

Georges Vanier Catholic School Council Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday January 18, 2023

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*Staff:* Daniel Birkenbergs  
*Present:* Sandra Salvino, Donna Sisneth, Marcello Farrace, Sonia Mastrantoni, Andrea Payne, Ritch Brayall  
*Regrets :* Nicole Colp, Mara Schiavello

**Approval of Minutes:**

- Moved by Marcello Farrace and seconded by Donna Sisneth
- Minutes from November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 approved.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Balance as of January 18, 2023, is \$3,996.09
- Parent Involvement Grant of \$500.00
- Fall Donation Drive of \$1695.40
- Cost for Hot Chocolate for Christmas Open House was \$474.60
- The bank has credited us because of the dispute of the cheque which was deposited twice.

**Chairs Report:**

**Christmas Cookie Giveaway**

-Snowman Cookie giveaway happened the week before Christmas break. The kids loved the cookies. Thank you to all who volunteered their time to hand out cookies!

**Hot Chocolate**

-Christmas Open House was a wonderful event, thank you to the Staff and Mr. Birkenbergs for organizing the evening. Council provided hot chocolate for the event. Williams Café (on Queen Street) catered the hot chocolate for us, they delivered it to the school with all the cups. We ordered enough for 250 people at a cost of \$474.60. Cookies were donated by the Salvino Family and Candy Canes were donated by the Schiavello Family. Thank you to the volunteers who handed out the hot chocolate that evening.

**Lunch Lady Program**

-Shrove Tuesday Pancakes will be catered by Lunch Lady. This evening we voted on the 2 pancake option at \$2.50 per student. Pancakes will come in bulk packaging. Each teacher would receive enough for their class along with syrup, plates, napkins and utensils. Sandra will get the current class lists to give to Pam from Lunch Lady. Mr. Birkenbergs will send out opt out letter to all students. It will also note that the pancakes are not a substitute for lunch and parents must still provide a lunch for their children.

**Donation Drive**

-Thank you to all who participated. We raised \$1705.00 (as per the report Sandra received before Christmas). That is an incredible amount of money for not selling a tangible item. It rivals profits we have made with other fundraising efforts. As we had mentioned we were going to hand out prizes to the top donors. It was voted on that anyone who donated over \$60 would receive a \$25 gift card to Indigo and those who donated \$50 would receive a \$10 Dairy Queen Card. Everyone who participated will receive a participation gift (which we have in the hub room).

**February Meeting**

-Originally our meeting was Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup>, due to a scheduling conflict it has been changed to Monday February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**Expanding Hot Lunch Program**

-It was brought up at the last meeting that the Lunch Lady portion sizes are small for our older kids. Sandra is collecting information from Subway and HealthyHunger.ca to see if we can expand our hot lunch program if not this school year but then to have in place for September 2023. She hopes to have more information at our next meeting.

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**Teaching Rep**

-In the past we have had a teaching rep attend our council meetings. Council was wondering if there is a staff member who would like to volunteer for the position. As of this date, no staff member signed up for the position. Sandra extended the invitation on behalf of council to invite a teaching rep back if anyone would like to volunteer for the position.

**Parking Gate**

-Safety concern about the chain being on the ground at the end of the parking lot was raised at the meeting. Morning janitor must make sure the chain is up first thing in the morning when people start arriving at school. Chain must stay up until the school is cleared at 3:30-3:34. If anyone sees the chain down, please notify the office. Mr. Birkenbergs has requested a permanent gate be installed where the chain currently is. It is a capital project and will need to go out to tender.

-Concerns were raised about the kiss and ride and people driving through the bus lane.

-Another email has been sent to our municipal councillor about the bike lanes and the traffic chaos it is causing before and after school.

**Parish Update:**

- 2023 envelopes are ready for pick up
- First Communion – Registration and Parent meeting have passed
- Confirmation – Registration and Enrolment meeting have passed. Mandatory meeting for students and parents is on Tuesday January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in the parish hall.
- Any questions about First Communion and Confirmation, please email the parish.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pasta Dinner is Saturday February 18, 2023 at 6:30pm in the church hall. Tickets are on sale at the back of the church after all masses. Adults \$15, Kids (6-12) \$10 and under 5 are free.

**OAPCE:**

- Last meeting was elections
- Next meeting will be a normal meeting

**Principal's Report:**

**School Initiative & Celebrations**

- School Logo Contest – Designed by a Grade 4 student
- Virtuous Vikings Initiative – Starting sometime in February. Kids seen doing something good and in line with the virtues will be given a card to post on the bulletin board in front of the gym. At the end of the month all the names go in a draw for small prizes.
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – May 3<sup>rd</sup> (TBC) Catholic Education Week. The theme is Vanier through the Years. Asking Vanier alumni to record short videos of their time at Georges Vanier.

**Liturgies / Virtues Assemblies**

- Virtues Assemblies: Respect – January 27<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm
- Ash Wednesday Liturgy: February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:15am

**Term 1 Reports**

- Reports distributed February 14<sup>th</sup>
- Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences are February 16<sup>th</sup> (evening) and February 17<sup>th</sup> (daytime)

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**Events Update**

- Christmas Events
- Christmas Open House approx. 230 people in attendance. (All Families got their pictures with Santa)
- Angel Giving Tree - \$500 in gift cards. Gift cards were given to 4 families.
- Spirit Week
- Bus Safety Training to wrap up by January 19, 2023

**Upcoming School Events**

- PA Day: Assessment, Evaluation & Reporting – January 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Mental Health & Well-Being Spirit Week – January 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>
- Grade 8 Graduation Photos – January 25<sup>th</sup>
- Hearing and Vision Screening Clinic – January 30<sup>th</sup>
- Rosary Apostolate Visit – February 10<sup>th</sup>
- Earth Rangers Presentation (KG to Gr. 6) – February 13<sup>th</sup>
- Family Day – February 20<sup>th</sup> No School

**Other Business:**

**FDK Class Sizes:**

-Concerns were raised about the FDK classes; specifically about the amount of children in Mrs. Vitale's class as compared to Mrs. Renda's class. Mr. Birkenbergs announced the Mrs. Vitale will be getting an ERW as of Friday January 20<sup>th</sup>. He understands their concerns. Council advised parents to contact our school trustee Shawn Xavier to advocate on the parents and children's behalf to the school board.

**Meetings:**

- February 13
- April 19
- May 24
- June 21

**Adjournment:**

- Moved by Sonia Mastrantoni and seconded by Marcello Farrace to adjourn. Approved.