



**St. Sofia Byzantine Catholic School Council
General Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 9, 2020 - 6:30 PM
Virtual Meeting**

Members in attendance

John Dmytrasz (Principal), Nuno Tome (Vice Principal), Victoria Kit (Co-chair), Nataliya Shved (Co-chair), Oksana Volchuk (Secretary), Mariya Mazur (Treasurer), Olga Doubinska (Parish Rep), Ewa Chalupa (OAPCE Rep)

Regrets

Yuliya Yarema (Community Rep)

1. Land Acknowledgement and Opening Prayer: The Lord's Prayer

2. Approval of Agenda – passed M. Mazur, N. Shved

3. Welcoming Remarks and Principal's Report (J. Dmytrasz)

a) Catholicity – *we are called to affirm our Catholic faith in word and action*

- The Virtue of the Month for November is Conscience
 - Civvies day is Friday Nov 20; proceeds will be forwarded to help our two parishes for Christmas
 - Virtual Panakhyda for Holodomor – November 27th @ 10:30am
 - Virtual Remembrance Day presentation on Wednesday November 11th @ 10:30am

b) Events in November & December:

- a. November 10; School Progress Reports sent home with students
- b. November 12; Parent Interview Night
- c. November 13; PD day
- d. Dec 8; School wide confessions (tentative)

c) School Generated Funds

- a. Civvies day collections \$7,022
- b. Spirit week \$1965
- c. Our current balance in SGF is ca. \$32 K (carry over)

- d. Our plan for our SGF budget this year will cover student-based costs that include:
 - i. Level Reading Books and PM Benchmark materials
 - ii. Enhancement books for the library
 - iii. Maintenance for new desktop computers
 - iv. Enhancement/replacement of older technology in classrooms

4. Review and Approval of Minutes (from October 7, 2020) - passed V. Kit, N. Shved.

5. Financial Report. Review of Financials as of October 31, 2020 (M. Mazur)

- This academic year parent council paid \$1856.25 for students' agendas, \$ 36.14 were the expenses for the First Holy Communion, and spent \$701.03 on gifts for teachers (International Teacher's Day/ Staff Appreciation Gifts).
- Olga Doubinska's employer donated \$1000 to support St. Nicholas gift bags initiative. The check was deposited into parent council account.
- \$500 cheque from the Anapolis Hall (security deposit for T. Shevchenko concert) was deposited into parent council account.
- \$300 cheque (refund from the cancelled Quebec trip) was deposited into parent council account.
- Parent council is committed to allocate funds for Sacramental Gifts (\$500) and Graduation Gifts (\$3000).
- \$800 is allocated towards Christmas Crafts and \$500 towards school Angel's Fund.

6. St. Nicholas Items

- The following items have been donated (cookies from Peek Freans-1 pack per student; mini chocolate bars from Dr. Hareyzuk-4 per student; mini candy canes from O. Volchuk-2 per student; clementines from Eddie's-1 per student). Starsky's Store manager donated 1 chocolate bar per student, however, they are not nut free and can't be distributed to students due to nut allergies.
- North American paper products will be donated by E. Chalupa's contact (1 pack per student).
- Pahn Pucak is a potential donor of the gift bags (1 per student) or E. Chalupa's contact might donate clear bags.
- 620 wooden ornaments have been ordered.
- Parent council will provide left over items from the previous years, so they could also be included in St. Nicholas gift bags.
- All donation deliveries are welcome at any time. The storage room has been allocated to St. Nicholas gift bags. All bags for in-person students and virtual students will be packed by the office staff.
- Individual hand sanitizers are not allowed to be distributed as gifts. Hand sanitizers are provided by the board for students to be used at school. Individual hand sanitizers might not be safe to use without the supervision for younger students.

- Pahn Tome proposed to use some money raised during the Spirit Week in October to make Christmas crafts with all students. Total cost would be \$784.07
- N. Shved suggested to donate some money from that fundraiser to the school Angel's Fund to support the needy families in our community.
- Pahn Tome indicated that St. Sofia school is involved in many of the social justice initiatives. The social worker affiliated with our school could also provide funding to support needy families. It would be really nice for students of St. Sofia school to have some Christmas experiences.
- M. Mazur suggested to transfer \$1965 (money raised during the Spirit Week in October) into the parent council account.
- Pahn Dmytrasz proposed to use this amount of money to pay for the 620 Christmas wooden ornaments that will compliment St. Nicholas gift bags. Total cost would be \$ 2170, including tax.
- V. Kit recommended to allocate \$ 800 for Christmas Crafts and \$500 to school Angel's Fund from the parent council account.

7. School's photos and student yearbooks

- Schools photos are on hold due to the covid-19 safety protocols.
- Year Book is challenging to do this year due to covid-19 restrictions. The professional photographers are not allowed to enter school buildings.

8. Fundraising ideas

- E. Chalupa knows a young artist (Maria's Creations) who could make a wooden trident key chain and sell it to us for \$1 a piece or a bandura key chain for \$20 a piece. We could use these key chains as a school's fundraiser initiative.
- Pahn Tome asked if that artist could make other items with the school's logo on it, such as water bottles. N. Shved enquired if the artist could make key chains with St. Sofia logo or pysanka design.
- It would be the best if the Term 2 fundraiser takes place in late January or February. V. Kit suggested that school could send an email to all parents regarding this fundraiser and the payment could be set up via school cash on-line.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Next General Meeting (Virtual) - Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 6:30 pm.