



Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School
School Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 18, 2020
Virtual on MS Teams 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

ATTENDEES:

STAFF:

Principal – John Susi

Vice Principal – Darren Cochrane

Teaching Staff Representatives – Lisa Messom

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Co-Chairpersons – JoAnn Toomath and Adele Bagnoli

Parish Representatives – Stephanie Sage and Maryam Farahani

OAPCE Representative – Adele Bagnoli

School Council Members - PRESENT:

Adele Bagnoli	Valerie Foster	Melanie Gaddi	Victoria Gagne
Heather Gaudet	Krista Hinsperger	Jelena McFadyen	Julie McLaren
Jess Mitchell	Rachel Petch	Ivonne Pineda	Raffaela Profiti
Stephanie Sage	Nancy Taddeo	JoAnn Toomath	Laura Van Dyk
Vanessa Van Moorsel			

School Council Members - REGRETS:

Aileen Baretto

Jennifer Doyle

Maryam Farahani

Kyra Mancini

Rose Molfetta

1. Meeting Commencement at 6:30pm.
2. Opening Prayer – Stephanie Sage

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Approved by Stephanie Sage, seconded by Nancy Taddeo.

4. Principal and Vice Principal's Report – John Susi and Darren Cochrane

a. Virtual School Based Liturgies

- i. Continued with praying the Rosary every Wednesday: School community prayed one decade each time. Just finished the 5th week.
- ii. Remembrance Day Liturgy led by Grade 7/8 French Immersion students; Virtual via MS Teams, then recorded and shared link with parents.
- iii. Next one is Advent Liturgy to be held on the Wednesday, Dec 16 at 1:30 led by Mrs. Messom and Mrs. Wolfendale's classes.
- iv. Candle Lighting liturgy to be held every Monday during Advent on Teams for school-wide. Listening to weekly recorded video message and prayer from Father Ed.

b. School Peace Garden

- i. SHOJ received a substantial donation from Mrs. Lorraine Matthew and family (\$3,500). They had 5 children attend SHOJ over the last 18 years, with their youngest graduating in June 2020. The Matthew family wanted the money to be spent on something many children can enjoy. The school decided to create a second Peace Garden on the West side of field. Nine armour stones were placed in the garden and 2 large sugar maple trees will be planted in the next 2 weeks. Children can enjoy the area during recess time. Teachers also use it as an outdoor learning space. A plaque will be prepared to recognize and thank the family. The budget is short of \$750 so it is proposed that we get the shortfall from our Halloween Dance-a-thon funds. All council members approved to cover the shortfall.

c. Fundraising Budget Update for 2020-2021: Halloween Dance-a-thon

- i. The Dance-a-thon was a huge success and we raised \$17,217.
- ii. Next week we will have a virtual pep rally for the students. There will be a slide show, school Kahoot and announcement of prizes. Teachers were asked to take a picture of the class to show school spirit to be included in the slideshow.
- iii. Thanks to Jelena, Heather and Krista for counting the money and to parent volunteers for decorating outside on Halloween.
- iv. About \$10000 spent, from carry over from last year on Smart Projectors for the four portables, outdoor recess play equipment

d. School Generated Funds Update

- i. SGF needs to be posted 3 times a year on our school website. SGF is money raised in the school by fundraising, also including money from trips, etc.
- ii. John shared the SGF budget

- iii. Administration – including extra income from photographer, GST/HST rebates, etc.
 - iv. Fundraising – Terry Fox fundraising
 - v. School Fundraising – before Halloween dance-a-thon funds
 - vi. Special Events – NA
 - vii. This includes School Council budget and other funds collected at school
- e. School Cash Online Usage: Goal is 100% Participation
 - i. Board pushing for all families to participate in School Cash Online (100% participation). SHOJ is at 90% of all families.
- f. School Equity Action Plan
 - i. Board Equity team and diversity team: Each school is working on an action plan that fits the site. For SHOJ, area of focus is intentionally increasing diversity in our classroom literature: increasing exposure to names, places and experiences in our literature. Increase minority profiles on materials shared to students.
 - ii. What our school is doing to meet equity team goals: Teachers are noting any lack of diversity in their curriculum resources (places, names and experiences) and identify areas that are lacking in order to supplement. This is an ongoing priority as each teaching unit comes and goes.
 - iii. School Library Updates – Virtual Book Fair continues until Nov. 30
 - iv. This coming PA Day, Ms. Pope is doing an equity walk for library resources (books in library including teacher materials), using equity lens. She will work towards purchasing some materials to address equity issues.
 - v. Victoria G shared that she saw limited materials in the virtual book fair with equity priorities. She already raised this point with Ms. Wolfendale. Darren will mention to Miss Pope.
 - vi. Book Fair Profits – We make 40% of each book purchase as a credit towards Scholastic. Last year, we had close to ~\$9K in total sales, which means ~\$4500 goes back to the library and classrooms in the books.
 - vii. Family Night for the virtual Book Fair is tonight (Nov 18) and next Wednesday (Nov 25), from 6-8pm. Anything ordered is free shipping. Orders get delivered before Christmas. Links are in our website.
- g. Covid Return to School Procedures – Updates and Changes
 - i. Library Reading: Ms. Pope is reading with all classes. She is meeting and reading with classes virtually or meeting with classes outside in peace garden or outdoor classroom.
 - ii. Library Book Exchanges: Weekly, Ms. Pope brings a selection of books to each classroom. Students need to keep books in the classroom. Students can still put a hold on library books by going to the “Search Our School Library” section of the school website.

- iii. Stephanie S. asked John to check how many of the books in Virtual Book Fair are in French. There is a selection of French books; John will look into that with Ms. Pope.
 - iv. No change in status of no food programs and no school photographer this year as per HCDSB and PHD.
 - v. Use of Lockers: The schools are now allowed to use the lockers. Lockers are now unlocked and can be used by students starting next week, only for outwear (coats, snow pants and boots). Lockers will be numbered. Teachers to send kids out in groups to keep them socially distanced. Kids cannot crisscross other classes in the hallways. This is a big new routine that will initially be a challenge to execute, especially with younger grades.
- h. Student Play zones during Outdoor "Pavement Only" Recess
 - i. School is looking for ways to continue to get students outside as much as possible. There are 12 zones for regular play. When it is too muddy or icy to go on the field, we have a "Pavement Only" recess.
 - ii. We made 12 smaller areas on our pavement. For this, we needed to use the side East parking lot. There will be 4 areas in the parking lot and 8 areas in the asphalt. They will be smaller zones so no balls will be allowed. Students won't be able to play very active games but they can still go outside to get some fresh air. Ms. Ivancak's Grade 6 class helps bring out the pylons to mark the zones. All pylons will be removed by 3:10pm, in time for dismissal.
- i. Report Card distribution
 - i. Report cards will be sent electronically to parents on November 24th.
 - ii. Parent Teacher interviews will be held on November 26th via Microsoft Teams.
 - iii. Rafaela P. asked if parents could phone in to the Microsoft Teams meeting, instead of joining the meeting via the internet. Darren advised that this feature might not be available board-wide for all teachers.
 - iv. More explanation regarding the Microsoft Teams procedures will come out on Monday for the interviews.
 - v. JoAnn T. asked about French Immersion tagging on report cards. John advised that French Immersion box is ticked under French Language subject. Teachers also sign off on French accumulated hours, indicated in the Ontario Student Record.
- j. Christmas Hampers:
 - i. SHOJ has been supporting families with Catholic Children's Aid Society for the past many years.
 - ii. We usually support 50 families with each class getting two families that they sponsor.
 - iii. This year, only gift cards are recommended due to the pandemic.

- iv. With Gift cards, parents will be empowered to go out to the stores and purchase what their children like.
- v. Rather than having families send in GCs from different stores, John suggested that it may be easier and more COVID-friendly, if parents donate to school cash online. Parents can donate specifically for this purpose. School will collate the funds and purchase the gift cards for the families. John to speak to the Children's Aid Society rep to make sure funds are divided equitably between smaller and larger families.
- vi. They are also asking for cleaning supplies and laundry detergent. Boxes will be set up in classrooms for cleaning supplies to be donated by SHOJ families. Rafaela P. suggested variety. Children's Aid will collect all items donated and spread out appropriately, so each family gets a variety.
- vii. Adele B. mentioned we can purchase the GCs through Fundscrip, so that the school also earns a little extra, or at least offset the School Cash online fees (about 3%). We can recover the fees through the profits from FundScript.
- k. Upcoming events
 - i. Pep Rally for Halloween Dance-a-thon results
 - ii. Virtual Parent Teacher Interviews
 - iii. Upcoming virtual liturgies

5. School Council Co-Chair's Report – Adele Bagnoli and JoAnn Toomath

- a. Update HCCEF Evening with Bishop Crosby Nov. 4, 2020: Parish Rep to provide update next time.
- b. CPIC Elections: We didn't get a good turnout for the CPIC election (only 4 responses). There are 2 new CPIC members-at-large and 1 new Burlington representative elected.
- c. Upcoming Council of Chairs Meeting on Nov. 25
 - i. Adele and JoAnn are attending. Others are welcome to attend as well. OAPCE inducted ceremony on same day.
- d. OAPCE Update: Presentation sent to Darren and John. OAPCE sent out a parent survey regarding back to school. Adele B. will send the survey to council members via email.
- e. OAPCE Annual General Meeting is on Saturday. Adele B will send the link to the council members. Keynote speaker is Dr. Anne Jamieson, ICE Executive Director, whose topic is Nurturing Hope. A second speaker, Miguel Martinez will speak about Parenting through the New Normal. Darren to send the OAPCE AGM event invite to SHOJ parent community via email tomorrow (Nov 19).
- f. Gr. 9 French Immersion at Notre Dame Update
 - i. High School FI curriculum is finalized.
 - ii. Notre Dame is the selected site.
 - iii. Board has the new FI curriculum, posted in the board website.

- iv. Mary (Co-Chair of School Council of ST. Mary's) is looking to see if parents would like to gather to help push for additional spots in the Secondary school program.
- v. FI certificate not issued at Grade 8, only at Grade 12.
- vi. John confirmed that next school year, Grade 1 FI will be capped at 46 again, via lottery system.
- vii. French Immersion at Secondary level is new for our board. Next year will be the first time our first cohort from the Early Immersion program will be in Grade 9. The Grade 8 FI students do not need to re-apply; just need to let the school know of their high school of choice. There will be 10 credits in French (4 language, 1 history, 1 geography, 1 Careers/civics, 3 religion) required to complete French Immersion at Grade 12. If FI Grade 8 students do not choose FI for secondary, they go to their home school. Grade 8 teachers have been working with students with option sheets, my Blueprint, virtual meetings with Notre Dame high school as well as Corpus Christi

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Healthy Snack Program: Halton Food for Thought – Darren Cochrane
 - i. Program is still on pause.
 - ii. Instead, HFFT has been dropping off food boxes at school. Each classroom gets a box of pre-packaged nut-free snacks.
 - iii. We got our second delivery this week which will last us until end of the year.
 - iv. Students can have access to snacks whenever they want; they just need to ask the teachers. Only teachers are handling the snacks.
 - v. Snacks are cereal bars, applesauce. Good feedback from teachers and students.
- b. Halloween Dance-a-thon - Heather Gaudet and Jelena McFadyen
 - i. We raised \$17,217.
 - ii. Next week we will have a virtual pep rally for the kids
 - iii. John thanked Jelena and Heather for collecting the money, attributing the dollars to the right classroom, and also decorating and cleaning up the pavement area for the dance-a-thon.
- c. Uniform Exchange Committee - Vanessa Van Moorsel
 - i. Vanessa reports that 87 different families have requested uniform pieces. We distributed a lot of our uniform inventory (down to few boxes of items). We went through a lot of the smaller sizes. People are asking about a uniform exchange in June. This is pending and TBD
 - ii. John thanked Vanessa and her parent volunteers. Despite challenges, it was very organized and ran really well.
 - iii. Board announced that the uniform provider changes back to RJ McCarthy starting end of January.

7. School Council Discussion and Feedback – John Susi

- a. Virtual Curriculum Night – Oct. 29th
 - i. John is looking for feedback from parents.
 - ii. Jess M: Well done. It was nice. In Ms. Wolfendale's class, Mrs. Hamel also came in to say hello. It was different but nice; still felt like we got the important details.
 - iii. Valerie: Nice to hear from teachers and get an idea of what the classroom looked like.
 - iv. Melanie: It was really productive for the teachers to share their presentation in advance and parents were able to send in questions in advance as well. Lot of ground was covered during the short period of time because of the way it was set up.
 - v. Lisa Messom: A little nerve wracking because of the technical aspect but went well. Parents had an opportunity to ask questions. It was nice to see everyone without a mask on. Very useful night for parents. No major technical glitches.
 - vi. Vanessa says it worked great. Some teachers gave a virtual classroom tour.
- b. Parent-Teacher Interviews on Nov. 26-27 – Sign up and Virtual Meeting
 - i. Discussed above.

8. New Business – JoAnn Toomath

- a. School Fundraising sub-committee met on Oct 22nd. JoAnn, Melanie, Adele, Ivonne, Julie, Stephanie, Jen Doyle met. Three main fundraising ideas: Gift Cards, purchasing items, fun online school initiatives. We don't want to add additional strain to families in light of pandemic times.
 - i. Fundscrip – Adele B: Administrator's Dashboard shows full scope of fundraising efforts. Families can order GCs to be shipped to their homes for \$0.95 plus tax. No additional cost to the gift cards except for the shipping. Key details: 4 card limit per order; \$500 maximum per order; Can order multiple times; E-gift and reloadable card options; No additional costs for the school; Very seamless and school-friendly. The percentage school gets is dependent on the store, between 3-11%. Money comes back to us at the end of the program. This can be ongoing but better to start for Christmas. Right now, they have free shipping for Nov items to arrive before Christmas. We need to get a date on when orders need to be in, in order to get the GCs before Christmas. Paper version is very easy to handle according to Valerie. Once we collect Christmas hamper funds, we can purchase the gift cards through Fundscrip to get some money back (also to recover the School Cash Online fees). Darren can work with Adele on the messaging for Fundscrip.
 - ii. Jen Doyle: Looked into Cannon Nurseries but they are not doing the donations this year.

- iii. FlipGive - Stephanie: It's a layer that allows you to shop online, similar to Ebates or Rakuten. Negative points: Your information is kept by Flipgive; App crashes often; No cashback rewards; Certain purchases are NOT eligible. You can only use the coupons that are advertised with FlipGive. There could be some perks that you cannot access because you are using FlipGive. John says we need to limit fundraisers. Need to choose between FlipGive and Fundscrip.
- iv. Reusable Bags - Julie: We need to purchase from a company that does screen printing and need to purchase ahead of time. We can do this in the new year due to the new proposed legislation discontinuing the use of plastic bags by the end of 2021. Right now at Sobeys, they do not offer plastic shopping bags anymore. They only offer paper brown bags or purchase their fabric bags. John suggests we review this next year or next school year as it is a great eco initiative.
- v. Votes for Fundscrip: Stephanie, Julie, Melanie, Valerie, Ivonne, JoAnn, Adele, Krista, Rachel, Laura, Vanessa.
- vi. John/Darren will add Fundscrip by this Sunday and also a separate email for early next week. Reminders will be sent afterwards.

9. Parish Update – Stephanie

- a. According to Arden, there will be no extra church-school activities. Parish is busy preparing prayers for our school and online masses for Lent.
- b. JoAnn - CWL Bazaar has gone virtual this year. There are 75 items donated for the silent auction. She asked if we can add this to the newsletter.

10. Next Meeting – February 10, 2021 at 6:30 on Teams

11. Closing Prayer – Stephanie Sage

12. Adjournment at 8:42pm