



UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Divine Mercy School Council Meeting

March 28, 2022 6.39pm | Meeting called to order by Mary Andrews

In Attendance

Elaine Dantas	Tanya Brancalion	Regrets: Lucille Shenouda Janneke van der Zee Daniela Letterio Pam Leermakers*
Johnson Lai	Tashani Parker	
Karen Chan	Vivian Correa-Pinto	
Mary Andrews	Angela Trewartha	
Pearl Mofunanya	Adriana Paniconi	
Sandra Shehadeh	Paula Mendonca	
Susan Wilson		

Opening Prayer/Introductions

M. Andrews welcomed everyone, read the Land Acknowledgment and led the opening prayer.

Approval CSC Meeting Minutes December 13, 2021

Approved by A. Trewartha and S. Shehadeh

Approval CSC Meeting Minutes February 7, 2022

Amendment to minutes: In the *Updates by DPCDSB Planning and Operations and Environmental Services* section: it is noted above that “AC is provided to all classrooms” – A. Trewartha, M. Andrews, and T. Parker all confirmed that S. Wilson clarified during the Feb 7 meeting that there is only partial AC in the school, and that there are portable units available.

The link to the Catholic Board Improvement Learning Cycle – Year in Review added to that section (Amendment added to the Feb 7 minutes)

Approved by A. Trewartha and S. Shehadeh

Follow-up: Updates by DPCDSB Planning and Operations and Environmental Services

S. Wilson confirmed that the day after the Feb 7th meeting, personnel from the Operations department came to Divine Mercy to evaluate the portable AC units and confirmed that they were not in working order. An update will be provided in June on their condition and whether they are operational and available for use in the school.

Chair’s Report

Presented by M. Andrews.

The Fundraising Committee met once to discuss fundraising options. Afterwards they contributed ideas via a Google spreadsheet. At the time of meeting volunteer status within the school was still unknown. Options will be shared later in the meeting.

Principal's Update

Presented by S. Wilson.

Grade 4 French Immersion

- Students partaking in activities in preparation for their transition to Our Lady of Mercy next year (ex. Writing to "pen pals"; playing a remote game)
- Hoping to continue the tradition of walking over to Our Lady of Mercy for a school tour/visit

Great Gulp & Big Crunch

- Students were asked to bring in their own healthy crunch snack to participate, e.g. apples, carrots
- Traditionally the school purchases apples for students, however due to the prior restrictions, the school did not order these this year

Earth hour

- Observed on Saturday, students participated in Earth hour activities on the Friday afternoon, e.g. devices off, lights off/ blinds up, lessons in class regarding environmental education and ways we can protect the earth

Preparations for Autism Awareness Month

- World Autism Day is April 2nd
- Friday – dress in blue
- Staff showcasing artwork on the display board
- Making announcements
- Mr. DeMelo making suggestions to staff on resources that they can share with their classes
- ERWs are also making suggestions and helping with the plans

Recess

- Today the new schedule was re-introduced to students. All students go outside at the same time for: morning, lunch, and afternoon recesses
- The primary, junior and intermediate zones still exist
- Students are reminded of the doors they are to use to enter and exit the school
- "Free" entry in the morning will remain in place. Students can enter the building from 8:15am-8:30 am and go straight to their class; by 8:30am, the students are settled and ready to learn
- A reminder will be given in the April newsletter that students are encouraged to bring a pair of indoor shoes to wear

Volunteers

- Information on the Criminal Reference/ Vulnerable Sector Check (CRC) and Annual Offense Declaration (AOD) was previously sent out to the school community via email
- If the AOD is not up to date, then one must obtain a new CRC; forms are available at the office
- Requests for volunteers will be requested based on school needs

Outdoor Grants – presented by T. Brancalion

- Of the \$4000 provided, 10% (\$400) was dedicated for equipment. Those monies have been used for athletic equipment
- The rest is available for teachers to access for field trips and Scientists in the School
- Some that were previously scheduled to be virtual have now changed to in-person, all events need to be booked by April

Fundraiser for Ukraine

- Every child was given a butterfly cookie as a symbol to recognize the importance of peace, prayer and our support for Ukraine, donations were encouraged through School Cash Online, Many thanks to our generous community
- Total net monies raised to date: \$413.90

Sacramental Gifts

- Have been ordered from St. Joseph's Workshop
- Gr. 2 First Communion gifts & Gr. 7 Confirmation gifts paid by Council

Gr. 8 graduation

- Ceremony tentatively scheduled for June 20th, 5pm at Merciful Redeemer
- Other activities are being discussed

Catholic Education week

- Hoping to schedule speakers

EQAO

- Gr. 3 & Gr. 6 – scheduled for May, more information to come
- Will be a different format; more user-friendly with computer use

ECO Schools

- T. Brancalion is leading
- Asking teachers to take pictures to share and to document our activities

Parish Report

Presented by E. Dantas.

- Reminder that Confession times for Gr. 7 students (and their families) undertaking Confirmation is set for March 30th between 4pm and 8pm
- Virtual meeting for parents of First Communion and Confirmation students will be April 27th at 7pm
- EDGE meetings for students in Gr. 6 to Gr. 8 is still on-going
 - o Email the youth minister, Danielle, to register
 - o Meet every other Tuesday, in-person, from 5:30pm-7pm
 - o There are 2 cohorts; Cohort 1 meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays; Cohort 2 meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
- Stations of the Cross are prayed every Friday at 7pm
- Synod on Synodality – Pope Francis is asking all Catholics to share their thoughts via the survey; hoping to inspire the people to make the church what they want it to be
 - o From October 2021 – October 2023
 - o Diocesan Phase (October 2021 – August 2022)
 - o Continental Phase (August 2022 – March 2023)
 - o Universal Phase (March 2023 – August 2023)
 - o The Bishops will meet at the Vatican in October 2023 to discuss the results of the surveys
 - o The survey can be completed [here](#).

Treasurer's Report

Presented by A. Trewartha.

- Presented the budget for the year.
- Annual commitments haven't been done because of Covid restrictions
- Added some in case they doable because the restrictions were lifted (ex. Fun day; in-person grad)
- Je Lis amount changed because the board is paying for the EN program; S. Wilson will check if the teachers would like this license to be renewed in the future
- May still have a need for Scientists in the School (some covered by the Outdoor Grant)
 - o the current amount in the budget is based on the 2019/2020 school year
 - o Price is \$230 per class
 - o T. Brancalion will update Council on any further requests
- Total projected expenses this year is \$9600

- Current balance is \$14446.38
- Wish list from teachers not yet incorporated into the expenses
 - o Basketball & volleyball covered by the outdoor grant (not required)
 - o Assign a budget to cover the recess games, craft supplies, and Math manipulation materials (teachers will share)
 - o TV for the gym can wait for now
 - o Will have to pause on the Outdoor Classroom (not enough funds to be able to implement this school year)
- S. Wilson – kindergarten classes want to make an outdoor garden (need materials & supplies)
 - o Mrs. O’Leary made a request for badminton nets (approx. \$300)
 - o TV may not be feasible in the gym, but possibly as an information source in the foyer (announcements, etc); defer as a future consideration
- A. Paniconi – allotting approx. \$50 per class gives teachers some control
 - o A. Trewartha - The total budget mentioned prior will be split among the classes
- Would like to carryover approx. \$1000 - \$2000 to the new school year
- Pizza fundraiser is being considered
- If the teacher wish list items total approx. \$4000 that would be ideal
- T. Brancalion suggested we remove the STEM workshop item because free programs are available
- E. Dantas – how soon can the funds for the teacher wish list items be available to them?
 - o S. Wilson – as soon as Council approves, the items can be ordered and received for use within a few weeks; most suppliers have a \$50 minimum; badminton nets are approx. \$300/\$350 (need 2); need approx. \$300 for kindergarten teachers
- T. Parker agreed that teacher input is valuable for use
- V. Correa-Pinto – will the \$2500 budget cover these 4 items? (i.e. craft supplies; recess games; badminton nets; kindergarten garden)
 - o M. Andrews – Yes
 - o A. Trewartha – when fundraising, we must be specific and transparent on what the funds will be used for
- S. Wilson – another use could be to update classroom reading materials
- E. Dantas – what about purchasing table tennis tables and equipment
 - o S. Wilson – difficult because of the limited space for storage and placement in the gym, as well as the limited amount of students who can use at one time
- M. Andrews proposed that Council vote on allocating \$2500 to the craft supplies, recess games, badminton nets, and kindergarten garden – PASSED with 10 votes
- With the budget approved as presented we will be left with \$2346.38 to be carried over to the next school year
- M. Andrews proposed that the Council approve the budget – PASSED with 10 votes

School Generated Funds (SGF) & School Operating Budget

Presented by S. Wilson

- The Board posts it on the school’s website every month
- Fluid since the expenses and payments flow in and out, ex. Any monies collected by the school are entered into the SGF account, such as school trip collection, Grad sweatshirt sales....

Last year, the school budget purchased numbers chromebooks for students. This was beneficial since all were deployed for families requiring a device for remote learning days. Currently, the school is requesting that parents return these devices to the school.

- Big purchases for this year include:
 - o Chromebook carts were purchased in the fall for storage of devices
 - o Saidat Presentation and Resources
 - o Catholic Education Week Presentations

OAPCE Report

Presented by P. Mofunanya

- Election year – parents are encouraged to check their designation for direction of support.
- New OAPCE url – www.dufferinpeel.oapce.org- do check it out please. There are lots of links to interesting webinars/articles.
- Guidance for lawsuit against separate school funding. Official position unclear but it's up to us to keep proclaiming the positive aspects of Catholic Education. 'It's not better or worse, we just do it differently'.

Fundraising options

- M. Andrews & V. Correa-Pinto met virtually on March 7th to discuss possible fundraising ventures
- Limited by provincial and board covid restrictions
- Pizza/food service option would be ideal
- Other options include direct to customer products
 - o Plantables – seed packages (direct delivery to customer); school sets up a fundraising page; can run the campaign for as long as is necessary; awaiting confirmation on profits
 - o Make it Sow – seed packages (direct delivery to customer available); school sets up a fundraising page; can run the campaign for as long as is necessary; 50% profit on sales if delivered to and distributed by the school; 40% profit for direct delivery to the customer
 - o Farm to Table - popcorn/kettle chip orders (school or customer direct delivery options available) 10 packs of popcorn (\$20 sell/ \$12 cost = \$8 profit per order); family bag size of kettle chips (\$5 sell/ \$3 cost = \$2 per bag)
- Pizza fundraiser – Pizza Pizza offers an individually packaged slice program; the profit won't be as large as ordering whole XL pizzas that are re-packaged and distributed at the school by volunteers
 - o A. Paniconi – would create a returned sense of normalcy
 - o S. Wilson – more comfort to parents if we go with the individually packaged slice program
 - o A. Trewartha – need to keep in mind the number of volunteers available to help on pizza days; and the possibility of having to issue refunds if the program is forced to shut down again
 - o V. Correa-Pinto – her school has been offering the pizza program with teachers distributing the slices from whole pizzas
 - o S. Shehadeh – ok with the whole pizza option; ensure the packages for the individual slices are recyclable if we go that route to be consistent with our ECO school status
 - o T. Parker; J. Lai; P. Mendonca – happy to support the program (comments via the chat)
- M. Andrews proposed that Council vote on re-starting the pizza day fundraiser the week of May 2nd – PASSED with 10 votes
- Will discuss further fundraising options at the next meeting

Other Business

- The next meeting that was supposed to occur on April 11 has been moved to April 25:
 - o April 11 falls during Holy Week (no meetings allowed)
 - o April 18 is Easter Monday
 - o April 25 is the next most viable date
- P. Mofunanya – the visitor's parking at the front of the school is always full
 - o S. Wilson – a reminder was sent to staff and occasional staff to use the side parking lot, leaving the visitor's parking section for short-term visitors

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm

*NOTE: *Pam Leermakers added to regrets – noted from minutes review at the April 25/22 meeting*