



St. Francis Junior High School

School Council Meeting

January 15th, 2024 – 6:00 pm, E-Sports Lab (Room 144)

1. Call to Order – 6:00pm – Laurie Catonio
 - a) Opening Prayer – Jackie Kraemer
 - b) Land Acknowledgement – Jackie Kraemer

2. Welcome, Introductions and Attendance:

Jackie Kraemer (Staff), Michael Racz (Staff), Laurie Catonio, Roisin Gibb (Trustee Liaison), Tricia Doherty, Gerriane Timmerman, June Beloin, Claudia Fuentes, Corey Vanoene (Presenting), Chantelle Motycka, Tokunbo Walter-Endui (treasurer), Gale Sanchez

3. Approval of December 18th meeting minutes – Motion Gerriane T., Second Chantelle M., All in Favor.

4. Old Business –

- a) Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) - Jackie Kraemer – Full details on the website. We reviewed the Board priorities. Student learning engagement. A survey was sent out to parents, students and staff and the results were kept anonymous. They're happy with the results but, moving forward, they will continue to focus on always improving. Student rate for filling out is high because the school can help get the students to participate, the parent rate is low. It's important for more parents to contribute because when only a few contribute there is more room for the extremes to have a large influence. Need more parents to contribute. All the results for our school improved from last year's results. They want to work more with local organizations. Lifelong learners, satisfaction rated as very high – excellence. Some strategies include adding learning skills into curriculum across subjects and grade levels, encouraging self reflection, assessment for growth, celebrating learning milestones and individual successes. Safety and fair treatment – rated very high. Our school promotes



Inclusivity, meeting students where they're at and offering opportunities to everyone. We're down 34% in office visits and school suspensions from last year. Working on restorative justice practices. Working with YMCA. Alternate suspension program. Community partnerships. First nations mentorship program. Transparent communication students/parents/teachers/admin/board. Checking data from Grade 6 PAT's and following classes to make sure grades are improving. Students very prepared when they leave St. Francis. We didn't see a drop in grades after covid like other schools. Added more core time. Adjusted to close the gaps immediately to prevent the dip in grades.

5. New Business – Corey Vanoene presented on E-sports/Gaming Concepts. The program was formed by himself, Micheal Racz and Justin Harper over the last 18 months.
 - a) E-sports – 100% of boys play, 83/92% of girls. High interest. Introduced very early in life, before kids can learn some important life skills. E-sports is different than gaming concepts. E-sports competitive gaming team. 46% of kids at the school participate in afterschool programming through Arts and/or sports programs. Looking to reach the other 54%. First explored as a way of delivering health and wellness. The 3 pillars of the program are: meet students where they are; teaching for brain development; and connection to school. 40 developmental assets
<https://www.search-institute.org/downloadable/Ann-Arbor-Handout-2.pdf>. Power to protect - the more assets the less likely they are to run into pitfalls. Power to promote - The more assets the higher the success. School connection is a super asset. Gaming concepts curriculum. Health and wellness. How can you be better. STEM skills, digital citizenship, college readiness etc. career readiness. Pilot research shows a 10% increase in attendance and an increase in GPA. The course promotes leadership and connecting kids. Pilot program study shows 83% have never been a member of a club or team before. Team is non-gender based, non grade level based, embraces students with disabilities. Play vs teams in pacific division US and Canada. Fall, winter blitz, and spring league. The Lethbridge School Division will be hosting the 2024 Alberta E-Sports Championships at



the Agri-food Hub & Trade Centre on May 3 to 4, 2024, it rewards students with interest in gaming. There are also courses micro credit courses through the colleges and universities in Canada and the US that interested kids can take from the age of 15.

6. Trustee Report – Standing trustee report

https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/board_administration/board_of_trustees/board_meetings

Jordans Principle Grant – This was a huge grant school division received as a whole. We received 3 EA's from the grant. Updates regarding IMR (Infrastructure Maintenance Renewal). Early registration for next year has been started, it's imperative for parents to register ASAP because it helps schools with predictability. We have a new deputy superintendent, Anthea Boras.

7. Treasurer's Report –

Opening balance on December 1st was \$2,425.54. Closing balance on December 31st was \$5056.54. The total deposit made into the account in December was \$2639 from school fees. The total debit from the account in December was \$8, which consist of monthly maintenance and statement print service charges. Some of our yearly commitments include grade 9 farewell, promotion of school play, staff appreciation, and awards.

8. Principal's Report –

1. Staffing Update:

- a. New EA hires 2
- b. Interns – 5-4 on sub list
- c. PSII orientation in February

2. Parent Information:

- a. MediaSmarts is pleased to be launching the [Teen Fact-Checking Network](#) project in Canada! This international project was started in the U.S. by [MediaWise](#) (see examples [here](#)) and has since been adopted in countries across the globe including Brazil, Germany, India and Spain.
- b. We are looking for teens ages 13 to 18 who have an interest in social media, journalism and verifying information to produce fact-check videos in English



or French for MediaSmarts' TikTok, YouTube Shorts and Instagram Reels channels.

- c. Selected youth will have the opportunity to learn from and work with digital media literacy and communication experts and will be given an honorarium and certificate at the completion of the project.
- d. **We would greatly appreciate it if you would please share the following program information with your colleagues and networks:**
 - i. **ENGLISH:** <https://bit.ly/3RlehBx>
 - ii. **FRENCH:** <https://bit.ly/3NpBxTa>
- e. If you know an exceptional young person who would be interested in this program, please be sure to send it their way. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2024.
- f. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Susana Mas, Manager of Educational and Community Outreach, at smas@mediasmarts.ca.

3. Staff request for calculators

- a. Class set calculators \$600 request – 30 scientific and 90 accounting

Motion - Tricia D. made a motion for the school council to pay up to \$600 for a class set of calculators. Second Tokunbo W-E. All in Favor.

4. Athletics:

- a. Basketball team updates – Cancelled tournaments because of weather and complications due to the freezing weather. We ran a developmental girl's tournament, which was successful. The developmental boy's tournament is delayed until Feb 2-3.

5. Office Hours/ Parent Teacher Interviews

- a. Reminder to check the website for monthly [Office Hours](#)
- b. Parent Teacher Interviews March 21st.

9. Closing Prayer – Laurie Catonio

10. Adjournment – 7:15 pm

Next Meeting March 18th, 2024