

St. John the Baptist  
**Catholic School Council**  
**Wednesday, January 13th, 2021**  
6:30 p.m. (virtual)

**Attendees:** Joseph (Pino) Sestito, Lisa Taylor, Sonia Contatto, Candy Ross, Julie Fiorucci, Tania Cugliari, Irma Piotti, Andree Gates, Laura Brugaletta, Lisa Pasqualino, Marilena Cecco, Emilia Cordi, Nancy Caruso

**Regrets:** Sabrina Natale, Alessia Masella, Marsha Chiarotto-Breault, Anita Contatto, Candice Dixon

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

Read by Julie Fiorucci

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

Motion put forward by Lisa Taylor to approve the previous minutes, seconded by Emilia Cordi

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

Candy Ross reported that as of January 11, 2021 the School Council account balance is \$9884.53. We have committed to \$466.69 for the Eco Team to purchase specialized recycling bins which brings the balance to \$9417.84.

It was suggested that Ms. De Groot be invited to the next council meeting to provide information about the recycle bins purchased.

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

Pino Sestito reported that in-person learning at St. John the Baptist school is closed until February 10, 2021. There are two different Public Health Units operating in our school board. Orangeville schools are expected to reopen for in-person learning on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and schools in Caledon, Brampton, and Mississauga are expected to reopen on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

If a teacher is sick, supply teachers are not being assigned to the class. Teachers are posting the work and learning is asynchronous rather than synchronous. There is a school board moratorium on hiring. Teachers on a sick leave are not being replaced by an occasional teacher, rather non-classroom French or Planning Time teachers are being re-assigned the absent teacher's class.

At the last council meeting, it was mentioned that the goal was to normalize some school activities as much as possible. Virtual Virtue presentations were held in November and December. There was no Advent Mass as hoped for because the

church was not having them, however Father Andrew recorded a message which was played during the December Virtue presentation. The January Virtue presentation will be virtual and Mr. Sestito plans to visit each classroom to personally present the awards to student recipients.

Mr. Sestito thanked Nancy and Andree for taking the time to research some fundraising options. Fundraising will have to be put on hold for now though. Mr. Sestito expressed that he does not feel comfortable collecting money from parents during this time, especially if we do not know what to spend it on. It does not make sense to let the money just sit in the bank account. One idea suggested would be to use Council funds to replenish technology, however the school board has recently invested thousands of dollars for technology already. About 60-70 chrome books are on loan. There is no point in spending more money on purchasing more technology if it is not needed.

The question was raised if Council will still need to pay for the licensing fees as they had in the past and whether the fees have increased. Mr. Sestito noted that the school board has covered the cost for the licensing fees for the chromebooks currently on loan and he will most likely use the school budget account to pay for any remaining licensing fees.

It was noted that an annual report about the school and Council activities and expenses is shared with the parent community at the end of each school year.

## **5.0 Fundraising**

Deferred until further notice.

## **6.0 Other Business or Questions**

No other questions were raised.

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

Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

## **8.0 Adjournment**