

ST. ANGELA MERICI CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL

Minutes

11/7/2018 6:30 PM | Meeting called to order by Dominique Darmanin-Sturgeon

In Attendance

D. Linardic (Principal), Dominique Darmanin-Sturgeon (Chair), Silvana DiBello (Non-Teaching Staff Rep), Taria Rossi (Treasurer), , Steve Birnie (Secretary), Carla Machado (OAPCE Rep), A. Giovanni (Teaching Rep), Christine Vigneault (Parish Rep.), Lisa DeLeo (Parent Rep), Angel Baltazar (Parent Member), Karen Maraj. (Parent Member), Christina Calabrese (Parent Member), Candace Carter (Parent Member)

Regrets

M. Vitale (Vice Principal), Leanne Milando (Fundraising Chair), Amy Marasco (Parent Member), Lenche Pandovska (Parent Member), Anya Bruney-Francis (Parent Rep)

Opening Prayer

Mrs. Vigneault led Council in the Lord's Prayer.

Introduction

Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon welcomed everyone to the meeting at 6:30 PM. She thanked the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation for their stewardship of their traditional land.

Approval of Minutes and Agenda

The minutes of the October meeting were reviewed. Mrs. Machado moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Vigneault. Mrs. Rossi moved to approve the Agenda, seconded by Mr. Birnie.

Chair's Report – Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon

- Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon advised she and Mrs. Linardic attended the October 25th meeting of the chairs of the Brampton West family of School councils. They met the re-elected and newly elected Trustees.
- The Trustee for the ward within which St. Angela Merici falls, Mr. D'Souza, was re-elected in the October 22nd municipal elections.
- The Volunteer of the Year was awarded. Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon encouraged parents to nominate a worthy volunteer from our school community, as there are many worthy of nomination, and said anyone interested in doing so could speak to her.
- Mrs. Linardic noted that at that meeting Mrs. Darmanin-Sturgeon was named the alternate Brampton West representative to the Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC).
- On November 21st, Cardinal Leger Secondary School is hosting a night with author Ann Douglas, who will speak on the topic of raising teens.

- Mrs. Linardic announced that Sue Steer, is retiring from CCCSC. Lucy Papaloni, Superintendent for Brampton North East, will take her role.
- The school's Remembrance Day liturgy will be at 10:30 AM on November 9th.
- The Rosary Apostolate will once again be working with students this year.
- Reconciliation for students from grades 3 to 8 will be on November 21st.
- The school is revisiting how it awards the Virtues of the Month. Instead of having a school wide assembly, students receiving the Virtue will be called to the office for presentation of their certificate. Their picture will be taken and then posted in a display in the front lobby.
- The school is planning to do a retreat in December, to be attended by select students in all grades.
- Mme Trotto is now on maternity leave. Her Grade 4 French Immersion class has been taken over by Mlle Istaphan, who has joined the school.
- Mrs. Moura has departed the school to take on a role with the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board in a program capacity. Her role in her full-day kindergarten class has been taken on by Miss Sousa, who has joined the school.
- Progress Reports will be sent home November 13th. Parent-teacher meetings will take place in the afternoon and evening of November 15th. November 16th is a Professional Activity Day.
- There will also be a book fair in the library from November 12th to 15th.
- A French Immersion information night will take place on November 22nd at Our Lady of Providence elementary school.
- The Halloween dance went well.
- The school is selling poinsettias as a fundraiser. The school wanted to try a fundraiser and chose a Christmas oriented one so it does not conflict with Council selling chocolates in February.
- The school is planning a Christmas family movie night around the end of November, to coincide with Advent. Families attending are encouraged to wear Christmas themed clothing. Pizza will be sold at the event.
- The intermediate girls' volleyball team will take part in a tournament on November 22nd, while the intermediate boys' team will take part in a tournament on November 21st.
- Both the Grade 4/5 boys and Grade 8 girls won banners in the Board's Cross Country competition.
- The intermediate girls' soccer team will take part in a tournament on December 12th. The intermediate boys' team is on a waiting list.
- The Board has provided a PowerPoint deck regarding the legalization of Cannabis, addressing the impacts and risks for schools. It is posted on the Board website and Mrs. Linardic shared printed copies.
- Cannabis use by staff or students will be treated in the same manner as alcohol consumption; it is illegal for use by elementary and secondary school students and anyone who uses it during school hours will be subject to progressive discipline.
- Mrs. Linardic delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the school's EQAO results. The percentage of Grade 3 students that met or exceeded the provincial standard in reading and writing were above the provincial and Board averages, and the percentage of Grade 6 students that met or exceeded the provincial standard in reading and writing were slightly below provincial and Board averages.
- Results in Math for both grades were below the provincial and Board averages. Mrs. Linardic pointed out that if Merici students who were 0.1 below the provincial standard had seen their results rounded up, the school's results would have been consistent with the provincial and Board average.

- The school's Administration and teaching staff are working on a plan to bring student results up to the provincial standard. The gap has been identified as lying in problem solving, and school's strategy will be to focus on problem solving strategies and applications.
- Mrs. Calabrese asked if EQAO results are reflected in a student's overall results for the school year. Mrs. Linardic said that EQAO is not used to evaluate students, it is used a tool by Ministry and the Board to evaluate programs and identify areas that need renewed focus.
- Based on provincial results overall, the Board is looking at math fundamentals, teaching students multiple strategies for problem solving.
- Mr. DiGiovanni delivered a presentation on the Library Learning Commons that he has implemented in the school library. This collaborative environment has been shown to improve student enjoyment of learning and overall performance.
- The library has added a Spark Zone where students can try challenges during their class' weekly visit to the library. There has also been a recording studio added where students can explore their creativity, and a MakerSpace has replaced the computer lab.
- In the MakerSpace students can undertake creative activities with tools such as Lego, K'Nex and modelling clay.
- In the space there are also robots which allow students to do coding at differing levels of complexity. There is an Ozobot for all skill levels but particularly useful for beginners, a Dash for younger students and Spheros for older students. These were all purchased with funds from past book fairs.
- Mr. DiGiovanni asked if Council could provide \$1,500 that could be used to further develop the MakerSpace.

<h3>Fundraising Update and Treasurers Report – Mrs. Rossi</h3>
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Fundraising:

- Mrs. Rossi advised she will not have new bank statements until mid-November, so financial statements could not be produced.
- Pizza sales for the first three months of the school year went well. The next solicitation will take place at the end of November, with a December 4th due date, and will cover pizza orders for the period from the beginning of January to the end of March. A third session will cover from the beginning of April right to the end of the school year.
- Volunteers are needed to help count money when the next batch of orders come in. Anyone able to assist can contact Mrs. Rossi directly.
- Mrs. Rossi asked Council if the price for pizza should be increased since the cost per pizza from Family Pizza has increased by 25 cents. Council agreed the cost per slice will remain at \$2.
- So far pizza sales have generated \$5,000 in profit.
- The Lunch Box program has gone well so far. The three restaurants being used are Boston Pizza, Mr. Sub and Harvey's.
- Volunteers are needed to help sort orders when they arrive. Lunch Box order come in every Thursday just after 11 AM.
- Mrs. Rossi and Mrs. Baltazar have met with the representative from LaMontagne/World's Finest chocolates regarding the planned February fundraiser to sell Laura Secord chocolate bars for \$5.
- Council will utilize the coordinator provided by LaMontagne to assist with the campaign.

- Volunteers will be needed to hand out boxes the evening of February 7th, which is when parent-teacher meetings will be taking place. Volunteers will not be needed as much on February 8th as that is part of the role of the coordinator.
- An opt out letter will be sent out beforehand.
- Prizes will have to be purchased by Council because LaMontagne does not provide them anymore. Any ideas can be conveyed to Mrs. Baltazar. Promotional material like posters will also have to be developed by Council. Council will also consider picking representatives to speak at the kick off assembly.

Treasurer's report:

- Council currently has \$7000 that can be allocated.
- Mrs. Rossi listed options for allocations: a \$5 per student craft budget that would total \$2,500; a Raz Kids Reading licence which would cost approximately \$2,000; supplies for Shrove Tuesday which would cost approximately \$300; another Family Skate Night at a local community centre, which cost \$600 last year.
- Mr. DiGiovanni asked if Council could contribute \$1,200 towards three author visits that are taking place next Spring.
- Mrs. Linardic advised that no funds are needed for Christmas events at the school this year. She also advised that the school will again have dance instruction taking place in the Spring; ballroom dancing for grades 7 and 8 and hip hop for grades 4 to 6. Council contributed \$2,000 to this program last year.
- Mrs. Linardic said that funding is needed to arrange for transportation to athletic events.
- Council approved the following allocations: \$1,500 for the MakerSpace in the Library; \$2,500 for the craft budget; \$2,000 for the Raz Kids licence; \$1,200 for author visits; \$1,000 for team transportation; \$300 for Shrove Tuesday supplies; and \$500 for Family Skate Night.
- Allocation of funds for dance instruction will be decided in the Spring.
- Mrs. Baltazar will look into venues for Family Skate Night.
- Mrs. Carter suggested an outing to go skating at Gage Park. She will look into this further.

Parish Report – Mrs. Vigneault

- Guardian Angels Parish has two youth groups that meet at the parish hall: EDGE, which is for students in grades 5 to 8, and LifeTeen, which is for grades 9 to 12. EDGE will be meeting at the parish hall on Saturday, November 10th from 6:15 PM to 8:00 PM.

OAPCE Report – Mrs. Machado

- The OAPCE annual general meeting will be taking place on November 24th from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM at St. Francis Xavier Secondary School. Everyone is welcome. Keynote speakers are Miguel Martinez of MTC Life and Teresa Harnett.

Other Business

- Mrs. Machado asked if the school has any anti-bullying programs in place, such as an anti-bullying week.
- Mrs. Linardic says events tied to this theme take place throughout the school year. She also advised that the student council is coordinating these events.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

The next meeting will be Wednesday December 5 2018 at 6:30 PM and will be the Christmas Social. Mr. Birnie will send an email asking what everyone is bringing to the pot luck.