



2022/2023 St. Helen Catholic School Council

Chair – Ms. S. Tomaino &
Co-Chair – Ms. M. Scott
Treasurer – Ms. G. Tota
Secretary – Ms. T Landriault
OAPCE Rep – Mr. K. Shipley
Parish Rep – Ms. Field
Principal – Mr. Furtado
Teacher Rep – Mrs. Pandullo
Non Teacher Rep – Mrs. Webster
Member at Large – Mr. C. Adamiec

Meeting Date: November 24, 2022

Attendees: Ms. M. Scott, Ms. T Landriault, Mr. K. Shipley, Ms. Field, Mr. C. Adamiec, Ms. Keating, Mr. Furtado, Ms. Webster, Ms. J. Da Silva, Mr. G. Da Silva

Regrets: Ms. S. Tomaino, Ms. G. Tota, Mrs. Pandullo

Agenda:

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. Opening Prayer
3. Approval of the Minutes from Last Meeting
4. Approval of Tonight's Agenda
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Parish Report
7. Chair's Report
8. Principal's Report
9. New Business
10. Any Other Business
11. Meeting Adjourned / Closing Prayer

Land Acknowledgement & Opening Prayer:

- Ms. Scott completed

Approval of the Minutes from Last Meeting:

- Mr. Shipley and Ms. Field approved

Approval of Tonight's Agenda:

- Ms. Da Silva approved

Treasurer's Report:

- To be discussed at February meeting

Parish Report:

- Youth ministry:
 - JR Edge (Grade 3 – 5) Thurs. Nov. 24th at 6pm in the Hall
 - EDGE (Grade 6 – 8) Thurs. Dec. 15th at 6pm in the Hall
- Children's liturgy every Sunday at 10am
- Christmas pageant rehearsals have started – kids age 4-11 – every Sunday at 3pm until Christmas eve
- First Sunday of Advent is Nov 27th. Religious articles and mass books will be available for sale after mass on Nov 26 and 27.
- Blue Piggy Banks are back. Starting Nov 26 and 27, the Knights of Columbus will be distributing banks for parishioners to take home and collect coins over the holidays.
 - They will then be returned to the Knights beginning mid January
 - Last year, the Blue Piggy Banks generated over \$4000 of donations, which were used to support the Compass Foodbank and other local charities!
- The official installation mass of Fr. Joseph Rodrigues as Pastor of St. Christopher's will be Sunday, Dec 4 at 12pm. The auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Toronto will be there to celebrate mass.

Chair's Report:

- Spook-A-Thon – October 31
 - Thank you to parent and Youth Faith Ambassador volunteers
 - Document on how to run the event has been added to Council binder
 - Budget was \$99.37 and spent \$54.39
 - Noted request from School to identify list of parent volunteers for events in advance
- North Pole Breakfast/Breakfast with Santa – Dec. 3, 9-11 am
 - Updated list of volunteers to be emailed to Council
 - Currently no high school volunteers. Council asked if the Youth Faith Ambassadors could volunteer for the breakfast. School to let Council know about volunteers by Nov. 30.
 - Pancake mix and syrup were donated by Sunnyside Grill
 - Packages to be made available for families to purchase on School Cash Online
 - Budget set for 200 package A's. Orders due Nov. 30. Currently 29 package A's sold, and a few package B's.
 - Council raised concerns that families have not seen the North Pole Breakfast flyer that was included in the school updates emails. School to send a separate email about the North Pole Breakfast, and send a paper flyer home to families.
 - Santa Terry will be coming. Cost of Santa Terry donated by a parent. Will attend breakfast from 9:30-11 am. Families can take their own photos with Santa. School to include the time that Santa will be in attendance and to bring a camera in communication to families.
 - Permit request form to set up gym completed
- Greenery and poinsettia fundraiser – Pick up on Dec. 2 and Dec. 3 during Breakfast with Santa

- Greenery and poinsettia funds raised \$167.88. Total sales for greenery was \$480. Total sales for poinsettia was \$981.12.
- Delivery of greenery on Nov. 30 and poinsettias on Dec. 2
- Families will pick-up greenery and poinsettias from the stage
- Council asked what we expected to raise and how this year compares to previous years? Council to confirm.
- Council identified there was a challenge communicating with friends and family because the flyer did not list prices. Also, challenges because friends and family members could not go on School Cash Online to pay for their orders; purchases needed to go through parents of the student(s). School will look into options for future fundraisers, which could include providing a link to School Cash Online for friends and family members to pay for fundraising items themselves.
- Pizza night
 - Pizza night – families will buy pizza from a vendor and a portion of the sales will be donated to St. Helen
 - Council agreed that a pizza night should be scheduled for both December and February
 - Council to contact Jopapas, Domino’s or Gino’s for more information on fundraising options
- Chocolate Fundraiser
 - Council to confirm if we will be working with World’s Finest or Laura Secord
 - Council proposed to run the campaign from Feb. 1-21. To be confirmed with Council Chair.
 - Council to confirm if there will be a kick-off assembly. Need to discuss prizes at a future meeting.
- Factory Shoe and Flip Give fundraisers
 - Council asked if a reminder about these fundraisers was sent to families
 - Council Chair to send info to the School to send out
 - Council suggested a reminder should be sent out to families about Factory Shoe in June so families can consider for back to school shopping in the summer
- Element Well Being Grant (K-8)
 - Council identified \$500 grant available for student initiatives related to mental health
- Other
 - X-Movement and outdoor equipment to be discussed in Principal’s report

Principal’s Report:

- CUPE labour disruption
 - Under ratification vote
 - Staff were prepared – packages were prepared, technology went home
 - All technology has been recovered and is back in circulation in the school
- School activities are on track
 - Intermediate volleyball – team finished second
 - Mr. D (Child Youth Worker) – running Cooking Club, snack shop, before and after school activities; also, planning games club at recess
 - Council voiced concerns that it seems only one staff member is running all extra-curricular activities. Cannot mandate staff, but part of Principal’s job to encourage staff to volunteer. Mr. Couto and Mrs. Pietrangelo also volunteer.
- Looking for opportunities to build school spirit and engage students

- Students watched Team Canada FIFA game as part of Bullying Awareness week to promote an inclusive and diverse, globally positive spirit. Students were able to purchase snacks during the game.
- Spirit Week in December - Will have Christmas activities, AM/PM sing-a-long, PJ day where students will watch the Grinch and buy snacks from the school store
- Also upcoming - 50th anniversary, Black history month, Playday, sports/clubs, etc
- School spirit and leadership – virtues assemblies (students will receive certificates), Advent liturgy, rosary apostalate, Catholic expectation graduation awards, Eco team, etc
- Field trips – Raptors 905 (grades 4 to 8), planning trips at every grade
- Mrs. Northover applied for grant (\$2K) for robotics and coding (JK-8)
 - To build up STEM in the school for all grade levels
 - Mr. Couto and Mrs. Northover have training in robotics
- Mississauga South Speech Competition/Film Festival (Gr. 4-8)
 - Students to make speeches in class on Feb. 15. Class representatives will be selected to present at school level competition on Feb. 23. School representatives will be submitted to participate in Speech Competition/Film Festival Competition in March.
- Mississauga South Chess Competition
 - School teams will participate on March 24
- X-Movement package selected
 - \$2,995 to take place on May 8/9/10 (parent engagement evening) for K-8
 - To consider charging a small amount (such as \$5) to students to reduce the cost to the School.
 - To discuss Council contribution at a future meeting once Council budget prepared.
- Items from the prior year and potential current year budget were discussed – no items were voted on
 - A-Z/Raz Kids - School indicated these are no longer needed because the Board has invested in other literacy resources. Primary teachers are going to explore phoenix program on Nov 28.
 - Children’s events/Christmas concert – likely not needed to be included in budget; Breakfast with Santa has a separate budget.
 - General items – need Treasurer to look into what this budget amount covers
 - Mr. D requested \$200 for games – a separate email will be sent out for Council vote
 - Kindergarten and Gr. 8 graduation – may need couple hundred
 - \$100/class – some teachers have asked if this can increase to \$150; School indicated this amount may not be needed because teachers get a budget from the school, so these funds could potentially be reallocated
 - Grad composite – School would like to provide a grad composite photo to each Gr. 8 student – estimated budget \$500
 - Scientist in the school – may consider doing again this year; may charge a small amount (e.g. \$5) to the students to recover some of the costs
 - Chrome book cases cost \$1,736 - to be determined if Council will contribute to this cost once Council budget is determined
 - Discussion of remaining budget items is deferred to the next meeting
- Library resources

- Some resources need to be more reflective of diversity, so school is adding to library and class book collections
- School met with Board plant department
 - Discussed deficiencies, such as overgrowth on the fence lines, paving of the gravel, status of planter boxes, adding turf to net areas, painting foyer, etc
 - Will be a multi-year project to enhance safety and beautify the school
- Use of field during snow
 - School received a lot of calls from parents about the field being closed after the first snow, which the School had to respond to
 - School indicated snow was creating muddy conditions, so the field was closed at that time, but not for the duration of the winter
 - Concerns of Principal and parents were discussed, including Principal's autonomy on when to close the field, communication to parents and students about why and how long the field was closed for, etc
- Yard zones
 - School presented data that indicated that the number of injuries reported at the school were decreased this year compared to last year since the addition of the yard zones
 - The School indicated the intention of the yard zones is to create safety and minimize contact between older and younger children. This is a common practice in schools to have yard zones and alternate access to the field.
 - School is reviewing the area assigned to primary and junior students as part of the discussions with the Board plant department
- Parents in school yard (Blue lines, to enhance safety at arrival/dismissal)
 - School indicated that parents do not normally enter school yards
 - There have been numerous incidents at the school in the last month, some serious where police were involved
 - Still a concern for dismissal because teachers' line of sight in the yard and their ability to ensure a safe dismissal is impacted by parents not leaving immediately at dismissal with their children, or not respecting the lines
 - These concerns have been brought forward to the Board to make a decision if parents can continue to be allowed in the yard
- Snack shop
 - The school cannot support the shop being open 5 days per week, so plan to open the shop 1x/week and on special occasions
 - Having more regular sales does not align with ministry policies to have <20% sales of sodium/sugar products
- Sub days starting on Tuesdays, and pizza on Thursdays
 - Families much purchase on a month to month basis, not weekly because it is labour intensive for the school to process
 - This is the approach taken by many other schools
 - If students are away, they can pick up their lunch item the next day
- Christmas Sing-A-Long
 - Council discussed the AM/PM performances and capacity of the gym
 - School will look into providing tickets to put a limit on attendance at each performance

- Fire drills
 - Council discussed that some parents have voiced concerns about children not being able to get their coats during a fire drill
 - School indicated that teachers are aware of planned fire drills in advance, and need to prioritize students safely getting out of school. In a real emergency, there may not be time to gather coats or belongings.

New Business:

- None

Any Other Business:

- Council raised concerns about the length of regular school update emails sent to families. Concern that on certain devices, the whole update may not be visible. School indicated that they will be sending a paper newsletter for December, and can look to minimize images and some content in weekly email updates.
- Council discussed the School's practice to respond to emails from parents to the school. Principal does not respond to emails, and prior to COVID, staff were directed not to respond by email by their associations (e.g OECTA). The School does review emails and take action as needed, but it does not respond to each email. The School will respond to emails from Council, but not to each parent.
- Council discussed the school Twitter account. School pending updates to its Twitter account. Communication methods at the school level acceptable by the Board continue to be the school website, Twitter, newsletters and email. The School plans to continue to maintain these methods.
- Council indicated that the School should consider providing further communication from the Principal to families about items where concerns have been raised by the community, such as the blue lines, use of the field, snack shop, etc. Council indicated that this communication would help families understand the reason for some changes and future plans of the school.

Meeting Adjournment/Closing Prayer:

- Ms. Scott completed