

St. Vincent School Council Meeting (Virtual)
Monday, November 2, 2020 @7:00pm

Attendance:

Penny Uniacke (Principal)
Gabriella Van Hooydonk (Non-Teacher Representative)
Regina Dykman (Chair)
Sonia Guglietti (Parish Rep)
Gina Millington (Community Rep)
Sharon Moore (Secretary – Rotating Position)
Carolyn Holmes
Jasmin von Horsten
Siobhan Kukolic
Jane Pustai

Welcome and Introductions (RD):

Reminder to use a prayer from the St Vincent prayer book for opening and closing prayers.

Opening Prayer (SK) (Grade 7 prayer)

Approval of Minutes (RD):

Last month's minutes have been distributed and reviewed. SM approved, GM seconded.

Principal's Report (PU):

Catholicity:

- Remembrance Day liturgy is Wednesday, November 11 at 10:30am. The school will send a link closer to that date for parents to join the liturgy.
- Grade 8 Confirmation was Thursday and Friday last week. Only family members attended and no school administrators, to keep with Covid protocols and efforts to reduce the spread.
- Grade 3 First Communion is November 21 at 11:00am at St. Andrew.

Curriculum:

- Curriculum night was October 22. Thank you to all who attended virtually. Over 30 parents were online for the welcome and prayer.
- Response to Intervention: Small groups of students are working on reading skills. Our new PTM and Arts teacher was hired a week ago and will be leading this effort.
- Progress reports will go home on November 24.
- Parent-teacher interviews are scheduled for November 26 & 27. St. Vincent will utilize an online interview scheduling tool this year to limit the use of paper. It will be important that parents attending interviews please log in as a GUEST for these interviews and not as their student – otherwise they can get automatically admitted to the room when another parent is still in there. This will be communicated to families.

Home/School Connection:

- St. Vincent continues to communicate with families about what is going on at school via emailed Weekly Updates and Twitter.
- PU encourages parents to check out their child's D2L or Google Classrooms because the online platforms are full of information.
- CYC has started sessions in classes using Teams – so far Grade 6s and 7s have done activities.

Community Building:

- The Halloween Read-A-Thon was very fun for kids and well-received by parents. If you haven't watched your child's class online yet, please do! It was asked if families can view other classrooms' readings, and they cannot due to privacy.
- St. Vincent continues the practice of issuing "RADs" for Really Awesome Doing. Students can receive a RAD from a teacher, and once a month a name in each age category is drawn from all the RADs submitted that month (3 winners). Each winner gets a choice of a \$15 gift card to Tim Hortons or Indigo.
- This year, in lieu of a Christmas Concert, we will celebrate Joy Day on Thursday, December 17. Students will participate in crafts, read a story, wear red and green, and parents will be able to watch a recorded portion on their child's online platform.
- Monthly liturgies: Remembrance Day liturgy is Wednesday, November 11 at 10:30am.

Health and Safety:

- All safety drills are complete until the spring.
- Safety reminders occur each morning.
- The Return to School Committee will be discussing adjustments to Covid protocols with the onset of colder weather – ie how to handle gloves and hand sanitizing, etc.

Financials:

- Fundraising: The Halloween Read-A-Thon raised \$11,685 relative to a goal of \$7,000. This represented huge support from the community. Thank you very much to everyone for participating.
- Financial Committee will meet to discuss how to spend the money to best meet the needs of all of the students.

Council Chair's Report (RD):

Uniforms:

- The HCDSB has decided on a minor modification to the current uniform policy. There has been some dissatisfaction with the quality of uniforms, especially bottoms. As of January, HCDSB families no longer need to purchase bottoms specifically from ISW Uniforms; instead they may purchase any navy blue bottom of their choosing. The board will communicate details regarding this new policy, and this will be shared with parents.

- Every school in the HCDSB takes a periodic vote on school uniforms, usually every 3 years. Last year this vote was delayed, so it is brought to the table today. The uniform vote begins with the Parent Council, and if necessary, extends to the broader community with a formal process led by a subcommittee comprised of stakeholders (including students, teachers and parents). Any new uniform policy would come into effect in Spring 2021. This uniform vote on whether or not families prefer wearing uniforms at St. Vincent is a separate issue from the quality of the uniforms.
- Members of parent council discussed their experiences with uniforms and their sense of other families' views.
- Parent Council voted 7-2 to maintain the current uniform policy. (Administrators do not participate in this vote.)
- PU will review whether the uniform vote can be tabled again next year or is now off the table for 3 years.

Library Review (Usage Guidelines):

- There have been questions from parents about student usage of the library.
- Note the current library policy is a board policy and not a school policy.
- PU clarified current policies: Students cannot be in the library. The librarian spent Sept and Oct doing inventory. She is using Teams to read to the students. Grades 5-8 are using an online checkout system to checkout their books, that are then delivered to their classroom in a bin. Younger students are being polled for interests and the librarian is providing related books to their classroom. There was a slight delay in getting up and running with the online system due to some technical glitches. The books are not permitted to go home. Students are not allowed in the library to do artwork on the exterior facing window due to contact tracing rules. Also note we only have a librarian for 2.5 days per week.

Phys-Ed, Recess Review:

- How are we managing Phys Ed and Recess with respect to Covid protocols?
- PU: This information can be found in the Return to School Plan. Teachers are encouraged to bring students outside. They can use the gym but have to wear masks; it is a 40 minute time slot. Teachers use student distanced games as much as possible. When a class is done in the gym, the custodian sprays it down and equipment gets sprayed down. At recess each class gets a recess bin. Equipment will be replenished. They will also add indoor bins with playing cards for indoor recess days. Outdoor recess zones will be changed seasonally.

Council of Chairs Update:

- That meeting has been pushed to Nov 25. RD will attend and provide an update to Council.

CPIC (Catholic Parent Involvement Committee):

- Vote was delayed and extended a week. Thank you to Council members for voting.

Committee Reports:

Volunteer Report (CH):

- Poinsettia/Wreath Sales: Poinsettia sales are low relative to prior years, currently at \$350. If we don't reach minimum \$1000 order we will need to pay \$100 delivery fee. Wreath purchases are also low relative to prior years. Wreath delivery fee is \$50.
- Christmas Cookies: We are waiting on donation information from Longos. Would also require a committee to help make the kits. Cost is likely \$2.50 per kit, we can sell them for \$5.00. A parent survey to gauge interest would aid in ordering appropriate inventory.
- There was concern raised regarding the practicality of pursuing a food-based fundraiser during a pandemic when other school-sponsored food activities are on hold.

Parish Report (SG):

Today is All Souls Day. St. Andrew is hosting a special Mass Wed night, for people who passed due to Covid. Members of the community can attend in person or online.

New Business (RD):

- RD will pick up hats and gloves from the dollar store so the kids who forget them can grab a pair to use and keep.
- Council call to action: Please email RD if you have any questions or issues to discuss in future meetings.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 7 @7:00pm

Closing Prayer (JP) (Grade 8 prayer)

Secretary, Opening and Closing Prayer Schedule

Date	Secretary	Opening Prayer	Closing Prayer
Monday November 2 nd 2020	Sharon Moore	Siobhan Kukolic	Jane Pustai
Monday December 7 th 2020	Gina Millington	Carolyn Holmes	Jasmin von Horsten
Monday February 1 st 2021	Jane Pustai	Sonia Guglietti	Gabriella Van Hooydonk
Monday April 1 st 2021	Siobhan Kukolic	Ashley Stone	Gina Millington
Monday May 3 rd 2021	Carolyn Holmes	Jasmin von Horsten	Sharon Moore
June TBD			