



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

Date: Thursday November 16, 2017

Time: 7pm

Attendance: Flora Nordoff, Lesley DiPaolo, Trish Rayner, Angie Chiaravalle, Jennifer McDonald, Stephanie Femia, Darren Fletcher, Karen Yee, Shauna Cassidy, Kandra Huber, Marco Testaguazza, Craig Van Doren, Kristen Plaskon

Regrets: Andrew Bienhaus, Jim Mauro

Opening Prayer – Flora Nordoff

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

The group congratulated Mrs. Nordoff on her well-deserved “The Distinguished Service Award” she received!

Items Discussed:

Principals Report:

- Mrs. Nordoff presented the operating budget for the year.
- This has been attached to the minutes – any questions can be directed to Mrs. Nordoff
- Costumes for caring made the Glanbrook Gazette news! The kids loved the event and it was a successful event.
- We raised just over \$10,000 – a portion of the proceeds from “Costumes for Caring” will go to Cancer Lymphoma, Red Cross for the hurricane victims and St. Matthew’s

Homework:

- Angie brought up an email Andrew wanted discussed in the meeting regarding homework.
- He was feeling kids need to be better prepared and maybe there is something we as a council can do to help the students have better homework practices. Having a communication with the teachers and helping the kids so that they can do better on their tests/reports.
- Parent council didn’t feel comfortable telling other parents in the school community how to get their kids to handle their homework habits. This is a sensitive issue to lots of parents as was seen in the meeting and will left to the parent’s discretion.
- There is a homework policy on the board website and parents can refer to it for help. The rule of thumb is 10 minutes of homework per grade, however this isn’t the case for everyone.

Pasta Dinner:



- Meeting for next pasta dinner will take place on Wednesday November 22 at 7pm in the school conference room – this will be to count out the raffle prizes and wrap all of the goodies
- Tickets have been sent home and we are in great shape – we are up to 518 people confirmed for the event
- 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
- Andrew will be the MC of the evening

Parish Report:

- Nothing to report at this time.

Pita Pit:

- We did two orders for the month of November – First one did \$440 and the second was \$460
- Upcoming pita dates – December 8, and 22nd, January 19
- If there is a PA Day on a Friday, the lunch will be bumped up to Thursday
- Pita day will be the second Friday of every month and last Friday of the month
- When Stephanie's available she will help and so will Leslie DiPaolo

New School Update:

- Larry reached out to Councilor Brenda Johnson inquiring what about the status of the new school, here is her response:
- The Pipe coming up #56 is delayed which means so is development. The school can be built but cannot be occupied until the pipe is complete. Our staff are still waiting for your board to provide schedules for construction.

Open Discussion:

- Stephanie brought up healthy eating and wasn't happy that a teacher had commented to her son that almond milk isn't good for him
- We all felt there should be no judgement of what the kids are eating and that the school does a good job already promoting healthy eating
- Some families do use the food bank and sometimes teachers are trying to help the student out, and hoping they can and do make a difference when it comes to eating habits
- A reminder that school yard supervision starts at 8:55, if you come early you can stay to watch over your own child.
- The daycare that operates out of the school have different hours and are only watching out for the kids in their program, not the school yard



- There is a new fence that was put in the yard in the daycare area. This is because the daycare is mandated to use their outdoor minutes of care and this helps separate from the rest of the school
- A parent brought up that the sports teams and school pictures in the cabinet at the front of the school needs to be updated. At present there are pictures that are up there from two years ago
- Kristen a first-time attendee at council brought up the Bellmore School Bazaar that they do every year and asked if we would be open to hosting one in the Spring.
- We all agreed that this was a great idea and Kristen will be heading up this initiative as she knows what's involved in starting this. Kristen is a local business owner and is part of the bazaar and can help spearhead this in the right direction with the help of Lesley DiPaolo and Kandra Huber
- Current date we are looking at is late March, early April around Easter time. More to follow in the next meeting
- Grade 8s are continuing to sell popcorn to help raise funds for their trip to Toronto
- An idea was brought up that the school could possibly look at putting a sign up in front of the school to list any of the upcoming school events.
- We will be doing movie nights in the school gym, January to March.
- Popcorn will be ordered grade 8s will sell to help raise money, a portion of the profits will be for the school. Shauna is spear heading this initiative and she'll follow up via email.
- Andrew has confirmed that a grant for a guest speaker was approved for \$1000 – Andrew should provide details in the next meeting

Council Meeting Dates:

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

Meeting Adjourned – 8:35pm