

Georges Vanier Catholic School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday February 13, 2023

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

Approval of Minutes:

- Moved by Mara Schiavello and seconded by Andrea Payne
- Minutes from January 18, 2023 approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- Balance as of February 13, 2023, \$3991.14
- Bank Charges have increased.
- \$500 for Graduation that was previously approved put into expenses already.

Chairs Report:

Outdoor Classroom

-The best proposed location for the outdoor classroom would be in the front of the school. In the back there is a safety and damage issue. It cannot be placed on the grass or the pavement in the back. There is also a staff concern of use during recess if it was placed in the back.

-We would have to look into the condition of the tree in the front that it is stable.

-Mr. Birkenbergs will try to get a quote for that area as well as a quote to have it fenced in.

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

-No updates so far with Lunch Lady and how much we have made, Sandra will look into it.

-We get approximately a dozen orders per week.

Shrove Tuesday

-The order has gone in through Lunch Lady. It will be 2 pancakes per student and delivery will be at 10 am.

Fundraising:

Donation Drive

-The gift cards have been purchased and Sandra is in the process of making labels.

-Donation drive might not work a second time in the same year. Sometimes parents want to see something tangible.

Cookie Dough

-There are 2 companies that we can select from at this time, Terra Cotta and McMillans.

-Sandra will look into the cookies and let us know

Parish Update:

-Communion classes are currently taking place

-Confirmation classes are currently taking place

-No dates for Sacraments yet

-Pasta dinner this weekend

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OAPCE:

-All updates will be emailed out to council

Principal's Report:

School Initiatives & Celebrations

- Lenten Retreat- March 10th
- 50th Anniversary Celebration- May 3rd
 - Video greetings submission information

School Photography

- All agreed to switch to Bright Picks for the upcoming year.

Liturgies/Virtue Assemblies

- Ash Wednesday Liturgy- February 22nd @ 9:15am. Pizza Day will be Cheese only
- Virtues Assembly: Kindness- February 28th @11:21am
- Lenten Mass- March 10th @ 10:30am
- Stations of the Cross Liturgy- April 6th @ 1:15pm

Term 1 Reports

- Reports distributed- February 14th
- Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences- February 16th (evening) & February 17th (daytime)

Events Update

- Mental Health & Well-being Spirit Week
- Our Lady of the Cape Visit to St. John Fisher Church
- Earth Rangers presentation

Upcoming School Events

- Junior Basketball Tournaments- February 14th
- P.A. Day: Reporting to Parents/Guardians- February 17th
- Family Day- February 20th
- Virtuous Vikings Spirit Week- February 21st to 24th
- Spring Fling Spirit Week- March 6th to 10th
- Spring Fling Dance- March 9th
- Chess Tournament- March 24th
- Book Fair- March 27th to 31st
- Holy Week- April 2nd to April 6th
- Good Friday- April 7th
- Easter Monday- April 10th

Other Business:

Labour Disruption:

-Parents will find out at the same time as staff

Pretzel Sales

-Pretzels will be for sale through school cash online. Money will be donated to Share Life

Formed Website

-There is a website called Formed which teaches about Catholic values. Parents asked why we cannot be using this website during the year. There are a couple of reasons: it is not vetted for curricular use and our family parish is not signed up for that so we have limited use.

-Andrea will ask her parish if they will share usage.

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50th Anniversary

-An email will be sent out to families who then can share it with community members for submissions of memories of Georges Vanier. Submissions should only be about 30 seconds each. A video will be made and presents at the 50th Anniversary Celebration.

-There will be a liturgy, assembly with the history of the school, classrooms will be open as well as having the Welcome to Kindergarten night.

School Photography

-There is an annual renewal with out vendors. This year we had Edge imaging. Classroom photos were not included as well as they had to separate days for individual pictures and class pictures. There are 4 tendered companies to choose from and all agreed to try Bright Picks for the upcoming year.

Teacher Bully Prevention

-Parents asked if there is ever a discussion with students if they are ever being bullied by a teacher.

-The Family Life curriculum touches base on it in the older grades.

-Discussed that sometimes kids get lost in translation but also misinterpret things the wrong way. It is best to have discussion with your children often to see how they are feeling.

-Mr. Birkenbergs stated that if there is ever an issue, never wait and address it ASAP.

-Verbal part of bullying needs to be addressed more.

-Many students have lost resiliency because of covid restrictions

Primary Students- Concerns from parents that the primary students do not have any time to reach out to teachers if there is anything wrong.

-Teachers do provide opportunities to speak to them and often when Mr. Birkenbergs goes into the primary classroom there are many, many questions.

-Teachers will also ask students who look excluded or not themselves if there has been any conflict, if they are ok, etc.

-After covid, ages 10-15 years lost consistency and lost relationships at one of their most important times in their lives. -

-It could take up to 2-3 years to catch up on what we lost socially and academically during covid.

Social Media

-There is a big concern from parents about students being added to group chats that they didn't authorize. The school cannot take phones away from students, nor can they monitor what the children are doing on social media. This is for the parents to monitor and teach the kids at home what is right and wrong on social media. If there is any issue at the school with social media, the proper steps will be taken to resolve the issue.

Meetings:

- May 17
- June 21

Adjournment:

- Moved by Mara Schiavello and seconded by Donna Sisneth to adjourn. Approved.