

Meeting Minutes from November 22, 2012

Attendees: Gabrielle Benedek, Arlene Martin, Anne Iwasykiw, Adam Grnak, Tanya Giaquinto, Domenic Ruso, Alessia Ribeiro, Daniela Balsamo, Steve Peters, Angela Severino, Nancy Donnaperina, Lori Tenuta, Lisette Santos, Lisa Chan, Karen Loughlin-Plut, Melanie Fernandez-Alvarez, Vito Vaccarelli, Maria Skinner, Luana Fanelli, Suzanne Tiefenbeck, Antonella Wild, Phil Vokins, Elsa Passera-Berardi, Jennifer Pyz, Marianne Williams, and Vince Arone.

Regrets: Nadine Lustri, Anne Mishko, Edward Filippozzi, Gina D'Alessandro

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

CSAC Chair Report – Adam Grnak

- 1) Sandy Venegas could not attend this evening to talk about what our school needs to know about hosting the annual TCDSB Elementary School Swim Meet in the next few years. She will be attending the next meeting on Wednesday, December 12, 2012.
- 2) The St. Gregory CSAC amended the **CSAC Constitution** to increase the number of committee members from 15 members to 20 members after a vote was passed at the September 2012 Meeting.
- 3) The October **CSAC Meeting Minutes** were approved and posted on the website.
- 4) The **CPIC Conference** will be held on Saturday, November 24, 2012. Everyone is encouraged to attend. There is free babysitting, as well as breakfast and lunch will be provided to all those participating.
- 5) The **Fundraising Sub-committee** meeting will be meeting on Wednesday, December 5th. Adam will be sending out an email with meeting details shortly. All other sub-committees are also encouraged to meet on that day to plan for 2013.

Principal's Report – Ms Benedek

- 6) **Full Day Kindergarten** will be rolled out at St Gregory CS in **September 2013**. There will be 3 kindergarten classrooms with a maximum 30 students per classroom and two educators. The start and end times will be the same as all other students. There are currently no specifics yet. The classrooms are large enough to accommodate the children however additional cubbies will be needed for each classroom. The Office Administration, Ms. Benedek and Ms. Martin will attend information sessions that will detail all the particulars regarding this new Full Day Kindergarten Program at our school. These will then be forwarded to the St Gregory CS Community through the December Newsletter and Information Booklets.

Question: Can I pick up my child after the morning session?

Answer from Ms Benedek: Yes, the Kindergarten program is not mandatory however the program is a full day program and if you decide to pick up your child at lunch and keep him/her home, your child will be missing a half day of the program.

Question: Can the kindergarten children use the **Before and After School Program**?

Answer from Ms Benedek: There is a separate *Before and After School Program* for kindergarten children that is run in parallel with the *Grade School Before and After School Program*. More details will be provided as they become available.

Question: Ms. Benedek, there is a lot of angst amongst some parents about full-day kindergarten and how it will be implemented. May I suggest that you hold an information or question and answer session for parents so that they can get more information?

Answer from Ms. Benedek: Ms. Benedek and Ms. Martin will be attending an information session with the board in December about full-day kindergarten and will provide more information after that session. Also, the *Welcome to Kindergarten* program will be held in the spring to allow parents to ask questions.

- 7) **Kindergarten Yard** needs attention: The kindergarten playground woodchips need replacing as they have turned to mud. Ms Benedek will make sure more woodchips are ordered.

Treasurer's Report – Domenic Ruso

- 8) Domenic provided a summary of what has gone in and what has gone out from September 1, 2012 to October 31, 2012. The closing cash balance on October 31, 2012 is \$21, 718.68.
- 9) Question regarding **Tax Receipts for the May 2012 Marathon Fundraiser** for those who cash donations. Vince submitted all cash donations to the Board but the Board informed Ms. Martin that what was submitted was not in the "correct format". Vince also pointed out that we are also waiting for the **Credit for HST** for Marathon Expenses that he also submitted months ago.

Ms Benedek is going to look into these two items to make sure that the appropriate receipts will be issued to those who require them and the HST Credit be reimbursed to the school.

Sub-Committee Reports

10) **PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

a) Family PJ Movie Night Mickey's Magical Christmas ~ **Thursday, December 6, 2012 @ 6:30pm**. Wear your favorite PJs! Water (\$1) and Popcorn (\$2) will be sold in gym. Pizza is only available by placing an advanced order. CSAC will be borrowing a sound system to ensure everyone can properly hear the movie.

b) Family Fun Skate to be held on Saturday, February 23, 2013 at the Master Card Centre from 5:45 – 7:15pm \$2 per skater will be used to cover the cost of renting the ice. Hot chocolate, Coffee and cookies will be served at no cost. Everyone is welcome. Helmets are mandatory.

c) BINGO NIGHT on Thursday, April 11, 2013 starting at 6:30 pm in the gym. Approximately 12 games will be played with 30 prizes to be distributed to the various winners. There are many prizes for the children and a few gift certificates for the adults who win. There will also be a 50/50 draw. Order forms will be sent home for those wanting pizza slices, and water (\$1) and popcorn (\$2) will be sold in the gym.

One parent mentioned that it would be welcome that the flyer for activities notes that everyone is welcome "to bring their own" drinks and snacks. Parents are feeling pressured to "buy" water as it is a fundraising activity for the school. CSAC explained that we can let everyone know that they are free to bring whatever they want. And, community building events are not intended to be fundraising events.

Another concern is the amount of garbage produced at these events however no solution was suggested.

- 11) **QSP Program:** The QSP Program has brought in \$4,315.25 in cash and cheques. The total for magazines purchased using *MasterCard* and *Visa* will be provided shortly.
- 12) **Health Action Team Initiatives for 2013**
- a) **Fun Food Fridays:** Concentrating on teaching Healthy Eating using the Canada Food Guide and concentrating on low sodium choices.
 - b) The **BIG Apple Crunch** will be held on March 8th, 2013 at 2:30 pm E.S.T to kick off **Fun Food Fridays**. Each child will be given an apple to eat at snack to promote healthy eating.
 - c) **Sun Safety** for the older grades.
 - d) **Body Busters Boot Camps** to talk about fitness and perhaps hold boot camps for older grades (Lori) – TBD.
 - e) **Mental Health and Awareness**
Fun Friends Program through the *George Hull Centre* for children in JK through Grade 2. This is a 10-12 week program. Fun Friends is an early childhood program for children ages 4 to 7. The group helps children normalize the emotional state of anxiety and develop emotional resilience and social skills that will stay with them for life. Young children will develop life skills to effectively cope with difficult and/or anxiety provoking situations. In short, this program teaches children how to name their emotions and how to deal with each one. This program works with the children in conjunction with the school psychologist and/or guidance counselor. This program will hopefully be implemented starting in September 2013. Other programs including **Friends Program** plan to be implemented in the future for the older grades.
 - f) The **Bullying and Anaphylaxis Handbooks** are in progress and plan to be launched officially in early 2013.
- 13) **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 alesia_ribeiro@hotmail.com and she will provide you with a link.

Other Reports

- 14) **Soccer Nets:** The soccer nets will be installed soon. “*Facilities*” has verified that ensuring that all the equipment is appropriate and then will proceed with the installation very soon.
- 15) **Milk Program** has put on hold this year. We would like to get together and plan the program starting in January 2013. Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Tanya Giaquinto. Your thoughts and ideas are most welcome.
- 16) **Fundraising Ideas:** *Ice Cream Day* in Spring and *Create Christmas Cards from Children’s Artwork*. The Fundraising Committee is meeting on Wednesday, December 5, 2012. If you have additional ideas, please feel free to join us that night and share your ideas.
- 17) **Pop Choir:** The Intermediate Pop Choir.
We were very excited to launch the POP CHOIR for grades 6, 7 & 8 on October 23. A big THANK YOU goes out to Mrs. Alberton who is donating her Tuesday lunch recess to help supervise. Their first performance was singing "Wavin' Flag" at the Remembrance Day Assembly on November 9th. The choir rehearses every Tuesday during lunch recess. A Primary Pop Choir (Grades 1-3) will hopefully begin in early 2013. More details to be provided shortly.
- 18) **Pastoral Council:** The date for CSAC to host St Gregory Parish’s Coffee Sunday will be scheduled in early 2013. Father Henry is celebrating his 25th Anniversary on Sunday, November 25 at the 11am Mass. Food, Dessert and cake will be served after mass and everyone is welcome. **Confirmation and Communion Applications** are now available. Confirmation is May 18th 2013. First Communion is June 1 and/or 2nd 2013. All subject to confirmation according to the number of candidates who register. Those who register will receive a copy of the schedule on Dec 9th.

The church is working on a new website. New *Catholic Worship Hymnals* have been purchased and placed in the pews. You can sponsor a book and have your name put in the front cover. Please contact the Church's office for more information. A Bowling Night will also be organized for 2013. Details to come.

8:10 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, December 12, 2012. See you there!