

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

Meeting Minutes from Wednesday, December 11th, 2013

Attendees: Benedek G, Power E Severino A, Peri V, Ruso D, Tenuta L, Arone V, Balsamo D, Cimolai A, Donnaperna N, Fanelli L, Grnak A, Holyday S, Mishko A, Tavares I, Vaccarelli V, Vokins P, Zizek E, Berardi E, Caparillo D, Fernandez-Alvares M, Mardegan S, Pasquali F, Pysz J, Staropoli D, Wild A.

Regrets: VanDinter K, DeFranco L, D'Alessandro G, Ribeiro A.

Absent: Antoniadis S, Filippozzi E.

7:05pm - Angie welcomed everyone present and invited Ms. Benedek to say the opening prayer.

7:06pm - Ms Benedek honoured the late Nelson Mandela in her opening prayer.

Agenda Items

1. Chair's Report (Follow-up and Updates)

- a. The **meeting minutes from the November 20, 2013** council meeting were approved and are posted on the school website.
- b. The **Swim Meet** begins on January 11th for 9 weeks and is inclusive of students in Grades 2-8. There are over 85 participants who registered. Practice take place on Saturdays from 5:30-7:30pm at the Montgomery Pool and the mini-meet is scheduled on March 22-23rd at Alderwood Pool.
- c. The contract with the School Website webmaster has been signed. The contract is for one year in the amount of \$250.
- d. On November 26th, Bishop Allen Academy held a talk by Dr. Alex Russell's on "**Promoting Resilience in Children**". The talk was well received and the school will consider inviting Dr. Russell to speak at St. Greg's next year.
- e. A **third fridge** was donated for the milk program. There are now three functioning fridges. Thank to Sandra for her ongoing efforts in ensuring the Milk Program runs smoothly.
- f. On January 14th the school will hold an assembly to introduce the Much Video Dance-a-thon. The event is booked for February 12th.

2. Principal's Report

- a. The **Christmas Sweet Read** is well underway from the junior and primary classes. The last day to bring inbooks/treats is December 13th. Thank you to the St. Greg's community for supporting this meaningful initiative. The funds collected (\$714) from the November 14 Civvies day were put towards the purchase of books for the Children's Aid Society.
- b. The **Christmas Hamper Baskets Project** has begun for the junior and intermediate divisions. St. Greg's school community will be collecting food items and Christmas gifts in support of St. Vincent de Paul Society. The funds collected from the December 13th Civvies day will be used to purchase food vouchers for this worthwhile endeavour.
- c. The **Drum Clinic** was held last week for the intermediate grades and was well received. The school administration would like to book a session for the junior division.
- d. **Confessions** for the season of Advent were held on December 11 and all Grade 3 - 8 students participated.
- e. The annual "**Ski/Snowboard**" day for Grades 5-8 at Mt St. Louis/Moonstone is scheduled on **January 23rd, 2014**. If demand is high, another coach will be ordered

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- f. The TCDSB has changed the process for **JK registration** and has implemented an online registration process at <http://soar.tcdsb.org>. The JK pre-registration will begin on January 8 (the online application goes live at 12:01 a.m.) and we anticipate that the spaces we have available will be quickly filled so we are inviting all who are interested and eligible to register to do so as soon as possible on this date. The criteria for documents are contingent on a registration appointment on January 15th (9:00am -8:00pm).
- g. There will be an **EQAO** parent presentation on **January 29th at 7pm** in the school gymnasium to look at results and data based on the math curriculum. All parents are encouraged to attend. The primary division assessment tests the reading, writing and mathematics skills students are expected to have learned by the end of Grade 3. The junior division assessment tests the reading, writing and mathematics skills students are expected to have learned by the end of Grade 6. Both assessments are based on The Ontario Curriculum and further information can be found at www.eqao.com.
- h. Canadian Achievement Tests (**CAT 4**) consists of multiple choice tests that offer wide-ranging assessments of math and language skills for those in Grades 2, 4 and 7.
- i. The Otis Lennon School Ability Test (**OLSAT**) screens students for gifted programs or advanced schooling. The half day assessment is scheduled on January 24th.

3. Parent Teacher's Conference (Follow up)

A Plan of Action to address Parent Teacher Interviews was presented for Council consideration. The Plan entails the following: (1) Presentation at TCDSB meeting (2) Letter writing campaign (3) Discussion with local MPP. The key communication points are to express Parent concerns over the cancellation of the second Parent Teacher Interview and to ensure two Parent Teacher Interviews are retained in subsequent years. Board meeting dates are expected to be set in late December for consideration. A draft presentation and letters will be circulated to council for review late December/early January. The target is to present to the Board in late January/early February 2014 (pending Board meeting dates), prior to the Board finalizing plans for the 2014-2015 school year.

4. Treasurer's Report

Domenic presented the November financials. There was little activity this month. The report will be posted on the website along the minutes.

5. Subcommittee Updates

Community Events (Vita)

There are three community events scheduled this year. Community building events are not intended to be fundraising events.

1. The **Family Fun Skate Night** to be held at the Mastercard Centre on February, 22nd (6:45-8:15). \$2 per skater will be collected to cover the cost of renting the ice. Cookies/hot chocolate/coffee will be served at no cost. Helmets are mandatory.
2. **Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety Presentation** to be held at the school gymnasium on February 27th. The presentation will discuss ways of protecting our children in this electronic age. Everyone is encouraged to come out.
3. **Bingo Night** tentative date, **Thursday, April 10th**, starting at 6:30 pm in the school gym. Further information to follow.

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Bricks/Foundation Building Awards (Domenic)

The Bricks Awards (legacy awards) have been awarded to Grade 7 and 8 students and presented at an awards ceremony in June. The Foundation Building Awards acknowledges all the hard work our students, teachers/administration and parent volunteers dedicate throughout the year. This has always been a great tradition at St. Gregory's as it recognizes the valuable contributions of Grade 7 and 8 students. Domenic enhanced the program to highlight the overall attributions of the Grade 8 students throughout their years at St. Greg's. For the BRICKS Student Recognition Award, the students must complete a Nomination Checklist that has the following four items.

1. Completed Nomination Form
2. Completed Endorsement Form by two teachers
3. Case for support essay addressed to the Nomination Evaluation Committee. This should be in essay format, whereby the students explain what they think they should win this award. The essay should not exceed 300 words.
4. Completed BRICKS student recognition program tracking sheet.

The nominating committee will consist of 6 members. The Bricks Chair (Domenic) will be a non-voting member. The Chair will administer the program and facilitate the process of selecting the winning candidate, but cannot cast a vote. The 5 voting members will consist of Ms. Benedek, a CSAC member (to be selected by CSAC), a non-CSAC St. Gregory parent who does not have a child in grade 8 and two members of the community. The winners will be presented with a meaningful award, a "brick" trophy at the Awards Ceremony in June. Council did not have any objections with the structure of the program. **Council voted 10 to 6 in favour of changing the Bricks criteria to Grade 8 students only.**

Fundraising (Irene)

Irene thanked everyone who came out to the subcommittee meeting and shared their fantastic fundraising ideas.

The 2013-2014 fundraising initiatives are:

- a. QSP - \$10,500 (net, approximate)
 - b. Pizza - \$11,000 (2013-2014 school year)
 - c. MuchVideo Dance-a-thon, scheduled on Feb 12, 2014, \$8000 (medium push)
 - d. Pavers - \$6,000, various size pavers with family names engraved as a legacy along the path
 - e. Year End BBQ/FunFair (includes raffles, games, silent auction etc) \$8000, depending on push.
- Council voted all in favour of the event to be held on **Thursday, June 12th**.

Projected venues for 2013-2014 - \$44,500

Information Technology (Stephen/Phil)

The school remains short of acceptable working technology in a number of classrooms. Ms Benedek believes 15 PC's will establish a 'baseline' of newer machines in each classroom across the school ~ \$7,500. Longer term, CSAC would like to support a 3 year plan for the school. Ms Benedek would like to support those teachers most likely to use technology (as long as minimum baseline is achieved and each teacher has access to a reliable machine). Council proposed (led by Ms Benedek, assisted by CSAC) to support a short survey, through survey monkey, of teachers i.e. who uses what, where the gaps are (hardware and software/apps). PCs have to be chosen from Board IT Catalogue and council requests newly purchased PCs have 3 year warranty and support.

Bike Rodeo (Ms. Benedek)

At a previous school where Ms Benedek worked, a Bike Rodeo was sponsored by 11 Division's Community Response Bicycle Officers. The event was held at High Park. Participants had their

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bicycle and helmet inspected and moved onto the rodeo component to be tested on their riding skills. There was basic instruction on safety, hand signals, a balancing challenge and a mini time trial to register top speeds on Laser radar. Ms. Benedek will enquire with 22 Division if they sponsor this type of event or similar.

Pastoral Council (Vince)

The registration forms are now available for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. All forms are available through the church and due back to Father John by December 20th. First Holy Communion is June 22nd and Confirmation is June 7th. Sacramental classes begin in January and run every Wednesday until early June.

The parish has indicated it wants to purchase two automatic projection screens and LCD projectors, (one on either side of the crucifix), to assist projecting presentations, text and musical lyrics for the religious teachings to St. Gregory students when they attend school masses throughout the year. The parish holds over 10 masses per year for the school children and Fr. John uses these masses as “teaching moments”. This is a fairly large expense and considering the screens will be used predominantly by students, on behalf of the parish, Fr. John has asked council for some financial support. The current closed budget cannot accommodate this request. Council suggested the Church consider raising funds through the community. .

6. The next CSAC meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 22, 2014 @ 7PM.**

Meeting adjourned 9:14PM.

7. ACTION ITEMS

Action Item	Person Responsible	Details	Timeline
Parent Teacher Conferences	Council Executive with Council	Formulate plan and seek feedback from Council on next steps	January 2014
Community Events (Skate Night)	Vita Peri	Skate Night -- contact Dukes Source for Sports to enquire about rental program for students who do not have skates/helmets	January 22, 2014
Community Events (Bike Rodeo)	Ms. Benedek	To contact 22 Division and enquire if they sponsor a Bike Rodeo or similar event.	January 22, 2014
Bricks Awards	Domenic Ruso	Criteria for nominating committee members Set up subcommittee meeting/send forms and questions to council for review	January 22, 2014
Donation Page	Alessia Ribeiro	Develop Donation Page to acknowledge corporate donations	TBD
IT	Stephen Holyday/Phil Vokins	Develop free short survey of IT needs before Ms Benedek meets with her staff on January 14, 2014	January 22, 2014