



**St. Sofia Byzantine Catholic School Council
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 12, 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), Olga Doubinska (Parish Rep), Ewa Chalupa (OAPCE Rep),

Regrets: Mariya Mazur (Treasurer), Yuliya Yarema (Community Rep).

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

2. Approval of Agenda – passed V. Kit, E. Chalupa

3. Review and Approval of Minutes (from January 27, 2021) - passed V. Kit,

O. Doubinska

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

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

- Bright Tuesday took place last week
- Our students and staff viewed a virtual mass at St. Elias Ukrainian Catholic church on Bright Tuesday at 10:00am

2. Projections for 2021-2022 – 610 students.

- * The staffing process is well under way for the Fall of 2021
- * The long process of the construction of classes is nearing completion for September

3. Staffing Updates

a) Marusia Sweleba has announced her retirement to the school board. She is an excellent Educational Resource Worker and will retire at the end of the year. She has served the school board for 37 years. Our community wishes her well.

b) We thank all the LTO staff that served our community this year and we wish them well:

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- Pana Gemma Ciofani
- Pahn Gabrielle Venditto
- Pani Cheri Natale
- Pana Alexis Lubuguin
- Pani Veronica D'Agostino
- Pana Natalia Biel
- Pani Urszula Trojan
- Pahn Michael Bugeja
- Pahn Taras Rosocha
- Pana Nicole Bernad
- Pana Katrusia Lewkowicz
- Pani Marta Kulik
- Pani Princy Jeleston-Raj
- Pana Amanda Babick

4. Good News for our Students:

- a) All 24 of our classes experienced virtual STEM activities with faculty from the University of Ottawa. All costs were covered for these 24 sessions as we were awarded with Grant funds specifically for these engagement opportunities.
- b) We applied for Grant funding from the Ministry for outdoor physical education materials/equipment. We were approved for a \$4,400 grant and the items that are all for outdoor education items have been ordered.

5. Parent Engagement Grant Money

- a) \$500 was deposited into every school account for Parent Engagement earlier this week
- b) It has been made very clear that we are only permitted to spend these funds by the end of the school on Parent Engagement; we are not allowed to spend the money on items such as Graduation
- c) Items that we can spend the money on include:
 - * purchasing a resource for all council members
 - * Examples would include:
 - 1) religious item/book,
 - 2) book on parent engagement and or equity
- d) It is highly recommended that council spends this money by mid-June 2021

It has been decided by the parent council that the parent engagement grant money will be spent on purchasing icons of the patron of St. Sofia School.

6. Graduation

- a) a letter will be sent to all parents in the coming weeks to provide as much direction and updates that are possible
- b) Topics in this memo will include:
 - i) Composite photo
 - ii) Virtual Graduation Ceremony dates and times
 - iii) Pick up of Graduation Gift bags

iv) Graduation Awards

v) Drive by through the bus lanes to pick up items – similar to 2020

7. Report cards

- * report cards will be sent electronically to all parents by the end of June
- * teachers will be reaching out to parents to give them a verbal update on their child’s progress and give parents an opportunity to ask questions. This contact with parents will be made with any students who are struggling with academics.

8. First Holy Communion – on hold

- * Father Bahriy continues with virtual Communion lessons every Thursday
- * teachers are continuing to teach prayers with the children
- * the dates of First Holy Confession and Communion are on hold
- * tentatively, the church is still hopeful that this event can proceed in the near future
- * it is solely up to the Bishop’s office and our church to decide when/if FHC will take place this Spring
- * the clergy will be making a decision by Friday May 14, 2021 and informing the school
- * the church thanks all parents for their understanding and flexibility

9. Sincere ‘**THANK YOU**’ to all who served on council.

Upcoming Important Dates

<u>Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
May 27	• First Holy Confession (on hold)
29	• First Holy Communion (on hold)
June 7	• PA Day – no school for students
22	• Target date to sent electronic report cards home
24	• Graduation night (virtual) – starts at 6:00pm
28	• Year end Moleben for the entire school (virtual)
29	• Last day of school

5. **Financial Report. Review of Financials as of March 31, 2021 (M. Mazur)**

Financials were prepared based on the information received from pani Nadia Vereshchak as of March 31, 2021. Not much movement since our last meeting in January 2021. There was only one transaction in the amount of \$697.78 towards the school council account for Icons (First Communion). YTD actual for the First Holy Communion shows spending of \$733.92, which also includes \$36.14 spent for communion labels purchased at the beginning of this school year. This leaves our bank account with \$7,044.88. Most projects we committed to at the beginning of the school year were completed. What we have left from commitments is 1) \$3K for Gr.8 graduation (the allocated funds will be used as per the plan in place), and 2) \$500 for Angel Fund.

6. First Holy Communion

- Father Bahriy continues with virtual Communion lessons every Thursday
- teachers are continuing to teach prayers with the children
- the dates of First Holy Confession and Communion are on hold
- it was previously scheduled on May 29, 2021
- tentatively, the church is still hopeful that this event can proceed in the near future
- the clergy will be making a decision by Friday May 14, 2021 and informing the school
- it was proposed by the school to consider June 5, 2021 as possible First Communion date

7. Graduation

-a letter will be sent to all parents in the coming weeks to provide updates regarding composite photos, virtual graduation ceremony dates and times, and pick up of graduation gift bags and awards.

8. Year Book

-The Trident Press (Pahn Pusak) was contacted by J. Dmytrasz regarding the year book for the gr. 8 graduates. The year book is very important for gr. 8s to celebrate their memories of St. Sofia School. It will be published at no cost to parents. Buduchnist donated \$500 to support this project. The picture of St. Sofia school will be placed on the cover of the book. It will be 20 pages long. Pictures of a few students will be featured on each page of the year book together with their personal responses.

-N. Tome indicated that this year was impossible to publish the year book for the entire school population. Teachers will celebrate year end in their own classrooms.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:40 pm.