



Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School
School Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 24, 2021
Virtual on MS Teams ~ 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Teaching Staff Representatives – Lisa Messom, Christine Gaudet and Roger Nurse

Principal – John Susi

Vice Principal – Paula Durand

Parent Representatives:

Melissa Bickford	Valerie Foster	Melanie Gaddi	Victoria Gagne
Heather Gaudet	Lena Ding	Ivonne Pineda	Raffaela Profiti
Stephanie Sage	Nancy Taddeo	JoAnn Toomath	Laura Van Dyk
Vanessa Van Moorsel	Adele Bagnoli	Christina Tsui	

REGRETS:

Andrea Boudreau

Krista Hinsperger

Jelena McFadyen

Jess Mitchell

Roxalia Munoz

Maryam Farahani

Juwon Ogunmwonyi

Julie McLaren

Rachel Petch

Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer – Melanie G.

2. Acknowledging the Land - John S.

3. Update from our School Council Chair & Approval of Past Minutes – John S. and Adele B.

- One resignation received from Marcus Cassolato
- Laura VD withdraws as Co-chair since HCDSB employees are not eligible to act as Council Chair.
- Chairperson Requirements: must be Catholic, must be a parent, NOT an employee of HCDSB.
- JoAnn T put her name forward to be Co-Chair.

- JoAnn T as Co-Chair - Approved by Melanie G and seconded by Stephanie S., approved by council

Minutes of the previous meeting approved by Valerie and seconded by JoAnn.

4. Parish Update – Melanie G, Laura V.D. and JoAnn T.

- Grade 8s who missed their Confirmation last year had their Sacrament of Confirmation in the past weeks.
- Current Grade 7s will have their Confirmation in May 2022. Zoom parent meeting held last November 18.
- Masses are still at regular times; 9AM Mass is still being broadcasted live via Facebook and recorded in the Youtube channel of the parish.
- Advent season starts this coming weekend.
- COVID protocols are still being observed at church. Distancing measures still in place. Church operating at more or less 50% capacity.
- Looking for more volunteers for greeters and ushers for mass.
- Angel Tree Program by St. Vincent de Paul is ongoing - 5 families to be supported by SHOJ - gift cards for groceries and Walmart - for Christmas
- Live connections: Fr. Gregory is coming in to visit the classes for sacramental preparation. We are able to welcome visitors now with vaccinations being required of all visitors.
- Fr. Gregory is visiting Grade 2 classes tomorrow. Created a video that was forwarded to primary and junior students regarding Advent (theme)
- Father John also submitted another Advent video for the virtual liturgy on Monday (to be led by Grade 3 classes).
- CWL is hosting their Christmas social on Dec 6th at 6pm. Great opportunity to serve the community on a larger scale, and meet other Catholic women.

5. Principal and Vice Principal's Report

- a. Team Sports, Intramurals, Clubs -
 - Yesterday, Spirit and Jersey day. Great participation. Virtual pep rally. Interactive games school-wide, slideshow, announcement of prizes, videos of students showing their pride then WIFI was cut off. Part 2 today. Announcing all the Dance-a-thon prizes: individual prizes, class prizes. Live walking around so students can see which classroom got prizes. Kids were so excited. Mr. Nurse led a Kahoot. 150 slides in the slideshows for school events. We are able to do a lot despite the restrictions. Sense of community and fun.
 - Intramurals: Volleyball for Grades 7 and 8. Teams were 1 class against the other to maintain cohorting. 10-15 kids per class.

Intramurals: Dodgeball for Grade 5 and 6 starting this week. Mrs. Lopez and other junior teachers are leading.

- Mr. Nurse and Mme. Denvir are leading intra-school volleyball.
- Grade 5 Boys club and Grade 5 Girls club
- Grade 7/8 Indigenous painting club (Moses Landham). November is Indigenous Awareness Month. 3 lunch hours this week. Students follow a pre-recorded video and paint with Indigenous theme. Students have been enjoying it. Another way to build on their skills.
- Dance-a-thon Fundraising Totals: most ever raised \$19,105.00 (~\$14K during John's first year at SHOJ)
- Top 3 class winners: Mrs. Humphries, Mrs. Bender and Mlle. Nobre-Peres

b. Christmas Hampers – supporting the CAS

- Supporting Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton monetarily: gift cards, same as last year
- Will offer it to families via online donations
- All the money raised will go towards CAS Christmas hampers
- Giftcards empower parents to have them on hand that they can go to the store with, to buy what their children specifically need; to buy the right kind, size, etc
- Approved by Melissa, seconded by Victoria.
- Will check if they need cleaning supplies again like last year.

Rafaela: donation of winter clothes, boots, blankets this year? St. Vincent de Paul Society might be a good one to check.

c. Fundraising Revised Budget Estimates and Overview for 2021-2022

REVENUES:

- Pizza Day estimate \$13K (John)
Today, we gave a last chance for parents to order. Got 55 more orders today. Wanted to make sure everyone who wanted it got a chance to order.
- Pizza: 29 weeks - JoAnn's estimate ~\$15K - will be higher with the additional 55 more orders.
- \$98/pizza slice for the whole year. We also support some families and pay for their pizza lunch.
- \$1800 from Milk
- \$38,761 total revenue

EXPENSES:

- Sacramental Gifts: \$4/necklace as sacramental gifts for First Communion and Confirmation students. We didn't purchase any last year due to the cancellation of the

sacraments. If we do it this year, we need to do it for all the past students we didn't give it to. Council members are asked if they would like to proceed with this. Approved by Victoria G, seconded by Melanie G, Laura V.D. and JoAnn T. Other council members also support. JoAnn: change to prayer booklets? Prayers have changed since and maybe it's a good idea to change back to prayer books.

- Healthy Snack: Costs \$3K from our SGF. HFFT grant for Healthy Snack - \$4250. Grocery Foundation grant - \$2125. Need to replenish the bins every week or every other week? We are still figuring out the right quantities and frequency of ordering.
- Donation to HCCF. \$1K in the past. Allocated to needy families. Our students benefit from this, and we receive back any donation we give in the form of support to our students. Increase HCCF donation to \$1000.
- Ipad: Budgeted \$13K, to purchase 10 ipads and 10 laptops. Good news from the board. Last year, board purchased hundreds of computers. SHOJ loaned out 120 computers last year. Got an additional 34 computers from the board. We are told that we can keep those 34 computers. We can now distribute them to the classrooms. So, we will not purchase laptops anymore and instead invest in 20 ipads. Much more used in primary classrooms. Some of our iPads are 5-7 years old and cannot download new apps. Will be a big help to our primary students.
- Staff Appreciation Day: \$600 budgeted in previous years. Committee in charge asked for \$900. JoAnn suggested an increase to \$900 (originally budgeted for this year) as we have the funds for it and there are more staff/teachers now than before. Question from Stephanie: Does this (goods or services for employees) comply with regulations for SGF? John says yes, because it is approved by the parent council.
- Total Exp 37,400. All expenses are within budget to do all activities. Pizza Day profits will be higher.

FULL BUDGET

- Budget is moved by Victoria, seconded by Melissa – Unanimously approved

d. Upcoming Events

- Parent teacher interviews - November 25 and 26
- PA Day on Friday, November 26
- Advent Liturgy on Monday - Led by Mrs. Messom and Mrs. Humphries classes.
- Uniform Exchange on Nov 30 and Dec 1st
- Celebrate Advent Week 2 and Week 3 with some special prayers
- Spirit Day and Advent Liturgy on Dec 10
- Christmas sweater and PJ Days
- Virtual Christmas assembly for all classes
- If there are individual class Christmas presentations, they will be led and communicated by teachers.

6. School Council Co-Chair's Report – Adele Bagnoli

a. Update HCCF Evening with Bishop Crosby Nov. 17th - Melanie G

- Held virtually last November 17, a wonderful time to connect with other parents, and many other Catholic educators.
- HCCF leadership really tried to make the virtual event as lively and exciting as possible.
- HCCF stands for Halton Children's Catholic Foundation.
- HCCF supports students and families throughout Halton by raising funds.
- Funds are used to help HCDSB students overcome financial barriers to learning, which helps our students succeed in school.
- Still about 3900 students (% of kids in low-income households) who need help with: basic necessities, such as food and clothing, school supplies, shoes, eyeglasses, personal hygiene items, and learning technology and school activities with a fee, such as school trips, team fees, and other learning materials
- This year's event: silent auction, door prizes, very creative virtual rooms where you can meet with others socially before and after the main event, entertainment from several students, as well as a pretty awesome magician.
- Good to hear stories about families helped by the HCCF as well as an inspirational message from Bishop Crosby

b. Council of Chairs Meeting on Nov. 3rd - Stephanie S

- Stephanie S attended the Council of Chairs meeting on behalf of Adele B.
- Virtual meeting on Nov 3rd.
- Committee presentations from HCCF, SEAC, OAPCE
- Breakout rooms per committee to talk about SGF: what we have done, what works, how the money is being used. Ideas that are within restrictions for now
- Good representation from parents and school staff
- SEAC: Committee that works with other organizations. Meets every last Monday of each month. Like a council of parents. Addresses topics regarding students with special needs. Create awareness with other parents
- SEAC provides advice and feedback to the board. SEAC information available on the board website. Paula will add a link to the SEAC website in our next weekly newsletter.

c. PRO Grant (Parents Reaching Out)

- \$500 available as a grant every year. Need to apply for it.
- Getting a guest speaker to speak to parents and students?

- Dec 1st deadline to apply for the grant.
- Melanie G suggested we get a speaker to speak at our council meeting, similar to experience with STA council meeting.
- Valerie suggested Scott Graham.
- Suggestions for the grant -submit to Adele and Melanie by Friday.

7. Committee Reports and Updates:

a. Halloween Dance-a-thon: Heather G. and Jelena M.

- Great turnout
- Happy with the amount we collected \$19,105
- Kids were happy with the dancing
- Only 2-3 classes at a time; pylons to divide classes
- Great music and light show from the DJ
- 2 days of counting money. Thanks to all parent volunteers.
- Big success

b. Pizza Days – Laura VD. and JoAnn T.

- Laura: Pizza lunch started last Monday. A little rough start as it takes a few weeks to work out the kinks with a new provider. Provided all of our feedback to Gino's for a smoother transaction next Monday. Need to work with Gino's so that next week the pizza will be warm.
- JoAnn: need volunteers on Mondays, lots of walking and moving involved. Adele and Melissa (waiting for police check) are happy to help.
- Pricing: Old pricing - \$1.75 small to medium slice. New pricing: \$3.50 large slice + individual packaging. We had allowed changes to slice numbers in this last round of changes.
- Kids liked having pizza day. Lots of excitement from the kids.

c. Milk Program – Heather G.

- Milk is delivered to the classroom door now. 2 different times due to 2 lunch periods.
- 57 students. In the past, it has been more than 150. Not sure why the drop? Some kids possibly forgot about the milk because we didn't offer it last year.
- Milk is every day. JK/SK are usually the biggest classrooms but not this year. Maybe because the kindergartener parents are not aware of the milk program.
- No lactose free milk options.
- Lisa M: Maybe some more kids will be interested if it is offered again?

- Heather G: all about the chocolate milk, not sure if we can get more interest.
 - John S: observe some more for now.
- d. Healthy Snack Program: Halton Food for Thought – Paula D and Krista H.
- Victoria: Krista couldn't attend. Teachers and students were happy about it. New vendor. Snacks last longer. Good team of volunteers. Snacks intended for kids who need a snack (forgot a snack or short of snacks).
 - Paula: Will review and adjust quantities as needed.
- e. Uniform Exchange Committee: Vanessa Van Moorsel
- November 30: uniform drop-off of gently used pieces for donation
 - Parent volunteers will take down the child's name and give them a form to take home with number of pieces they can exchange.
 - December 1: 4 to 5pm - parents can exchange
- December 1: 5pm - open to all parents for purchase
- Parents can hold on to their paper with # of pieces and use it in June instead of using it this exchange.
 - Accepting (non-McCarthys and non-ISW) Navy bottoms? Vanessa's suggestion: Leave it as is for now, and just change to accept all uniform pants in the exchange in June.
 - Clothing coming in should be good to be reused. No holes, tears.
 - Rafaela: 4-6pm timing of exchange is the best timing? Thinking parents who would benefit most from a uniform exchange cannot come at this time, maybe later.
- John S and Vanessa V: We have done it later in the past and no one came past 6pm. 4-6pm is the same timing as the YMCA program. Need to be mindful if parent volunteers can come at the times set too.
- Vanessa will check the lost and found box, bring home and wash any uniform items, ready for the exchange the next day.
- f. Lunch Box Program – John S.
- John: Does the council want to continue? All done online: ordering and payment. Rotation of 4 different restaurants: Boston, Pita Pit, Subway, Harveys. Items come bagged and labelled per class.
 - Need a parent volunteer to lead it: Maryam? Need someone who will be present on those days.
 - Adele can do twice a week. But we need 3 volunteers every week.
 - Adele will connect with Maryam to see if we can do this.
 - Paula to forward list of volunteers to Adele and Maryam.

8. School Council Discussion and Feedback:

- a. Parent-Teacher Interviews on Nov. 25-26 – Sign up and Virtual Meetings
 - Online reservation is still very efficient. Parents are happy with the system.
 - b. Weekly Updates
 - Very helpful. Please keep them coming.
 - c. Valerie: No class photo?
 - Feedback from parents: disappointing not to have class photos.
 - John S: Still not permitted per COVID protocol.
 - We can do class composites that will go with the individual photos. Mrs. Lopez did a composite last year and it was really nice.
9. **Next Meeting** – January 26, 2022, Wednesday – possible Hybrid of in-person and virtual
10. **Closing Prayer by JoAnn T.**
11. **Adjournment at 8:32PM**