

CSPC Meeting Minutes – November, 2019

Meeting Date: November 20, 2019

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Location: St. Gregory School Staff Room

Meeting Attendees:

Joe Panno
Christina Prete

Council Members:

Phil Vokins
Jessica Ferrari
Kristina Beintner
Daniela Del Rosso
Kathy Fenech
Marj Bridger
Christina Sachanowicz
Diana Morrone
Maria Skinner
Lisa Tarasca
Vanessa Thomas
Susan Rowlinson
Celia Goncalves

Attendees:

Carlo Santaguida
Ivana Chualo Fran
Marcia Boule
Julie D'Aprile
John Vennare

CSPC Member Regrets:

Sebastian Spio-Garbrah
Jennifer Pyz
Monika Boszormenyiova

Meeting called by Co-Chair Phil Vokins

Opening Prayer led by Principal Mr. Pannozzo

Item: Reporter in Attendance, Led by Phil Vokins

Vokins calls to the council's attention that Jasmine Rach, Reporter from the Ryerson School of Journalism, is in attendance. Rach is writing an article on the 5G/EMF issue and asks that anyone who would like to be interviewed and quoted for the article to please contact her:

jasmine.rach@ryerson.ca

Council has no objections to Rach's presence at the meeting and the 5G/EMF agenda item is moved up for immediate discussion.

Item: 5G/EMF, Led by Phil Vokins

Vokins offers an overview of the 5G situation. The last two meetings highlighted parents' concerns about the 5G towers on the church property, and that, according to these parents, the towers were introduced through a loophole. Towers are currently operating in 4G. Phil Vokins and Maria Skinner declare conflict of interest with regards to this item.

Concerned parents' viewpoint is that there is not enough research done on EMF and the harm to the community. Vokins speaks about EMF levels not being harmful to humans, but he is sympathetic to the cause and prefers the towers not be so close to the school.

Jasmine Rach states that the media coverage is leaning towards the community being opposed to the 5G towers. She would like information and footage from the community for both sides of the argument. Julie D'Aprile speaks to the fact that Rosethorn School is a big opposer of the 5G, and Rach should reach out to Rosethorn accordingly.

Ivana Chuvalo Fran has taken the concern to the board to bring awareness and education to the community. Chuvalo Fran states that children are more susceptible to 5G and is concerned about the cumulative health effects and feels that an assessment of the 5G/EMF levels needs to be done at the school.

Item: Newcomers to the CSPC, Led by Kristina Beintner

Kristina Beintner has received feedback from new members of the CSPC that the meetings have been moving at a rapid pace. Beintner asks that senior council members take time to explain practices and procedures of the council to the newer members whenever possible.

Item: Fundraising, Led by Daniela Del Rosso

Del Rosso states that Big Box Fundraiser has closed to a very successful \$12,121.74 made for the school. Pizza lunch for the top selling class is scheduled for Friday, November 22. Julie D'Aprile commends the Fundraising Committee for such a successful fundraiser. Del Rosso states that the fundraiser brought in 73% participation from the parents at the school.

Dance-a-thon is scheduled for February 7. Mabel's Labels pamphlets will be sent out with the students as soon as possible.

Diana Morrone states that the Big Box of Cards was a great fundraising idea and feels that it would have done even better had the school not sold cards through QSP in previous years. So, taking this into consideration, she commends the fundraising committee for raising so much for the school.

Parent Social – Marcia Boule proposes January 10 or January 31. Council confirms that dates are free, so Boule will plan accordingly.

Item: Financial Statements/Audit, Led by Jessica Ferrari

Jessica Ferrari reviews financial statements with council members:

- Grad wear and Fundraising checks will go through in November. Still following up on the status on getting 3K worth of grants (progrant).

Carlo Santaguida, Auditor, reviews audit with council members:

- Jessica's work as a treasurer was great, detailed and lots of backup.
- Audit 2018/2019 – report is solely for the purpose of the CSPC committee. Santaguida has reviewed all monthly bank statements. All deposit slips were accurate.
- Disbursements had the following exceptions:
 - Grade 8 graduation check \$1028 – a check that a parent had submitted.
 - Couch rental \$250 for a school event did not have a receipt – but council members/administration vouched that the couch was there.

- IT purchases – \$15K check made for iPads and cloud books. Some information missing. There was a PO attached to it.
- Artist in the School - \$8475 check for monthly artist in the school, prepaid for the year. Caution to prepay for the entire year – it is too much money to give up front, we're not a bank. Use a better approach – quarterly payments preferred.
- Void checks – there were 4 or 5 – one was for scholastic Canada, voided but no transaction. Check for a teacher allocation where there was no reason given for the check to be voided. There was a damaged check that was rewritten. Robotics in the classroom sessions were cancelled and the checks were returned. Make sure that when checks are voided, put a reason for the void on the check. Recommendation: use some excel formats. When companies are contracted, keep the same procedure for how you pay all of them – no full payments for the entire year, better to have quarterly payments.

Phil Vokins offers clarification on audit process for new council members: audit must be taken on by someone who is not a member of council. In the past, the board has tried to take over control of the financial aspect of the council, however, the board doesn't process payments quickly enough to satisfy the needs of the council in a timely manner. Council is able to keep control of the financial aspect of the council without board involvement because of these strict auditing procedures.

Item: Tier 2 Budget Items, Led by Phil Vokins

Administration is concerned that the Artist in the Classroom budget was approved at the preliminary budget meeting, but then council did not vote in line with that budget. Artist in the classroom was pushed into the tier 2 budget, along with \$5K worth of IT items.

Vokins states that easiest way around this issue is not to revote on the new budget, but to review the budget and see if there is enough money to promote Artist in the Classroom to tier 1. Or, is there an opportunity to scale back the Sewing Studio program, or put a portion of the Sewing Studio program on tier 2.

Maria Skinner: the tier 2 items can be moved to tier 1 based on current financials and the success of the Big Box fundraiser.

Celia Goncalves: suggests that we bring artist in the classroom back to tier 1, and scale back the Sewing Studio.

Concerned parent voices concern that Lisa DiBattista from Artist in the Classroom is charging full price for her services when she is a parent at the school.

Vokins offers council members 3 options regarding Artist in the Classroom issue:

- Option 1 – leave budget as is

- Option 2 – promote Artist in the Classroom from tier 2 to tier 1
- Option 3 – Scale back the Sewing Studio program, and promote Artist in the Classroom from tier 1 to tier 2.

Motion is tabled to promote Artist in the Classroom to tier 1 in the amount of \$8500, and reduce the commitment of the Sewing Studio to roughly \$4500 (4 grades at the discretion at the administration), the remaining budget for the Sewing Studio is moved to tier 2. **Council votes to pass motion.**

As per auditor's recommendations, Artist in the Classroom will no longer be prepaid for the entire year, but rather paid incrementally.

[Subsequent to meeting, The Sewing Studio has been booked for April 30-May 1 (grades 1, 3, 5, 8) and May 21-22 (remainder of school) - subject to change]

Item: Activity Fee, Led by Phil Vokins

Jennifer Pyz (not in attendance at this meeting) has assessed the feasibility of an activity fee. A voluntary activity fee is meant to replace fundraising at the school. Vokins speaks to argument against an activity fee and that there is a strong competence of the council to raise large sums of money – swim meet, BBQ etc, and potentially exceed the Activity Fee. In the years where council has raised less money, there is a stronger argument in favour of the activity fee.

Council discussion: activity fee is a good idea, but parents will still be asked for money for other initiatives and will have difficulty differentiating between what their activity fee accounts for, versus what they still have to pay for. Vokins counters that you can charge and activity fee, but state that you will still have a certain amount of community events/fundraisers within the year.

Mr. Pannozzo: parents are inundated with too many requests for money throughout the school year. Activity fee at Father Serra was quite successful. Father Serra asked for \$50 per student. A survey conducted at Father Serra showed that parents overwhelmingly wanted an activity fee in place.

Vokins asks the council to vote on taking a survey of the school regarding activity fee. Council agrees they would prefer to see the information Jennifer Pyz has prepared regarding activity fee, before taking a survey of the school.

Item: Next Council Meeting, Led by Phil Vokins

Next meeting – December 18? January 15? Council votes for next meeting to be held on January 15. No December Meeting.

Item: AOB

Julie D'Aprile: Council now has access to a square for accepting payments. However, if you have an iPhone, you will need an adapter to use the square. There is also an adapter available that you can put your phone to accept debit (approximate cost is \$299).

Goodnight and meeting closed by Co-Chair Phil Vokins