

Divine Mercy School Council Meeting

Date: January 25, 2021
Location: Virtual – Microsoft Teams meeting
Time: 6:30p.m.

Attendees:

Staff/School Representatives:

Susan Wilson (Principal)
Karen Kilic (Vice-Principal)
Daniela Letterio (Teacher Rep)

Parent Representatives:

Mary Andrews	Elaine Dantes	Karen Chan
Sandra Shehadeh	James Ahn	Nick Gaganiaras
Angela Trewartha	Johnson Lai	Paula Mendoca
Alia Vaz	Lucille Shenouda	Adriana Anzures
Lisa Bitonti-Bengert	Mera Guindy	Joanna Zoller

Regrets:

Adriana Paniconi; Yara Andraous and Pamela Leermakers (Non-Teacher Rep)

1. Welcome, Opening Prayers and Introductions

M. Andrews led introductions and prayer
M. Andrews read the Acknowledgment of First Nations Sacred Territory

2. Approval of the last meeting's minutes

Mary noted that the OAPCE Rep's report was in the minutes twice.
Approved by D. Letterio and Angela Trewartha

3. Chair's Report

Presented by M. Andrews
Thanked K. Kilic for posting the CCCSC bylaws and recent council minutes on the school website and for including relevant updates from the last council meeting, as well as Council's general email address on the school newsletter

4. Principal's Report

Presented by S. Wilson
The Gift Card drive that replaced the Christmas Toy Drive, and which we donated to St. Vincent de Paul Society and our school Social Worker, in order to support those in need – supported 76 families!
Spirit Week December 14-18 was a success and the kids enjoyed it although they were within their classrooms only
Also in December, Mrs. O'Leary's class presented the Virtue of Hope and will be presenting February's Virtue of Respect as a virtual assembly on February 5th
Advent Liturgy was a virtual retreat of the Holy Land
Report cards will be sent home soon through email, similar to the previous report cards
Parent interviews will be virtual
Upcoming PA Day is Friday, February 12th and Family Day is Monday, February 15th
Spirit Wear Sale - our school sold some spirit wear: t-shirts and hoodies - waiting for their delivery
Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 17th – still waiting to hear from the Parish regarding Covid restrictions and how this liturgy/Mass will be celebrated
Grade 8 Graduation Awards will be revised this year given the changes to our school year
S. Wilson shared her screen with a breakdown of school generated funds. There is approx. \$7,000 in school generated funds; these monies are used for students only
3 generous donations were made directly via the school website this past Fall totaling \$589.00

5. Treasurer's Report

Presented by A. Trewartha

No financial reports as there were no transactions since our last meeting in November; we spent no money and made no money

M. Andrews brought up the following 3 issues that were discussed in the last meeting during the treasurers report to see if there are any new updates:

- o RazKids French audio costs – S. Wilson inquired with the French Consultants – there is a program “Je Lis” for leveled readers; since we currently have 6 FI and 2 online FI classes it is at least \$1,000 for six licenses (per class) in addition to the \$3,000 for all kids on Raz English. There is also the Little Rat Program and Lalilo was suggested by one of the parents as it is being used by her child who is on virtual school

In the chat some parents suggested the following for French: www.duolingo.com ; www.quia.com; www.quizlet.com, www.tfo.org, and Monseieur Steve on YouTube

- o Line Painting – S. Wilson is looking to secure a date for the Spring
- o School needing council to support with more money towards technology – S. Wilson informed council that the school has purchased 20 tripods, webcams, cables, microphones and speakers and 24 mic. headsets and asked if Council would be open to supplementing the cost of technology

6. Teacher and Non-Teacher Reps' Report

Presented by D. Letterio

RazKids license renewal requested by teachers, the program is for 12 months

-S. Wilson reminded Council that if there are any families that are in need, to please let the school know

7. OAPCE Rep's Report

Presented by A. Vaz

Recordings of the parenting webinar series hosted in November can still be viewed on the OAPCE website: <https://www.oapce.org/webinars/>

The next virtual OAPCE meeting will be held on January 27, 2021

Upcoming virtual events (Details to follow shortly):

- o Hour of Code on Feb 10th
- o Presentation from a dietician on Feb 24th

8. Parish Rep's Report

Presented by J. Zoller

Attended the first Parish Rep church meeting discussing guidelines for relationship between the parish, school and community. Dates changed for the First Confession. Sympathy Cards was an idea proposed for the parish to send to the community when someone dies. Communion Service timings are Saturday between 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. in ten minute intervals; registration is mandatory.

Next Edge meeting in mid-February. Envelopes in the foyer for anyone who needs support – the church community is there to support.

9. New Business and/or Questions and Closing

Q: Parent – N. Gaganiaras: CCAT Testing – in person grade 4 students wrote that test. When will we get the results and what about virtual students?

S. Wilson: Results will be communicated with families. Testing will occur in the Spring for remote students. There will be a flowchart which will inform parents. There are currently 29 students in grade 4 that are doing virtual learning

Details regarding the testing will be forthcoming

Q: Parent – P. Mendoca: asked if other parents are having challenges with google classroom breakout rooms when using iPads

A: D. Letterio: most probably the issue is needing to have the latest updated version to support the breakout rooms. If the problem continues she can contact ICT for any parents having problems in order to resolve them as these breakout rooms are very beneficial for the children in interacting with their peers.

Discussion regarding fundraising was raised by M. Andrews and a suggestion that maybe now is not the right time but that this could be revisited in our next meeting scheduled for March 29th. Ideas she had seen include Readathon and Skipathon where the kids do the challenge and their families support them by raising funds.

Q: Parent – M. Guindy: Are there plans for vaccination of teachers since children under a certain age are not likely to be getting the vaccine in the near future?

A: S. Wilson: haven't heard anything to date; Parent L. Bitonti-Bengert who works in healthcare said that the ministry's website has this information available and that although the information is changing by the minute, as of now, teachers specifically are not on the list yet.

S. Wilson – big thank you to the parent community for letting her know how appreciative of the online learning and recognizing teachers hard work. She has shared these emails with the teachers as well as with the Board.

M. Andrews – suggested Council hold another short meeting for updates on RazKids, budget, etc. on February 22nd since the prescheduled meeting on March 29th is two months away. There were no objections and S. Wilson informed council that the meeting invite will be sent the Thursday before.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm