



St. Sofia Byzantine Catholic School Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 12, 2023, 6:30 PM

“ We would like to acknowledge that this is the sacred territory of the Mississauga of the Credit, and we thank them for being stewards of this land “

Members in attendance

NAME :	POSITION :
Oksana Shavel	Co-Chair
Olena Shklar	Co-Chair
Ewa Chalupa	Treasurer
Olga Meshko-Doubinska	Secretary
Nataliya Shved	Parish Rep
Victoria Kit	Parish Rep/alt
Oksana Sopotnytska	OAPCE Rep
Victoria Kit	Parent Rep
Kathryn Konnerth	Parent Rep
Motria Mielnik	Parent Rep
Katerina Minaeva	Parent Rep
Ulyana Polovka	Parent Rep
Nataliya Ryabchun	Parent Rep
Yuri Shavel	Parent Rep
Oksana Volchuk	Parent Rep
Diana Zariczniak	Parent Rep
Ola Holyk	Teacher Rep
Oksana Tkaczyk	Non-Teacher Rep
Sandra Donaghue	Principal
Rosina Cosentino	Vice-Principal
Father Tom Hrywna	Pastor
Vita –Marie Ross	Teacher Rep/alt
Yurij Woloszanskyj	Parent
Nadiya Yankiv	Parent
Natalia Batruch	Parent
Natalia Szpyrka	Parent
Marta Welykanych	Parent
Ernest Pradzynski	Parent
Natia Kaikatsishvili	Parent
Lenita Ramos	Parent
Tamara Dowhal	Teacher

Regrets : No Regrets

- 1. Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer: Students Prayer , followed by The Lord's Prayer** led by Fr. Tom Hrywna
- 2. Review and Approval of Minutes from last meeting on September 25, 2023** – approved by N. Shved , seconded by M.Mielnik
- 3. Approval of Agenda** – approved by K. Konnerth , seconded by O. Volchuk
- 4. Welcoming Remarks and Principal's Report (Pani Donaghue)**

- **Thank you to all parents** attending the meeting and introducing herself to new parents

- **School Spirit notes :**

Celebration of Terry Fox run and congratulating the class winners (Class games / pizza parties)

Assembly for reaching over \$6000 – PIE in the FACE – 5 staff participated

Additional \$ 1000 was raised for Geronimoe's Dream in honor for National Truth and Reconciliation week

Thank you all community for support

Student wellness ambassadors from Grs 7&8 attended a Wellness Day and are working with Pani Groh & Panna Medyk,

They have an opportunity for planning alongside with Peel Public Health Nurse; lots of activities for general wellness , mental health awareness and wellbeing, lots of school wide experiences are planned in near future . Now in the process of planning Halloween Spirit Week and start of Share Life Campaign

Curriculum updates : new Language Arts Curriculum implemented to start September 2023 , including shift for decodable books instead of leveled books . Some of the online tools which can be used are SPARK and EPIC, and SORA – online reading library , that students all have access to right now . All information can be found on Student Dashboard .

For MATH : MATH applications are being used , Mathology , My Math Path .

Field Trips: - currently working on getting all quotes for overnight trips for Gr .8. Approved vendors by the Board have to be used . More updates to come .

Sports Events :

- * Junior Volleyball Boys/Girls Team – mini-pod tournament on October 17, 2023 ;

- * Cross Country @ Centennial Park on October 13, 2023 – Team of 70 students.

- * ECO Team is up and running . Wonderful events are coming up

Thank you all for **Open House event** . Ice Cream truck, Got tremendous feedback , kids were happy and exited for Scavenger Hunt and Big Draw .

- **Thanksgiving Food Drive** : 236 lbs. were collected and donated to the Mississauga Food Bank . Thank you !

Photo Day on October 10, 2013 went great ., with retakes planned for November 7 , 2023 .

DROP OFF /PICK UP UPDATE : - parents should stay off pavement areas during school time , - all visitors , early pick ups and sign-ins should start from office , all walkthrough walkers are being redirected from school premises , student boundaries are in-place to avoid hits from playing sports students . , reducing foot traffic at school busses run line to avoid accidents . – request submitted to the City to come and visit Kiss and Ride Line to improve traffic and better planning & suggestions Expect everyone to follow the rules. – Morning drop off starts at 9 am with teachers supervision on the pavement . If bus is late , the driver calls the office to collect the kids .

Questions / Answers :

Parent asked about solution for late busses .
Was advised to call the bus company & follow up with STOPR
Work together & school follow ups on each late bus

Parent asked to clarify the date for implementation of new curriculum , which was confirmed as September 2023 ,
Wellness day will be for all students, field trips (overnight) are being organized for Gr .8
Pani Dowhal informed that Gr 1-3 farm trips were funded by Mississauga Newcomer center .

Parent asked an update on status of Textbooks
Curriculum Corner in SMORE newsletter will be of help to know all updates about curriculum
Google Classrooms are not mandatory to create for all teachers, but parents are encouraged to check the classroom GC and if there is any miscommunication – parents are asked to contact the teachers directly .

Parent commented on X Movement which was paid for another year by School Council and can be accessible . The link will be provided in future SMORE newsletters.

5. Welcoming remarks from Father Tom Hrywna – Pastor Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Church (St . Mary’s Church)

- Father Tom Hrywna introduced himself as a new Pastor and new priests at St . Mary’s Church : Fr. Bohdan Winnyckyj (full-time) , Fr. Volodymyr Nesterenko (part-time) , Fr. Bohdan Slipyj (part –time) .

- noted about pastoral partnership between our school with St . Mary’s Church and St . Elias Church since passing of Fr. Roman Galadza . No new Pastor appointed at St . Elias church as of now. Full pastoral responsibility is taken for St . Sofia students by St . Mary’s Church .

- work on Letter to Parents which will include pastoral plan and other important goals

- regular school visits on Tue. and Thu , and Wed – for Gr.2 only are planned.

- questions on plans , goals , concerns are always welcome to forward by e-mails, text messages , phone calls . All contact info can be found in Parish Bulletin and SABRES ROAR weekly newsletters.

- First Holy Communion is scheduled for Saturday , May 11, 2024 including 67 St . Sofia Students .

- All school service visit is planned once a month , besides regular school visits , and 2 students visits to the church planed on Christmas and Easter (more dates to follow)

First will be held on October 23, 2023 for Panakhyda and Memorial for Father Roman Galadza . All info will be shared in the next Smore newsletter .

- intention on regular visits to School Council meetings .

- Fr. Hrywna confirmed that icons for First Communion were ordered

- change in First Holy Confessions : they will be held in St . Mary's Church on Thursday , May 9 2024 @ 6:30 pm and parents will have to bring the students in for their Confessions . No transportation will be provided.

- Thank you from Co-chair Olena Shklar on behalf of School council and all parents attending the meeting .

6. Co –chair Report (Olena Shklar)

- Thank you to the members of the last year's School council . Looking forward on working with new members of SC and future parents attending , as well as the school administration .
- Main goals of new Co-chairs is making sure all meetings are productive , respectful of one another , aligned with the agenda .
- Sharing teaming responsibilities between Co-chairs
- Some agenda items will be addressed by Co-chairs and some might be reflected in Principal's Report .
- Support from school administration is present and shared between the SC.
- Oksana Shavel (Co-chair) suggested to create general email for parents to send their concerns and questions before SC meetings . Email will be shared in the future SABERS ROAR newsletters .
- In addition , option for separate questions / concerns form distributed for parents access to fill in might be considered in future . More info to follow

7. Review of Financials (Ewa Chalupa)

- review , taking comments , concerns for proposed School Council budget 2023-2024
- final SC budget postponed until next SC meeting in November
- Pizza Fundraising discussion as the main source of budget ; questions from parents
- Summary of proposed funds to be raised in the next 2023/2024 school year
- Discussion on suggested proposed expenses to be disbursed during 2023/2024 school year

- Questions /suggestions /comments :

* Importance of school technology budget combined with SC , school generated funds

Parent suggested to increase Angel Fund to \$ 1000 to help families in need ,which will be reviewed further in November

Parent suggested to increase school bus transportation based on future church visits planned and keep First communion , Graduation , St . Nicholas gift ,

Angel Fund as a major items in the budget and vote further on other additional items in November

*skating , swimming , library trips as a new future student experiences – more information to come in November

8. Fundraising (Pani Donaghue)

- Pani Donaghue will share SCHOOL GENERATED FUND (SGF) PLAN which includes:

* Civvies Days donations , which will be collecting for Share Life Foundation this school year ;

* Pizza Fundraising is a major fundraiser for School Council budget in addition to few more small additional fundraisers

* Scholastic Book Fair

* Terry Fox Fundraiser

* SUBWAY Fundraiser will be part of SGF collected by the school to support some of the school initiatives such as STEM s clubs , ECO TEAM , etc.

- **Suggestions /ideas on new alternative fundraising opportunities, additional questions :**

Parent suggested Chocolates Fundraiser to collect funds for school technology/repairs . Small cookie fundraisers , candy grams are additional options to consider

* clarification on new model of Pizza Fundraising : new additional dietary options as well as payment options are set

* Parent suggested to add St . Mary's Church and St . Elias church as additional recipients of Civvies Days Donations as well as 'DZERELO'- Ukrainian kids rehabilitation center . No fixed amount will be set . It's a voluntary donation .

9. Upcoming Holidays (suggestions , ideas and comments)

- St . Nicholas Concert discussions are on the way . More info to follow . Ideas on Ukrainian /English languages version of future concert , caroling in the classes , etc.

- St. Nicholas Gifts recommendations . Christmas ornament as a main traditional present, in addition with chocolates .

- MALANKA DANCE – TBD

-Parent will submit an applications for BCU and CU donations

- Motion to approve bus driver’s appreciation gifts - \$ 10 – approved by Kathryn Konnerth , seconded by Motria Melnik

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8: 45 pm

Next General Meeting - Thursday , November 9 , 2023 @ 6:30 pm .

