

**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING
ST. CATHERINE SCHOOL COUNCIL
Held on Monday, October 4, 2010**

1. Meeting Called to Order @ 6:30 p.m.

Catherine Voros led us in the opening prayer.

2. New Council for 2010/2011

a) Chair – Caroline Grady is leaving the position.

MOTION: Moved by Caroline Grady, seconded by Catherine Voros
Sue Dafoe named Chair.
CARRIED

b) Vice Chair – Currently held by Catherine Voros.

MOTION: Moved by Caroline Grady, seconded by Lynn Smith
Catherine Voros to remain Vice Chair.
CARRIED

c) Secretary – Currently a vacant position.

MOTION: Moved by Caroline Grady, seconded by Tracy Leigh
Natacha Couillard named Secretary.
CARRIED

d) Treasurer – Michele McArthur is leaving the position.

MOTION: Moved by Caroline Grady, seconded by Catherine Voros
Evangelina Rodriguez named Treasurer.
CARRIED

3. Treasurer's Report

- Bank account opening balance is approximately \$7000.
- Welcome BBQ cost \$740. \$500 was covered through a grant provided by the Board from the Ministry of Education. Grants are given for community outreach events.

4. Principal's Report

- a. Introduction to new Vice Principal at St. Catherine – Karan Leal
- b. Enrolment numbers – currently 619 students – an increase from 600 last year
- c. Staff numbers – currently 50 staff members. New Kindergarten teacher was hired once the school year began. Several new staff this year, mostly in the junior level.

- d. Two specialty programs at St. Catherine – CASA a program for children living with Autism that has 6 students. BEST (Behaviour Education Strategy Training) has 8 students from grades 4-6.
- e. New initiatives:
 - i. Ministry of Education is going from three to two progress reports. November 16 the first progress report will go home to parents.
 - ii. Library – JK are the only students having books read to them. SK – Grade 8 are doing book exchanges. This has freed up Mrs. Ross to work with smaller groups during the day.
 - iii. Critical Literacy – Making the Connection program being used from Kindergarten to Grade 8.
 - iv. Technology – any child can use the school’s wireless system. The Board recently approved this. St. Catherine is completely wireless. Teachers have their own laptop. Every class has a Smart Board. Grades 3-8 are doing a computer support project. JK – Grade 2 are using technology as an assessment tool. Every day they work on a specific program.
- f. EQAO – Math scores were low for both the Board and the Province with an average of 75%. St. Catherine’s scores are meeting and beating the Board and Province. Grade 6 had one of the highest scores in the Board.
- g. Student Government – New government was recently elected.
- h. Speak Up Grant – Last year two speakers were booked. \$2000 worth of grant money is available depending on the subject matter. Deadline to apply is November 1. Two applications are being submitted from students.
- i. Wish List:
 - i. Scientist in the Classroom $\$175 \times 30$ (classrooms) = \$5250
Last year the Council funded half the money for each visit. This year the school would like the entire amount funded. Each grade has a topic specific to their age group. The groups are led by women Scientists for a one-day interactive workshop.
 - ii. School Trips - $\$2 \times 619 = \$ 1238$
Council provides \$2 for each student to go on a class trip.
 - iii. Compassion Fund – any amount
\$1200 was spent last year by the school. They would like a fund set up that could be used on a per needs basis.
 - iv. Classroom Libraries - \$1500 +
Last year \$1500 was given - \$750 for English primary and \$750 for French primary.
 - v. Class set of Lacrosse Materials - \$700
Students have requested more outdoor resources for play during recess and lunch break. The school has purchased 24 Lacrosse sticks, balls and 2 nets.
 - vi. Painting Pavement Games - \$1000
October 14 painting will begin in the pavement area so students can play different pavement games. To be completed by October 31.

- vii. Additional laptops / computers – TBD (\$500-\$1000)
The school would like to have portable laptop carts that could move from classroom to classroom (mobile technology). They would like 15 by the end of next year. A ratio of 2-3 computers per classroom would be ideal.

MOTION: Moved by Catherine Voros, seconded by Lynn Smith
Immediate approval of the following wish list items:
Scientist in the Classroom \$5250
Classroom Libraries \$1500
Lacrosse materials \$700
Painting pavement \$1000
Total = \$5250
CARRIED

5. Student Council Events for 2010/2011 School Year

- Welcome BBQ – was a success
- Pizza Days – 15 in total – Oct 8, Oct 22, Nov 5, Nov 19, Dec 3, Jan 14, Jan 28, Feb 11, Feb 25, Mar 11, Apr 1, Apr 15, Apr 29, May 13 and May 27. Run by Francisca Eckstein. Domino's Pizza provides the pizza.
- QSP fundraiser – October 1 – 14. Run by Caroline Grady. Last year had \$29000 gross sales and council made \$13000.
- Turkey lunch – Held Thursday December 9th. Date was co-ordinated with Kenner Collegiate. In lieu of missing the turkey lunch JK/SK Monday/Wednesday children will be provided with a free pizza day December 17th.
- Skating days – Friday December 17th and Friday March 4th. Grades 1-8 will go to Kinsman Arena and the school will have both pads. Parents will be needed to help tie skates. Primary students must wear helmets (could be a bicycle helmet). The school is trying to encourage all students to wear a helmet.
- Staff Appreciation lunches – January 13th and June 23rd. Still need to finalize who will run these events. To be decided at the December council meeting.
- Freezie days – June 2, 9, 16 and 23rd.
- Poinsettia fundraiser – council decided to go ahead with this fundraiser. No specific time frame was decided. All money raised will go to a local charity through St. Alphonsus. Council will make a decision during the December meeting about the amount being sent to St. Alphonsus.

6. New Business

- Good Samaritan Fund / School Compassion Fund – discussion moved to December council meeting.
- Zap Attack (Laser Tag) – Tracy Leigh presented information she obtained when speaking to the owner of Zap Attack. Council can pick either a Wednesday or Thursday night during the year. Zap Attack would require three weeks notice to set up the event. They would charge \$6 per game and \$2 per game would come

back to St. Catherine. The maximum number of children per game is 24 and each game lasts 30 minutes. The maximum amount raised if the event sold out would be \$480. Flyers would be sent out to students and they would have to be shown the night of the event to receive the discount. Zap Attack would also advertise the events on their website. Tracy Leigh will be the person to run these events. At this time event dates are TBD, but it was suggested to have one before Christmas and one in the new year.

MOTION: Moved by Sue Dafoe, and seconded by Catherine Voros
Approval to go ahead with this new fundraising initiative.
CARRIED

- My Shopping Genie Update – Tracy Leigh provided council with \$50 from the proceeds to date since the launch. The launch was late last school year. There has not been much time to ramp up this fundraiser and get people on board. Tracy requested a write up be added to the monthly newsletter to get the word out about this fundraiser. Currently there are approximately 25 installations of the app. The Public School Board did a risk assessment on the app. This fundraiser would provide monthly income to St. Catherine.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: Moved by Caroline Grady, and seconded by Becky Beavis
That the meeting adjourn – 8:00 p.m.
CARRIED

Date of next meeting – Monday December 6th, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.