



**St. Sofia Byzantine Catholic School Council
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 27, 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), Mariya Mazur (Treasurer), Olga Doubinska (Parish Rep), Ewa Chalupa (OAPCE Rep), Yuliya Yarema (Community Rep).

Regrets No regrets

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

2. Approval of Agenda – passed V. Kit, N. Shved

3. Review and Approval of Minutes (from November 9, 2020) - passed Y. Yarema,
N. Shved.

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

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

- The Feast of the Theophany took place on Tuesday January 19
- Our students and staff viewed the blessing of water at St. Elias Ukrainian Catholic church; the services were led by clergy including our new Bishop

2. Thank you!

- * The St. Nicholas bags were very well received by our community.
- * Thank you to School Council for all your great ideas and support!

3. Technology:

- * the school board provided our school with an additional 50 Chromebooks for our staff and students to use during this time of on-line learning

4. Grant money:

- * our school applied and was approved for a STEM grant from our Program department and the University of Ottawa; the grant has a value of \$2,400 for our school.

* teachers will have the ability to apply for “Science & Technology” workshops for their students that are offered from the university.

5. Projections for 2021-2022 – 597 students.

* The preliminary staffing process has now started for the Fall of 2021.

6. Parent Engagement Opportunities

- * There is a parent engagement event on Feb 25 – Dr. Hau from PPH
- * More updates to follow from the CEC (will be shared with all parents)

7. Report cards

- * report cards will be sent electronically to all parents by February 9
- * teachers will be reaching out to all parents to give them a verbal update on their child’s progress and give parents an opportunity to ask questions.
- * these phone calls will be in lieu of live face-to-face parent/teacher interviews that normally take place during the 2nd week of February.

8. First Holy Communion – TBD

- * Father Bahriy continued Communion lessons every Thursday up until the Christmas break
- * teachers are continuing to teach prayers with the children
- * it is solely up to the Bishop’s office and our church to decide when/if FHC will take place this Spring; no dates have been offered at this point

Upcoming Important Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
February 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report Cards sent home
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Interviews (virtually or by phone only)
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Day - no school • The Feast of our Lord “Stritennia”
March 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenten period begins (Julian calendar) • Start of March break
April 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Friday (Gregorian calendar) - no school
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easter Monday (Gregorian calendar) - no school
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Friday (Julian calendar) - no school
June 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report Cards sent home • Graduation night (virtual)
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year end Moleben for the entire school (virtual)
29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last day of school

Remaining School Council Meetings:

- February 24
- April 14
- May 12

5. Financial Report. Review of Financials as of December 31, 2020 (M. Mazur)

Financials were prepared as of December 31, 2020 based on the information received from Pani Nadia Vereshchak (school's head secretary)

There were two transactions towards the School Council account:

- 1) deposit in the amount of \$800 in November 2020, a refund for Quebec trip from last school year. This needs to be clarified with Pani Nadia given refund shown is more than expected.
- 2) expense in the amount of \$732.35 in December 2020 for Christmas crafts. The remaining balance/cash in the bank is \$10,527.91 as of December 31, 2020.

Another question to clarify with Pani Nadia is whether \$500 donation from UCU was received. \$750 donation from Buduchnist was received and placed into our account in January 2021. This will show in the January financials to be presented at the next school council meeting.

6. First Holy Communion

No updates

7. Easter Fundraiser

Should the school consider a possible Easter Fundraiser?

- J. Dmytrasz indicated that only 10 % of schools in our family are considering fundraising opportunities in Term 2. All fundraisers that took place at other schools this school year were cashless and touchless (items were delivered to families).
- Y. Yarema suggested to postpone this discussion until the provincial lock down is lifted.

Other Items

-N. Tome suggested to create a committee regarding gr. 8 graduation gifts. It is a good idea to start collecting the information from the gr. 8 students regarding their sizes and contact the vendor (AC Sports) to find out the prices for the hoodies (their graduation gift). It has been decided that V. Kit and N. Shved will contact the vendor and N. Tome will be assisting with communicating all information regarding this year's graduation to the community.

- V. Kit on behalf of parent council thanked P. Nadia Vereshchak and P. Oksana Tkaszuk for their assistance with packaging St. Nicholas gift bags.

-O. Volchuk thanked the admin and teachers of St. Sofia school for all their hard work and dedication during this challenging school year and making the virtual learning interesting and engaging for all students.

-J. Dmytrasz thanked all students for trying their best at staying engaged during virtual learning. He also thanked all parents for their ongoing support and cooperation this school year.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Next General Meeting (Virtual) - Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

