

School Council Meeting Minutes

- **Guardian Angels** School Council
- **Date:** January 13, 2025
- **Time:** 6:58 PM – 8:25 PM
- **Location:** Guardian Angels School Library

Attendance

- **Attendees:** Shannon, Kelly, Kaitlin, Principal Julie Hanna, Julia, Bree, Brandy, Alex, Cynthia, Mina, Katie Benjamin, Colleen Chisholm-Bennett, Alexa, D.
- **Absentees:** Lisa (Parish Rep), Terry Tam (Treasurer).

Procedural Items

- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:58 PM.
- **Approval of Previous Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting moved by Shannon and seconded by Julia.

Meeting Content

1. Principal's Report (Julie Hanna)

- **Christmas Concert:** Appreciation expressed to parents for respecting the "2-per-family" rule and to the staff for their extra work on the performance.
- **Key Dates:** PD Day for report card writing is January 30; report cards will be available on the Parent Portal February 11.
- **School Census:** A large board-wide census is upcoming. Parents may opt out, but participation is encouraged to help with board decision-making. Links provided in newsletters.
- **Gifted Screening:** Recommendations for Grades 3–5 open February 23. Parents are encouraged to consult teachers before nominating.
- **Expansion & Calendar:** Construction remains on track for 6 new classrooms this September. The unofficial start date for the next school year is September 1 (before Labour Day).
- **Wishlist (Chromebooks):** Requested 10 new Chromebooks (~\$400 each) to replace aged units. Note that the school encourages "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD) for older grades, but replenishment is needed for the 800-student population.
- **Academic Performance:** Grade 6 Math EQAO scores increased; the school has been invited to share strategies with the Board. The school remains in the "green" on the Fraser Institute rankings.
- **Winter Activities:** The skating rink schedule is out; permission forms were sent today. Helmets are required, and a "Skate Exchange" was proposed for the next two weeks but may not be possible due to time constraints.

2. Teacher's Report (Colleen Chisholm-Bennett)

- **Liturgy:** The Grade 6 students successfully led the Epiphany liturgy.
- **Sports:** Badminton season is starting and will run through the end of February.
- **Staff Appreciation:** Thanks to the Council for the funds allocated for Christmas classroom activities/crafts.

3. Food Program Report (Kelly for Alicia)

- **Program Status:** Running smoothly. The registration window remains closed except for new students or specific extreme cases.
- **"Lunch Lady" Inquiry:** The Council discussed adding this program but decided against it due to negligible profit, high garbage volume, and the logistical burden of distribution.

4. Fundraising Report (Kaitlyn)

- **Movie Night:** Rescheduled for February 20 at 6:00 PM (replacing the December date).
- **Jo-Jo's Night:** Scheduled for January 23 (all-day event).
- **June Carnival:** Scheduled for Tuesday, June 9 (4:30 PM – 7:30 PM). A planning committee is now forming. Discussion held regarding food trucks vs. BBQ and ticket logistics.

5. Parents' Report (Bree and Brandy)

- **Communications:** Ongoing updates regarding OSTA bus notifications and the school locator tool.
- **Community Support:** Updates provided on the Angel Tree program and welcoming new families. Enrollment for Kindergarten currently sits at 50, with a target of 80–100.
- **Parade of Lights:** The event was a success; however, the cost of candy will need to be reviewed for next year.

6. CSPA/Board Update (Cynthia)

- **Conference:** Report on conflict resolution and board fundraising policies.
- **Grants:** PIF Grant application has been submitted; next virtual meeting is January 28.
- **Mental Health & Attendance:** Board data shows a drop in students attending >90% of the time since the pandemic. Strategy is collaborative rather than punitive.
- **Online Safety:** Proposed a presentation by Paul Davis for Grades 4–6 and parents regarding smartphone safety and cyber-security.

7. Treasurer's Report (Shannon for Terry Tam)

- **Balance:** Approximately \$19,201 in available funds.
- **Allocations:** ~\$42,000 is set aside for food program expenses; \$2,000 earmarked for Carnival start-up.

Key Decisions & Motions

- **Motion:** To approve \$1,300 for a Paul Davis online safety presentation.
 - **Result:** Approved (9 votes in favor).

- **Motion:** To approve approximately \$4,000 for the purchase of 10 new Chromebooks.
 - **Result:** Approved (9 votes in favor).
- **Motion:** To approve an additional \$2,000 for Chromebook replenishment (Total: \$6,000).
 - **Result:** Approved (9 votes in favor).
- **Decision:** The "Lunch Lady" program will not be pursued at this time.

Action Items

Action Item	Person Responsible	Deadline
Coordinate "Skate Exchange" and check teacher interest	Parent Reps	Late January
Pin "School Locator" link to Facebook Group	Alex	ASAP
Promote Board Census/Information sessions to parents	Alex / Parent Reps	Per Memo dates
Finalize date/contract for Paul Davis presentation	Cynthia	Next Meeting
Recruit Carnival Committee members	Kaitlyn	February Meeting

Closing

- **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.
- **Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 3, 2026.
- **Signatures:**

Secretary

Meeting Chair