

Good Shepherd Catholic Elementary School
Catholic School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 11, 2011
7:00pm

In Attendance

Gerard van den Wildenberg, Tim Kellar, Virginia Marini, Nora Tyll, Tracey Fyfe, Brent Madore, Heather Howard, Pat McNeil, Diane McGill, Rhonda Daley, Karen Sullivan, Sandra Cagan, Jennifer Sherlock, Jacqueline Muccio, Tammy Shiel, Shawna Shiel, Nicole O'Sullivan

Regrets

Nicholle Stanisz

1. Opening Prayer

Virginia Marini

2. Approval of Agenda

motion: Brent Madore second: Nicole O'Sullivan carried: YES

3. Approval of Minutes

motion: Nora Tyll second: Rhonda Daley carried: YES

4. Business Arising from Minutes

Virginia, Tim and Pat attended a district Council meeting regarding the Parent Engagement Policy (booklet distributed to Council members). Since the last meeting, Jacqueline has also combed through the brochure and all four of our Council members say that the findings are vague. Monies will be attributed to all schools but the amount is not clearly specified or outlined. Tim suggests that Virginia may have to go to the Board directly to find out what the Board gets and what they anticipate Good Shepherd will receive. We also do not know if this money will replace the Parent Reaching Out grants that we have applied for and received in previous years. Having said that, we have to submit the 2011/12 grant requests online by May 13, 2011.

5. Treasurer's Report

a) Nora addresses Council by mentioning that there are no significant highlights this month. A few more teachers have spent their money and more money has been added to the Pizza account as per usual. The Smart-boards are still to be paid for but the money is there, we are just awaiting invoicing.

b) Nora wants to caution Council members as they look at the updated Category Umbrella Overview Report, although our totals are sitting at \$27,000, much of those funds has already been allocated per the Spending Priorities report. It is suggested that perhaps we should transfer some of the money that has already been allocated into the appropriate accounts now rather than wait. Nora agrees and puts forward the motion to transfer \$3,000 from Magazine Fundraiser (#2030) to The Bussing and Excursions account (#2199) as we are coming up to a busier time of year for field trips and are already aware that the funds will be requested.

motion: Nora Tyll second: Sandra Cagan carried: YES

Nora further motioned that we transfer \$4,000 from Pizza Day (#2027) to Agendas (#2006) for the already approved payment of the 2011/12 student agendas.

motion: Nora Tyll

second: Tammy Shiel

carried: YES

c) Tim asks if Nora could kindly summarize where we are with reference to the Spending Priorities monies and transfers and possibly email a one-page spreadsheet to Council members. Nora agrees.

6. Vice-Principal Report

- a) Virginia attended a seminar held by education lawyer, Eric Roher regarding regulations around school councils. She summarized that the Good Shepherd School Council is following most of the criteria but that there are a couple of line items that we can improve upon. Virginia will seek out tent cards for the names and titles of Council members to make identifying us easier for parents who are not regular Council attendees. She also mentioned that there should be secret ballots for voting for Council positions in the fall. It was pointed out however that since our positions have never been in contention or challenged, ballots had not been necessary in the past. It is entirely agreed that should a position be challenged by two or more candidates, secret ballots would indeed be utilized. In the interim, Virginia will also look up the bylaws that were created years ago regarding the Good Shepherd School Council.
- b) As a follow up to all of the traffic issues at Good Shepherd, Virginia feels that they are finally improving. She says that there is still a bit of a problem with the afternoon pickup but that hopefully better signage will improve things down the road. Tim interjects that the mornings are certainly much better and that most problems and concerns arise with new parents or relatives doing the drop off for the first time.
- c) Virginia also wanted to let us know that effective May 1, Greg Reeves will be replacing John Mackle as Director of Education and Secretary Treasurer for the PVNCC board.

7. Committee Reports

- a) Chair/Co-Chair - Tim put forward a motion to donate \$200 to the organization, Racing Against Drugs. Council has donated to this cause in the past and Tim reminds us that it is a wonderful program directed towards Grade 5 students. Nora seconds the motion and recommends that the money be taken from the Bussing/Excursion account (#2199)
motion: Tim Kellar second: Nora Tyll carried: YES
- b) Teacher Representative - Nicole wanted to praise the entire school but especially the grade 7 and 8 students who helped to organize the Mardi Gras celebration that was held. Students learned more about the Acadian expulsion and the history of Mardi Gras while enjoying stations with pancake making, beaded necklaces, mask-making and dance.
- c) Community Representative - Brent had emailed his report to Council members in advance but reminded all of us about the Bowmanville Maple Fest which takes place on Saturday, May 7.
- d) Student Representative - Shawna updated Council by saying that the grade eight students have raised just over \$1,000 with their recent endeavors: including Coffee House, two dances and will be organizing the upcoming Junior and Primary Talent Shows. The grade 8 graduation ceremony is scheduled for June 23 and with all of the fundraising (including poinsettia sales and hot dog lunches), there has been a \$95 price reduction for each grade 8 student for the end-of-year trip. The Lenten food drive finished today and the school just raised \$375 from Hawaiian/Beach Day. There will be a Dodgeball Tournament held next week and monies raised from the \$2 entry fee will be donated to the Food Drive also.
- e) Fundraising Representative - Tammy does not have too much to report but is already seeking donations from corporations in our community as prizes or incentives for next year's fundraising drive. The discussion turned again to the year-end barbecue and the vote is

unanimous to do something different this year. At past meetings, the idea of a movie night had been raised and Council decided that in conjunction with the idea of Parent Engagement, we will do a movie night in the gym with a social component for parents to meet for coffee in the library. Jacqueline volunteered to get things started by pricing out food etc. and create a rough outline of the evening. Others on Council reminded her that we are there to help as needed. Tracey mentions that having parents making friends and being social at the school can only help to improve overall parent involvement throughout all Good Shepherd events. The tentative date is kept as Thursday, June 9 and Nora puts forward a motion to transfer \$350 from ProGrant (#2005) to BBQ (#2023) to go towards supplies.

motion: Nora Tyll second: Tracey Fyfe carried: YES

- f) Allergy Awareness Representative - It had been suggested to Karen after our last meeting that it might be productive for the school to merge the Snack/Nutrition Committee with the Allergy Awareness Committee and to that end, she and Tracey Kiproff attended a Snack Committee meeting. The concern that Karen has is that the Allergy Awareness Committee might get lost if combined with the other committee. Tim reminded Council members that our school board views Good Shepherd as being the leader in successfully implementing our allergy awareness policies throughout the school and making all students, parents and teachers aware of the importance of respecting the policies. Gerard suggests that Karen and her committee have done such an exceptional job that everyone now knows and has fully absorbed the importance of respecting and responding to allergies throughout the school. It was suggested that perhaps the Allergy Awareness Committee could support the Snack/Nutrition Committee but does not necessarily have to merge with it. Gerard and Karen agree to give it another meeting to find out if the fit is there.
- g) Parish Representative - Heather commented that the March school mass was very successful thanks to some students and Council members helping out. Her full parish report was sent to Council members earlier in the week.
- h) OAPCE Representative - Once again, Pat has received no official communication but after attending a meeting on Wednesday night, discovered that our OAPCE representative had been elected a Trustee and as a result, our district is going through a transition phase. As mentioned in the last minutes, this year's OAPCE conference will be taking place in Burlington on May 13-14. Council usually sends some members to this event. Interested parties should forward their name to Gerard by May 11.
- i) Environment Representative - absent

8. Principal's Report

- a) Gerard mentions that the new Smart-boards that were approved at the last meeting have been delivered and installed. Two new boards were ordered and paid for by Council and the other two came from the Work Study Initiative. Gerard was pleased to announce that the new boards will be coming in at just below \$7,500 and not the \$8,000 that was initially budgeted for. All teachers are thrilled with the new Smart-boards and on April 26, the Work Study Initiative program are sending someone to train teachers on new Smart-board skills.
- b) Gerard says that he was speaking again to Steve Smith, Principal of St. Joseph's regarding the upcoming presentation of Dr. Karen Gordon. Gerard asks if our Council would support St. Joseph's in this presentation by offering funds to help with the costs? Tim puts forth a motion to take \$150 from PRO Grant (#2005) to send. Gerard says that Good Shepherd will be given 25 complementary tickets for the presentation set for May 3 at Holy Trinity.

motion: Tim Kellar second: Tammy Shiel carried: YES

9. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a) Continue our discussion on the possible merging of the Nutrition and Allergy Awareness Committees.
- b) Finalize plans for our “Parent’s Night Out” on Thursday, June 9.

9. Next Meeting Date

Confirmed for Monday, May 9, 2011 at 7pm.

10. Closing Prayer

Virginia Marini