

## Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2012

**Attendees:** Gabrielle Benedek, Arlene Martin, Adam Grnak, Tanya Giaquinto, Domenic Ruso, Alessia Ribeiro, Daniela Balsamo, Anne Mishko, Nadine Lustri, Lori Tenuta, Karen Loughlin-Plut, Luana Fanelli, Phil Vokins, Elsa Passera-Berardi, Tina Ferrone-Hall, and Vince Arone.

**Regrets:** Edward Filippozzi, Gina D'Alessandro, Anne Iwasykiw, Nancy Donnaperna, Lisette Santos, Lisa Chan, Melanie Fernandez-Alvarez, Vito Vaccarelli, Maria Skinner

7:00p.m. Welcome — Adam Grnak and Opening Prayer – Ms. Gabrielle Benedek.

### GUEST SPEAKER — Swim Meet Fundraiser — Sandy Venegas

Sandy Venegas was the TDCSB Swim Meet Manager for the Swim Meet held at the Etobicoke Olympium on May 4-5, 2012. We invited her to attend our CSAC Meeting so that we can better understand what we would need to even consider hosting the regional swim meet in the years ahead. Sandy created a binder that includes manuals and templates that can be passed from one hosting school to the next, making managing a meet run much more smoothly. Our Lady of Sorrows will be hosting the 2013 Swim Meet at the Olympium this coming May 2013.

### **Summary of the 2012 Meet Hosted by St Clement CS**

Using the swim meet as its primary fund raiser, St Clement generated \$48 000 in revenue last year: 1300 swimmers swam in the meet in 2012.

St Clement had a team of **200 volunteers** helping her school get organized throughout the school year and into the weekend of the swim meet. For example, there were teams of volunteers covering all areas including the four biggest areas: **1) MEET MANAGER:** biggest job – responsible for the whole meet: a full time job. **2) CAFETERIA/FOOD:** gathering, organizing food items and then making and selling food the weekend of the meet – starts two months before meet begins; **3) FUNDRAISING and SPONSORSHIP:** asking all local businesses to donate funds or products for the meet and for the silent auction. One parent for example, worked for *Coke* and *Coke* donated all the pop to the event. Another two parents worked at a bank and got \$5000 in monetary donations. This job was handled by 3 stay-at-home moms who worked full-time for months to get all the funds required. One parent donated a large sum of money. In turn, St Clement CSAC bought an iPod and ruffled tickets were sold and \$3600 was raised! **4) ADVERTISING:** the main posters are already created. The name of the school needs to be changed and other items corrected based on the meet date and time. **5) AWARDS:** busy on the Sunday of the meet when awards are handed out. Sandy suggested that parents with a swim background handle this area.

Students were requested to donate food and other items. For example, one class was asked to bring in water bottles, another class was asked to bring in bags of chips, etc. Other classes were asked to donate items for the silent auction and gift baskets.

There is **a lot of work** involved. And, it must be noted that the Etobicoke Olympium will be closed for a year starting in July 2013 to prepare for the PAN AM Games. Therefore, the 2014 Swim Meet will need another facility. U of T pool may be only one of few options to accommodate the number of swimmers expected. Another option is that the TDCSB cancels the swim meet for the year and then restarts the following year in 2015. All this will be determined later in 2013.

The best way to prepare is to shadow another school the year they do it and learn the best ways to get the work delegated.

Until you have the number of volunteers required, Sandy does not suggest taking on hosting the meet. Sandy will email Adam the manual she created for anyone interested to review. The manual will be available on our website for anyone to review at their leisure. In addition to the Swim Meet Fundraiser, a few Fundraisers were kept at St Clement the year they ran the meet such as BBQ Fun Night and QSP.

### CSAC Chair Report – Adam Grnak

- 1) PJ movie night was a huge success: about 200 people attended and the rented sound system was well received. One hour movie was just long enough for the little kids. 10 large bags of popcorn were purchased and scooped for the movie goers: first scoop was paid for, all other scoops were free. The only thing Anne wants to update for next year is to add the number

of attendees to the form sent home to better estimate the amount of popcorn required as there was a lot of popcorn left over.

- 2) We just received another QSP cheque for a renewal.
- 3) The turn out to the Internet Safety Session on November 27<sup>th</sup> was limited to approximately 25 parents due to the conflict with the speaker at *Michael Power High School* on the same night. CSAC would like to invite him to speak again at a later date as we feel it was a very informative talk for both students and parents.
- 4) The next subcommittee meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2013. The next CSAC Meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2013.

#### Principal's Report – Ms Benedek

- 5) The January Calendar and Newsletter will be emailed out before the last day of classes on December 21, 2012.
- 6) **Full Day Kindergarten** will be rolled out at St Gregory CS in **September 2013**. There will be 3 kindergarten classrooms with a hard cap of 30 students per classroom and two educators. The soft cap per classroom is 26 students. Students must reside within the school boundaries of Islington to The Eastmall & Eglinton to Burnhamthorpe. New registrations will be “first come, first serve”. There will be 50 JK students moving to SK for September 2013 and the remaining spots are for new JK students. Parents must phone the school on **Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>** at 416-393-5262, after 9:00 a.m., to make an appointment for Registration Day. (No messages will be accepted on voicemail). The order in which your call is received will be your place on the registration list. Registration Day is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2013 between 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Please see the registration PDF for more information. Please note that those who do not present the proper documentation at the time of their registration will be put at the bottom of the registration list.

**Question to Ms Benedek:** Some schools do not have recess for the JK/SK program or they have recess at the end of the day to not waste so much time in dressing and undressing.

**Ms Benedek:** We do not have the supervisors available to change the times. Primary, Junior and Intermediate teachers take turns in the JK/SK Yard to help with supervision. To change the time of the JK/SK recess would mean changing the entire schedule throughout the school and this is not feasible to consider for the current academic year.

- 7) **Kindergarten Yard** still needs attention: The kindergarten playground woodchips need replacing as they have turned to mud. Woodchips will be replaced in the Spring.

#### Treasurer's Report – Domenic Ruso

- 8) Deferred to January.

#### Sub-Committee Reports

##### 9) **TECHNOLOGY REVIEW COMMITTEE — Phil Vokins**

Ms Martin and Ms Benedek provided Phil the following “wish list”:

- 1 - LaserJet HP Colour Printer for the kindergarten rooms = \$483
- 11 - Desktop computers to replace the 10 classroom computers that are obsolete and in place of the previously requested Netbooks

- 1- Scanner for the Kindergarten rooms
- 1 - Smart Board (64" interactive) = \$ 1135
- 1 - Floor Stand = \$415
- 1 set of Speakers = \$350
- Smart Board cables (checking for inclusive cost)
- Wireless Internet access for Kindergarten classes (still researching costs)
- 1 set of Smart Board markers/erasers = \$17

The total asking cost is approximately \$7 000. All smart boards are currently being used. As to the purchase of the additional Smart Board, there are currently two teachers sharing one mobile Smart Board each day therefore we would like to purchase one permanent so that the mobile one does not get broken accidentally.

**Question to Ms Benedek:** Do we have any feedback for CSAC from teachers?

Ms. Benedek will get feedback and provide it to CSAC in early 2013.

**Another question from the floor:** Do we also need to purchase Wireless Internet for the Library?

Ms. Benedek: The Board has approved the purchase of the necessary wireless capability for the Library. The board will pay for the one wireless hub for each school.

**Question to Ms. Martin:** Is there a list of additional materials required such as splitters and speakers? Ms. Martin will look into it.

**Vote to adopt** the Tech Renewal Budget of \$7 000 to be paid out immediately.

First Motion to adopt by Luana. Seconded by Tanya. Motion Passed.

10) **SOCCER NETS:** The soccer nets have been installed. Phil proposes that someone in the school, perhaps Mr. Cooper, takes ownership of the nets. Phil offers to be a volunteer to help out as well, if required.

11) **HEALTH ACTION TEAM UPDATE**

**a) Fun Food Fridays:** Concentrating on low sodium choices and mental health. Looking into a grant from *METRO*. Tanya will inform us when and if this grant becomes a possibility. Lori also mentioned that the *Dairy Farmers of Ontario* also provide grants. We will look into it.

**b) Speakers for 2013:** Lori arranging for Dr. Joey Bonifacio (who spoke at Michael Power in November) to come and speak to our parents about the Teenage Brain. Also looking into additional Developmental Pediatricians to speak to our younger students about Mental Health.

**c) Bullying and Anaphylaxis Handbooks:** Both these books are being reviewed and reformatted, and will be finalized in early 2013 and published on the website.

12) **WEBSITE:** The new website is still "in progress". Additional sections need to be created (sports and clubs, etc.) and a full review will be done before we launch the site in early 2013. We would like to see the website go "live" before February. If you wish a copy of the link to the "in progress" site, please email [alessia\\_ribeiro@hotmail.com](mailto:alessia_ribeiro@hotmail.com) and she will provide you with a link.

**13) FUNDRAISING:** We will be having an ALL DAY RUN-A-THON for the whole school on Thursday, May 2 or Friday, May 3 (weather permitting). The objective is to promote physical fitness and encourage a healthy school environment. EVERY STUDENT will be invited to walk or run in various events for the different age groups: JK/SK, Primary, Junior and Intermediate. Parents, guardians and teachers are also encouraged to join in the event. CSAC is planning to supply water and hot dogs or hamburgers for lunch for all participants. Each student will be given a Pledge Form and encouraged to collect donations either manually or through CANADA HELPS. The funds collected will go to purchase additional technology upgrades for the school such as desktops, scanners and printers. CSAC plans to tie in the *Toronto Marathon* to the RUN-A-THON as well as the pledges and monies raised. More details to be disclosed soon.

#### Other Reports

14) **SPIRIT WEAR:** Tanya organized to order Spirit Wear in November for the school from *Plain and Simple*. Without much advertising, 26 families ordered embroidered Spirit Wear for their children. A total number of \$1160.82 was paid to *Plain in Simple*. None of this money goes to St. Gregory. In January, Tanya is looking to re-evaluate how and when we order Spirit Wear or Uniforms, perhaps set a yearly schedule when orders are taken and filled, as well as have Alie create web pages with all the necessary information to make ordering easier. Details to come in 2013.

15) **CHOIR:** The Intermediate Pop Choir for grades 6, 7 & 8. Cynthia, our choir director, is having trouble with participation as there are many conflicting clubs and sports, and the students are not always choosing the CHOIR. So, she is never sure how many students will participate at any given practice. She needs to talk to the students about committing to the choir or something else as it is not fair to the few that are committed. Sadly, as of today, the Choir will not be able to participate in Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> Primary Christmas Concert due to the sheer number of participants and parents involved.

Also, Cynthia has spoken with Ms. De Souza and she has tentatively agreed to supervise a choir for the primary grades beginning in January. Details TBD.

16) **COFFEE SUNDAY:** CSAC's Coffee Sunday is set for March 3, 2013. More details to come.

8:59 p.m. – meeting adjourned.

CSAC members are asked to review minutes as soon as possible after receiving the email. Once they are approved they can be posted to the website. It is noted that minutes are not a verbatim record of the meetings, but a review of items discussed.

**Note:** The next CSAC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2012. See you there!