

SVPS School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, January, 19, 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 (Last name not known), Parent

Shaneka (Last name not known), Parent

Regrets: N/A

Minutes Approved from December 2022 meeting: **Yes**. Joanne M, (first motion), Simone L (second motion)

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

SIP (School Improvement Plan) Meeting

-The school improvement plan meeting was held on December 14th at 9:00 a.m.

-There were low numbers of attendees; possibly due to the time of day the event was held.

-There were 5 attendees in total; but good conversation was had amongst the attendees.

SVPS Enrollment

- The application process has moved to online.
- Individuals interested in enrolling must go to a specific website for alternative schools.
- Enrollment will open on January 23, 2023.
- SVPS open house is scheduled for February 1, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Black History Month Kick-Off

- Jeff Martin, inspirational speaker will be doing a presentation for the students on February 6, 2023.
- Jeff is the author of "In the 6".
- Simone L also noted Dwayne Morgan as a future guest speaker to consider.

Food Hampers

- There are still some food hampers available if anyone is interested.

▪ **Treasurer Report & Fundraising:**

- Uma and Simone were able to connect, and Uma showed Simone the ropes.
- Simone L will work with Uma over the next few months to assist with learning the role.
- The current bank account balance is \$7,034.27.
- The council should continue to be mindful of spending and should begin looking into ways to generate funds.
- Discussion was had on some potential fundraising ideas such as pizza lunches, freezie sale, and a cookie sale for Family Day/Valentine's Day from Terra Cotta Cookies Ltd.
- For the cookie sale, 2 to 4 volunteers would be needed to hand out the cookie orders at afternoon recess, around 2:00 p.m.
- It was discussed that pre-packaged items are the way to go due to dietary restrictions, etc. For example, pizza lunch orders can be individually wrapped.
- Parents/caregivers can pay using Cash Online and volunteers will be needed to distribute the lunch orders.
- Q. When can pizza lunches resume? How many pizza lunches can the school council plan for the rest of the school year?
- Reminder to start planning for the "Family Affair" fall fair in March 2023. Goal is to host the fair in October 2023.
- Family Day Gift Basket Raffle was discussed as a fundraising opportunity as well.

-Rishma R.M. to price check items for the gift baskets. At meeting, Rishma R.M. provided projected cost of approximately \$100.00.

-Funds to purchase items for the basket will be required within the first week of February.

-Discussion was had on how to process and collect raffle tickets.

-Suggestion was made to send raffle form home with students and return form and money to school office with the eldest child in the household.

-Suggestion was also made to use the baskets as free raffle to increase parent engagement in school council meetings/events. If that does not prove successful, discussion was had about having the raffle in December 2023 at the winter concert.

▪ **Caring & Safe Schools:**

-Discussion was had on requesting a crossing guard.

-There is a program available in this regard with the city.

-The application process includes filling out an application form and any parent can complete the form, with backing from their local school.

-Alicia (parent), offered to complete the application.

-Discussion and update was had regarding SVPS' request for a 4-way stop. Councillor Ainsley will be bringing back the request to the larger city council group.

▪ **School Council Chair Report:**

SSON (Statement of School Needs) Report

-Joanne M will be reviewing and updating the form with assistance from Joella C

PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant

-Joanne M provided a description of what the grant entails.

-Joanne will be following up with Miguel Pink as well as the new community rep who will be replacing Miguel Pink on parent advocacy resources.

Parent Engagement

-Currently trying to recruit and engage caregivers/parents to participate in the school community.

-Discussion was had on the snack program in terms of who will run the program as well as the hot lunch program.

-Discussion was had on creating a newsletter to provide information to parents/engage them with the events happening within school council and to create welcoming access to the school council.

-Discussion was had about what parents/caregivers may like to see in the newsletter and how the newsletter could be accessible for all. For example, considerations around language barriers and hard copy of the newsletter.

-In terms of volunteers, discussion was had regarding police checks. For example, when they are required, the application process and associated cost.

-Ms. Sharma clarified that if working with students a police check would be required (wait to receive police check is currently 4 to 6 months). If volunteering is a short-term occasion, such as assisting with the cookie sale for a few hours, no police check is needed.

▪ **Other Business**

1. Question from grade 6 student-will students be returning to the lunch room?

-Ms. Sharma advised that students will not be returning to the lunch room yet. Students will continue to eat in their classrooms until further notice.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.*

Next School Council Meeting to be held: February 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Items to complete before next school council meeting:

- Complete January 2023 meeting minutes (Joella Connaught)
- Alicia to complete application form for crossing guard