**St. Bernadette Catholic School Council**

**Monday, April 1, 2019**

**6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**

**St. Bernadette School Library**

**Present:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jennifer Monte | Bruna Mancuso | Christine Phillips | Francesca DiPaolo |
| James McAskill | Julie Riesberry | Holly DeRoia | Chantal Kelly-Neves |
| Marco Pizzolo | Kim Sibley | Eleanor Riva | Melissa Monachino |
| Amanda Bitondo | Diane DeAranjo |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Regrets:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dorota Roberts | Glenna Stephenson | | Diana Palalas | | Chantal Phillipps | | | Kathy Ventresca | |
| Joseph Timothy | Diane Tassone | | Susan Bernardo | | |  | |  | |
|  | |  | |  | | |  | |

1. **Welcome and Prayer** 
   1. Mrs. Riesberry welcomed the parents
   2. Prayer led by Mrs. Monachino
2. **Approval of Agenda -** Jennifer asked for approval.
   1. Approved by James McAskill
3. **Presentation: Student Well Being**
   1. The Student ambassadors were present to show the council what they do in their Meditation Club and on the Wednesday school wide meditation after lunch.
   2. The students did a wonderful job of leading the council through a guided meditation
   3. Each Wednesday is meditation day; after lunch students lead over the announcements.
   4. Meditation provides many health benefits
   5. The meditation club meets in the library for grade 1-4
   6. The mantra is used to help continue focus in medication
4. **Approval of February Meeting Minutes**
   1. Thank you to Christine for taking the minutes for the February Meeting. Minutes approved by Jennifer
5. **Council Updates**
   1. **Chair**
      1. Jennifer spoke of attending workshops about “developmental assets” and how this is instrumental to child’s development
      2. Review newspaper article “No interest in improving education” so move to action item: to be discussed as last item on agenda.
      3. Updates: Council of Chairs meeting cancelled due to weather and not rescheduled. Next Council of Chairs meeting scheduled for May.
   2. **Finance – update on expenditures**
      1. Julie led the discussion; Diana sent email about finances.
      2. Visa reconciles a month later, secretaries reconcile early.
      3. January – spent $5000 (approx.) – itemized list; February – large purchase for Dell computers; March – Pancake Tuesday, dance squad, RAD prizes, repair adapters, speakers and connectors, purchase of cords
      4. Items are lined up in categories for financial reporting – team banners, academic (battle of the books and chess team); and also fortunately strong athletic school 28 banners for the gym to go up next week. Students are excited - cost $2000. This is very meaningful for the students. – large expense
      5. $10,000 left to spend
      6. Dance trophy case is full!
      7. Thank you to the new secretary (Jessica) who did all the work to ensure the financials are organized
   3. **Marketing & Communication – Family Directory**
      1. Family Directory is up to date and needs to be proofed – need to decide the quantity to make copy. Look to having approval at the beginning of the year in order to have permission to put in for email.
      2. Looking to be ready by early to mid-April to go to families
   4. **Education & Well Being – PRO Grant coding event**
      1. STEAM Night – not as pleased with the parent turn out. Learning – parents may want to watch and observe as opposed to engage with the children. Social events have greater attendance ie. movie night abundance of parents
      2. Coding event – to educate staff, students and parents – tech show being offered by board personnel
      3. Week after Education week – May 15 – coding items and updating, classes grade 5 to 8 will spend time to go through the circuit. May 16 – teacher learning May 17 - parent lunch and learn
      4. Itinerant teachers planning the day
      5. Extend out coding – coding club from that event
      6. Grade 4 – going coding to QE Park
      7. STEAM Day 1, 3, 6 are participating the following week; McMaster coming to the school
      8. Numeracy, literacy taking place in the tech place; money will go to expanding our coding
      9. Jennifer to review what is allowed by Pro Grant to spend money on.
      10. Trying to get parents in to the school;
      11. Jennifer really interested for students to be exposed to the learning; parents are invited during the school day to be compliant with PROGRANT rules
      12. Rules around money not permitted on hardware but other purchases
      13. Tech show is hands on for the student (no cost)
   5. **Social Justice & Outreach – Sacramental Lunch**
6. Glenna – May 28th – Sacramental Lunch
7. Grade 2 and Grade 7 – a celebration lunch funded by school council (usually pasta)
8. Bruna to follow up with Glenna re: planning
   1. **Community Engagement**
      1. **Family Skate Evening – April 11**
9. April 11 – Family Skating – Oakville Arena – one rink from 7-9
10. Normally the cost for the rink is $700
11. HCDSB is paying for the rink because of having the YMCA and night programs hosted at St. Bernadette. Hoping for a good turn out and something different for the school community.
12. Thank you to Julie Riesberry for securing the arena at no cost to the school
    * 1. **BBQ – June 12**
13. BBQ -----Thank you to James. James updated the council members. Mr. Corn is coming $7. – burger, chips, juice or water and corn roast, and all plates, tear down and clean up; Food is taken care of
14. Menu is amazing – Mrs. Riesberry said that there will be no jumping castle, horse and pony ride, no dunk tanks
15. This is a council event – parent volunteers needed (not students), this is a community event; students may bring their own items (footballs, soccer balls, skipping ropes etc.); the students are under their parent supervision;
16. Julie is making a point about parent volunteer – what does set-up look like – parents to bring chairs; council to be able to enjoy the time and be with their family, so keep it simple
17. Organizing committee will be formed as we get closer to the date
18. This will be pre-order – school cash online; select eat and coloured tickets – mandated by council prior to the event when the parents check in. 98% usage for cash online so no issues with payment method.
    1. **Uniform Committee**
       1. In School Wear is looking at adding a short with an elastic waist. There is a pilot at one school and the shorts are a hit.
    2. **STEM**
       1. Items discussed in ProGrant discussion earlier in the meeting
19. **Administration Report: Julie and Melissa**
    1. **Believing, Achieving and Belonging**

* Some key overview from the Principal Report:
  + Inclusion and mental health piece and educating across
  + Bravo coming to an end – moving to partnership with school
  + St. John’s Bible – purchased by Hamilton Diocese and coming for a week to service the entire school. What is in the bible? Parish community viewing as well. The week before Easter.
  + Glow Girls – 8 to 10 week session; 3:30-5:30 and motivating girls to be the best they can be - 15 girls selected. Students of who would be advocates to do sessions at school. Grade 7 focus – blossoming who they are.
* Extended French – class of 29 students for Gr 5; board granted grandfathering for 5 families to keep St. Bernadette students
  + Our Lady of Peace has a class of 18 extended French
* Enrolment Estimate: 470 is anticipated enrollment – go to no portable – 0.5 VP may be the possibility; with the education cuts coming; class sizes HCDSB been at 3 years now; non-immersion side of the school looks challenging as are decreasing 5/6 with 30 students which is the cap; 7/8 at 30 students grade 8 at 30 students. No straight 7, 6 or 5. Due to the influx of the numbers. Continue to staff; 4 redundancies in building due to the decrease and students going surplus and apply into rounds; one job opening; School is getting smaller; staffing is continuing
* Autism – any children coming into the school – 4 students (Erinoak Autism support) receiving services and all 4 returning to St. Bernadette (educational assistance); reality is that students who benefit from EA support in class will not get the safety and security of autism support.
* Student walk out for elementary involvement and also secondary as well – social media – waiting for word from director to follow HCDSB policy – no child to leave without permission; students must go to the main office. Parents out to 1:10 pm to parents to permit if you are able to do walk out. Main office will be ready to enforce the process of signing out properly. Student Ambassador to review for a letter writing MPs.
* Returning to basic Math – presentation already; already doing fundamental Math; Sex-Ed curriculum – comes from the budget
* Cell phones: not allowed cell phone ban; Apple watches are the new hot item now and treated like phones right now. Students don’t have developmental ability to manage that so it is being approached in that manner.

1. **Upcoming Events:**
   1. **Next Council Meeting – Monday, May 6th**
2. **Action Items**
   1. Parent Council members formulated a resolution to be presented to the Minister of Education, the Oakville Member of Parliament, the HCDSB Director and Board of Trustees
   2. The Resolution reads as follows “The St. Bernadette Catholic School Council opposes larger class sizes from kindergarten to Grade 12 and supports the continued appropriate funding of students requiring special needs services. Furthermore, we firmly believe that the current full-day kindergarten model with both a teacher and designated early childhood educator should continue as originally implemented.” The Resolution was moved by Chantal Neves and seconded by James McAskill.
   3. Jennifer will write and submit a letter presenting this resolution to the officials named above. The letter will be circulated via email to all council members to be viewed prior to being posted.
3. **Closing Prayer** Meeting adjourned at 8:10 am.