

Georges Vanier Catholic School Council Meeting Minutes  
Monday September 25, 2023

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*Staff:* Daniel Birkenbergs, Julie Esposito

*Present:* Sandra Salvino, Nicole Colp, Marcello Farrace, Andrea Payne, Donna Sisneth, Sonia Mastrantoni, Michael Burns, Rime Boulos, Alexis Commander, Gillian Fraites

*Regrets :* Mara Schiavello

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Moved by Sandra Salvino and seconded by Donna Sisneth
- Minutes from May 24, 2023, approved.

**Dissolution of Council from 2022-2023**

**Election of New Council for 2023-2024**

**Co-Chair:** Sandra Salvino

**Co-Chair:** Michael Burns

**Treasurer:** Alexis Commander

**Secretary:** Nicole Colp

**OAPCE:** Andrea Payne

**Parish:** Sandra Salvino

**Parent Rep:** Sonia Mastrantoni  
Marcello Farrace

**Treasurer's Report:**

**Chairs Report:**

**From last year:**

- Sacramental Celebration was great. 2 cakes and juice boxes for all the kids who made their First Communion and Confirmation. Thank you to Donna for helping!
- Play Day – Ice Dawgs were a big hit with the kids, nice change to freezies
- Celebration of Learning went great. The kids are always so cute. We had enough cookies and juice for all the kids.

**This year:**

- Terra Cotta Cookies – Campaign starts Wed. Oct 5th and goes to Oct 26th. Everything is online, easy ordering. Spread the word through family and friends, great time to buy, get ready for Christmas baking and gifts. Delivery date is set for November 9th, if there are some volunteers to sort orders, it would be greatly appreciated. -Prizes – Top 3 and a pizza lunch for the class with the most sales. Top 3 Indigo Gift Cards
- Future Fundraising – Spring Donation Drive
- Outdoor classroom – In and looking great, we had earmarked money to go towards the outdoor classroom. The money we earmarked will contribute to the cost of the fence since the school has a lot of supplies from COVID.
- Grade 8 \$500, can we approve it, so it is put aside for them?

**All Approved**

- Recess division lines - Kids are sectioned by division at recess, how about the kids whose classes are cross divisional? They can't play with their classmates at recess, can something be done about this. Also, the kids who were in grade 1 and have now been placed in the SK/1 class, can they have the same recess as their grade 1 friends?

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-The zones for the students have been put into place for the safety of the children. For example, you can have a small child running through a soccer game of the grade 8 students and potentially get hurt. It is new but the students are adjusting well.

-The SK/1 class still falls under the kindergarten schedule. Mr. Birkenbergs spoke with Mrs. Renda, and they will adjust the schedule to help accommodate the Grade 1's so they can go outside for at least part of the recess with their friends without giving them too much outdoor time.

**Parish**

- Children's Liturgy on Sunday 10:30am mass for kids aged 4-7
- Thanksgiving Food Drive, box in main church entrance until Oct 1.
- Christmas Bazaar – November 25th
- Preparing your Child with Differing Abilities for Sacraments – Thurs Oct 5 at 6:30 pm in person Catholic Education Centre Room 301, 40th Matheson Blvd. Mississauga. Please RSVP by Sept 30th. Check bulletin for link.

**Fundraising:**

-Council is always happy to hear anyone's ideas for fundraising, however given the amount of time it takes to organize the fundraiser along with personal work schedules, it must be an easy fundraiser. The fundraiser must use the cash online system that the school is using.

-We will visit Council's ideas at the upcoming meetings.

**OAPCE:**

-All updates will be emailed out to council

**Principal's Report:**

- Graduation- Thank you to council for your support with the Grade 8 Graduation and thank you to the 2 members of Council and the MP that were present. It was a wonderful celebration.
- Celebrations of Learning- Thank you to Council for the treats.
- School Community Share Life-Our school raised \$1250. We were in the top eight percent of schools in the Archdiocese which includes high schools.
- Improvement Project-Our outdoor classroom is almost complete. We are waiting on the fencing. Hopefully that can be done before winter but if not, it is operational for Grades 4 and up.
- New Lighting-New LED lights have been installed throughout the school.
- Fire Alarm-The new alarm system is finally complete and is very loud. We have conducted 2 out of 3 fire drills and will have 1 more this week.
- Thank you to the community for your patience with classroom reorganization. We moved approx. 40 students.
- Enrollment-We've had approx.20 new students in kindergarten and a decrease enrollment across all the grades. We are down 8 students from last year.
- Forms-Thank you to all parents/guardians and students for getting their forms in promptly. We had pizza parties for the classrooms who returned their forms the quickest as an incentive.
- X-Follow the school on X (Twitter) for all updates. Some parents raised concerns regarding the privacy of teachers accounts on X. There is no guarantee that the teachers accounts are private. They are only allowed to post pictures, etc. if the media consent form is signed. If it is not, the teacher would still post but blur the face of the child or use and emoji to ensure privacy. Email blasts have also started.
- Mass-Opening Mass will be this Wednesday. Father Imperial will come to do the mass.
- BBQ & Open House-Justin from Star Foods will be back. BBQ will start at 5:30. Mr. Birkenbergs will address everyone around 6:15 and afterwards will be open house in the school.

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- Terry Fox-Will take place on October 2, 2023. Link has been sent out for donations.

**Other Business:**

**Cash Online:**

- Parents were wondering if they could have an account with Cash Online that they could put money into so that they don't have to keep sending small amounts of money to the school when required.
- We don't have the financial system to accommodate that and cannot store the money.
- Cash online is the preferred method of collecting money. Schools do not collect money and do not want to hold staff accountable for handling money. Will make exceptions for certain circumstances.
- Cash online does have a cost associated with it. The fee is incorporated into the cost of money being collected.

**Christmas Bazaar:**

- Do we have enough people to help with a Christmas Bazaar?
- We cannot have baked goods or serve food this year, we cannot serve or sell anything that could potentially harm a student. All food must be prepackaged. Could possibly sell hot chocolate, coffee and Terra Cotta cookies.
- Council is allowed to accept cash for this event.
- Would need vendors, donations for raffle table and volunteers.
- Could offer Santa pictures at the event.
- Will form a Christmas Bazaar sub committee to help organize and will discuss at the next meeting.

**Spirit Wear:**

- Looking into new vendors for Spirit Wear. Game time from last year was not a good vendor and we are still dealing with issues from last year. Will investigate other vendors and hopefully find something before Christmas.

**Next Meeting Dates:**

- October 16th
- November 20<sup>th</sup>
- January 15<sup>th</sup>
- February 12<sup>th</sup>
- April 15<sup>th</sup>
- May 13<sup>th</sup>
- June 17th

**Adjournment:**

- Moved by Marcello Farrace and seconded by Andrea Payne to adjourn. Approved.