

St. Paul School
Parish Education Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Present:	Fr. Thomas Smith	Mrs. Louveign Secord
	Dr. John Yun	Mr. Mark Acosta
	Mrs. Maureen Moorehead	Mr. Kelsey Mah
	Ms. Clarissa Guevara	Mr. Joseph Lo
	Mrs. Carolyn Law	Mr. Ricky Bravo

Meeting began at 7:02 pm with an opening prayer led by Fr. Thomas Smith.

Motion to pass approval of minutes from the January 2021 meeting was put forth by Mr. Ricky Bravo and seconded by Mr. Joseph Lo.

Chairperson's Report

Dr. John Yun received an email from Mr. Jim Wong of the CISVA regarding our school's seismic upgrades. Dr. John Yun explained that each parish part of the CISVA is expected to present an individual plan for the affiliated schools. This document outlines the plan and costs for retrofitting the existing building to meet current seismic codes or the option of replacement with a brand new building. The planning came to a temporary pause but will need to proceed under the guidance of Fr. Thomas Smith. The parish council and parish financial committee may then go on to form a building committee to address this. Fr. Thomas Smith added that he will need to review reports and documents submitted from other schools.

Principal's Report

Mrs. Maureen Moorehead reported on the following events:

Recent/Upcoming Events

- St. Paul Feast Day was live streamed and made available with many thanks to Ms. Clarissa Guevara's brother, Pat. Thank you to Fr. Thomas Smith for leading the celebration.
- New Parents Information Video: many thanks to Ms. Clarissa Guevara and Mr. Joseph Lo for the 15 minute PowerPoint video. Forms for new parents are due back on Feb. 16 & 17. For the kindergarten school year of 2021/22, there are 9 siblings and space for 22 new families.
- Catholic Education Conference: this year's conference will be held virtually and encouraged for educators to attend from home.
- Ash Wednesday: Mass will occur during the day and made available for livestream. The teachers will be assisting Fr. Thomas Smith in distributing ashes to their grade cohorts.
- Pink Shirt Day is Anti-Bullying Day and this year will take place on Wednesday, February 24, 2021.

Updates to K-12 Health and Safety Guidelines

All staff are now required to wear masks all day, even in their cohorts. This can be a strain on the teachers' voices. Disposable masks, which are easier to breathe and talk through, are available to use, as well as purchasing an amplification system for any teacher who is interested. Six teachers have so far requested this, at \$50 each system. The new school safety protocols have been updated on the school website, thanks to Mr. Joseph Lo.

Uniform Addition

Mrs. Maureen Moorehead is seeking approval to have a long-sleeved polo shirt added to the school uniform, adding that Top Marks Uniform does offer this option.

A motion to approve the addition of a long-sleeved polo shirt to the school uniform was put forth by Mr. Kelsey Mah and unanimously in favour by the PEC.

Discussion of WhatsApp Parent Chat Groups as formal method of communication

Mrs. Maureen Moorehead presented these points:

PROS: WhatsApp is an efficient form of communication

CONS: WhatsApp is not moderated by the school, not all parents participate, there is potential for misinformation to be spread, info being shared without the school's knowledge, and parents using the chat as a main source of information.

One example of this is whether reminders of the upcoming Silent Auction should have been shared via WhatsApp. Mrs. Maureen Moorehead is concerned with what should and should not be appropriate means of communication for school events.

Mrs. Louveign Secord added that since the PEC Silent Auction is open to the parish community and not just the school, using WhatsApp is the most effective way to get the message out to the public.

Dr. John Yun expressed that these are all valid concerns, but that this form of communication cannot be policed by the school as it is also a concern of freedom of speech. He added that parents should be left responsible, and not the school, unless there are issues of hate speech or bullying, in which case the school can get involved.

Mrs. Maureen Moorehead expressed that she has had issues with parents presenting her with conflicts occurring on WhatsApp with screen-shots of their texts. Rather than having this occur, Mrs. Maureen Moorehead would prefer that all school related communication goes through the respective homeroom parent emails.

Mrs. Carolyn Law suggested that parents should be reminded that all school related communication on WhatsApp is informal and is not monitored by the school and that all school approved communication goes through the homeroom parent email. Mrs. Carolyn Law also suggested that the parents should be reminded through a disclaimer posted by

the WhatsApp admin at the making of the chat and throughout, and that parents are using the app at their discretion.

Pastor's Report

- Fr. Thomas Smith reported that Fr. Joseph is currently in Kenya and will need to quarantine upon his arrival until mid-March.
- Ash Wednesday:
 - teachers will give out ashes by sprinkling it on the tops of their students' heads
 - two stations will be set up for the giving out of ashes and communion to the parish community; there will be ministers situated at the Parish Centre and Fr. Thomas Smith will be at the Adoration Chapel. The schedule is available on the parish website.
- Fr. Thomas Smith is hopeful that Sunday Mass can resume for Lent. Fr. Thomas Smith would like parents to help promote Lent with the children and to make it as meaningful as possible. There are lots of information on Lent for kids and teenagers found in the parish bulletin

Member Reports

Staff

No report

Maintenance

No report

Treasurer

Mr. Ricky Bravo reviewed the January and year-to-date financial statement and comparative budget with the PEC members.

IT

Mr. Joseph Lo reported on the following:

- the last access points have arrived and will be installed over the Family Day long weekend. The new Macbook Air ordered for Mrs. Dos Santos has arrived. Some bulbs in the classroom projectors are broken and some cannot be fixed. We will need to replace these projectors.
- Regarding Fundscrip, Mr. Joseph Lo recommended that we wait until the Silent Auction fundraiser is completed before sending out a reminder to the community that Fundscrip is still ongoing. Mrs. Louveign Secord added that some of the parishioners in the community may not know how to sign up for Fundscrip and will need assistance doing so.

Parent Participation

Mr. Mark Acosta mentioned if it is necessary to extend the Silent Auction one more week. Mrs. Louveign Secord said it will not be necessary because all but three items

have already been bidden on, and that the auction looks to be progressing well. Mr. Mark Acosta and Mrs. Louveign Secord reported that the new parent participation Bingo schedule will be available by the end of March for the start in July, if and when Bingo is allowed to proceed.

Mr. Ricky Bravo mentioned that the parish is in charge of issuing tax receipts for items from the auction, only with provided invoices.

Parish Council

No report

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 pm with a closing prayer.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 9th, 2021 at 7:00 pm.