



**St. Sofia Byzantine Catholic School Council
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 23, 2022 - 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), Olena Shklar (Parent), A. Paranchuk (Parent), G. Pashchenko (Parent), O. Kulchyk (Parent), I. Iwaniura (Parent), H. Vivcharik (Parent).

Regrets: No regrets

1. Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer: Prayer of Peace, followed by The Lord's Prayer

2. Approval of Agenda – passed V. Kit, A. Tymoshyk

It was proposed to add one more item to today's agenda: item #3, a presentation from a trustee Mario Pascussi.

3. Welcoming Remarks from Trustee Mario Pascussi.

Important points of his presentation:

- We continue to pray for the people of Ukraine.
- The Ukrainian flag will be raised at the Board's office on Friday, March 25, 2022. Students from St. Sofia school will be participating in the liturgy and in the flag raising ceremony.
- There are many concerns regarding newly arriving children from Ukraine that are fleeing the war in their country. Those families are in a great need of the social assistance. Some of the concerns will be discussed at the upcoming Board's meeting and presented to the local MPPs.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes (from November 17, 2021) –

passed N. Shved, E. Chalupa

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

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

- The Virtue of the Month for March is ‘Kindness’
- School wide confessions are scheduled to take place during Lent on Thursday March 31 (in our school gym)

2. **Aid and support for Ukraine:**

- To date, we have collected \$5,550.00 for The Canada-Ukraine Foundation
- Student ribbon drive update: 175 have been sold to date (proceeds will be added to our CUF campaign).
- To date, we have welcomed 13 new students from Ukraine in the past 2 weeks.

Theme for Week of February 28:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Praying for Peace” • Bishop Bryan Bayda visited to our school • Initiation of construction of prayer wall
Theme for Week of March 7:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Blue and Yellow Spirit week” • Community was shared links to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress where they could offer financial humanitarian support • Uniform collection drive for incoming refugee children • Student constructed their own buttons and prayer cards to send abroad • School community collected over 40 boxes filled with first aid kits and sent them to Eastern Europe
Theme for Week of March 21:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “St. Sofia Backpack Project” • Every newcomer child is offered a new backpack with school supplies (student led initiative)
Theme for Week of March 28:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD

- A new settlement worker has been assigned to our school to help newcomers to our community. She is fluent in Ukrainian, and her name is Svitlana Belenko. There will be an information session for all newcomers that have registered at our school. This information session will take place in our school gym on Wednesday March 30 starting at 10:00am.
- CYM Mississauga has offered our newcomers the opportunity to join and participate in CYM each Saturday, without registration costs.

3. First Holy Communion:

- First Holy Confession will take place on Thursday May 12 in our school gym
- First Holy Communion will take place for our 55 communicants on Saturday May 14 at 11:00am
- Permission forms for all impacted families were sent home prior to the March break
- Each communicant will receive a St. Sofia Icon, Holy Card, blessed candle, white Solemn Holy Communion ribbon

4. Graduation 2022:

Both the school's administration and Grade 8 teaching staff would like to inform our parents with some important information that applies to your son's/daughter's graduation. Our committee is still working on some of the finer details of the graduation ceremonies, but we thought it was important for you to know some of the dates and details that are relevant.

Dates of Graduation Events:

Monday, June 20, 2022 – Grade 8 Retreat (Students & staff only)

9:30am	Departure by school bus to St. Elias Church for Grade 8 retreat
10:15am	Arrival at Church
10:20am	Grad Moleben in Church
11:00am	Discussion with priests in church hall
11:45am	Outdoor BBQ
12:30pm	Activities
3:00pm	Arrival back at St. Sofia School

Students are to dress in *casual/comfortable* attire for this event.

Wednesday, June 22, 2022 – Moleben & Ceremony

5:00pm	Graduating Class of 2022 arrive at school and convene in their classrooms
5:45pm	Graduate procession into St. Sofia School Gym
6:00pm	Graduation Moleben begins. Awards Ceremony and Presentation of Diplomas immediately following Moleben.
7:30pm	Graduation Ceremony concludes. Cake and coffee available in corridors.

Students are to dress in more *formal* attire for this event.

Friday, June 24, 2022 – Grade 8 Luncheon & Dance

11:45am	Grad Luncheon in school gym (catered)
12:45 -	Grad Dance with a DJ

Students are to dress in *semi-formal* attire for this event.

There is a cost associated with graduation. The details of final costs are being determined and will be communicated to parents in the next few weeks. These costs will include:

- Dance with D.J.
- Flowers for Moleben and Graduation Ceremony (Includes boutonniere / corsage for each graduate)
- Memory book for the Graduating Class
- Decorations

- Luncheon, cake, coffee, etc.
- Diplomas, printing, etc.

4. Pizza Fundraising opportunities:

- * pizza will be permitted inside the school for fundraising opportunities
- * we will start during the week of Monday April 25 (after both Easter weekends)

5. EQAO testing for students in grades 3 and 6 will take place between May 24 to June 3.

- * the completion of these tests will all be done on the computer
- * Our school has a resource teacher, Joe Marquis, who offering technology support to help prepare for the EQAO testing procedure
- * Parents will be reminded not to book any family trips during this period. Student attendance and testing participation during this block of time is important.

6. Parent Engagement Opportunities

- * the next scheduled parent engagement event (offered by CCCSC) is on Wednesday March 30 at 7:00pm
- * Lung Health Foundation and school staff will present **Springtime, Covid and Asthma- Practical Strategies for Self-Management Success.**

Link:

<https://zoom.us/j/91435849332?pwd=aDNwdCtIc0NoeGptVEdOOXIISUkyQT09>

Password:

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Upcoming Important Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
March 23	• School council meeting @ 6:30pm
31	• School wide confessions
April 4 - 21	• Pysanky (organized by the Ukrainian department)
15	• Good Friday (Gregorian calendar) – no school
18	• Easter Monday (Gregorian calendar) – no school
22	• Good Friday (Julian calendar) – no school
26	• Bright Tuesday mass at St. Mary’s church at 10:30am
May 10	• Welcome to Kindergarten evening (school gym)
12	• First Holy Confession (in school gym)
14	• First Holy Confession (St. Mary’s Church)
18	• School Council meeting at 6:30pm
TBA	• ‘Journey to Kindergarten” (more information to follow)
May 24- June 3	• Mandatory EQAO testing for all students in grades 3 and 6 students
June 6	• PA day
21	• Report cards sent home

22	• Graduation ceremony (in school gym @ 6:00pm)
28	• Year End Moleben (for entire school)

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

(E. Chalupa)

- Year-end balance-\$6, 745.27
- \$500 was deposited as a parent involvement grant
- \$1250 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 \$7195.54

7. First Communion

First Holy Confession will take place on Thursday, May 12 in St. Sofia’s school gymnasium. First Holy Communion will take place for the 55 communicants on Saturday, May 14 at 11:00am at St. Mary’s Ukrainian Catholic church. Children will be entering the church together with their parents and siblings. The Liturgy will be streamed live via St. Mary’s YouTube channel. Each communicant will receive a St. Sofia Icon, Holy Card, blessed candle, and white Solemn Holy Communion ribbon.

8. Graduation

This year’s Graduation events will take place during the week of June 20-24, 2022. It will be a fun filled week, which will include a Faith Retreat on June 20, 2022, Moleben and Graduation Ceremony on June 23, 2022, and Graduation Luncheon and Dance on June 24, 2022. Parents of gr. 8 students will receive more detail information regarding the Graduation events later in the year.

9. Pizza Fundraiser

Pizza fundraiser is back at St. Sofia school. It will start on April 26, 2022 and will be run by Parent Council for 10 weeks. Volunteers are needed for pizza distribution. They need to have a valid police check.

Questions:

-O. Shklar asked if students and staff are wearing masks at school. P. Tome replied that there are no more masking policies in place, masks are not mandatory for students or staff.

-E. Chalupa asked if school will be organizing a Year Book this year. P. Tome clarified that Year Books will only be offered to gr. 8 students.

-V. Kit asked if there are ways for the Parent Council to support newcomer students.

P. Dmytrasz invited the Parent Council members to join the information session with the settlement worker assigned to St. Sofia school on March 30, 2022.

He also indicated that the Parent Council representatives are needed for the Welcome to Kindergarten night, which will take place on May 10, 2022.

Closing Prayer: *The Lord's Prayer*

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Next General Meeting (Virtual) - Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 6:30 pm.