

St. John the Baptist  
**Catholic School Council**  
**Wednesday, April 21st, 2021**  
6:30 p.m. (virtual)

**Attendees:** Joseph (Pino) Sestito, Lisa Taylor, Sonia Contatto, Candy Ross, Julie Fiorucci, Andree Gates, Laura Brugaletta, Lisa Pasqualino, Marilena Cecco, Emilia Cordi, Nancy Caruso, Marsha Chiarotto-Breault, Anita Contatto, Candice Dixon, Betty de Groot

**Regrets:** Sabrina Natale, Alessia Masella, Tania Cugliari, Irma Piotti

### **1.0 Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Read by Julie Fiorucci

### **2.0 Approval of Previous Minutes**

Candy Ross noted that the amount committed to the Eco Team should read \$466.69 in the previous minutes instead of \$476.69. The minutes will be corrected.

Motion put forward by Lisa Taylor to approve the previous minutes with the correction mentioned above, seconded by Julie Fiorucci.

### **3.0 Treasurer's Report**

Candy Ross reported that as of March 8, 2021 the School Council account balance is \$10184.72 less \$466.69 for a total of \$9718.03. It was reported that \$314.90 from the cancelled Family Skate night the previous school year was deposited back into the School Council account and the total balance reflects this.

### **4.0 Principal's Report**

Pino Sestito reported that Catholic Education Week activities will take place from May 2 to May 7, 2021. Participation in the egg drop, chair structure, and car activities will be optional for students as in the past. Photos will be shared.

Virtue assemblies are continuing.

There is much uncertainty around whether schools will reopen for in-person learning for the remainder of the school year. If schools reopen, schedules will be changed to maximize the amount of time students are outside. Outdoor learning spaces with access to the internet are being explored.

Fundraising is not feasible this year.

A request for School Council funds totaling \$5684.50 was made for the following items related to this year's Grade 8 graduating students:

1. gift for each Grade 8 graduate - \$734.50
2. composite for each Grade 8 graduate - \$975.00
3. yearbook for each Grade 8 graduate - \$975.00
4. awards/plaques for individual students and purchase of new larger plaque(s) with names of all award recipients - \$3000.00

There was some discussion about reserving some of the School Council funds to benefit all students and not just the graduating class.

Graduation celebrations will be virtual.

A banner with a graduation message was purchased for display at the front of the school. Decorations will be purchased. The cost for these items will come out of the school budget.

**A motion was put forward to approve \$3734.50 of School Council funds to pay for:**

- 1. the awards/plaques for individual students and the larger plaque(s) with names of all award recipients (\$3000.00) and**
- 2. a gift for each graduating student (\$734.50).**

**Motion was passed.**

The projected student enrolment for next year is just under 340. This is a decline and will result in the loss of some staff members.

## **5.0 Recycling Bins/Eco Team – Ms. de Groot**

Earth Day is on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and resources were shared with teachers.

Schools can apply for the Peel Eco Schools grant of up to \$250 to support their Eco Schools Canada certification. Ms. de Groot noted these funds will be used to purchase plants, compost, and soil for the school garden. Tending a garden earns schools points towards certification.

Ms. de Groot provided information about the recycle bins purchased with Council funds in order to collect and recycle items such as milk bags, candy/cookie wrappers, Kool Aid Jammers, Lunch Mates, and disposable masks at school. These items are not accepted in local community recycling facilities and end up as waste. The Eco Team has teamed up with TerraCycle Canada who accepts and recycles these otherwise non-recyclable items.

The deadline to apply for the Eco Schools Canada certification is April 30, 2021. There are four levels of achievement: bronze, silver, gold, and platinum. St. John the Baptist has achieved gold status for many years, but may fall short this year due to the pandemic.

The school garden will need volunteers to help water and care for it throughout the summer.

## **6.0 Existing Funds**

There was discussion around keeping a balance in the account over the summer months for next school year.

## **7.0 Other Business or Questions**

No other questions were raised.

## **8.0 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

## **9.0 Adjournment**