


St. Martin de Porres School
School Council Agenda - March 24, 2025

1.0	Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennica Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
		Attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorice de Champlain Jennica Taylor Stephanie McLean LeeAnn Arsenault Amanda O'Connor Tony Skorjanc
2.0	Opening Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mme de Champlain read another beautiful prayer written by a grade 4 student.
3.0	Review of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any additions to the agenda School Council Attendance--how could we get more involvement? Another School-Wide Family Event
4.0	School Council Executive	Chair- Jennica Taylor Vice-Chair- Tony Skorjanc Treasurer- Amanda O'Conner Secretary- Stephanie McLean
5.0	Committee Reports	<p>5.1. Staff Appreciation</p> <p>Parent-Teacher Conferences (March 20)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A BIG thank you to the School Council for providing SUBWAY and treats for our Parent/Teacher Conferences! SUBWAY won the staff vote with flying colors and we were able to support a past St. Martin Parent. Her son is now at St. Thomas Middle School. <p>Staff Appreciation Week (May 5-9)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a sign-up document online for a potluck where we ask our parent community to sign up to bring items and to send requests to parents. Any more information to share for this event? Who is leading this Staff Appreciation Week committee? Would like to plan this for the PD Day May 2nd, 2025 and have a lunch for staff Use http://www.volunteersignup.org Jennica has offered to head up this initiative for us. Ensure that there are gluten free, dairy free and pescatarian options. 5.1.1: Volunteers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask parents to sign up thorough website: http://www.volunteersignup.org <p>5.2 Shrove Tuesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Huge success! The nutrition grant was able to pay for all the supplies! Woohoo! Pancakes were made by parent volunteers on that day and sausages were cooked the night before by volunteers. Each parent or grandparent who volunteered took home 100 sausages to cook and returned them the next day

	<p>in a crock pot ready to serve. All students were served 2 pancakes and 2-3 sausages. Leftover sausages were also served on subsequent days!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will have another sausage day in the future due to the popularity and excitement of the item. Another call for volunteers will be made! <p>5.3 Grade 5 Farewell</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• June 18th @ Sacred Heart @ 10:00 a.m.• Online parent meeting will be held on March 27 from 7 - 8 pm. Lisa Mackey is heading up this committee.• A rough summary is included of the events for that day:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Work Bee a week before graduation: Parents will meet at the school one day from 3:30 - 5:30 to print off and frame the "Best of Student" framed comments from their classmates as well as any new content needed for the Amazing Race portion as well as their certificates for finishing the race.-Mass 10:30 - 11:30 and ceremony after in church: Teachers prepare a slideshow and hand out certificates and the "Best of Student" frames. Parent volunteers print and frame the 'Best of Student' gift for the teachers to distribute.-Lunch after mass: Boston Pizza will be contacted to deliver personalized pizzas and a cookie for each student. A google form will be created for student orders. Water and juice boxes will also be provided. 4-5 parent volunteers will be needed to distribute food and drinks and to tidy up the hall after lunch.)-Amazing Race at the school: When students arrive at the school, they will be split into groups for the Amazing Race. It will all take place in the soccer field and will last from approximately 1:15 - 2:45. The kids will then have an ice cream sundae bar. Approximately 12 -14 parent volunteers will be needed to serve ice cream and for the Amazing Race. Parent volunteers will have to be at the school right after the ceremony to set up. <p>5.4 Summer Fun Day @ Dawe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amanda will communicate with Kristie Dunkle at the City of Red Deer to secure the Dawe swimming pool for Grades 3-5. Approximately 150 students.• Dorice suggested Monday, June 23 or Tuesday, June 24 in the afternoon.• Grades K, 1 & 2 will attend the Dawe Splash Park. Grade 1s on one day and Grade 2s on another day to include each Kindergarten class. All K-2 classes would love hot dogs and watermelon treats. If possible!• Chose this Dawe Park facility because it has access to washrooms and changing facilities.• Nutrition grant can pay for some of the food for this outing. If money is scarce or cannot be covered through the Grant, School Council can pay for some.• Will ask for parent volunteers to come to cook/help with food. <p>5.5 Gaga Ball Pit Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is ordered and will be delivered in the Spring.• A committee should be struck for the build.• Will reach out to Erika Svanes to see what we need moving forward for delivery of the pit. Dorice will reach out to Erika to arrange a meeting to talk about a letter to go out to families to get some assistance in the set-up of the Gaga Ball Pit.• Will need to ask RDCRS Maintenance to remove previous equipment. <p>5.6 Art Enhancement - Pound It Studios</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pound It Studios was at SMP Feb. 25 - Feb. 28 for a residency. It was a BIG HIT! Thank you so much to our School Council for supporting this amazing fine arts initiative! Even parents and staff performed in the Dance Off on the final day! ● Cost was \$1890 + GST ● Thank you again for this amazing student learning activity!
<p>6.0 New Business</p> <div data-bbox="45 533 407 896">  <p>Board of Trustees Engagement Session Topic: Budget Preparation</p> <p>In-Person Wednesday, April 16, 2025 St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School Library, 3821 39 Street 6:30 - 8:00 PM</p> </div>	<p>6.1 Climbing Wall in Gym</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our Climbing Wall was installed and the students are loving it! It was a huge surprise for the students! We started by posting mysterious posters around the school with words like "Can you rise to the challenge?", or "Get ready to go UP! <i>Something BIG is coming to our school... Something HIGH... Something that will challenge you to reach new heights! Keep your eyes open for more clues!</i>" <p><i>Our next step was to have each class participate in a Treasure Hunt: "Rise to the Challenge: A Secret Awaits!</i></p> <p>Then all students were invited to a school assembly with the BIG REVEAL of the Climbing Wall. Whoever found the first clue in the morning Treasure Hunt was also awarded a Golden Ticket and got to be among the FIRST to climb the wall! A live feed of the BIG REVEAL was shared on social media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We are wondering if the School Council would commit \$700 to pay for the final addition to the wall. ● One of the panels that were supposed to come was damaged. The company sent a new panel and new hand holds. ● Company is going to pay for correction of realignment of the holes for the line indicating how far kids can climb up the wall. ● To get another 3' blue mat and shipping is going to cost \$619.62. ● Tony motioned to accept this to allot this to cover the cost (\$619.62) of the additional mat and shipping. Jennica seconded the motion. Passed. <p>6.2 Addition of School Activity Fee or School Council Fee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Activity Fees: fee would cover field trips for all grade levels. (admissions, busing, any other costs) This would be a school fee, and it would be up to the school to decide how the funds are spent. School Council can still have input in the decision. ● School Council Fee: fee would likely be initiated in lieu of fundraising initiated by School Council (either partially, or totally eliminating School Council fundraising.) The School Council would determine how the funds are spent (along with the principal's approval). The funds could be used for field trips, but could also be used for school purchases, such as a special activity/craft for Mother's Day/Father's Day.

- We reviewed what schools do a School Activity Fee or a School Council Fee within RDCRS.
- Discussed pros and cons of these fees implemented at the beginning of the year.
- School Council has decided to table this and reassess next year and see how the fundraising goes. We will keep fundraising as status quo for next year.

6.3 Joint School Council Meeting with Trustees (Information Item)

- February 26th, 2025 6:00 - 7:30 @ Montfort Centre
- The Board of Trustees invites all staff, parents, and community members to participate in upcoming Stakeholder Engagement Sessions next month. These sessions will focus on gathering feedback to inform the 2025-2026 school division budget. Key themes for discussion, identified in November 2024, include mental health support, special needs resources, staffing concerns, transportation costs, and holistic student well-being. Sessions will be held **online on April 15th** and **in person at St. Thomas Aquinas Middle School on April 16th**, both from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM.
- Participants will be asked to consider the impact of recent provincial budget announcements and discuss how to prioritize resources for quality faith-based education and student needs. They will also explore innovative community-driven solutions to support student success amid potential resource constraints. The Board values this input to guide budgetary priorities and ensure the best possible learning environment for all students.
- Click [here](#) to register for either the Online Session on Tuesday, April 15 or the In-Person Session on Wednesday, April 16. Choose which session you are planning on attending at the checkout. If you will be attending the online session, an email with the Zoom link will be sent to you approximately 24 hours prior to the event.

6.4 Clothing for Kids

- Is it possible to create a Facebook Group/Page for parents to communicate with each other as a way for parents to share clothing items with other families or to give away things?
- A volunteer will go to Penhold School to see how they organize their giveaway list.
- Is there any other information to share regarding this parent initiative?
- [Tabled until further information is shared.](#)

6.5 Stage in the Gym (no action required at this time)

- We are a Fine Arts School but we don't have a stage
- We will table this idea and come back to it once we have proposed this idea to the Facilities Department for feedback and guidance.
- [Tabled until further notice.](#)

6.6 School Council Attendance

- [How could we get more involvement?](#)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would love to have more parents join us! We could encourage people to come if we offered food (pizza, donuts, cookies) and beverages (coffee, tea, juice). We do have a budget for some food/beverages for parents. • Build up a repertoire of people who could come to School Council meetings on a rotational basis (so it's not a huge time commitment for the same people all of the time). • During Parent Teacher Interviews/Art Exhibit (?)--have a School Council table with coffee/treats to introduce ourselves and what we are all about and how parents can get involved. • Morning Coffee--organize a morning where we serve coffee and we can chat with parents to tell them about School Council and ask for volunteers. • Add in a short info piece on our SMP website about School Council advertising. <p>6.7 Family Event Suggestion: Family Fun Night Picnic in the Playground/Family Movie Night</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:00-6:00: Families bring their own supper and have supper outside, kids play on the playground until it's time for a movie (if weather does not cooperate this part of the event may need to be canceled). • 6:00-7:30: Families can come to the gym for a Family Movie Night! We will have popcorn and families can bring chairs/blankets to watch a movie in the gym. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Movie: give families a choice of a few movies and we can vote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A Bug's Life ■ Wall-E ■ The Peanuts Movie ■ Luck • Proposed Date: May 1st, 2025 • Jennica will make a poster to advertise • LeeAnn will call around to see where popcorn is the cheapest. Tony volunteered to pick up popcorn.
7.0 Principal Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently hoping for more Kindergarten registrations as Kindergarten registrations are still low. • Also looking to organize more hot dog lunches for the entire school as well as cracker/cheese snack days (BIG HIT), and other nutritious, healthy snacks! • If you know parents who are not receiving text messages from the school, please ask them to contact the office as we want all parents to receive our messages and reminders. It is also the way we would communicate with families in the event of an emergency. • Last day to order school clothing is March 27.. Please note the clothing orders are a service to families as no profits will be gained through this initiative.
8.0 Trustee's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • n/a

9.0 Announcements/ Correspondence	9.1: Next meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday, May 12th, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.
10.0 Closing Reflection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Thank you to everyone who came out to join us.
11.0 Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Our meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.