

# St Gregory Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) Monthly Meeting Minutes

## Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, April 23, 2014

**Attendees:** Benedek G, De Franco L, Severino A, Peri V, Ruso D, Tenuta L, Antoniadis S, Arone V, Balsamo D, Cimolai A, D'Alessandro G, Donnaperna N, Fanelli L, Grnak A, Holyday S, Mishko A, Vaccarelli V, Vokins P, Zizek E, Lustrì N, Starpoli D, Wild A, Williams M.

**Regrets:** VanDinter K, Filippozi E.

**Absent:** Ribeiro A.

**7:04pm** - Welcome by chair and the opening prayer was led by Ms. Benedek.

### Agenda Items

#### **1. Chair's Report (Administrative Items)**

- a. The evening's regrets were noted.
- b. The **meeting minutes** from the council meeting (Feb 19th) were approved and are posted on the CSAC website.
- c. **Shrove Tuesday** was held on March 4<sup>th</sup>. While council previously approved \$150 in expenditure to support this event with the school administration, given CSAC was able to secure \$200 in donations, only \$56.00 was required. CSAC is grateful for donations from: Walmart, Costco, Metro and No Frills. Their sponsorship is noted on the school website under "Sponsors".
- d. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Angie and Vita met with MPP, Donna Cansfield to discuss the elimination of the 2<sup>nd</sup> parent teacher interview. **Addendum:** since the last meeting (Feb 19<sup>th</sup>) the board, approved and reinstated the 2<sup>nd</sup> parent teacher interview for the 2014-2015 school year.
- e. **Dance-a-thon** - online donations are approximately \$1000.
- f. **Teacher's appreciation luncheon** was held on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and was well received. Ann Andrachuk and Doug Yack attended.
- g. **Sacramental Luncheon** - plans are underway (see sub-committee section below).

#### **2. Principal's Report**

- a. **Full Day Kindergarten (FDK)** - The board is in its 5th and final year of the FDK program implementation. St. Greg's will roll out the FDK program commencing September 2014. In addition, to the current three classrooms, a fourth classroom will be retrofitted over the summer to accommodate the additional headcount of students. The **Welcome to FDK Information Night** is planned on **May 14, 2014**.
- b. **CAT/4 Testing (Gr 2, 5 and 7)** - May 5-9<sup>th</sup> and extended to May 16<sup>th</sup> if the teachers cannot schedule the timed subtests around school interruptions.
- c. **EQAO Testing** - Gr 3: May 26-30<sup>th</sup> and Gr 6: June 2-5<sup>th</sup>. Testing will take place only in the mornings and parents are reminded to schedule medical appointments around these dates.
- d. **Confirmation:** June 7<sup>th</sup>, 10AM and 2PM at St. Gregory's Church
- e. **First Holy Communion:** June 21<sup>st</sup>, 10AM at St. Gregory's Church
- f. **Teacher Appreciation Luncheon** - Ms Benedek thanked all the parent volunteers, in particular Angie Severino and Ana Cimolai who helped organize a lovely appreciation lunch for all staff. The extra touches were welcomed by all.
- g. **Music Festival** - The instrumental students of St. Greg's were invited to take part in a music festival held at St. Michael's College School on April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- h. **Musical Instruments** in need of repair would be brought to the office and "Long and Mcquaid" would be called in to repair them on site.

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- i. **Recess Equipment:** Various recess equipment was purchased already through the school.
- j. **First Aid:** Concerns were raised regarding the lack of certified First Aid instructors. Ms. Benedek will check with the Board if there is an organization who would host an in-house certification for all staff and if there are professional activity days available for this to take place.

### 3. **Pro Grant (Vita)**

Vita reviewed the Pro Grant process and sought feedback from council on the proposed parent engagement evening. The proposal focused on Math. The objectives of the evening are to: (1) make parents aware of the curriculum components and (2) workshop key elements so parents can support their children at home, while making Math fun. The council suggested and approved a series of 2 engagement evenings to focus on Primary Level and they Junior/Intermediate Levels with the aforementioned objectives.

### 4. **Board's Budget Survey (Ms. Benedek)**

St Greg's was asked to complete (one per school) a survey regarding the Board's budget and identifying priorities. Ms Benedek recommended the form be completed together with CSAC council so they can then select the response(s) that best reflect our point of view.

### 5. **Treasurer's Report (Domenic)**

The February and March financials were presented and there has been very little activity in the past months. The financials are posted on the website.

### 6. **Election Committee (Angie/Vita)**

To plan the election process for the upcoming AGM meeting in September, a Council Election Committee will be formed by the council at the May meeting. Angie will present the criteria for gathering nominations and the running of the election process at the May meeting.

### 7. **Subcommittee Updates**

#### a) **Community Events (Vita)**

1. **Family Fun Skate Night** was a huge success.
2. **Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety Presentation** - great presentation by Det. Glenn McBryde. He offered a variety of helpful tips to tell if your child is being targeted and precautions parents can take. Det. McBryde cannot accept honorariums; therefore, a token gift was presented to him.
3. **Family Bingo Night** was a resounding event. A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this a successful event.

#### b) **Graduation (Erica/Nancy)**

Gr 8 Graduation - June 19<sup>th</sup>; SK Graduation - June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 sessions AM/PM. Volunteers are needed for both events. The plan is to purchase picture frames and have them engraved as done in previous years by CSAC. A request was made to increase the Graduation Budget from \$1000 to \$1400 to account for the added expenses (increase in the number of students, gifts, snacks and beverages etc.). **Motion was passed to increase the graduation budget by \$400, to \$1400 (Vote - 14 members were in favour, 2 members were not in favour)**

#### c) **Fundraising (Angie/Nadine)**

##### 1. **Pavers**

Letters went home a few weeks ago. To date, there have been a few pavers sold and should the sales remain low, the fundraiser will be cancelled.

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### 2. Year End BBQ

Nadine Lustri was able to secure the PanAm Community Tour for the night of the BBQ and the mascot "Pachi" will also make an appearance. More details to be discussed at the Subcommittee meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

### d) IT (Stephen/Phil/Vito)

As the board heads into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning, the board will provide a combination of 15 laptops and iPADS for the upcoming school year. CSACs goal is to support a multiyear renewal plan and develop an acquisition plan. The IT Committee has developed a "School IT Survey" for Teachers to establish their existing technology assets in the classroom and identify gaps. A copy of the survey was circulated and any comments can be addressed directly with Stephen, Phil or Vito.

### e) Constitution Review Committee (Adam)

Adam would like to make amendments to the CSAC Constitution to align better with the TCDSB's CSAC Constitution. The ad-hoc subcommittee met earlier this month to identify various by-laws that may require slight modifications. A "brainstorming" session will take place at the next subcommittee meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup> and the preliminary changes will be addressed at the council meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>. The final documentation will be delivered and the CSAC meeting in June and ratification at the AGM in September 2014.

### f) Pastoral Council (Vince)

Coffee Sunday, sponsored by CSAC, will be taking place this coming Sunday (April 27) in the church hall following both masses. A performance by the instrumental students of St. Gregory Catholic School, led by Mrs. Palermo, will take place following the 9:00 am mass. Volunteers are still required. Donated refreshments can be delivered to the church hall at 8:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. on Coffee Sunday.

### g) Foundation/Bricks Awards (Domenic)

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, the Bricks NEC held a presentation for the Gr 8 students to explain and review the program. Final packages were also distributed to the students. The nomination deadline is May 9<sup>th</sup>. The nomination committee is not finalized however, will consist of Ms. Benedek, 1 non CSAC member, 1 CSAC member (Vince Arone) and 2 individuals from the community. The Bricks NEC subcommittee consists of Domenic Ruso, Angie Severino, Tanyia Giaquinto, Alessia Ribeiro and Daniela Balsamo.

### h) Health Action Team (Angie)

On Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Gr 7 and 8 students participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Biannual Wellness Day organized by the HAT team teachers, Ms. Ceddia, Ms. Alberton and Ms. Botelho. The students had the opportunity to learn strategies that will help them manage and relieve stress, set personal goals and learn about mental health. They also took part in martial arts, nutrition, drama and a Pilate's workshop. A thank you goes out to all the parent volunteers who led the sessions and assisted throughout the day. **Fun Food Fridays** were enjoyed by our Gr 1-6 students. This year's focus was on Calcium. Students learned how to obtain calcium by a variety of food sources and how Vitamin D plays an important role in the absorption of Calcium. Students ended the session by making a healthy and calcium filled strawberry banana smoothie.

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A thank you to all the parents who helped make this a successful event. These sessions were made possible through a grant (\$1000) from the "Green Apple Foundation" (Metro) and CSAC.

8. The next CSAC meeting is scheduled on **Wednesday, May 21, 2014.**

**Meeting adjourned 9:23PM.**

### 9. ACTION ITEMS

Action Item	Person Responsible	Details	Timeline
Pro Grant	Chair & Co-Chair	Submit Pro Grant Application	May 16, 2014
First Aid Course	Ms. Benedek	Confirm with TCDSB whether an outside organization could host a First Aid in-service for all instructors Determine if there are any PD days available to undertake First Aid training	May 21, 2014
Election Committee	Chair & Co-Chair	Prepare and present criteria for Election Committee	May 21, 2014
Graduation Committee	Chair, Co-Chair & Erica Zizek/Nancy Donnaperna	Outsource cost saving gifts for Gr 8	May 21, 2014
Bricks Awards	Domenic Ruso	Confirm nomination committee	May 21, 2014
IT	Stephen Holyday/Phil Vokins	Develop free short survey of IT needs before Ms Benedek meets with her staff.	May 21, 2014
Constitution Amendments	Chair & Adam Grnak	Present the preliminary changes made to St Greg's CSAC Constitution	May 21, 2014