



Parent Council Meeting Minutes – St. Matthew’s Catholic School

Date: Thursday October 19, 2017

Time: 7pm

Attendance: Flora Nordoff, Lesley DiPaolo, Trish Rayner, Angie Chiaravalle, Jennifer McDonald, Erin Haire, Krista Schmid, Stephanie Femia, Darren Fletcher, Jim Mauro, Ms. Niemiec, Karen Yee, Alena Gavedoni, Kandra Huber

Regrets: Andrew Bienhaus, Shauna Cassidy, Kate DiPaolo, Craig Van Doren

Opening Prayer – Flora Nordoff

Approval of minutes from September – Mover - Angie, Seconded – Larry, all carried.

Items Discussed:

Principal’s Report:

- We welcomed Mr. Mauro and Mr. Fletcher to the meeting.
- St. Matthew has a new special math assigned teacher – Ms. Niemiec.
- Her focus will be primarily Jr. Divisions. She will help co-plan and co-teach. Ms. Niemiec will be a tremendous resource to the children.
- Some math ideas will be coming via email, we are hoping to improve math scores
- Progress reports are coming November 14 – parent/teacher meetings have begun and this will give the teacher a chance to incorporate some changes they discussed with parents in their reports
- Teachers are handing out instructions on how to re-subscribe for emails from the school. The board did a clean-up on this over the summer and parents must re-subscribe in order to get emails.
- There will be a parent conference on November 4th at Bishop Ryan High School.
- Students from Grade 5-6 are doing lead recess with the primary grades. They are showing them how to play the fun games painted in the yard. The primary students seem to be enjoying this and are making some friends in the older grades.
- Student Council will only be made up of grade 8s this year.
- Pilgrimage walk didn’t take place after the mass this year. Weather didn’t co-operate and school is looking at doing something else to make up for this.
- New school is on permanent hold, all permits in the City of Hamilton are on hold till further notice
- Theater Aquarius is doing the musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat. Some students are performing in the play



- Quebec trip for Grade 8 cancelled this year. Cost of trip was high and with Confirmation taking place some parents from previous years had a difficult time finding the funds to let their child go on the trip.
- The trip this year will be an overnight cultural experience in the city of Toronto.

Pasta Dinner:

- Meeting for next pasta dinner will take place on Thursday November 9th at 7pm in the school conference room
- Larry will print 800 invitations and will have them in the teachers mail box by Wednesday November 1st
- Tickets will be printed by the chair, Christine Lasebnik
- Staff will be donating a Chrome Book as a prize giveaway!!
- Christine Lasebnik has contacted Mrs. Zotti for the choir to sing a few carols. She has also contacted the grade 8 teachers to get student volunteers for the evening
- Donation letter has been signed by Mrs. Nordoff and was handed out to the committee. We can now start to drop off at businesses and collect donations for the dinner.

Parish Report:

- Our parish rep passed on a message that the Catholic Women's League at Assumption doesn't want council doing the cake and coffee after mass for Communions and Confirmations.
- Church would prefer to leave it as is, but Kate DiPaolo will be speaking to Father to see if we can still try to do something

Pita Pit:

- Karen Yee is heading up Pita Pit lunch.
- Recommendation was to look at doing 2 days per month
- Pita day will be the second Friday of every month and last Friday of the month
- We are starting in November
- Karen has asked for volunteers to help count on Monday's at the school and deliver to the classrooms on Fridays
- When Stephanie's available she will help out and so will Leslie DiPaolo
- This doesn't take up much time and can be done quickly with more volunteers.
- Karen will contact the volunteers separately to remind them of the days that are needed

Social Media/School Donation:

- Mrs. Nordoff spoke about the disappointment she felt when it was brought to her attention parents of the school had gone on social media to discuss the recommended \$15 donation for the school and bad mouthed the school and staff without ever discussing anything with the school.



- Parents are setting a terrible example for their kids as the school teaches educates them social media, yet parents are openly being rude on social media towards the school.
- Staff heard some kids talk about how disappointed they were with the school and the Halloween event without understanding what they were talking about. The kids were only basing it off of what their parents were posting on social media.
- This is very wrong and Mrs. Nordoff wants any parent to come speak to her or call her at the school.
- She was very upset that parents brought up that they thought the school was using some of the money to fund a staff Christmas party. This is something that Mrs. Nordoff and the school will not do, ever!
- She understood that the original letter sent out to parents may have been misinterpreted and she followed it up with an email to all parents with a better explanation of how the money would be used
- Not one parent who posted on social media reached out the school or Mrs. Nordoff to discuss the recommended donation
- Mrs. Nordoff and the staff will not leave a child behind if they don't or cannot donate. This is never something that the school does!

Council Meeting Dates:

1. Thursday November 16
2. Thursday January 18
3. Thursday February 15
4. Thursday April 19
5. Thursday May 10
6. Thursday June 21 – Social Dinner

Meeting Adjourned – 8:21pm