

St. Augustine Catholic School Council Minutes **Zoom Meeting: Monday, November 2 @ 6:15pm**

Attendees: Marc Trotta (Principal), Elise Harold (Assistant to the Principal), Gabe Settimi, Roslyn Costanzo, Lindsay Blanche, Donna Faria Sienna, Lori Fraser, Akwugo Balogun, Eileen Thomas, Stephanie Howson, Kathryn Carlone, Alisha Stuart, B. Anger, Romeo Augustus
Regrets: Fr. Scott Whitfield (Pastor, St. Augustine's Parish), Leanne McArthur (Today's Family)

1. Call to order: Gabe, 6:15 pm
2. Opening Prayer: Mr. Trotta
3. Approval of October Meeting Minutes: motion to accept by Lori, seconded by Donna
4. No parish report.

In Fr. Whitfield's absence Mr. Trotta mentioned that grade threes have First Communion coming up. Eileen asked about any further preparation that might have to be done, but since they completed everything last school year, preparation will simply involve a review and Father Whitfield will direct traffic on the day.

Plans for students to attend mass with their class have been put on hold for safety reasons until further word from the board or diocese.

5. Principal's Report by Mr Trotta:
 - a. The Spook-a-thon was great. The kids were fantastic at maintaining safety protocols and had a great time. The fundraiser continues to run until this Friday, November 6, but early numbers point to a successful fundraising effort.
 - b. The daycare is using the (new) library until their new space is ready.
 - c. In regard to how the school is running under the new rules, we will prepare a virtual tour showing classroom layout for the next meeting. Recess is happening inside and gym is happening outside.
 - d. Eileen asked about the possibility of using the park more but Mr. Trotta said that not all parents have returned the walking permission forms to the school. Some classes have also been reluctant to diverge from the regular schedule. For something like skating at the outdoor rink this winter, he would have to rent the rink but could look into it. On that note, the move-a-thon proved that the school community can come together to keep some of the fun events that the students look forward to each year, going despite the pandemic.
 - e. Parents will have the chance to connect with their child's teacher via virtual or telephone interviews next month following report cards.
 - f. The school would welcome the opportunity to host guest speaker, Scott Graham, but we have to reach out to see if he is even doing virtual speaking engagements and if he is, whether his fee has changed. We were originally planning to split the cost with the Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton. There are other grants including the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant that we can look into to help cover the cost. Mr. Trotta will liaise with Scott Graham and send along the grant information after this meeting.

g. Air exchangers are all in and working. Another piece of good news is that the old air exchange unit on the roof is also working.

6. Treasurer's Report by Donna:

- a. We were already over budget on the playground (projected was \$32, 000 and actual was \$35, 024.87), and currently we owe an additional \$2, 190.50 for temporary fencing that was put up during the construction of the outdoor classroom, putting us over for the whole project by about \$5, 200. Currently we have a total negative balance of \$2, 681.67. Do we have to put a motion forward to cover it? How are we going to do that because we did not mention using fundraising money to support the overage in the fundraising materials?
- b. In terms of the Down Syndrome Association's Contribution towards Scott Graham's fee, we have the amount from Mrs. Muschta in cash.

7. Fundraiser:

We are allowed to fundraise as usual as long as we take Covid safety protocols into account. Mr. Trotta has to run everything through the superintendent first. He already optimistically submitted the auction as the major fundraiser and we have to figure out what we want to do for the minor fundraiser.

Akwugo mentioned Christmas carols, whereby parents pay to watch the children sing. Eileen suggested selling tickets to win Christmas hampers containing gift cards and food. Mr. Trotta saw a wine fundraiser being run by another school. Mr. Augustus suggested FlipGive, a shopping app whereby retailers kick back a percentage of online sales made through the app, to the school. Gabe looked into it quickly and said there is a good range of retailers available and also suggested a virtual running event but isn't sure how we would monetize it.

A fundraising sub-committee is struck to plan the minor fundraiser. Members include: Lori (Chair), Donna, Eileen, Lindsay, Akwugo, and Roslyn.

8. Guest Speaker:

(See Principal's Report)

9. Other business:

Joy Day: council has no money to give and Lori asks about any other funds that could be released. Mr. Trotta says to leave it with the school and they'll figure something out.

10. Next meeting scheduled for **Monday, Dec. 7, 6:15 pm.**

11. Adjournment: Lori, 7:11 pm.