

Georges Vanier Catholic School Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday October 19, 2022

Staff: Daniel Birkenbergs

Present: Sandra Salvino, Nicole Colp, Mara Schiavello, Donna Sisneth, Marcello Farrace, Sonia Mastrantoni, Andrea Payne, Ritch Brayall, Leela Paltoo

Regrets :

Approval of Minutes:

- Moved by Mara Schiavello and seconded by Marcello Farrace
- Minutes from September 26th approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- Balance as of October 19th, 2022, is \$3020.19
- No money has been spent to date

Chairs Report:

Christmas Cookie Giveaway

- Terra Cotta Cookies Seasonal Wrap Cookie
- Vanilla Snowman 72 cookies in a case for \$49.80 and we would need 4 cases
- Agreed on date of distribution December 22, 2022.
- Donna and Sonja agreed to help distribute

Lunch Lady Program

- She had her own website for ordering, nothing would be done through School Cash Online or via cash at the school. Menu has been provided. She suggested adding \$0.45 per meal to make a profit. There is no minimum order. She has Tuesdays and Fridays available for our school.
- Agreed to do it on Fridays
- Parents need to be responsible for utensils
- Sandra will contact them to get everything set up.

Shrove Tuesday

- Again, through Lunch Lady
- Pancake (1) with Syrup, Packaging (Plate/Fork/Bag/Napkin): \$2.00
- Pancakes (2) with Syrup + Packaging: \$2.50
- This would be packed in bulk by classroom - just need to know the number of students in each classroom and the room number or the teacher's name.
- Mr. Birkenbergs agreed to do 50/50 for the cost of the pancakes for the students. We will earmark approximately \$300 for this.

Concerns from Council

Mr. Birkenbergs asked me at the beginning of the school year for a list of our concerns as parent council. I drew a blank because it was summer, and my mind wasn't even thinking about it but here is what I have come up with.

Parking Issue – Parking Lot people from Med Building parking there

- There are currently 4 spots where signs will be placed saying Reserved for Office Administration. The next 2 spots will have Visitor Parking Only. Hopefully when people see that the first 6 spots are school only parking that will deter them from parking in the lot.

Chain near garbage bin

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- There has been concerns about people driving into the backyard of the school during home time to turn around when the chain is down at the end of the parking lot. The chain is not supposed to be down during school hours and if anyone sees it down, please report it to Mr. Birkenbergs
- Mr. Birkenbergs put in a request to have a gate put there instead but he is still waiting for approval.

Field Trips, will there be more this year

- Staff were all encouraged to do at least one field trip per year. Bussing is very limited, and the trips also depend on the location.

Disbursement of classes when no supply how is that determined?

- Mr. Birkenbergs finds out the morning of if there is no teacher. They look for internal coverage first. If no coverage, students will be dispersed starting with Grades 7's and 8's because they have chromebooks.
- There is no funding for when teachers go on athletic trips therefore the students know ahead of time which classroom they will be going to.

Stage for performances

- The school had a stage years ago so council wondered if there was anything we can do to have a stage.
- Mr. Birkenbergs has investigated it however risers are not cheap, and we would have to look into storage and funding for them.

FDK play structures? Will they return?

- It is up to the teachers if they would like the play structures outside. The bear was taken down due to carpenter ants, but the footings will be fixed, and the bear will be put back up.
- The playground will be available in the spring during Phys ed but not at recess time.

Textbooks and school supplies i.e Math manipulative/ learning bins

- Students have been coming home with a duo tang, but no textbook and parents cannot see what they are learning or how to help them. The reason being is because they have moved away from textbook teaching because it doesn't align with the curriculum. The teachers are producing the work from their resources. Teachers can share Nelson resources for parents. Parents can also use TVO Mathify for Grades 4 and up which also provides free online tutoring resources.

Gravel pit in the back field

- The facility renewal request has already been put in to have new gravel put down and level out the back yard, so it isn't uneven. They will also be repaving the edge of the pavement approximately a foot in to repair the crumbling. It must be gravel beyond the pavement before the grass due to the salt in the winter.

Fire Alarm (Marcello)

- Marcello noticed two sets of alarms in each room, but one was capped. There was a new system installed this summer, but it is not yet operational. There is no date at which the switch over will be.

BBQ

-Thank you to Mr. Birkenbergs for organizing such a wonderful BBQ

Fundraising:

Donation Drive

-We would like to give the Donation Drive a try. We were thinking of running it between November 7th to November 21st

-We need to tell parents what the money would be going towards. Sandra will draft up a letter to send out.

Milk Program:

-The milk program would be one day per week either Monday or Wednesday.

-Minimum delivery is 96 cartons which means we would need 40% participation

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-Cost would be \$1-\$1.25

-Sandra will look into the numbers to see if it is worth doing.

50th Anniversary:

-There has been no response from the board. More information forthcoming.

Board Restrictions:

-Toronto Board can sell chocolate covered almonds and parents are wondering why we can't.

-Our board states that we cannot sell anything that could potentially be harmful to a student.

Parish Update:

- No Sacramental News
- Need Volunteers
- Catholic Women's League Christmas Bazaar Sat. Nov 19 10-2
- Children's Liturgy available Sundays at 10:30am mass for kids age 4-7

OAPCE:

-All updates will be emailed out to council

Principal's Report:

School Generated Funds

- SGF Plan 2022-2023: Discussion/Recommendations

CCCAT Committee Recruitment

- Inaugural Meeting: November 8th @3:30pm
- Need Volunteers for Safe School Committee

Pastoral Plan/Liturgies/Virtue Assemblies

- Pastoral Plan
- Virtue Assembly: Conscience- October 26th @ 11:21am
- Remembrance Day Liturgy- November 11th @ 10:45am

Progress Reports (REVISED DATES)

- Progress Reports distributed- November 15th
- Progress Report Interviews (as requested) November 17th

Events Update

- Terry Fox Walk
- Open House
- Orange Shirt Day
- Opening of School & St. Vincent de Paul Feast Day Mass
- Rosary Apostolate Visits-Monthly
- October Food Drive
- Athletics: Cross Country & Junior Volleyball

Upcoming School Events

- P.A. Day- October 24th
- Halloween Spirit Week- October 25th-28th
- BRAVE Workshops- October 25th & 26th
- CCAT Testing (Grade 4 students) October 27th & 28th
- Halloween Dance- October 31st

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- Picture Day- November 7th

Other Business:

Labour Disruption:

-Parents will find out at the same time as staff

Meetings:

- January 18
- February 15
- April 19
- May 17
- June 21

Adjournment:

- Moved by Andrea Payne and seconded by Donna Sisneth to adjourn. Approved.