

**CARDINAL NEWMAN RCSAC
MINUTES OF MEETING**

September 13th, 2007

Meeting began at 7:04 p.m.

PRESENT:

J. Borneman, D. Silva, K. Basta, L. Kosziwka, M. Drenters, H. Kearney, T. Weaver, W. Cahill, L. Lynch, A. Clarke, L. Jesso, D. Coelho, A. Deo, F. Albi, M. Guevera, A. Burke, R. Gorski

OPENING PRAYER (D. Coelho)

Hail Mary

OPENING COMMENTS: (J. Borneman)

Welcome to all new and returning members
Minutes from last meeting were not available

TREASURER'S REPORT (D. Silva)

Balance as of September 13th 2007 is \$1,272.26

Scotia Bank is now charging a fee to have a passbook. Mailed account statements are free. Council will have to vote on how they would like records/statements kept.

ELECTIONS

17 forms were submitted by the deadline for nominations for council membership.

13 of those who submitted forms were in attendance. The following were elected/acclaimed:

Chairperson – Jodi Borneman

Secretary – Michele Drenters

Treasurer – Diane Silva

Council Communications – Gena DiGiovanni

Parish Representative – Dodsai Coelho

Community at Large Representative – Lyndsay Jesso

O.P.A.C.E. Representative – Alison Clarke

Student Representative to be determined by student vote.

Teaching & Non-Teaching Reps to be determined.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS: (J. Borneman)

- ❖ Volunteers are needed for the Open House on Tuesday, Sept. 18th.
- ❖ Open House will be run differently this year. Parents will be able to meet teachers in classrooms as well as attend a summary of priorities/activities/issues pertaining to their child's grade which will be held in the gym.
- ❖ Session times are: Primary (K – grade 3) 6:00 - 6:30, Junior 6:30 – 7:00, Intermediate: 7:00 – 7:30.
- ❖ Council will hold one extra food day on the last Friday of every month.
- ❖ Requested that the help with food days comes from grade 7 or lower students so that grade 8's could focus on preparing for high school. Assisting duties will be rotated through the grades, including the Special Needs students.
- ❖ Can we look at offering healthier food choices in the Snack Shack? Mr. Albi indicated he is working on setting up a Food Committee to address the situation. The committee may include a dietician from the Region of Peel, the store owner of No Frills, a caterer working for the DPCDSB and other interested parents, including W. Cahill, who is a Chef.

- ❖ Can we offer beverage choices through the Snack Shack as the vending machines are constantly jamming? Mr Albi indicated that they provide a good source of revenue for the school and are used by many people using the school after school hours.
- ❖ Dance-A-Thon Committee headed up by Michele Pesotto and Nancy Souter will be preparing for the upcoming Dance-A-Thon. Mariela Guevera volunteered to also help on the committee.
- ❖ There is a need for many more parent volunteers during the day at school events (Dance-A-Thon, Christmas Sale, etc). Members helping out at the parent Council table during the Open House will solicit volunteers.
- ❖ Look into the possibility of adding a volunteer section to the Cardinal Newman webpage.
- ❖ Dates for Parent Council meetings for 2007 – 2008:
 - Tuesday, October 9, 2007
 - Tuesday, November 13, 2007
 - Tuesday, December 4, 2007 (Lobby decorating night, Mr. Albi to provide food).
 - Tuesday, January 8, 2008
 - Tuesday, February 12, 2008
 - No meeting in March
 - Tuesday, April 8, 2008
 - No meeting in May
 - Tuesday, June 10, 2008 (potluck)
- ❖ Other important dates: Dance-A-Thon – October 31, Christmas Bazaar - November 24th,

PRINCIPALS COMMENTS: (Fred Albi)

- ❖ Priorities this year at Cardinal Newman include:
- ❖ Engaging students in academics.
- ❖ Increasing literacy and numeracy.
- ❖ An increased availability of programs offered at school (many are arts based including choir, dance movement, piano lessons, forming 2 new rock bands). The Justice Mentors (2nd year students from Police College) have expressed their willingness to work specifically with the boys of our school.
- ❖ Completion of the back field and soccer field area including enhancing the fenced area with shrubs and plantings.
- ❖ J. Borneman would like to petition the Board to remove the 2 portables behind the school that are currently only being used as a storage for the DPDCSB. Their removal would offer increased visibility, and consequently, safety of students as well as increase the aesthetics of the playground.
- ❖ Mr. Albi indicated that the school board generally relocates Principals every 5 years. There are a number of initiatives that he would like to be a part of at Cardinal Newman, including getting the Arts program well established and the 40th Anniversary of Cardinal Newman. Many council members indicated a desire to petition the school board to allow Mr. Albi to remain as Principal at Cardinal Newman until these initiatives have been seen through to fruition.
- ❖ The Toonies for Terry walk will go again this year.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- ❖ J. Borneman has an acquaintance with a Personal Trainer who has indicated she is willing to provide instruction to interested Council members and parents at the school. She would require 10 participants. Cost would be \$50 for 8 weeks. Contact J. Boreman if interested.
- ❖ Grandparents Day will be held at the school on October 12th.
- ❖ World Teacher's day is October 5th. Council voted to continue to present each teacher with a bouquet of flowers and card to mark the occasion and as a gesture of appreciation for all they do. J. Borneman to arrange bouquets through her contacts. M. Drenters to provide cards for the bouquets.

D. Coelho's husband will provide mango mousse dessert as well. It was noted that one Teacher's spouse owns a floral business and perhaps we should offer a gift other than flowers to that teacher. Council decided that it was the thought that mattered, not the gift, and that all teachers should be recognized in the same manner.

- ❖ D. Coelho discussed a program called "I Can Too" whereby teachers recognize the accomplishments of Special Needs students. She enquired whether we could adopt a similar program at Cardinal Newman. Mr. Albi agreed that it was a worthy idea and that he would investigate further.
- ❖ One student has decided to grow her hair to donate it for wigs for Cancer. It was suggested that a "Shave your head for Cancer" day would be a great way to raise funds as a school.
- ❖ Grade 7 & 8 student trip this year will be to New York City. This will be a good match for the Arts program. Plans include visits to a museum, play, etc. Cost is presently approx. \$700 - \$750. Parents questioned whether there will be alternatives for students who cannot go.
- ❖ A lively discussion was had on the subject of unique fundraising ideas. Some of the ideas were:
- ❖ Each classroom is provided with a canvas and is given the task of creating a work of art that will be auctioned to raise funds.
- ❖ Mr. Albi indicated that a dinner show fundraiser for the Arts program is in the initial planning stages. Contemplating dinner at Speranza Banquet Hall with a Comedy Show. This would be a good venue to tie in the canvas artwork auction.
- ❖ Selling caramel apples at the Open House?
- ❖ Commemorative 40th Anniversary tiles could be sold. People could purchase a personalized tile that would be placed in the foyer or other appropriate location in the school.

NEXT MEETING DATE

- ❖ Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 7 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED- 8:20 p.m.