

**St. Vincent School Council Meeting (Virtual)**  
**Monday, December 07, 2020**

**Attendance:**

Penny Uniacke (Principal)  
Gabriella Van Hooydonk (Non-Teacher Representative)  
Regina Dykman (Chair)  
Ashley Stone (Teacher Representative)  
Sonia Guglietti (Parish Rep)  
Gina Millington (Community Rep/ Secretary – Rotation Position)  
Carolyn Holmes  
Siobhan Kukolic

**Welcome and Introductions (RD)**

**Opening Prayer: (CH)** (Grade 8 prayer)

**Approval of Minutes (RD):**

Last month's minutes have been distributed and reviewed. GM approved; GH seconded.

**Principal's Report (PU):**

**Catholicity**

- In the absence of being able to gather as a community, Liturgies for Advent have been over the PA and teachers are following up in their classrooms
- Liturgy scheduled for next Tuesday that Kindergarten students are leading at 10:45am. Father Con will be joining us as well. Link will be sent in the communication this week and parents will be invited to attend. It will be through TEAMS.
- Every school in our board submitted an Equity Inclusion Plan. Some items in our plan are in our prayers, (the month of November was Indigenous awareness month). Library resources have been updated to have different ethnic and cultural groups represented there as well.

**Curriculum**

- Parent/Teacher interviews were virtual last month and the feedback was that they went very well. Progress reports also went home last month.
- Our RTI support continues (Response to Intervention) Mr. S works with small groups of children on reading skills.
- We purchased RAZ kids which is available to all grade 1 and 2 students. Some are also available to Grades 3 and 4 as needed.
- Council support requested to emphasize that students should be using this tool at home in order to get the most benefit from it. Parental support is integral to the success of this program.
- Math UP is our main resource for math curriculum. They just added more material in there and a long-range plan that they want teachers to follow so that all teachers are teaching the same

units. This simplifies any transition to on line learning if things change and student have to move online.

### **Home School Connection**

- The grade 7 and 8 students are doing STA transition meetings weekly. Each department (ie. drama, phys-ed, music) meets virtually for about an hour. These will soon be including grades 4, 5 and 6 to get them used to high school and what it will look like.
- St Vincent continues to communicate with families about what's happening at school via Twitter and weekly updates.
- Teachers are continuing with their learning platforms with lots of information on D2L and Google Classroom
- Our Child and Youth Counselor continues with her programs. She has started a virtual Art Club which has been a hit with our students and has a different theme each week. She may start a LEGO club in February. She is also working in classrooms with students and had a meeting with grades 4, 5 and 7 regarding "working on stress" and will expand to other classes in the future. She is getting involved in creating a 'whole school' community and has set up a large tree on the bulletin board where each class is creating a decoration with their Advent Wish
- Early dismissal next Friday. School will end 90 min early.

### **Community building**

- Advent initiatives going well. Theme day last week raised \$160. Gingerbread kits sold very well and only 4 left. (approx. \$630). With theme days continuing the next two weeks as well as the sales from Poinsettias and Wreaths, we should be able to make a generous donation. Mrs. V will do a final calculation.
- RADS are continuing through the school and going well
- Christmas activity day and JOY day scheduled for next Thursday December 17 where students will conduct an activity in their class and it will be recorded and uploaded on their learning platform for parents to see.

### **Health and safety**

- Continuing with morning announcements around safety procedures for COVID, weather, yard zones and dismissal reminders. Updated our return to school committee as the gym will be open as well as lockers and cubbies for outdoor clothing only. All going well.
- Public health came on the PA Day. Two nurses came for an hour and were impressed with protocols throughout the school. All positive feedback. Staying in cohorts is the number one thing to focus on (if there were a case it would help with contact tracing).

## Financials

- PU, RD and JP met with the financial committee to approve the plan. It has been approved and posted on our website under School Counsel.
- Already purchased the technology part of it. Will also begin purchasing items for inside the classrooms as well as for outside. Have purchased items for inside and outside for Kindergarten already as well as SPEC ed.

## Council Chair's Report (RD):

- Christmas Fundraising Event – A big thank you to SG for organizing a successful event with the Gingerbread houses donated from Longo's. We will send a thank you letter to Longo's on St Vincent letterhead to post in the store.
- **Council of Chairs Update: CPIC** – RD attended meeting a couple of weeks ago. The meeting focused on a few different areas, specifically:
  - **Parent engagement and fundraising ideas:**
    - drive in bingo night.
    - virtual Christmas tree lighting on D2L so parents could see inside of school.
    - virtual movie night – watch movie as a community.
    - Indigo event – Indigo will dedicate an evening to the school and when people go in a make a purchase will send money (15%) back to the school.
    - Flip Give – purchase GCs and a small percentage goes back to the school.
    - Oakville drive in theater can hold up to 50 cars for a school movie night
  - **D2L Parent Presentation**
    - Will post on St Vincent website later in the week. It is a User Guide that shows you how to go through D2L, how to troubleshoot and navigate the system.
  - **Mental Health Presentation**
    - There's a big push at the Board level where they want parents to be aware that they are looking at the "whole student" and Mental Health is a part of it. Due to COVID, there are more and more students struggling with mental health issues and they want parents to know that the school is looking at this. A task force has been created 'Supporting Social, Emotional Learning at School' (SEL)
    - It involves 6 categories: how do they identify emotional needs of students, how to they manage stress and coping skills with students,

how do they provide positive motivation and perseverance, building healthy relationships with students and around them, self-awareness and critical and creative thinking.

- This info will be posted on the website so that the school and parents know that there are resources available that they can pull from if a child is struggling.
- **Technology Presentation**
  - We have requested the speaker join us and do a presentation for the counsel in the new year regarding security of students online; how to shift the paradigm of what kids are doing; and how to change the messaging from a parent to a child on their online footprint.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Parish Report (SG)**

- This year you will have to sign up for Christmas Mass ahead of time if you are planning on attending. You must pick up a form at the church and register for a specific time slot.
  - Mass Schedule: Christmas Eve Dec 24: 4pm, 6pm or 8pm  
Christmas Day Dec 25: 8am, 10am or 12pm

#### **New Business (RD)**

- First Communion went well last month and there is a possibility that grade 2 students may be receiving their communion in the spring, however it will not be confirmed until the new year.
- (AS) gave an update on CCAD (school board Gifted assessment) results where parents will be contacted if their student is moving forward in January.

**Next Meeting:** Monday February 1, 2021 @7:00pm

**Closing Prayer:** SK (Grade 7 prayer)