

St. Nicholas Catholic School Council Meeting Minutes

Principal: A. Cacciola

Vice Principal: C. Spotswood

Parent Representatives:

Chair: Nancy Czigli

Secretary: Tammy Estriga

Effie Raso

Elizabeth Fung

Jacqueline Nadeau

Kelly Sam

Azu Mendoza

Eleanor Ramuscak

Non Teaching Staff Rep: R. Prevost

Teaching Staff: R. Maggio

Meeting Date	October 1, 2020 (6:30pm-8:00pm)
Next Meeting Date	November 4, 2020 (6:30pm – 8:00pm)
Regrets	C. Spotswood
Meeting Minutes	
Principal report – October 1, 2020	
Our goals for the children this year are:	
A. Keeping them healthy and safe	
B. Creating a sense of community	
C. Maintain their positive mental health – making them feel loved and laughing often	
D. Providing them a quality Catholic Education	
In the Area of Catholicity:	
· Teachers have introduced the grade level Focus on Faith goals	
· Students leading morning prayer during announcements – Virtual	
· Virtue program introduced to staff/students – October - Faith	
· Christ love in Action.... new program/connection to our Catholic Graduate Expectations - October	
· Thanksgiving Blessing – Fr. Ranjan – October 8th	
· Orange T-shirt Day September 30	

In the Area of Curriculum:

- Board reading and writing assessments have been completed by our teachers
- Students Gr. 1-8 received Student Planners – limited number available 100
- Staff led Curriculum Presentations – September 2 – Effective Teaching Practices/Blended Learning /Synchronous Learning/Cyber Security/New Math Curriculum
- Virtual Curriculum Night October 7th
- Staff have attended a variety of curriculum workshops for professional development
- Primary/Junior/Intermediate teachers are part of the Mathematics Monitoring Learning Project/Math Up

In the Area of Home/School Communication:

- September Newsletter & Calendar posted on school website
- St. Nicholas Twitter account is up
- Weekly community updates emailed to families – Posted to website
- Many teachers have sent home class newsletters or have made welcome phone calls to parents
- Website Online calendar updated daily
- Virtual Curriculum Night October 7th

In the Area of Community Building:

- Terry Fox Walk – What's your 40? – October 9th – zones/hubs
- School site improvements – parking lot painted over the summer
- Photo day – postponed
- Equity Walk/Student Staff Wellness/Anti-Black Racism/Bully Prevention – Staff Professional Development

In the Area of Safety:

- Return To School – Health & Safety St. Nicholas Team & School Base Team/committee
- COVID-19 Return To School Document – September 1, 2020
- Online Training - Safe School – Concussion Training – September 1, 2020
- Uline Dividers / Zones Painted
- Fire Drills October 6/7 AM/PM
- Mr. Putnins First Aid certified
- Daily site inspections completed by custodian, administration and health and safety representatives
- Code of Conduct was reviewed with the Primary, junior and Intermediate students on September 15/16

Events

- **Terry Fox Marathon** will be onsite Friday October 9th, Theme is “What is your 40” Students will walk the perimeter of the school and then in their zones/cohorts do 40 of an activity
- **Thanksgiving Prayer** will be the Thursday before Thanksgiving on the blacktop
- **Virtual Curriculum Night** is Wednesday October 7, 2020, teachers will email parents directly with 2 links, one for 6:30pm and one for 7:00pm, and the presentations will also be posted on D2L for those that cannot attend. The presentation will include pictures of the classroom as well as sanitization stations
- **Photo Day** – postponed

Misc.

- Lockers are out of bounds but might be reconsidered by the Board for winter to keep Coats and Boots
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Parent Questions

- Q: What is the lunchtime supervision, kids are running around while they should be in their seats
A: there is 1 teacher to 3-4 classes, staff are discussing what can be done to keep kids in their seats for the 30min lunch break
- Q: What is being done to discourage touching at recess
A: The staff regularly remind the students to keep social distancing and hands are sanitized prior to exiting the building at recess as well as prior to re-entering after recess
- Q: Is class D2L kept current
A: Teachers are to load everything onto D2L in case of class shutdowns, should be an active site. Can we used to keep up with assignments if child is home for a few days
- Q: Is the amount of homework provided in Grades 7 & 8 appropriate to get the kids ready for Grade 9
A: Teachers are following the HCDSB Homework Policy and only give if it is purposeful, it is recognized that this doesn't get kids ready for High School but also the homework level in High School will vary per stream. Additionally elementary school has the full year to finish the work while High School was 10 week semesters
- Q: Will I be able to change the learning of my child from in school to virtual if the numbers go crazy after the change cut-off date
A: Virtual Classes are capped as well so there might not be room to switch but each case would be looked at individually
October Deadline was Oct 1, the reorganization will be on October 13th with classes starting October 19th

Weekday Lunches

- Pizza Day is not a current option until there is a safe way
- Lunchbox and milk program – waiting to hear back from Board, Mr. Cacciola will ask at the next Administration meeting
- Looking at bringing back the Breakfast Program as a pre-packaged Grab & Go
- HFFT Snack bins should be back in classrooms in October with pre-packaged healthy snacks

School Generated Funds

- \$10K was used to buy new Chrome Books, this are currently backlogged and not yet received\
- Didn't have to spend school funds for the Learning Commons or Gym
 - Received curtains for the stage
 - School Board helped offset new shelving as we weren't a new school but a consolidation so started with more books
 - Initial renovation funds were used for the Gum Padding (\$15K) and Scoreboard (\$5K)

Halloween

- Dance-a-thon isn't feasible and be able to maintain social distancing, no parents are allowed in the school
- We still have school generated funds from last year so this isn't needed as a fundraiser
- Prizes are not feasible, online gift cards not as exciting for kids
- Whatever forms are needed would need to be all virtual
- Will reconvene after Thanksgiving, Oct 17th

Options:

- Still want to see the kids in their costumes
- Will check what other schools are doing
- Spread it over the week leading up to Halloween, with a different theme each day wear Orange/Black, silly hair day, costume day etc.
- Activities for students in their cohorts
- Could have a dance in cohorts on the blacktop, Mr. Cacciola could DJ

School Blessing

- Original Date was October 8th, moved to Catholic Education Week in the Spring
- The Dedication Plaque will be at Door 1