

CSPC Meeting Minutes – January, 2020

Meeting Date: January 15, 2020

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Location: St. Gregory School Staff Room

Meeting Attendees:

Joe Panno
Christina Prete

Council Members:

Sebastian Spio-Garbrah
Phil Vokins
Jessica Ferrari
Kristina Beintner
Monika Boszormenyiova
Kathy Fenech
Marj Bridger
Diana Morrone
Jennifer Pyz
Maria Skinner
Lisa Pospieszynski
Celia Goncalves
Stefanie Martino

Attendees:

Michelle LaBorde
Ivana Chuvalo Fran
Susanne Reis
Christina Bellissimo
Christina Vanin
Elsa Passera
Lisa DiBattista

CSPC Member Regrets:

Daniela Del Rosso
Christina Sachanowicz
Vanessa Thomas
Susan Rowlinson

Meeting called by Chair Sebastian Spio-Garbrah

Opening Prayer led by Vice-Principal Ms. Prete

Item: December Financials – Led by Jessica Ferrari

Jessica has made the following adjustments to the December Financial Statements:

- PIC Grant: We are only entitled to \$1555.36, not \$2000. Amount will be adjusted accordingly.
- Progrant (Math Night) – Grant did not come through. Amount is now adjusted to \$0 from \$1000 originally budgeted.
- Dance-A-Thon – (\$382) is deposit for VideoMax (DJ for Dance-A-Thon).
- Just for Kids Catering – \$2038 cash back bonus received
- School Team Uniforms –New line item for more school uniforms is \$1695. Budget will be adjusted accordingly.
- Teacher allocation – Amount needs to be adjusted from \$7265 to \$7565
- Spirit Wear – We may have another invoice for Spirit Wear – waiting for Julie D'Aprile to advise
- Big Box – adjusted the final figure for additional deposit received.

After the adjustments listed above, the budget is now short \$411. Maria Skinner suggests we move Math Night to Tier 2 since there is no Math Night scheduled as of yet. Skinner suggests that this change be made on a short-term (1-month) basis until further funds come in (Dance-A-Thon fundraiser proceeds, for example)

Maria Skinner proposes \$1250 for Math Night be moved to Tier 2 temporarily. ***Motion passed by council.***

Maria Skinner proposes adding \$300 to Tier 1 for Teacher Allocation. ***Motion passed by council.***

Marj Bridger: Just for Kids Catering is offering *Shrove Tuesday* pancake breakfast complimentary, so Bridger proposes that the Shrove Tuesday amount be lessened from \$500 to \$100. \$100 should be more than enough to cover any expenses for the Shrove Tuesday pancake initiative.

Marj Bridger proposes keeping \$100 in Tier 1 for Shrove Tuesday, and removing the original \$500 amount. ***Motion passed by council.***

Item: EMF Safety Levels & Children – Presented by Parent Michelle Laborde

Michelle Laborde presents to the Parent Council. The concern is the children's cumulative exposure to EMF within the school. There are currently three cell towers within 70 meters of the school. Two new 5G Freedom Mobile towers are proposed 70 meters from the school. Two towers alone would exceed the Toronto Prudent Avoidance EMF level by 24%. Freedom Mobile's Assessment of the EMF levels does not include the Rogers tower at 128 Vassar. There was no public consultation by Freedom Mobile before construction of the tower, violating protocol.

Most current update on this issue is that the City of Toronto does not concur with the proposal of Freedom Mobile's 5G towers. The City reviewed the application and took feedback from the community. The city sets a level for safety which the towers would be exceeding.

Michelle Laborde has requested an EMF reading for the WIFI levels in the school which is still outstanding. Laborde has requested a WIFI site plan for the school to identify the location of the routers with respect to the children.

Laborde has been working with the trustee at the catholic school board. A motion was approved by the school board to have EMF testing by a third party in the school since this is a potential health and safety matter. There is protocol behind getting the test done properly and Laborde is hoping to get it done in February. Laborde is also hoping the federal government will rule in line with the city decision, but anticipates a heavy appeal from Freedom Mobile. Laborde is hopeful that the towers will not be activated. School board and trustees were very supportive of the initiative. Overall, Laborde states balancing wireless and ethernet connections is vital to support the health of growing kids.

Sebastian Spio-Garbrah: It is wonderful that the parents approached the school board and made headway on this issue that is beneficial to our children.

Item: Fundraising – Led by Kathy Fenech and Kristina Beintner

Dance-A-Thon will be held on February 7, 2020. Pledge forms have been sent home to students in both hard and soft copy. Pledge forms are due back on Monday, February 3.

Item: Parent Social – Led by Kristina Beintner on behalf of Marcia Boule

Marcia Boule has asked that Kristina Beintner discuss with council about potential dates for hosting Parent Social. Council agrees that after Easter but before May would be ideal.

Council members agree that a Friday or Saturday would be the best option for this type of event. April 17th, 18th would be a good potential date. April 24th may work too, however, April 25th is First Communion and likely an early morning for parents.

If the April dates do not work for Boule (finding vendors, planning activities, etc), then the parent social can be postponed until next year.

Most importantly, a date will need to be set for this event and then council could work on creating a committee to assist in planning.

Item: AOB – Artucate

Lisa Di Battista and Jennifer Pyz discuss Artucate as follows...

In Previous years, the Artucate event would have auctioned off art pieces from the students. This year, only Kindergarten to Grade 4 will be auctioning off a group art piece. In addition to this auction, student artwork will be displayed during the event. The new idea this year is not to have the 5 to 8 grades to auction off their work, but rather to have an interactive exhibit, like an art show. The kids have amazing ideas and really want to have a voice in the planning and creation of the evening. The goal is to have a small student committee involved, as well as parents, and also more teachers involved. Artucate will be held on **Thursday, May 7th from 6:00pm to 8:30pm** in the school gymnasium.

Asking parents for monetary donations or official sponsorship for this event. Many parents are hesitant to help because people may not feel they are creative, but no matter how small a contribution is appreciated. Any funds raised will be put towards the exhibit ideas from the students. The theme for this Artucate event is light – whether the students interpret it as actual light, or the feeling of lightness, etc. The kids will be quite involved in the Artucate event – the kids could write music, write announcements, etc. Younger students may do a choir bit. They may do an art battle in teams. Students from High School may participate as well. Focus this year is to involve the community and the parents, grandparents.

Maria Skinner asks if the Artucate event is still expected to generate revenue. It's on the budget to generate \$4500. Di Battista and Pyz are not confident that Artucate will generate this amount. They need to go back to the Artucate team to discuss.

Sebastian Spio-Garbrah notes that, from a financial perspective, the earlier we know if we need to scale back the projected earnings for Artucate, the better.

Item: AOB – Sound System in the Gym

Jennifer Pyz asks if we budgeted a sound system this year for the gym and what is the ETA on it being installed. Mr. Pannozzo states that we haven't ordered it yet, because

we need a contractor in to see about wiring the speakers in the ceiling. Timeline to get the sound system installed is approximately 3 months.

Item: AOB – Ski Trip

Jennifer Pyz asks if we have a ski trip planned. Mr. Pannozzo says yes, but we need to be patient and see what happens with the strike. Potential date for Ski Trip is Tuesday, February 18.

Item: AOB – Kindergarten Enrollment

Mr. Pannozzo says that there are 68 spots available for full day kindergarten for September 2020, but there were 72 applications. Priority 1 – is for new students who have siblings already enrolled. Priority 2 – new students within the catchment area. Priority 3 – new students out of the catchment area.

Item: AOB – Family Skate and Anti Bullying

Marj Bridger discusses Family Skate as follows....

Christina Sachanowicz and Marj Bridger are partnered with the Me to We committee to support the anti-bullying initiative. Paint the Rink Pink will be held on February 17 at 2:30 at the Ford Centre. Prizes will be given for kids who come and wear pink. There will be refreshments - cookies and hot chocolate. Ice time has been generously donated by Pylon Paving. Giving out tuques for the kids. It is sure to be a busy day at the rink since the Leafs are also hosting an event. Me to We committee will come and volunteer.

Bridger speaks to anti-bullying poster contest. Each class creates a poster with an anti-bullying theme. First prize for this initiative is a pizza lunch. The two runners up will receive a popcorn party.

Item: AOB – Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday is February 25. Opt-Out forms will be sent out close to Valentine's Day. Just for Kids Catering is supplying the food and delivering to the classes.

Item: AOB – Parking Overcrowding and Safety at Pick Up and Drop Off

Sebastian Spio-Garbrah questions safety in the school parking lots at pick up and drop off. Are there any best-practices that we can implement? Perhaps staggered drop off and pick up? Any ideas from the parent council?

Marj Bridger: Every few years the issue with parking is revisited. In the recent past, Bridger has reached out to consider parent directed kiss and ride or traffic direction. But volunteers are in short supply.

Mr. Pannozzo: We cannot put parent volunteers in the church parking lot without the church's approval. It is incumbent on the parents to be safe. This is a common problem in all schools throughout the city.

Maria Skinner: Has heard from other schools that sometimes parents who volunteer for traffic safety can be disrespected by other drivers.

Sebastian Spio-Garbrah will work to make an informal subcommittee on this issue. Mr. Pannozzo is currently working together with the church on a speed limit sign for the parking lot.

Item: AOB – The Sewing Studio

Celia Goncalves asks for an update on The Sewing Studio. How far into the booking are we? Maria Skinner advises we have booked grades 1, 3, 5, and 8, April 30-May 1. The second group is booked May 21-22 with the assumption that we want to proceed, but we have 30 days to opt out if necessary.

Item: AOB – CPR Training for Staff

Marj Bridger: original plan was to offer CPR training during the staff meeting in December, but the trainers were unavailable. Bridger will advise when there is a next staff meeting and the training can be booked.

Goodnight and meeting closed by Chair Sebastian Spio-Garbrah