DRAFT

Minutes of the first AGM of the St. John's CSAC for 2014-2015. September 23, 2014

Executive Committee:

Corbin Tomaszeski--Chair

Jacky Arminen--Vice Chair

Greg Chow--Treasurer

Cate Gaudet--Secretary

CSAC Members:

Sharon Smyl

Micheal Teixeira

Jennifer Gray

Marianne Internicola

Angela Visconti-White

Jennie Gaffney

Claire O'Shea

Mary Lagonia

Nadia Niccoli-Iera

Jeanette Cole

CSAC Members-Administration

Mrs. Martin

Mrs. Brault

CSAC Member-Teaching staff

Ms. Horbay

Three pillars were identified as being the vision and focus of CSAC for the year. These three pillars are BODY, MIND and SPIRIT. It was suggested that the actions of the CSAC need to be supportive of and consistent with these three pillars and the group agreed that this is a sound approach and vision for CSAC's "Year of Change." It was emphasized that while CSAC members are volunteers, in order to have a truly effective year, everyone needs to do their part and be an active member, and to encourage other parents to get involved, either on an *ad hoc* basis, or with the various committees.

It was noted that parents are concerned about the EQAO scores, and the administration indicated that they will be working to improve these scores, particularly in math. Ms. Martin noted that the school is going to be focussing on academic extra-curriculars such as Destination Imagination, the development of a room where students can use math and engineering manipulatives and software to work towards establishing robotic and engineering teams in the future. Ms. Martin also noted the need for a new sound system, the replenishing of IPADs, netbooks and projectors. The group was also advised that Mr. Ali and Mr. Breech have implemented a PALS program to encourage leadership through play on the playground.

The group agreed that planning for the year ahead should begin in March 2015 and be finalized before the school year ends, and that the CSAC needs to work 'smarter not harder.' To this end, Corbin proposed four meetings in addition to the budget and finance meeting which was scheduled for **Monday, October 6th at 6:30 pm.** The group agreed that this is do-able, but wanted the option of adding additional meetings if necessary.

There were four committees established:

**Communications**--responsible for providing information about CSAC and the school, along with updating the website. It was decided that because parents are now used to the SJWAG, this would be a useful tool to be used to liaise with parents. It was suggested that the SJWAG provide notification of upcoming events which are not 'set in stone', just so parents can prepare themselves for what will be happening in the weeks to come. Ms. Brault agreed that this is a simple adjustment to make and one that could be easily implemented. Sharon Smyl is heading up the communications team. Marianne Internicola will meet with her to explain what she did last year, then Jenny Gaffney and Jennifer Gray will help Sharon with the execution of the communication plan.

**Fundraising and Events**-responsible for planning and executing the three fundraisers to be held this year. Events to be determined...bring your great ideas to the next meeting, but make sure that the ideas are consistent with the three pillars. Marianne Internicola, Nadia Niccoli-Iera and Mary Lagonia are going to be steering this committee.

**Community Outreach and Sponsorship**-This group liaises with our greater community and will attempt to obtain grants and sponsorships wherever possible. They will also do outreach on behalf of the school.

Claire O'Shea, Jacky Arminen and Ms. Horbay are on this committee, with Jeanette Cole as a floater.

**Volunteers-**This is, for lack of a better term, the 'temp agency' dedicated to getting help from our greater parent community. This committee supports the other committees where needed. They will liaise with 'me to we' team in the school and student council to ensure there are no redundancies between what CSAC is doing and what the students in the school are doing. Angela Visconti and Michael Teixeira are taking the lead on this committee.

The former Academic Affairs committee will no longer be a committee on its own, but academics at the school will be incorporated into the three pillars and will be directed and led by staff and admin at the school.

Next meeting was set for October 6th. This is an important meeting for all, as the budget for the year will be set. Sharon will draft a brief piece for the SJWAG advising parents of this upcoming meeting.

Ms. Horbay noted that when the budget is considered, the teachers want to keep Scientist in the School, the $200 for classroom items, and the buses if possible. The administration was asked to advise the group by next meeting of what they will require in terms of money and commitment to advance their academic objectives. Ms. Martin said she would provide this information.

Parents, teachers and staff are encouraged to forward any fundraising ideas which are consistent with the three pillars to Cate Gaudet prior to the meeting on October 6, at catefgaudet@gmail.com.

Meeting was adjourned at 945.