

ST. BASIL CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES – 2019/2020 SCHOOL YEAR

DATE: Wednesday, January 20, 2021

LOCATION: Zoom

Attendees:

A. Ramalho, E. Filippozzi, , M. Pascucci, C. Kopec, M. Zigante, A. Campanelli, J. Munro, J. DI Giacinto, J. Brady, M. Izydor-Fik, S. Hillier, P. Carnevale, V. Smith, M. Diamond

Regrets: A. Brooks

Meeting Start Time: 7:00pm

1. **Welcome & Intro Land Acknowledgment and Opening prayer led by E. Filippozzi**
2. **School Board Trustee Update:** Presented by: M. Pascucci
 - M. Pascucci apologized for not making the last meeting
 - Wanted to check in with parents to understand how they are feeling towards the current learning system
 - The board is aware of some connectivity and hardware issues for some students
 - Teachers are working hard to make this transition successful
 - Recognize long stretches of screen time for students
 - Would like to establish best practices to minimize the anxiety and make it as simple as possible for all. M. Pascucci will bring the following ideas forward to the board:
 - All students stick to regular school schedule
 - Introduce independent time and Stop and stretch time to give students a break from screens
 - More teachers utilize breakout room options for guided practice
 - M. Pascucci asked E. Filippozzi about sacraments and E. Filippozzi shared:
 - The parish has not responded or connected about communion and confirmation since August.
 - There is no direction from Sts. Martha & Mary's Parish
 - We haven't registered student for sacraments
 - The superintendent is aware of this issue but no update as yet
 - Teachers are still teaching the religious requirements per the religious/ family life program
 - Action: M. Pascucci will look into this issue
 - As a reminder: an operational issue is a school matter, a governance issue is Mario's responsibility. Please send an email to Mario directly when you need assistance
3. **Review and approval of agenda:** Approved by C. Kopec and seconded by J. DI Giacinto
4. **Review and approval of minutes from November 25, 2020 meeting:** Approved by A. Campanelli, seconded by C. Kopec
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Presented by: C. Kopec

- Council is urged to use the board generated report templates to prepare financial tracking this helps with the auditing process
- November cheque of \$2,151.20 for painted games on pavement for students was cleared
- All outstanding payments have been paid and cleared
- Closing Balance for December 2020 is \$4,503.05

6. **Principal's Report:** Presented by: E. Filippozzi

- Mr. Gord Des Cotes, grade 8 remote teacher was with us for short time (from November), however, he left a lasting impression on the school, especially with the teachers and students he worked with
- He was loved and adored and this was his first time teaching in an elementary school setting. He was a funny character, with a twisted sense of humour and had lots of stories to share. On December 18th, Mr. Des Cotes went on a medical leave and then we learned of his passing on January 17th, 2021
- His replacement is Mr. Gerald Octavo
- Mrs. Meneses was pulled out of planning time to replace Mrs. Chiechi who also went on medical leave in December
- Ms. Fantin has replaced Ms. Meneses as the planning time teacher
- There continues to be a shortage of teachers, this is an ongoing challenge in the Provinces. There is funding but there are no bodies
- Anna Brooks is retiring on January 31st and her last day will be January 29th
- J. Beatty (from St. Vincent de Paul) will replace A. Brooks
- Miguel Martinez session was supposed happen next week but we asked him to move the date after March due to Zoom connectivity issues and over 200 students signing on
 - o For cyber safety reasons, the school board only allow to use Zoom (for outside presentations) and Google Classroom for in class learning
- Grade 8 Grad Shirts were distributed and well received by the students
- There are news stations reporting a possible extension to virtual learning, however, we are still waiting for an official announcement
- Sacramental celebrations:
 - o We have not received any information from Sts. Martha and Mary Parish
 - o E. Filippozzi will reach out to Julie Laval, principal at St. Alfred's, to see if she has had any success hearing from Father Darrin Corkum

7. **School News: Mrs Brooks Retirement:** Presented by: E. Filippozzi

- School will hold a staff meeting on Wednesday, January 27th for a special send off with a personalized video
- Staff has contributed to A. Brooks' son's memorial fund at SickKids
- M. Zigante and A. Campanelli will be invited to attend staff meeting to deliver well wishes on behalf of council
- For council members that would like to participate in a gift or appreciation, memorial fund information will be sent via A. Campanelli

8. **School News: Mr. Des Cotes passing:** Presented by: E. Filippozzi

- M. Zigante shared that to her knowledge, we have never had a faculty member pass away, so council does not have a best practice established at this point to commemorate Mr. Des Cotes
- E. Filippozzi acknowledged that St. Basil has lost two students in the past and their plaques hang in the school. These 2 plaques will move to a dedicated wall in the school (leading from main building to the portapack)
- Staff idea: Order a plaque to honour Mr. Des Cotes and add to the memorial wall, and possibly plant a tree in his memory in the Peace Garden that the school is looking to establish in the spring
- A memorial bench is also an idea but it will be costly and there will be a lot of challenges with the installation due to school board policies and practices

9. **Sacramental Celebration Gifts for 2020 and 2021:** Presented by: A. Ramalho

- A. Ramalho presented a deck with options for sacramental celebration and graduation gifts - options are interchangeable and are priced between CAD \$2.00 to \$4.00 ea student
- Total tally of students for 2020/21 school year:
 - o 20 grade 2's
 - o 19 grade 7's
- For 2019/20 school year, the grade 2 and 7's did not receive their sacramental gift from council so we will need to commemorate them this year
 - 33 grade 2's (currently grade 3 students)
 - 25 grade 7's (currently grade 8 students)
- Historically, council has distributed different gifts for each year. Gifts have never been consistent but there is an opportunity to be consistent moving forward
- All council members were in favour of buying a specific gift for each sacrament or celebration in bulk and storing it for 5 years. The following items were approved:
 - o First Communion - [Dove](#) lapel pin
 - o Confirmation - [Red Flame](#) lapel pin
 - o Graduation - [St. Basil branded](#) lapel pin
- M. Zigante and A. Ramalho to confirm prayer or message for accompanying card and work with
- S. Hillier to ask her husband, who is a graphic designer, to help us put the prayer card design together.

10. **New Business:** Presented by: E. Filippozzi

- Starting the staffing process for 2021
- All teachers have received their forms for 2021 to build their wish list for September
- When assigning teachers to classes/grades, E. Filippozzi will look at
 - o Needs of the students
 - o Overall needs of the community
 - o The plan that the board provides
- All placements are tentative and can change up to the 2nd week of September
- Parents will have the opportunity to share child's teaching requirements where input will be based on the needs of the child, including learning needs
- Current kindergarten registration is at 20 students. This number is higher in comparison to the same time last year

- In September, the 37 St. Basil students currently enrolled in the online learning model will likely be returning to St. Basil. This is dependent on the pandemic situation in the Fall.
- Next Week the school will be hosting a virtual spirit week to keep the kids engaged
 - Monday - Long Winter Nap - wear Pjs
 - Tuesday - Team Tuesday - favorite jersey
 - Wednesday - Winter Wonderland - wear winter gear
 - Thursday - Beach Vacation Days - wear beach gear
 - Friday - curl up and read - bring your favorite book and the whole school will be reading from 1-1:30pm

- J. Brady, M. Diamond, P. Carnevale thanked parents for their help with getting the kids set up at home and stepping in where needed, especially with tech issues

- M. Zigante and A. Campanelli, thanked teachers for the smoother transition to the online learning model and for all their work and support during this challenging time

- February council meeting was moved from Feb 3rd to Wednesday, February 24th

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 24th, 2021