

Sts. Martha and Mary School Council

Minutes of Meeting – Tuesday October 21, 2008

1. **Candle Lighting:** L. Arnett/S. Steer
2. **Opening Prayer:** Led by Teena McKeon
3. **Approval of the Agenda**
Moved by: L. Arnett *Seconded by:* E. DiPede *All in favour*
4. **Approval of September Minutes**
Moved by: T. Marano *Seconded by:* C. Klein *All in favour*

5. Committee Reports (General Updates)

Pizza Committee: (update given by E. Folk)

- Committee decided to use Pizza King as the supplier for pizza day
- Pizza King has matched Domino's prices and is not charging a delivery fee
- Students happy with choice
- Last pizza day of the year is free of charge

Fundraising – Halloween Dance-a-thon: (update given by C. Cochrane)

- Donations still being needed/accepted up until mid-week before event
- Looking for 100% return of envelopes – due Oct. 24th – reminder letters will be sent home to children who have not returned envelopes
- New this year is that every child will receive a small gift for returning their envelopes
- New family prize will be given out this year (suggestion of movie passes & gift certificate to restaurant)
- Prizes will be drawn on Wednesday, Oct. 29th and handed out before actual event
- Need to firm up volunteers for days leading up to the event and also on the day of the event itself
- Need schedule from Sue for D.J.
- Sue to mention prizes in the morning announcements

6. Treasurer's Report: M. Savaro

- General review of report (month ending Sept. 30, 2008) – opening balance, revenue sources, expenditures, standard outstanding commitments
- Will review principal/teacher wish lists within the next few meetings
- \$150 – 160 to be added for printing cost for fundraising event
- Need to keep in mind money commitments for pizza days

7. Chair's Report: C. Gonsalves

Review of Council Goals and Objectives

- An overview of what is expected of the council and timeframe on when it is to be complete with discussed

Pro-Grant

- Sue applied for \$1,000 – it was decided that at next meeting a sub-committee would be established to offer suggestion on different ways to spend grant monies (present and future) received for the Board – must be community involved

Michael Reist Presentation

- Re-scheduled to Nov. 5th at 7pm (original date was Oct. 14th) – 41 people reconfirmed attendance (down from original schedule) – hope to have drop-ins
- Coffee and sweets to be served – additional coffee machines required – Sally to provide sweets

October 16th Council Chairs & Principals Meeting

- Was attended by Sue and Cindy

Lunch Moms

- Restarted for the school year
- Good response so far
- All proceeds received back will go towards the school literacy rooms

8. Principal's Report: S. Steer

Council Goals & Objectives

(Standard Annual Items)

- Sound field systems and Hushups (teachers greatly appreciate). Sound field systems are standard in Edmonton, Alberta. In Peel region only at Sts. M&M. Helps students to stay focused and with hearing (as far as we know). Studies have proved that it works.
- Community needs – Annual amount of money set aside by the council and used at the discretion of Sue
- Presentations – included Mad Science and Q-Mack (anti-bullying)
- Agendas – cost sharing
- Grade 8 graduation rings and pizza and refreshments for grad party
- Grade 2 first communion pins
- Play day – Hot dog lunch and freezies
- Recess bins – an assortment of activities for the students to use during outdoor play
- Dance-a-thon D.J. – using new D.J. this year – flat fee vs. percentage of profit – council doing more work ourselves to save money in the long run
- Principal/Teacher wish list – commit/decide after annual fundraiser (previous items include: globes, altars for each classroom, sets of atlas)

System Goals - Negotiations

- Secondary teachers have ratified
- Elementary teachers negotiations are underway over the weekend
- Psychologists / Custodians / Secretaries still to come
- 5 year administrator time line – Sue is not saying that she might or might not be moving (opportunity to highlight qualities / skills of administrator in “Board Annual Survey”)
- School 10 years ago had approximately 750 students (used porta-pacs) at present school has 417 students. Talk of amalgamating schools. Sts. Martha & Mary's should not have to worry about being closed, as it is the furthest east in Mississauga.
- School does not have a full time music teacher, only 4 days/week. Ms. Mederos spends extra time during recesses with both junior and intermediate choir practices and also band practices

Catholicity

- Student Leadership – “Me to We Conference” youth ambassador commissioning on November 12, 2008
- Thanksgiving liturgy
- Virtue of the month “empathy”

- Remembrance Day mass to take place at school at 10:30am, all are welcomed to attend

Programs

- All Star Reading – 3 sessions per week (up and running)
- Cross Country – Family of Schools meet to be held on October 22, 2008, Boards meet to be held on October 28, 2008
- Volleyball – season is underway, both boys and girls won their matches today
- Hands on Mad Science – Science presentations set up for primary / junior divisions
- Early Release Day – Long range planning and grade level continuity – still to be confirmed

Safe School

- Peace Pals – is up and running – students are being trained
- Vaccinations – First dose of Hepatitis B (grade 7) and Gardasal (grade 8 girls) have been given
- Dental Screening – has been booked for JK, SK, grade 2 and grade 8 students
- See / Hear Screening – Cost of \$10, optional to parents, consensus from council was to continue with screening
- Constable Brown – will be back to discuss the following topics with students (Community Helpers, Anti-Bullying, CyberCops, CyberProofing)
- Safe School Committee – Tina and Filo have volunteered for this year

Finance

- Budget suggestions are in the preparatory stages
- Ideas / suggestions from council
- Students suggested a scoreboard for the gym (approx. \$6000)

Catholic School Council Annual Survey

- Reviewed last years goals and may additions where needed. Updated survey to be sent back to the superintendent.

Additions include:

Catholicity and Spiritual Leadership

- Consider family mass in spring, with refreshment served afterwards
- Me to We – attended by student leadership
- Student leadership – attend seminar

Positive Relationships and Effective Student Discipline

- I care presentation
- Bullying survey

School Communication and Public Relations

- Brochure
- “Parents Corner”

Fiscal Management and Allocation of Resources

- Following revised board protocol

Organizational Management

- Strong commitment with school and Parish
- Indicate qualities and skills, such as: open door policy, respectful, spirituality in school (virtues, inspiration)

Additional comments

- School upholds whole child, high academic standards
- Mutual respect shown to parents
- History – most principals go on to higher levels within the Board
- Make every child feel important
- Hands on (i.e. Kiss n’ ride – exposure to families)
- Accessibility – will stop and talk, always willing to talk to parents
- Teacher accessible
- Principal/Teacher team – mutual respect, working together, fair
- Nothing is ever too minor – will always listen

School Advent Mass

- Sue has not confirmed date with Father d’Souza, due to the fact that numbers of attendees has declined over the past several years (could be due to families schedules/busy time of year, etc.). Suggested having a Saturday or Sunday mass dedicated to Sts. Martha & Mary family mass. Agreed to by council. Date to be determined.

Education Seminar/Meeting

- Sue attended a seminar/meeting with keynote speaker “Dalton McGunity”
- Spoke about “Energizing Education” – spoke of plan for the next 4 years, can be found on the website
- Spoke about “Principals – Complex Role” principals have to get back to basics:
 - Clear plate of administration
 - Health & safety of children
 - Daily expectations
 - Assist students to increase learning – bridge gaps
 - Not a lot of new initiatives – providing consolidation time to implement “good strategies”
- Emphasis on literacy and numeracy
- Spoke about next election – catholic system is at risk – Education, workers, jobs, citizens, and caring community
- Working with schools that are at 40% of EQAO scores and ones that went from 40% and improved
- Parental levels of education, EQAO, special education, etc. and match – sharing – network of professional learning

Intermediate Year-end trip

- Looking into alternative locations than Quebec City, due to travel time and costs. One alternative being discussed is Camp Muskoka (sports camp). Will get more feedback in later meetings.

9. New Business

Marlies Night

- Jim discussed thoughts on the school participating in another Marlies night again this year, Marlies have advised of four specific dates designated to schools (Oct. 29, Nov. 5, Dec. 3 & Mar. 17), will relate to anti-bullying program, will come to school to speak but want a commitment of 200 people to attend. To be discussed further.

10. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn.

Moved by: C. Gonsalves **Seconded by:** L. Arnett All in Favour

Council Members in Attendance: – Cindy Gonsalves, Maria Savaro, Sally Jones-Clark, Filo Costa, Laura Arnett, Teena McKeon, Jim Chirstopoulos, Lisa Butler, Tina Marano, Leslie Wrobel, Cathy Cochrane, Eva DiPede

Regrets: Tara Messersmith, Jennifer Roselli, Teresa Holleran, Aida de Silva

Parents in Attendance: L. Serrano, D. Hansford, E. Folk, C. Oliveira

Administration in Attendance: Mrs. Steer, Ms. Klein

Teacher Representative in Attendance: Ms. Ford, Mrs. Maxymiw

NEXT MEETING IS Mon. November 24, 2008 - 7:00 P.M.