

Good Shepherd Catholic Elementary School
Catholic School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 9, 2011
7:00pm

In Attendance

Gerard van den Wildenberg, Tim Kellar, Virginia Marini, Nora Tyll, Tracey Fyfe, Brent Madore, Heather Howard, Pat McNeil, Ray McGill, Karen Sullivan, Sandra Cagan, Jacqueline Muccio, Nicole O'Sullivan, Beau Richards

Regrets

Jennifer Sherlock, Tammy Shiel, Rhonda Daley, Shawna Shiel, Nicholle Stanisz

1. Opening Prayer

Virginia Marini and Heather Howard

2. Approval of Agenda

motion: Nora Tyll second: Brent Madore carried: YES

3. Approval of Minutes

motion: Sandra Cagan second: Pat McNeil carried: YES

4. Business Arising from Minutes

none.

5. Treasurer's Report

a) Nora supplied Council with an update to the spending priorities list that was determined at the beginning of the school year and most items are on track. The anticipated additions and shuffles that were approved at the last meeting have taken place. There was additional expenditure from the ProGrant account as we processed payment towards the Dr. Karen Gordon event (also decided at the last meeting). A few more teachers have been using their money and Nora would anticipate more spending as we approach the end of the school year. Additional funds have also been spent towards school excursions as anticipated. Essentially, there is \$1000 that is still committed but the year-end budget will ultimately balance.

b) Nora pointed out that there was movement in terms of \$77 being added to the Good and Welfare account and Gerard clarified that this was returned from one of the families of a grade 8 student who we had offered to loan funds towards the end-of-year trip. Virginia interjected that since the trip was ultimately reduced by \$95 per child, there should be \$285 returned to the Good and Welfare account for the three families that we had offered to help. Virginia will speak to Gisele regarding the transfer.

c) Tim mentions to Nora that there is no official numbered account for the grade 8 graduation. Nora acknowledges that she doesn't know why this is the case but that since Council is committed to helping with this trip, it would be best to have an allocated account and puts forth a motion to create a new account for this.

motion: Nora Tyll second: Nicole O'Sullivan carried: YES

Nora further motioned that we transfer \$500 from Magazine Fund (#2030) to this new account.

motion: Nora Tyll second: Jacqueline Muccio carried: YES

d) Motion to accept Treasurer's Report:

motion: Nora Tyll second: Karen Sullivan carried: YES

6. Vice-Principal Report

- a) Virginia remarked that the students have been exceptionally busy this past month and things are going very well over all. The primary and junior grades just completed a very successful talent show and commencing this week, the grade 8 students will be running an intramural soccer program for grades 1-3. During tomorrow's school assembly, there will be a review of pedestrian safety and dress code with all of the students. Also to be noted; with the removal of the portables, staff have noticed that there have been motorized vehicles using the school property during off-hours. There has been a sign put up in the hopes of addressing this matter.
- b) Virginia has been visiting a draft policy issued by the Board regarding the implementation of a Parent Engagement Committee in the Fall. She will bring more information to the June meeting if it is available by then.
- c) A reminder that the Grade 8 trip is coming up (June 15-17) and Virginia will be attending with the students and other teachers. Grade 8 graduation is then on Thursday, June 23. Virginia would like to acknowledge that the Grade 8 leadership component has been a great success this year and that she has a staff member in mind to assist with it next year.

7. Committee Reports

- a) Chair/Co-Chair - none.
- b) Teacher Representative - Nicole wanted to add to Virginia's comments regarding the school talent show and says that it was wonderful to see the performers but also to see the students in the audience being highly supportive of their peers. She also wanted to give Council a heads up regarding OECTA's (Ontario English Catholic Teacher's Association) upcoming campaign entitled, "Who Speaks for Children?". The campaign will coincide with the the Ontario provincial elections this Fall and you can find out more information at <http://speakforchildren.ca> . Lastly she wanted Council to be aware of a recent statistic showing that Ontario is 5th in the world in terms of language education which is a huge success story that perhaps most parents are not aware of. Nicole also wondered if teachers could pool their \$50 funds together if they so wished and Council agreed that this would be fine.
- c) Community Representative - Brent had emailed his report to Council members in advance.
- d) Student Representative - absent.
- e) Fundraising Representative - Sandra reminded Council that although she and Tammy are following up with some places regarding donations, their real work and follow-up doesn't really kick in until September. Virginia mentioned that she had received some coupons for pizza slices and will put them away until the Fall. Nora asked if it would be possible to remind parents through the website that if they hold on to their magazine renewals, QSP will honor better deals if you have found them.
- f) Allergy Awareness Representative - Since the last meeting, Karen has had another meeting with the School Nutrition Action Committee and is feeling better about the possible merging of the two committees. She mentions that the aim for next year will be to have students more involved in the committee and to over-see many of the initiatives. One initiative will be to try to restrict plastic water bottles at the school next year and to encourage families to purchase re-usable BPA-free bottles for their children. Karen also wondered about the possibility of having a breakfast program at the school? Tim interjected that although other schools on the Durham boards have such a thing, they have found that there is often a problem securing volunteers for this undertaking. The amount of time and effort to get this program off the ground and also to maintain it is massive. Nicole interjects that there are other schools within our board that have "Nutrition Bins" in the classroom. The monies for

the food in the bins comes from the School Council. These bins are filled at the beginning of the week with non-perishable food items (granola bars, apple sauce) and some fruit with the idea being that students who do not have enough in their lunch for the day could help themselves. Council agreed that if there were a child in need, this could take away the stigma attached to having to go to the office to request something. There was a question as to whether there would be a need for this at our schools so Nicole will inquire with various teachers to get their opinions of the concept.

- g) Parish Representative - Heather's parish report was sent to Council members earlier in the week.
- h) OAPCE Representative - Once again, Pat has received no official communication and has found that there is no new information on the website. Pat brought pamphlets regarding Emergency Planning procedures as driven by the provincial government.
- i) Environment Representative - absent

8. Principal's Report

- a) Gerard informed Council that the school board has re-keyed the entire school and that there are three levels of keys. The overall master key will only be held by the principals, secretaries and custodial staff. The teachers have their own level of keys which access their specific classroom and storage areas within the school. Between 3:30pm-3:45pm each day, custodians will lock the stairwells and as volunteers, you may notice that most rooms are now being kept locked. In the case of a lock-down situation, locked rooms would not have to be searched which can save valuable time in an emergency situation. In September, there will be a buzzer system installed at the front doors with a camera for viewing.
- b) With reference to the school organization for the Fall, Gerard says that while nothing is carved in stone in terms of which teachers will be remaining at Good Shepherd, the school will not lose any teaching positions. As of the Fall, the school will have three full-time Special Education teachers and overall will gain a "half" teacher position.
- c) Lastly, Gerard wanted to mention that our school has been selected to be part of a work study initiative involving a pilot project that uses electronic tablets as part of the classroom education. There will be five tablets to use and details will follow.

9. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a) Continue our discussion on Nutrition Bins in the classroom.

10. Next Meeting Date

Confirmed for Monday, June 13, 2011 at 7pm.

11. Closing Prayer

Virginia Marini