



**St. Sofia Byzantine Catholic School Council  
General Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 20, 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), Daria Desimone (Teacher Rep), Mariana Doubas (Parent), Stefan Pankiw (Parent), Olena Shklar (Parent), Anna Gascadi (Parent), Nataliya Yatsynych (Parent).

## **Regrets: No Regrets**

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

#### **Welcoming Remarks from Trustee Bruno Iannicca.**

#### **Important points of his presentation:**

- October 25, 2021 is Mississauga East Family of Schools School Council Chair Meeting.
- The board continues to support mental health initiatives for students and families.
- Schools are open for in-person learning. Covid cases at school updates could be found on the board's website.
- Vaccination for all eligible children and adults is encouraged to stop the spread of covid 19.
- No empty seat/no courtesy seat bus policy is in effect.
- Updates from the board regarding extra-curricular activities are coming.
- The preparation for the important meeting with Dr. Loh (the Medical Officer of Health for the Regional Municipality of Peel) is on its way.

### **2. Approval of Agenda** – passed O. Meshko-Doubinska, E. Chalupa

It was proposed to add one more item to today's agenda, a comment from Pani Desimone. She thanked Parent Council for the World Teacher's Day gifts. Teachers at St Sofia school appreciate this kind gesture.

### **3. Review and Approval of Minutes (from September 29, 2021) –**

passed N. Shved, A. Tymoshyk

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

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

- The Virtue of the Month for October is Empathy
- Moleben for Metro Andrei Sheptetsky will be at 10:30am in our school gym on November 1st; our priests will be attending and delivering the moleben virtually
- Thanksgiving Food Drive
  - All food donations went directly to needy families in our school as well as the Mississauga Food Bank
  - Donations were picked up on October 14
- Please keep former Principal of St. Sofia School in your prayers – Walter Nahirniak

#### **Other Updates:**

a) 'Thank you' to our students/staff for supporting 'bus driver appreciation' day on Wednesday October 20. Students made the drivers homemade cards of thanks.

#### **b) Numeracy**

- a. "Mathletics" is running throughout our school with all students and staff.
- b. Participation levels are very good to date.
- c. Parents are encouraged to support this initiative.
- d. Our school has invested in "Mathletics" for all our students and staff to use for the next 2 years.

#### **c) School Generated Funds**

- a. Our current balance in SGF is ca. \$32 K
- b. Our plan for our SGF budget this year will cover student-based costs that include:
  - i. Enhancement books for the library
  - ii. Maintenance for new desktop computers
  - iii. Enhancement/replacement of older technology in classrooms
- c. The school board and ICT department are working together at automatically downloading and posting SGF reports for each school on the school's website

### Upcoming Important Dates....

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
October 21	First Holy Confession for all Grade 3 students (in school gym)
23	First Holy Communion for all Grade 3 students: (St. Mary's Church @ 10:30am)
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spirit Week Begins</li><li>• School Council Chairs meeting (virtual)</li></ul>
31	Civvies day - Orange and Black theme
Nov 1	Sheptytskyj Moleben - virtually in school gym @ 10:30am
11	Remembrance Day recognition
12	PA Day
16	Progress Reports sent electronically to families (they are not sent with students)
17	School Council Meeting @ 6:30pm
18	Parent-teacher interviews (by phone)
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Panakhyda – Holodomor</li><li>• Civvies day</li></ul>

O. Gusieva asked if the reminder from school about the Spirit Week could be emailed out to parents again. She also mentioned that some parents don't understand the purpose of the Spirit Week and asked if, moving forward, the language in the letters that go out to the school community could be simplified.

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

### (E. Chalupa)

- Year-end balance-\$6, 745.27
- \$500 are remaining in the Angel Fund
- \$500 was deposited as parent involvement grant
- \$1500 revenue from donations
- This year's commitments-Graduation (\$3100), St. Nicholas Gift Bags (\$2000)
- At this time Parent Council can't commit to purchasing school agendas because the funds are depleted. This commitment will be revisited in January, 2022.
- 2021-2022 budget-passed N. Shved, A. Tymoshyk.

## 6. Amendments to the By-laws.

This year the number of voting Parent Council members is 7. Next year the number of Parent Council members will be increased to up to 15. There will be no new designations/roles.

Approval of change-N. Shved, O. Gusieva

## **7. First Communion.**

The First Holy Communion for gr. 3 students will take place on Saturday, October 23, 2021 at 10:30 am at St. Mary's church. The live stream of this event will be available through the St. Mary's Youtube channel.

## **8. St. Nicholas**

- Form a sub-committee to overlook the purchase of gifts for St. Nicholas gift bags.

V. Kit, N. Shved, O. Volchuk, O. Meshko-Doubinska, E. Chalupa, and M. Doubas, and N. Tome agreed to be part of the committee and meet on October 27, 2021 at 6:30 pm to discuss ideas for the purchase of gifts for students.

- Proceeds from the Spirit Week (to date collected \$1220) and will be used to purchase St. Nicholas gifts.
- The school purchased 620 custom St. Sofia cinch bags to be used as gifts for students.
- Leftover items from previous years (195 icons of St. Nicholas, 28 book marks, 62 sets of pencil crayons, and 39 lanyards). The Parent Council needs to decide how to utilize these items.
- A request of cookie donation from the Peak Cookies Industry was sent out.
- The school received 1000 gold coloured angel ornaments as a donation from CUF. They will be used as St. Nicholas gifts.
- N. Shved will be donating chocolate candy and O. Volchuk will be donating candy canes.
- O. Volchuk will submit donation application forms to BCU and UCU.
- Other possible donation items could be discussed at the next St. Nicholas sub-committee meeting.

**Closing Prayer: *The Lord's Prayer***

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 pm.**

**Next General Meeting (Virtual) - Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 6:30 pm.**