



## Divine Mercy School Council Meeting – Minutes

May 13, 2024, 5:30 pm | Meeting called to order by Nuno Tome

### Staff/School Representatives:

Nuno Tome (Principal)

Pamela Leermakers (Community Representative)

### Parent Representatives:

Angela Trewartha	Jonathan Walker	Quynh Walker
Tannice Ashman	Elaine Dantas	Karen Chan
Tashani Parker	Vivian Correa-Pinto	Adriana Paniconi
Pearl Mofunanya	Paula Mendonça	

### Parent Regrets:

Lisa Bitonti-Bengert	Michael Weglinski	Johnson Lai
Jessica Clayton	Bruno Rosa	Daniela Letterio (Teacher Representative)

1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Opening Prayer - Mr. Tome
  - Approval by Pamela Leermakers and Elaine Dantas
2. Approval of last meeting minutes
  - Approval by Pamela Leermakers and Tannice Ashman
3. Co-Chair's Report (A. Trewartha & T. Ashman)
  - Confirmation was great; it was during the evening, and it was intimate
  - Big box of cards fundraiser
    - made over \$2000; the exact number is on the financial report
    - Thank you to the volunteers who helped get them organized and out to families
  - Pizza going well
    - made a good amount as predicted
    - thank you to volunteers and grade 8s who help us deliver
    - we are losing volunteers, therefore seeking additional/new volunteers for the 2024-2025 school year

- A minimum of four volunteers is required each week to support with running pizza, do not need to have the same four volunteers if there are enough people to complete a rotation
  - **Question:** How do we monitor small pieces being given out?
    - **Response:** If there are small slices in the pizza that is sent to the class, then students can report it to the grade 8s who are handing out the pizza, and they can report to the office to source a replacement slice(s)
- Thank you to Tashani and everyone else who helped get the subway program off the ground and running
  - parents grateful
  - **Comment:** One concern arose that we tried resolving but could not; therefore, we refunded the money to the family- so instead of cancelling the order, we will give this sub to someone else. There are times when students come to the office seeking food for various reasons, therefore the sub can be provided. Snacks (granola bars, cheese strings, apples, bananas, tangerines, etc.) donated by families are also available in the office.
    - **Suggestion:** create a standing item on the school council budget for a donation of food items; another option is to investigate if there are community partners we can receive donations from, i.e. grocery stores, community service agencies, etc.
- Thank you to Mrs. Panousis in the office for all her hard work for all of these fundraisers and lunch programs
- Thank you to everyone for participating in school council this year and Mr. Tome for your leadership
- Thank you to our parent council members who are leaving us this year
  - Adriana, Karen, Lisa and Tannice, for your dedication over the years to Divine Mercy; we will miss you - we have thank you cards for you

#### 4. Principal's Report (N. Tome)

## Faith – Since we met last & moving forward

- First Confessions Feb 28 Gr 2, Crosses & Confession March 6 Gr 7
- Brother Alfonso & Rosary – visits continued
- Lenten Mass – March 21
- Stations of the Cross – March 28
- Food Drive & Partnership with Eden Food Bank –\$400 donation Gr 7 & 8 Cooking
- Easter Egg Hunt – NMNS April 2
- Confirmation Retreat – April 11
- 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – April 17<sup>th</sup> - Mass & Social Gathering
- Crowning of Mary – May 7<sup>th</sup> – CEW
- \$1000 Donation to [Sharelife](#) – Student Funds / Tuck Shop
- Gr 8 Trip to [Brebeuf](#) – May 27-29
- Year End Mass June 27



- First confessions completed
- Morning star presentation and crowning of Mary-
  - Was a spirit-filled day; felt alive during the event- phenomenal day
- Grade 7 and 8- The chef from foodbank came in and cooked with grade 8s- showing the students what is made with food donations
  - Doing the same thing with grade 7
  - \$400 donation provided- \$200 per session
- 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary- great outcome
- Year-end mass on June 27, 2024
- Brother Alfons- students wrote letters to 5 priests who were recently ordained this past Sunday- the pictures on the bottom right are of the Priests and the letters written by the students

## Equity – Since we met & moving forward

- Costanzo & Symonds – Attended Dr. ABC equity conference
- Constanzo – Curriculum writing team – Equity lens
- April 8<sup>th</sup> – Indigenous PD with Staff
- Gr 8 – Learning about First Nations
- Giselle – Special Needs Motivational Speaker
- ‘Baba’ Williams – Drum Et al.
- Asian Heritage Month – May
  - Equity conference attended by several teachers



- They are creating lessons that teachers can use with students
- Indigenous PD with staff
  - Staff and grade 7 and 8s- activity in the gym- students and staff got a chance to see all the First Nation communities in Canada on a map and the impacts on their communities over the years
- Baba Williams- kids had a great time drumming- and they also danced
- Asian Heritage Month
  - Posters in the school highlighting Asian excellence

## Wellbeing – Since we met last & moving forward..

- Jr/Int Boys & Girls Basketball- Tournaments
- Raptors 905 – March 27
- Gr 1, Gr 2, Gr 3, Gr 4 Soccer clubs, Fashion Club, Cozy Club, Bayblade Club, Cooking Club, Sanremo Club, Highland Dancing, Dance Club, Book Club, etc.
- “We are” campaign – Be the difference, Live the difference. We are Kind, We are Resilient, We are believers. We are achievers.
- Sex Trafficking Presentation K-8 classes complete
- School Wide Curling K – 8 over 3 days
- Dance Team – Showcase April 24
- Soccer Tournaments Jr Girls, Jr Boys, Int – Co-ed, Int Boys – Koye
- Softball – May 31
- Vaccination Clinic Gr 7 & 8 - June 7
- Track and Field – June 11 MISS NORTH
- Wed June 12 – School Year End BBQ
- Grad Celebration June 21 – Bowling & Mandarin
- Wellness Day with Aussie X and Talent Show – June 25
- Jay’s Challenger visit Rogers Center



- Jr boys and intermediate girls basketball tournament- girls made it to the family tournament
- We are statements
  - The 10 students leading equity work in the school came up with a 10-week challenge
  - Last week's statement was, “We are believers”
  - This week, the statement is, “We are achievers”- and presentations will be delivered by two grade 8 boys
- Vaccination clinics- grade 7 or 8
  - It’s free at school; you have to pay for it at your doctor’s office
- Track and field
  - Tryouts today
  - The event is June 11
- June 12- year-end bbq- similar set up to last year
- Talent Show- June 25- in the afternoon
  - Aussie X in the morning- one group will be inside and one group outside, and then groups will swap
  - Lunch will be a bit later
  - The talent show will occur in the afternoon
- Jays challenger with Mr. Demelo- going to Rogers Centre on June 26

# Achievement

- Outdoor Education - Trips to Riverwood & Silver Creek
- Peel Safety Village – Gr 1 & 2s
- University of Waterloo Math Department – Visits to Gr 7 & 8
- Skills Canada Competition – Gr 4-8 – Gold Int Robotics @ Board March 19, compete with
- Kortright Centre – Trip for French Gr 1-2 & ESL students Grant
- Volunteer Appreciation –
- Primary Staff – Training For Literacy Screeners
- Math PLC – Gr 2 & 5 teachers –
- French Immersion PD
- Learning Symposium – May 9<sup>th</sup> CEW
- EQAO – Gr 3 – May 22-24, Gr 6 May 27-29
- Scientist in the School – FDK –Gr 8
- Report Card Writing Day – PA day no school June 10
- Summer Literacy – Gr 1-5 Cancelled
- Graduation June 20 – 6:30 p.m.
- Report Cards June 25



- Silver Creek- trying to arrange with them to have animals in the school
- Skills Canada competition
  - Happened at board level- our school team got gold at the tournament and made it to the provincial level
- Staff had training on literacy screener
- French Immersion teachers had an opportunity to complete French Professional Development
- Learning symposium- was a success
- Graduation in the gym

## 6. Treasurer's Report (V. Pinto)–



Working Budget for 2023/2024 School Year  
Current Update - April 30, 2024

Opening Bank Balance - September 1, 2023	\$ 12,012.45
Outstanding Commitments	\$ - 2002-20023 commitments included in 2023-2024 budget expenses
<b>Available Bank Balance - After commitments</b>	<b>\$ 12,012.45</b>

EXPENSES	2022/2023 Budget	2022/2023 Actual Spend	2023/2024 Budget	Actual Spend	Notes
Agendas	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,932.30	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,932.30	
Speakers	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,203.50	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 250.00	Uncleared
Bank Charges/Service Fees/Online Charge Fees	\$ 250.00		\$ 250.00	\$ 47.50	
Benevolent Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00		
Fun Day (End of Year Celebration)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00		
Graduation Expenses	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,277.97	\$ 1,000.00		
Je Lis French Reading Program	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,163.61	\$ 1,200.00		
Gym Replenishment/Outdoor equipment	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00		
Sacramental Support (Gr 2/7), Grade 4 FI Celebration	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 407.13	\$ 500.00		
Scientists in the School (one per homeroom)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00		
ShareLife	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	
School Wide Activity Support (ie. retreats)	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,159.61	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 3,347.03	
Equity and Wellbeing			\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	Flight Power Foundation Equity Workshops
Transportation Support (bus and taxi expense for school related activities)		\$ 237.30	\$ 500.00		
Danish Sheikh Angel Fund				\$ 208.99	
Outdoor improvement				\$ 4,718.21	
<b>Total - Existing commitments</b>	<b>\$ 17,750.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,381.42</b>	<b>\$ 19,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,504.03</b>	
<b>Additional Wish List</b>					
Boys and Girls Nights	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,503.44	\$ 1,500.00		
Clubs	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 475.14	\$ 500.00		
<b>Total - Wishlist</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,978.58</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 20,750.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,360.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,504.03</b>	

INCOME	Estimated	Actual	Notes
Bank balance carry over from previous school year		\$ 12,012.45	
Pizza - Session 1	\$ 7,691.60	\$ 7,331.79	
Pizza - Session 2	\$ 7,691.60	\$ 12,730.60	
Parent engagement funding	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	
Lunch Lady		\$ 137.20	
Subway Subs		\$ 5,584.76	
Big Box Cards		\$ 2,256.20	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 15,883.20</b>	<b>\$ 28,540.55</b>	
<b>2023-2024 Budget Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$ (5,266.80)</b>	<b>\$ 14,036.52</b>	
<b>BANK BALANCE AFTER INCOME AND EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$ 26,048.97</b>	
<b>BANK BALANCE AFTER INCOME, EXPENSES AND ISSUED PAYMENTS</b>		<b>\$ 26,048.97</b>	
Estimated commitments for remainder of year (Budget items & fundraising)		\$ 15,091.26	Unclear estimated subway expenses remaining
Estimated Y/E bank balance if existing commitments & wish list fully executed		\$ 10,957.71	

- Working estimates are fairly close to actuals

Lunch Fundraising 2023-2024

	Pizza Session #1 18 Weeks		Pizza Session #2 18 Weeks		Subway		Big Box Cards	
	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
	\$13,538.70	\$2,467.92	\$1,543.50	\$1,405.24	\$3,333.65	\$147.00	\$1,989.50	\$4,673.00
	\$5,159.70	\$2,439.68	\$17,684.10	\$1,909.41	\$787.80		\$4,939.70	
	\$80.00	\$2,452.11		\$3,182.35	\$5,566.55	\$3,425.14		
		\$2,489.40				\$531.10		
	-\$352.80	\$1,244.70						
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,425.60</b>	<b>\$11,093.81</b>	<b>\$19,227.60</b>	<b>\$6,497.00</b>	<b>\$9,688.00</b>	<b>\$4,103.24</b>	<b>\$6,929.20</b>	<b>\$4,673.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$7,331.79</b>		<b>\$12,730.60</b>		<b>\$5,584.76</b>		<b>\$2,256.20</b>	

YTD Net Income @ 01/31/2024 \$27,903.35

- Expenses for pizza and subway are not updated, so once reconciled, the net amounts will decrease

- **Question:** What amount can be left in the school council budget at the end of the year?
  - a. **Response:** the money needs to be spent/earmarked for something as funds collected during this year need to be spent/accounted for.
- Our school is a digital school- Chromebooks and smartboards were installed years ago and are approaching time periods where repairs/replacements are needed- there are several Chromebooks that are going to need fixing very soon
- **Motion for approval:** Request to earmark \$5,000 for technology from the budget, as long there is a minimum of \$5,000 in the school council budget for the upcoming school year
  - a. **Vote:** unanimous vote of approval
- **Question:** Are funds budgeted to pay for outdoor maintenance- fixing nets, painting, etc.? Can we get nets for the basketball nets outside?
  - a. **Response:** outdoor expenses on the budget are allocated for soccer balls, bouncy balls, improvement of pavement, triple hoop
    - i. Unable to install nets on basketball nets due to potential liability
    - ii. Will inquire about getting a work order for nets for the triple hoops outside

#### 7. OAPCE Report (P. Mofunanya)

- During the OAPCE @ 85 Conference, the Ontario Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, surprised parents and student volunteers with a visit during the 85 Conference, where he provided his endorsement for our province's thriving Catholic education system. He congratulated our parents for their active involvement in the education of their children and asked for our continued help as the Ministry continues its work to create a nurturing environment for our students.
- <https://www.ontariosciencecentre.ca/science-at-home/diy-science-fun>
  - Stem at home- from JK to grade 12, i.e. 5-minute ice creaming, tips for learning disabilities, how to advocate for kids with special needs in school
- <https://www.ldao.ca/websites-and-online-resources/>
- <https://education.easterseals.org/>
- [Parent Tool Kit](#)
- [Parent Tool Kit – Teen Edition](#)

#### 8. Parish Report/Pastoral Update (E. Dantas)

- Edge and Lifeteen

- i. Edge (Gr 6-8) bi-weekly Fri 6-8 pm and Lifeteen (Gr 9-12) Sat evening from 8-10 pm
    - 1. More information on the parent bulletin
- Camp Merciful
  - i. Summer opportunity for kids: Parish summer camp. \$150/wk for students in G1-6
  - ii. Week 1 – July 15-19 (full but waitlist open)
  - iii. Week 2 – July 22-26
- Healing Prayer Service
  - i. Thursday, May 30 at 7:00 pm
- Corpus Christi procession:
  - i. The procession is a centuries-old tradition of the Catholic faith to process the Real presence of Jesus – the Eucharist – in public
  - ii. *When:* Sunday, June 2, following the noon mass.
  - iii. *How long:* About 45 min procession through the neighbourhood surrounding Merciful Redeemer. It will be followed by Solemn Benediction, fellowship and snacks.
  - iv. We will process with the Blessed Sacrament from the church to Divine Mercy’s schoolyard. And then back to the church.
  - v. It would be a nice event for the school and church to coordinate, especially the part where we process onto the school grounds.
  - vi. Have a discussion on how the Divine Mercy Community might be able to participate.
    - 1. *For instance, meeting us with candles and then processing with us, if possible, and stuff like that.*

## 9. New Business

- **Question-** “Teacher appreciation” was last week, at the same time as catholic education week. Were teachers highlighted this year?- A parent sent a card with their child, and the teacher wasn’t aware
  - **Response:** Yes, had a thank you BBQ with the ice cream truck last week. Our board has St. Joseph’s Day of the Worker- celebrate everyone on the board.
- **Question-** Will there be gluten-free options at the BBQ?
  - **Response:** Unsure, will be following up to think of an option
- **Question:** What are the end-of-school day procedures? I was a few minutes late, and my child (grade 3) was there alone.
  - **Response:** Grade 1 and 2- it’s supervised handoffs
    - Grade 3- they go to the kiss and ride themselves; if it’s from the backdoor, one teacher is supervising them, and they should be brought to the office if no one is there to pick them up.



Information regarding end-of-school day procedures is shared with parents at the beginning of the school year.

- **Suggestion:** Keep this listed in the newsletter or send out a notice to parents as a reminder.
- **Question:** Can you rent the gym out?
  - **Response:** yes, there is a fee; contact the school board to book space
- **Question:** Regarding water fountains, some students have expressed concern about the fountain water being cloudy; therefore, they would like to get water at the filtered water station. Can they be allowed to go to the filtered fountain?
  - **Response:** there are 3 water stations at the school, 2 upstairs and 1 on the main floor; 1 on the main floor has a filter system; kids want to go to different fountains; the school team runs all water fountains every morning before students come in; will discuss an approach to support students who are concerned

## 10. Closing/Adjournment