

St Avila Home and School Association: January Meeting Minutes

Date: February 13, 2024

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Ecole St Avila

In Attendance:	
Administrators	Parents / Community Members
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mme. Jennifer Rothwell (Principal) 2. Mme. Lynn Marriott (Vice-Principal) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arifa Mark 2. Sara Krahn 3. Natalia Obraztsova 4. Kavitha Nadarahah-Gbeve 5. Natalia Ventocilla 6. Kristin Wiebe
SAHASA Executive (2023-2024)	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Caitlin Steinsvik (co-chair) 2. Sunayna Bhatt (co-chair) 3. Ashley Tolton (treasurer) - <i>regrets</i> 4. Alana Isaak (secretary) - <i>regrets</i> 5. Jennifer Verch (member-at-large) 6. Katie Dutfield-Wilms (member-at-large)-<i>regrets</i> 7. Lindsey Hiebert (member-at-large) 	

1. Welcome and Introductions (Caitlin)

2. Acceptance of agenda and minutes

Motion to accept Meeting Minutes & Agenda:

Second: Arifa Mark

Motion: Sunayna Bhatt

3. Administration Report (Jennifer) – See attached report

There were questions about how the Celebration of Learning went, as it was new to the school and there was discussion at the last meeting about it. Parents at the meeting said it was overall good, but teachers handled it differently, with varying success. Jennifer Rothwell said that there were the same number of children who would normally come to the tri-conferences, so attendance wasn't lower. Sunayna asked if the teachers had a debrief after it to share what worked.

Kavitha mentioned that she liked the Kindergarten to Grade 3 concert, but she said a lot of people were moving around and talking during the concert, which was distracting and made it hard for her to see the performance. Kavitha suggested that having the lights off might help with keeping things quieter. Other parents commented that some younger children were on devices that had the volume on, so perhaps admin could remind families to turn all device volumes off. The space was large, allowing people to move around. The Kindergarten children were dismissed to parents, which set the stage for more student movement. Everyone agreed it was a learning curve since this was the first time having the concert off-site, but that the venue and ample parking worked well. The family pictures were a very nice touch, parents said.

4. Committee Reports

a. **Financial Report** (Ashley) – see attached report

b. **Fun Lunch** (Jennifer V.)

Fun lunch orders are in for the Spring Session, and are roughly the same as the fall orders.

Milk (Jennifer V. for Katie)

The Mon/Wed/Fri package had a positive gain of 4 milk (5 white milk added and a loss of one chocolate) and Tues/Thurs a positive gain of 12 (4 white milk added and 8 chocolate added). Overall, that's a total of 16 new. There was some discussion about whether parents like having the Milk and Lunch ordering split in two. Some parents like to have it done and order for the year. However, splitting the ordering (while confusing to some parents who miss the second deadline) makes milk and lunches more affordable and accessible by spreading out the expenditures.

c. **Communication** (Sunayna for Kemi)

Our SAHASA Instagram account has 89 followers, which is good considering we have approximately 200 families at the school.

5. Other Initiatives

a. **Pancake Breakfast** (Kristin)

Kristin said everything is ready for pancake breakfast. Prices are coming in approximately the same as last year. A reminder to send reusable forks with children.

b. **Fundraising: Domino's and Pizza Hotline** (Kavitha)

SAHASA could sell a coupon card for \$10, which includes a free Pizza Hotline pizza. Pizza Hotline has increased their costs, so we would get \$4.75 per card sold. Domino's Pizza offers a fundraiser where families can order pizza during a particular week and SAHASA would get a kick-back from it. There was discussion about the fundraising options. It was agreed we would prefer to try the Domino's Pizza fundraiser if we can get a good week.

c. **Cookie Sale at April Concert**

SAHASA proposed selling cookies at the school concert in April. Jennifer Rothwell feels it would be nicer for families to come to the concert and not be pressured to buy anything.

d. **Family Fun Night / Family Picnic – Thursday, June 13 (Family Evening After School)**

The event idea is to bring your family, a blanket, have food trucks, music. SAHASA could sell freezies, which were popular at last year's summer evening event. It was asked if the staff could organize any activities. Katie is going to look into getting a dunk tank. Lindsey said she would call some food trucks to come; Lindsey will try to get the 7-11 Slurpee truck. Last year there were four food trucks and two dessert trucks. It was asked that everyone brainstorm about activities. Some ideas include music (e.g. Viscount band?), soccer ball in the field, football in the field. It was requested that some parents bring their own canopies to set up to provide shade (last year was very hot).

6. New Business

a. **Staff Appreciation (April/May)**

We don't have someone to head up Staff Appreciation. The idea was put out that it might be easier for parents and volunteers to help out if it's on every Friday in April instead of every day for a week in May (also a busier month). We decided to have the lunch for school staff on April 19, a PD day, so all the teachers and staff can participate. Sunayna, Lindsey (Sign-up), Caitlin, and Arifa

will work on it together. A parent asked if we can we engage students to participate; in the past, kids were encouraged to write a note for the teachers and staff. One idea was for kids to be provided with a template of a heart for them to fill in with words of appreciation and gratitude, and these could be posted on the bulletin board.

Roundtable

Feedback was shared about the Kindergarten Open House: one parent shared a story from another parent that she felt like our Open House felt more structured and less personal than other schools. The sound system in the gym is difficult to hear and understand, and there were children playing making it noisy for parents to hear. Other schools have activity sheets for the children. It's a big night to make a good impression. In the past, it was held in the library, which felt more cozy, and there would be a representative from SAHASA, a former St. Avila student, a tour of the school, etc. Jennifer Rothwell said she is getting quotes on a new sound system. It was noted that the night is supposed to be an information night for parents only (not children).

A parent asked if there is a send-off for Grade 6 kids. Admin replied that there is a farewell ceremony and SAHASA provides a keychain keepsake for the Grade 6 students. The parent said that at a past school, each teacher that had been related to the student gave a word that describes the student. All the words were put on a card around the name of the student. The parent said this was a special token for students to take going into their teen years. Students could also all sign their St. Avila T-shirts.

A parent commented that she appreciates how her child comes home talking about different celebrations around the world, and she offered to teach the kids about Ukrainian Easter. It was suggested that she may contact her children's teacher and set something up.

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM. Next meetings will be March 12.