

St. Andrew's Regional High School

Local School Council

DRAFT Minutes

November 23, 2022 – approved January 25, 2023

Present: Angela Grohovac (AG), Victor Araujo (VA), Pete Rose (PR), Renee Derksen (RD) via Zoom, Steve Pearse (SP), Euan Skinner (ES), Katherine Thiessen-Wale (KTW), Father Eduardo Santos

Regrets: None

Principal: Glen Palahicky (GP)

Guests: Ciaran McLaverty (CM), Mary Kearsey (MK), Manuel Achadinha (ICS board representative)

Quorum achieved.

Call Meeting to Order: AG at 6:44 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Father Eduardo

Approval of Previous Minutes: Motion by ES, seconded by SP to approve October 2022 minutes. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda: No additions or deletions to agenda; amended to reflect Mary Kearsey as Teacher Representative and RD is person speaking to PIP hours item. VA moved to accept agenda as amended, seconded by PR to approve. Motion carried.

New Business: None

Old Business:

PIP hours: RD advised that the PIP form is complete but not yet added to the school website. RD will ask for a link to it to be provided in the newsletter so parents can begin thinking about it and completing before the holidays. GP thanked RD for her work with this.

Tri-Council Meetings: AG reported that St. Patrick's LSC would like to move forward with Tri-Council meetings once again; will try to find a January date, likely on a Wednesday, for a meeting. SARHS LSC can host the first meeting; ES and GP will attend. As school begins on January 3rd and PSG meets January 11th dates that might work are January 4th or 18th. With the new Superintendent starting in January, the first meeting would be an introductory meeting. A schedule of additional meetings could be set then. Possible topics for discussion may include fundraising, logos, shared/bulk purchasing, advertising, and how the schools can work together with less fragmentation.

Reports:

Chairperson's Report:

- AG attended the ICS AGM this week; no elections were held this year. The Superintendent's Report as presented by the two acting Superintendents, Joe Colistro and Bev Pulyk, was sent to LSC members by AG.
- The Ministry of Education and Child Care is trying to figure out what to do with child care and preschool, and there are grants available for infrastructure and creating child care and preschool

spots now. Enrolment numbers are such that ICS is looking for teachers and educational assistants. What incentives could be provided to our graduates? How can we attract teachers and EAs in the future?

- Financials were presented – ICS is doing better than previously. The Catholic Schools Plan released 13 years ago is being achieved, with \$25 million spent to improve and develop the schools.
- A strong group of parents are participating in the PSG. Finances are in good shape and gaming funds have been received. The Paradise Island Cheese fundraiser in progress. Music parents' Coffee House this month was a great success.
- Post-Secondary Information Night last night was really good. Mrs. Cathie Fowlie is to be congratulated for her work organizing it.

Teacher Rep's Report :

- MK reported that the Music program's Coffee House was successful. The rowing, volleyball and Grade 8 basketball teams' seasons are now finished.
- Religion: A Book of Remembrance is located in the chapel; Fr. Alfredo comes on Friday to lead prayer. The Remembrance Day ceremony was organized by CM, and wreaths were blessed by Fr. Eduardo. A toque and sock drive is currently underway and Christmas hampers are being organized by tags – Ukraine Vancouver Island will receive assistance. Through ICS several teachers are doing a retreat for Advent (6 attending online Tuesday evenings).
- Post-secondary Information Night was a success with many in attendance!
- Student Council is having a "Pie in the Face" fundraiser– 10 staff have agreed to be targets.

Principal's Report:

- GP reported that a highlight of the ICS AGM meeting was a formalized thank you to the Sisters of St. Ann who were the founders of ICS and SARHS and have left a strong legacy.
- Enrolment remains steady.
- The new ICS Superintendent will join us in January, arriving from Vernon.
- Grade 7 Shadow Day is upcoming; students will enjoy a celebration of the arts.
- A geotech company has been hired and will do soil samples soon.
- It is planned to have the gym floor refinished and repainted over Christmas.
- The front wall of the school was vandalized with spray paint this morning. Police were called and are investigating. The security camera didn't pick up anything. Some students kindly volunteered to clean it up.

Human Resources: No report.

Finance Report:

- SP reported that September financials were received and October just received late today. Re fees, the school is running a surplus, due to a higher proportion of enrolment of international students, but the figure will get closer to the budgeted amount over time.
- Revenue that is not reflected in the statements at the moment is rental revenue received for the band room and gym. While rental revenue was about \$5,000 last year, there is not much advantage in renting because of the higher need for our teams to use the gym.
- There is a slight surplus in salaries and benefits due to delayed hiring.

- The repair of the bridge is eating into the surplus and may impact long-term. ICS has advised to delay/defer the repayment of the debt by one year.
- October and November financials are to be addressed next meeting.

Policy Report: No report

International Liaison:

- VA heard from Mr. Durkan, who took international students to Vancouver to see a Canucks game recently – it is an excellent group of students. There are 52 international students, and three or four new students could be added (Brazil and Spain are possible locations for recruitment.) There is a cap of 60 students, so a ratio of 1:6 local students is maintained; this is the goal so that the international students will mix with Canadian students to learn the language.
- Homestays are hard to find. Rates are about \$1,200 per month; in the public school system the rate is approximately \$1,100.

Buildings and Grounds:

- ES and CM reported that annual maintenance of the boiler will occur in January. Bridge catwalk will be installed on Friday, together with a missing downspout. The rain has held off recently, but there is sandbagging as a temporary fix to avoid flooding in the meantime.
- There are some other construction deficiencies to be addressed – e.g., speaker and ducting in the bandroom.
- The amplifier in the gym has broken and funding for it is being sourced.
- A bottle filler attachment is being sought for the sink near the gym.
- CM advised that a tree at the front of the school broke during a storm, and Mr. Hudson hauled away the wood; an arborist has said that the tree is fine for now.

Comments by Guest Manuel Achadinha of ICS Board:

- Manuel indicated that his role is to find out what is going on at each of the schools and facilitate if the LSC has a question for the board.
- SARHS is looking really good.
- It is important to consider opportunities for funding of major improvements, such as the sports field, as costs keep increasing. Charities have a harder time raising funds now, but government is stepping up to contribute capital funding even for independent schools through one-time funding. This is an interesting opportunity that has not historically been available.

Adjourned at 7:50 p.m.