



**St. Sofia Byzantine Catholic School Council
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 17, 2021 - 6:30 PM
Virtual Meeting**

Members in attendance

John Dmytrasz (Principal), Nuno Tome (Vice Principal), Victoria Kit (Co-chair), Nataliya Shved (Co-chair), Oksana Volchuk (Secretary), Ewa Chalupa (Treasurer), Olga Meshko-Doubinska (Parish Rep), Alexander Tymoshyk (OAPCE Rep), Olena Gusieva (Community Rep), Olena Shklar (Parent).

Regrets: Daria Desimone (Teacher Rep)

1. Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

2. Welcoming Remarks from Trustees Sharon Hobin and Mario Pascussi.

Important points of their presentation:

- rapid Covid-19 testing will be introduced in schools of DPCDSB
- when vaccination is approved for younger children, the vaccination clinics will be available at designated schools
- there is no information available on how many eligible students are vaccinated in our board
- millions of dollars were spent on HEPA air filters that were delivered to most schools of DPCDSB
- parent engagement nights will continue to happen

O. Shklar asked about the rules regarding vaccination of teachers in our board. S. Hobin responded that all teachers were mandated to report their vaccination status and show proof. Teachers that are not vaccinated are required by the board to be tested 3 times a week and report the results of their testing. M. Pascussi encouraged parents to contact their local MPPs if they have any concerns regarding the education of their children.

3. Approval of Agenda – passed N. Shved, O. Volchuk

It was proposed to add one more item to today's agenda: a discussion about the Christmas Spirit Week and allocation of funds for the Christmas Craft Initiative.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes (from October 20, 2021) –

passed V. Kit, E. Chalupa

5. Welcoming Remarks and Principal's Report (J. Dmytrasz)

a) **Catholicity** – we are called to affirm our Catholic faith in word and action

- The Virtue of the Month for November is Conscience
- Virtual Remembrance Day presentation took place on Thursday November 11th @ 10:30am
- Civvies day is Friday Nov 26; proceeds will be forwarded to help our two parishes for Christmas
- Virtual Panakhyda for Holodomor – November 26th @ 10:30am

b) **St. Nicholas Bags**

- The school is very grateful to the St. Nicholas committee for their efforts in coordinating many of the donated items for the bags

Upcoming Important Dates....

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
Nov 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panakhyda – Holodomor • Civvies day
Dec 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School confessions (tentative)
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual presentation for entire school “The Meaning of Christmas”
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mykolai bags will go home with students
January 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Day – NO SCHOOL
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Year's • Civvies day
Feb 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civvies day
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Feast of the Meeting of our Lord - Stritennia
March 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beginning of Great Lent
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Council Meeting @6:30pm

O. Shklar asked if masking for parents is mandatory on the school property. Trustee S. Hobin clarified that it was mandated by the Peel Public Health for everyone on school property to be wearing masks.

6. Financial Report. Review of 2020-2021 Financials as of August 31, 2021

(E. Chalupa)

- Year-end balance-\$6, 745.27
- \$500 was deposited as parent involvement grant
- \$1000 revenue from donations

- This year's commitments-Graduation (\$3100), St. Nicholas Gift Bags (\$2000)
- Cheque withdrawal of \$249.73(First Communion expense)
- Teacher appreciation gifts spending \$550
- Ending balance \$5945.54

7. St. Nicholas Gift Bags.

The following items have been received:

- 600 packages of Peek Freans- Mondelez cookies
- 600 Angel Christmas Ornaments from CUF
- Chocolate from Ivasiv Family
- Candy canes from Oksana Volchuk
- Donations from parents \$1572
- Nylon cinch bags and the custom spiral notebooks with pens for each student have been ordered by the admin
- Wooden ornaments ordered by V. Kit will be delivered to school in a few days
- Clementines will be purchased at Costco by V. Kit (\$ 200 donations from parents will cover the cost)
- 550 mechanical pencils will be donated by Alexander Tymoshyk
- Paper products will be delivered this Friday
- BCU was contacted, we are waiting for donation approval
- UCU was contacted, we are waiting for donation approval

8. Spirit Week / Christmas Craft.

V. Kit proposed to organize a Spirit Week (last week before the Christmas Break) and fundraise money for the Christmas Craft initiative. The proposed amount of money to collect from parents is \$5.

Pahn Tome indicated that both: the Halloween Spirit Week and the Christmas Crafts initiative were well received by St. Sofia school community.

Pahn Dmytrasz suggested to do Spirit Days (December 15, 16, and 17) instead of the Spirit Week, so there is less interruption to the learning process. The proposed amount of money to collect from parents is \$2. All money raised will go toward the purchase of Christmas Crafts for students.

If there are not enough funds raised to cover the cost of the crafts, the parent council will pay the difference.

Closing Prayer: *The Lord's Prayer*

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Next General Meeting (Virtual) - Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 6:30 pm.