students seemed engaged.
- The presentation focused on inclusion, racism, biases, micro-aggressions, and on methods to handle situations related to those areas.
- The guest speaker will be returning on February 15, 2023 to work specifically with the grades 7's and 8's.
- Upcoming event is planned for kindergarten to grade 2. On February 22nd, students will get to enjoy a Reggae session.

Q. Parent member asked what teachers are doing in-class with students regarding learning related to Black History Month?

- Research being done with students on achievements of Black Canadians such as scientists. Additionally, students are reading special announcements and quotes related to black history and culture.

Playground Update:

- Work is set to begin in May 2023 depending on the weather.
- Most of the work will be completed over the summer months of July/August; with target completion date scheduled for September 2023.
- During construction the church parking lot/entrance will be closed.
- The design of the playground is an accessible play scape.

Graduation (grade 8 and S.K.):

- Working with teachers and students to start generating ideas and plans for graduation.

Q. First Grade Here I Come story books-still a go for this year?

- School council will go ahead with the gift this year once again. Babak to look into community donations.
- For grade 8 graduation, discussion was had about potential venues, for example Qssis Banquet Hall. It was also noted that the venue must be accessible.
- Traditionally, grade 8's go to Bluffer's Park Restaurant. Also, in the past, gradation Teddy Bears as the class gift was popular. School council to look into purchasing the bears early.

Q. Can literacy somehow be involved with the planning process of graduation? For example, student and parent involvement with yearbook.

- **Treasurer Report**

- Prior to Covid-19 the school council account balance was approximately \$10,000.
- The money was generated from fundraising from pizza lunches, freeze sales, and the fall fair.
- Last school year, the school council contributed \$1,600 to the grade 8 graduation.
- As of February 2023, the school council account balance is \$6, 934.27. Discussion was had on the importance of replenishing the account via fundraising.

- **School Council Chair Report:**

Fundraising:

- Pizza lunch in April 2023 (potential date of April 5, 2023)
- Dance-a-thon in May 2023 (potential date of May 19 2023). Plans for pledge forms and prices will need to be put in place. The school council will work on this.
- Freeze Day in May/June 2023 (potential date June 1 2023)
- Discussion was had about the Fall Fair and the potential need to develop a sub-committee. Discussion was also had on the need for volunteers for the event.

- Prospective date for the fall fair is September 30 2023.
- Discussion was had on inviting past grade 8's to volunteer at the event.
- It was suggested that providing some potential roles for volunteers will garner some interest.
- Discussion was had about having Mr. Corn at the fall fair. It is TDSB approved. Must book early if interested in having Mr. Corn.
- For the March 2023 school council meeting, focus will be on planning for fall fair and the pizza lunch.

Black History Month Project:

- "Black History Month Heritage Moments". Hope is to have parents/caregivers/staff speak on a personal connection to a Black Canadian, which will be presented to students.

Parent Engagement:

- Discussion was had on ways to keep parents/caregivers connected to the school community through such avenues as the community resources board in the main hall across from the school office, the SVPS school website, and the school council newsletter "The Village Voice".

Other Business:

- Crossing guard application currently on hold to gather more information for the application. Alicia A to continue working on the application.
- Consult with Councillor Ainsley required.
- Hope was that crossing guard application would be easier to obtain than a 4 way stop, but the process is proving to be just as complex.
- Babak N to assist and Alicia A to connect with Simone L regarding updates on the 4-way stop as she has been working with the city for years on this.

Q. What is the number of grade 8 and 7 students? (This will help to determine potential cost of school council graduation contribution).

**Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.*

Next School Council Meeting to be held: March 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Items to complete before next school council meeting:

- Complete February 2023 meeting minutes (Joella Connaught)
- Complete application form for crossing guard (Alicia Ali)

