

ST. ANGELA MERICI CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Minutes

11/6/2019 6:35 PM | Meeting called to order by Dominique Darmanin-Sturgeon

In Attendance

D. Linardic (Principal), M. Vitale (Vice Principal), Dominique Darmanin-Sturgeon (Chair), Taria Rossi (Treasurer), Steve Birnie (Secretary), A. DiGiovanni (Teaching Rep), Silvana DiBello (Non-Teaching Staff Rep), Lisa DeLeo (Parent Rep), Angel Baltazar (Parent Rep), Christina Calabrese (Parent Member), Candace Carter (Parent Member), Lenche Pandovska (Parent Member), Regina Ukwuoma (Parent Member), Colleen Birnie (Parent Member)

Regrets

Carla Machado (OAPCE Rep), Christine Vigneault (Parish Rep.), Amy Marasco (Parent Member), Karen Maraj (Parent Member), Mildred Lobo (Parent Member), Dale Achor (Parent Member), Anya Bruney-Francis (Parent Rep)

Opening Prayer

Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon led the Council in prayer.

Introduction

Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:35 PM. She thanked the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation for their stewardship of their traditional land.

Everyone present, parents and staff, introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The minutes of the October 2, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Mrs. Carter moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mrs. De Leo. Mrs. Rossi moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Birnie.

Chair's Report – Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon

- Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon advised that, after some research by Mrs. Linardic, that Council's by-laws could be amended to add an additional member, as Parent Rep, bringing the number of Council executive to 10. Council agreed to this amendment. Mrs. Baltazar was acclaimed as the additional Parent Rep,
- Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon read a message from the Superintendent, Les Storey. He advised that more information on the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant would be provided before the end of November.
- Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon reported that she has been in ongoing correspondence with a parent from the school about Pizza Day. The parent has asked if pizza with turkey pepperoni could be provided. Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon had replied that this option was cost prohibitive. The parent then asked if cheese pizza and pepperoni pizza could both be offered on Pizza Days. Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon responded that there

are not enough parent volunteers distributing orders on Pizza Day that would make this extra work feasible. The parent then asked if only cheese pizza could be offered.

- Mr. Birnie noted that a few years prior, for a few months only cheese pizza was offered on Pizza Day, and that resulted in a substantial drop in orders.
- Council agreed to maintain the current practice of only offering pepperoni pizza.
- The first meeting of the Central Committee of Catholic School Councils is November 7th. Council congratulated Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon on being selected the representative to the committee for elementary schools within the Brampton West family of schools.
- Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon noted that the next Council meeting in December will be the pot luck Social. She asked Mr. Birnie to email all members and solicit regarding what food they will bring for the pot luck.

Administration Update – Mrs. Linardic

- Mme Trotto has returned from maternity leave. The school thanks Mlle Istiphan for guiding her grade 4 French Immersion class.
- There was an assembly on November 4th where two military personnel shared their stories, as part of the commemoration of Remembrance Day. The Remembrance Day liturgy will on November 11th at 10:30 AM.
- The Youth Faith Ambassadors Commissioning Mass was held in October.
- The school is engaged in several Social Justice outreach activities: grade seven students went to Dr. Simone's warehouse in September to help prepare packages to be sent to the needy overseas; the school is also currently collecting hard Halloween Candy to go to Dr. Simone; the Hat and Mitten tree, in support of St. Louise Outreach, will return in November; and a toy drive to support Brampton West families in need will also start in November.
- Progress reports will go home Tuesday, November 12th. Interviews, if necessary, will take place on Thursday, November 14th.
- The Terry Fox walk raised \$3,915.15, and the school also generated funds from Tuck Shop sales at the Halloween dance.
- Spirit Week took place during the week of Halloween.
- The Book Fair will take place in the library from November 11th to 14th.
- French Immersion Parent Information Night (for all parents of Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board parents interested in F.I. for their children) will be held at the school on November 12th.
- The school is collaborating with the city of Brampton on Water and Waste Education workshops. These will cover issues such as drinking water treatment and distribution, water quality, wastewater collection and treatment, surface and groundwater protection, water efficiency and the impact of student waste habits on the environment.
- Mrs. Linardic reminded everyone that Friday November 15th is a PA day.
- Mrs. Linardic noted that the Consecration of Guardian Angels on Sunday, October 6th went very well, and attendance was extraordinary, with a massive crowd present.
- Mrs. Linardic reviewed the school's EQAO results from last year in greater detail. Results in all areas showed improvement over the previous year. For reading and writing this continues an ongoing upward trend, and exceeds the overall results for the Board and the province. She also noted that, for math results which are below the Board and Provincial average, that if students with scores falling between 2.7 and 2.9 (the threshold is 3) were added, then both grade 3 and grade 6 results would

substantially exceed Board and Province results. There will be continued emphasis on problem solving strategies in the math curriculum.

- The school continues to focus on STEM activities; the school has ordered a SMART board and, once received, all classrooms will have one. Council was thanked for past contributions in this regard.
- Other STEM initiatives: coding at the kindergarten level has commenced.
- Support for staff under the EGELT program, which is focussed on the intermediate level, is being provided by the Board. EGELT staff assist with navigating My Blueprint, developing technology-based research and study skills, how to use Google efficiently for research and study notes, including good versus weak web searching, and in the future will get into coding and navigating potential career pathways.
- The EDWIN project, whereby grade 7 and 8 students are given Chromebooks for the full school year, is ongoing.
- Finally, the MakerSpace in the library continues to be developed, and staff development related to the use of the tools is also ongoing.
- Mr. DiGiovanni has again arranged for author visits this school year.
- Dance instruction will occur in the spring once again. Grades 4 to 6 will learn Hip Hop while grades 7 and 8 will learn Line Dancing this time around. There will be performances for parents once again, likely around Catholic Education Week.
- All of the grades 1 through 3 classes will be having Christmas celebrations during school hours. There will once again be kindergarten Christmas concerts.
- The school is engaged in raising Indigenous Awareness. Staff professional development is ongoing, and a Residential School survivor will speak at the school in the spring.
- The theme of Catholic Education Week (May 4th to 8th, 2020) is Igniting Hope. This theme will be integrated into a school wide Advent retreat, being held at the school on December 3rd.
- The girls' junior volleyball team won the Brampton West tournament, and went on to finish 5th at the Boards. The boys' junior volleyball team lost in the semi-finals of their respective Brampton West tournament.
- The girls' intermediate mini-tournament will take place at Our Lady of Fatima on November 20th, while the intermediate boys' mini-tournament will take place at St. Angela Merici on that same day. If the teams qualify for the Brampton West tournament, the girls would play on November 26th at St. Daniel Comboni while the boys would play on November 28th at St. Angela Merici.
- The Grade 6 girls' cross country won their division banner, while the boys' team came in second. A Grade 6 girl from the school finished first in the Brampton West meet. 11 students in all made it to Boards.
- Mrs. Linardic advised that the Board is looking for more transparency from schools as it pertains to School Generated Funds. As part of that, Mrs. Linardic went over fundraising and expenditures that have already taken place, or will during the year.
- Funds will be generated by the Snack Shack throughout the year, and the poinsettia fundraiser has just kicked off.
- Expenditures include costs for athletic (transportation and registration fees), faith-based activities like the retreat and the sacraments as well as purchasing a chasuble for Guardian Angels church, supplementing the cost of the graduation celebration, the aforementioned author visits, the Scientists in the School program, Guardian Angels in the school, the Indigenous speaker and a speaker for Black History Month, the Dance programs, future technology purchases, Play Day and support for families in need.

- Monthly bank reconciliations will be posted on the school website.
- Mrs. Linardic reviewed the bank reconciliation transaction for the School Generated Funds from the start of the school year.
- Mrs. Linardic noted that Mrs. DiBello will be retiring at the end of November. The school thanks her for her many years of service and dedication, including her fifteen years at St. Angela Merici.

Treasurer's Report – Mrs. Rossi

- Most allocations have been paid out, and there are still surplus funds.
- Council agreed to contribute \$1,700 towards the cost of author visits.
- Council also agreed to contribute \$1,000 towards the costs for athletics (transportation and fees).
- Solicitation for the next round of pizza orders will go out in early December, and cover the period from January to March. For the next solicitation, no envelopes will be distributed as the cost of them has risen substantially. Parents will be strongly encouraged to use Cash Online.
- Mrs. Calabrese followed up on questions asked regarding the prospective alternate provider, Pizza Point. Feedback from schools that have used the provider have been generally positive. The restaurant is willing to reduce the amount of pepper used in their sauce, since concerns were raised about spiciness.
- Mrs. Ukwuoma asked if there was a way to have students try the pizza before the next round in January. There is no opportunity to do so during that time.
- Council decided to consider using Pizza Point for the April to June period.
- Mrs. Calabrese revisited the possibility of selling of Terra Cotta cookie products as a fundraiser this year. Council agreed this is a good idea.
- Council decided that orders will be solicited in February and distribution will occur in the first week of March.

Parish Report – Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon

- Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon conveyed the following updates from Mrs. Vigneault, who sent her regrets for being unable to attend: Sunday Missals are now being sold at the church; weekday morning masses are now taking place at 7:30 AM and weekday evening masses are taking place at 7 PM; there will be an International Food Festival in the parish hall on November 24th at 1 PM; there will be a Christmas concert in the hall on December 7th and tickets are \$10; and Line Dancing lessons are taking place at the hall on Thursdays at a cost of \$3.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

The next meeting will be the Christmas Social on Wednesday December 4th, 2019 at 6:30pm