



St. Francis Xavier Elementary School

"Together We Grow in Mind and Spirit."

111 Bartley Bull Parkway | Brampton | Ontario | L6W 2J8 | 905.459.0646

October 13th, 2020 School Council Minutes

10.13.2020 at 6:09 PM | Meeting called to order by Arlene Aguilar

In Attendance

Arlene Aguilar, Principal	Elizabeth Bowen
Wayne Campbell, Vice Principal	Justin Ambrose
Anna Da Silva, Trustee	Melissa French
Ellen Mastrangelo, Staff Rep	
Michelle Walters, Staff Rep	
Chris French, Chair/Treasurer	
Catherine Ambrose, Secretary	
Maureen Baldino, Non Staff Rep	
Samantha MacNeill, OAPCE Rep	
Geraldine Cabral, Community Rep	

Regrets: Renee Crone, Parish Rep

Welcome and Opening Prayer | 6:11 PM

Elections | 6:12 PM

- Arlene Aguilar reviewed positions; elections not necessary as more roles than nominations
 - Chair/Treasurer: Chris French
 - Secretary: Catherine Ambrose
 - OAPCE Rep: Samantha MacNeill
 - Community Rep: Geraldine Cabral
 - Parish Rep: Renee Crone

Principal's Report | 6:31 PM

- New school year updates:
 - 370 students are in-person learners; 107 are virtual
 - There is a fairly low percentage online – some schools are as high as 50%
 - There has been two re-organizations
 - We have welcomed a lot of new teachers to the school
 - Classes have been relocated – all non-essential furniture has been removed
 - Portable classes were moved into the building
 - New social worker, new speech/language therapist
 - Week leading up to classes were filled with training: equity, inclusivity, covid-19 protocols
 - Signage is posted throughout the school to remind students of protocol
 - Classes each have a certain area of the schoolyard to play in, as well as exit
 - Logs are implemented for washroom use, for contact tracing

- Region of Peel requires immediate dismissal of the entire class if there is a positive case
 - Children are quite happy to be back in school
- Terry Fox walk
 - Donations online
- Orange Shirt Day was on September 30th
- Food drive for Knight's Table took place for Thanksgiving
- Virtues program continues
 - Focus on 10 virtues; one each month
- Students can not come to the office to share prayers as in the past; working on a new system to connect via Google Meet
- Fire Drill
 - Classes did fairly well; being the first drill there are things to brush up on
 - Classes had to exit in pods (approximately four classes at a time)
 - Two more drills to be done in the Fall
 - Modified in the sense that not all the students come out at the same time
- Athletic events are on hold due to COVID-19
- New re-organization will take place in November; all 107 virtual students will be returning to the "school"
- Last year's school budget was frozen due to covid, and reabsorbed by the board.
- School-generated funds from last year are being carried forward; earmarked for technology devices and additional water-filling stations in the school

Trustee Report | 6:43 PM

- Learning modes:
 - 14,000 students that initially selected virtual learning; since then we have over 5,000 students that are now requesting virtual online
 - Virtual learning has only been in session for a couple of weeks; had a later start than in-person learning
 - Virtually learning is not sustainable for board; decision made to move into hybrid model
 - Large number of parents not happy with the change
 - Bringing forward queries parents have at board meeting
 - Regardless of whether they find an alternative model; November 1 was always slated as reorganization date; means that classes need to be reorganized again
 - Negative impact to students and parents; safety procedures, etc. – extremely challenging and are aware of many concerns
- Budgeting/Funding:
 - Board is at very low student-teacher ratio; happened due to social distancing requirements
 - Can only fit so many desks in a classroom; has reduced class size as a result
 - \$8M allocated
 - Board has spent ~\$10M hiring additional teachers; took \$2M from surplus
 - Still have classes online that do not have teachers; everyone in Ontario is having the same issues
 - Having trouble hiring principals
 - \$500,000 allocated to technology, spent \$1M
 - Have 20,000 devices out there; 500 hot spots for families that don't have access to internet
 - 2,000 devices that were allocated last year, that have yet to be returned (still in use)
 - Hired custodial help, mostly moving around where needed
 - Did not receive enough funding for dedicated custodial for each school
 - Every school has had changes to their filters; purchased portable hepa-filters to be able to refresh environment in some of the areas in schools without windows, or lacking filtration.
- Question posed to parents: If parents had the option to seamlessly have their children in and out of face-to-face learning; would parents be more likely to keep their children in face-to-face environment, rather than go online.

Next Meeting

November 30, 2020 | 6:00 PM via Zoom

Future meetings scheduled for:

- March 2, 2021
- May 18th, 2021

Motion to adjourn was made at 7:25 PM and was passed unanimously.