

CSPC Meeting Minutes – February, 2020

Meeting Date: February 19, 2020

Time: 7pm – 8:30pm

Location: St. Gregory School Staff Room

Meeting Attendees:

Joe Panno
Christina Prete

Council Members:

Sebastian Spio-Garbrah
Jessica Ferrari
Kristina Beintner
Monika Boszormenyiova
Kathy Fenech
Marj Bridger
Diana Morrone
Jennifer Pyz
Maria Skinner
Christina Sachanowicz
Lisa Tarasca
Daniela Del Rosso
Celia Goncalves

Attendees:

Christina Bellissimo
Ryan Vlasschaert

CSPC Member Regrets:

Phil Vokins
Stefanie Martino
Vanessa Thomas
Susan Rowlinson

Meeting called by Chair Sebastian Spio-Garbrah

Opening Prayer led by Principal Mr. Pannozzo

Item: Principal's Overview – Led by Mr. Pannozzo

Mr. Pannozzo and the administration are currently working on next year's enrollment. FDK is full at 131 students, meaning four Kindergarten classes and one SK/1 split. Eleven students are currently on the waiting list.

February 19 was the assembly for The Huddle Up Bullying Prevention Program. Representatives from The Toronto Argonauts, Maple Leafs, TFC, and Toronto Raptors were at the school to introduce the new online learning platform for grades 6,7, and 8.

Parent teacher interviews were completed the week of February 10, and first term report cards distributed with only limited comments due to job action. Last report cards will be distributed in June.

Friday, February 21 is a strike day, as well as Monday, February 24.

The chess program is going very well. This program runs Friday mornings from 7:30 to 8:30am. The chess program is led by two chess masters and includes 70 to 80 students.

The ski trip on February 18 was very successful – 170 students attended.

There is a playground renewal grant available for the FDK yard. Up to \$100,000 is available. Christina Sachanowicz and Kathy Fenech will form a committee to follow up on this grant.

Item: Vice-Principal's Overview – Led by Ms. Prete

We have spent about 40% of our school budget – classroom consumables, furniture, etc.

FDK students celebrated read aloud day on February 5.

Bullying prevention poster contest was a success. The posters were on display during The Huddle Up Bullying Prevention Program assembly.

Dance-a-thon was successful, raising almost \$10,000 for parent council initiatives.

Wednesday, February 26, is the Ash Wednesday celebration at St. Gregory Church.

Gotcha Program from Random Acts of Kindness is currently in effect. Students will be recognized for performing random acts of kindness and given a ticket for a draw for \$5 pizza vouchers.

Item: Overview of Financials – Led by Jessica Ferrari

The following adjustments have been made to the financial statement:

- PIC Grant has been adjusted to \$1,555 and Math Night is adjusted to \$0
- \$1,000 deposit was made for Just for Kids Catering - cash back incentive
- Spirit Wear has been adjusted slightly for a small deposit

We began Artist in the Classroom and Chess Club this month.

Also, there have been a few other incidental changes from month to month on the budget.

Item: Overview of Council Budget – Led by Maria Skinner and Celia Goncalves

Jessica Ferrari and Maria Skinner have reviewed every budget item and made adjustments where necessary, as follows:

- Adjusted revenue for Just Catering for Kids. Adjusted from \$8,000 to \$6,000
- Artucate – Leaving expected revenue at \$4,500, but with a note that says this amount is to be confirmed
- Reducing council expenses line item from \$500 to \$300
- Reducing CPR training line item from \$500 to \$0 because training will be provided at no cost
- Reducing HAT line item from \$2500 to \$700
- Robotics club – out of the \$6,897 budgeted, \$3,092.25 was already spent and that seems to have fulfilled the needs of the program. Remaining funds are not needed
- \$1000 has been budgeted for Science Class materials, however, there are no plans to purchase any more items at the moment. The \$1000 will be moved from tier one to tier two

Council tables and passes a motion to approve all of the changes to the budget listed above.

With all of the changes listed above, the council budget now sits at approximately a \$1,500 surplus.

Other budget topics were discussed as follows....

Celia Goncalves: Asks why we're not having a lot of uptake on the Just for Kids Catering. Goncalves feels that you can't book far enough ahead and that discourages people from ordering. Monika Boszormenyiova will follow up with Just for Kids Catering to ask if we can order further in advance.

Mr. Panno: offers an update on the gym sound system. The school board has quoted \$10,000 to \$15,000 to put speakers in the ceiling for the sound system. Therefore, the sound system is currently on hold while other, less expensive avenues can be explored. The speakers in the ceiling must be contracted through a board-certified provider.

Item: Fundraising – Update on Dance-A-Thon: Led by Daniela Del Rosso, Kathy Fenech, and Kristina Beintner

Dance-A-Thon has raised nearly \$10,000 for parent council initiatives. The Dance-A-Thon was a great success – the children had fun all the students in each division danced enthusiastically. Top selling class was Ms. Andreacchi at \$1,332. Highest participation was Ms. Liotta's class with 80% of students participating.

Kristina Beintner and Daniela Del Rosso bring up concerns that participation in the Dance-A-Thon was low overall – only 38% of students participated. Council members state that many parents prefer to allocate funds differently, such as contributing to different events, or supporting their individual classes directly.

Sebastian Spio-Garbrah feels that strikes are having an impact on parents and that's why people didn't participate. Spio-Garbrah states that, also, many families and marriages are stressed, and as a community, we need to support the families that cannot participate in the fundraiser.

Prizes have been distributed to the winning students and the only outstanding item is the pizza lunch for the top selling class.

Item: Subway/Hot Lunch – Led by Christina Sachanowicz

Julie D'Aprile would like to step back as the hot lunch lead, and a replacement is necessary. The replacement will act as an emergency contact for the hot lunch program. Monika Boszormenyiova volunteers to take over as the hot lunch lead.

Sebastian Spio-Gabrah: speaks to the issues with finding volunteers and also the burn-out of people who do volunteer. He feels that too many emails bombard parents and they don't read them. Is there a way to find more volunteers? Many senior council members say they have exhausted all avenues for recruiting volunteers. Kristina Beintner brings up the idea of a "classroom parent" to be a point of contact for parents

and disseminate information about parent council and recruit volunteers. Mr. Pannozzo counters that this would pose a privacy issue and that not every parent will want to be contacted by a classroom parent.

Christina Sachanowicz needs a volunteer to take over the responsibility of the CSPC email account – Julie D’Aprile no longer wants to be the point person for this. Sachanowicz feels that it should be an executive member of the council take this over. Sebastian Spio-Gabrah agrees to do so.

Subway Lunch – Christina Sachanowicz will no longer handle this position next year and a new lead is needed. Sebastian Spio-Gabrah says if there are no volunteers, then we can no longer offer this program. Pizza and Subway lunches generate \$17,000 a year. Sachanowicz is asked by council to compose an email that succinctly shows what is involved in the Subway program so that potential volunteers know exactly what to expect. Jessica Ferrari asks if grandparents are able to volunteer at the school and hopes that council can further explore this as an option.

Sebastian Spio-Gabrah asks that an agenda item is added for the next meeting to brainstorm how we can get more volunteers.

Item: Any Other Business

No Council meeting in March. Next council meeting is Wednesday, April 15.

Maria Skinner: Sewing Studio Workshop begins April 30 to May 1 (this is tier one on the budget for \$5000). Tier two for the Sewing Studio (at \$7,300 on the budget) is scheduled for May 21 to May 22. If council is not meeting until April, and the money to support the tier two budget is not available, the Sewing Studio will need to be notified sooner than later. Technically, the Sewing Studio needs 30 days’ notice of a cancellation. Mr. Pannozzo says that it is best to be completely transparent with them and let them know the money may not be available to support the tier two initiative.

Conclusion and Goodnight