



School Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 25, 2024 / 6:00pm – 7:48pm / Divine Mercy School

In attendance:

Amy Cooper (Principal), Lindsey Fowler (VP), Shelagh De Rossi (Chair), Tommias Ksiazek (Co-Vice Chair, Helping Hands), Andre Santos (Co-Vice Chair, Casino), Innocent Madawo (Secretary), Chelsea Dustin (Fundraising).

Parents: Wendy Dereck, Bethany Eldom, Ashiola Akano, Andre Grondin, Jasmine, Sandeep Vick, Tomi Abiodun, Diana Vincent, Nathan Romas, Alain Nono.

6:00pm - Meeting Call to Order – Chair, Shelagh De Rossi

6:02pm - Prayer and Treaty Land Acknowledgement - Amy Cooper/Shelagh De Rossi

6:06pm - Approval of Previous Minutes - motion moved by Chair, seconded by VC Tommias, accepted unanimously.

6:07pm - Adoption of Agenda - motion moved by Chair and seconded by seconded by VC Tommias, accepted unanimously.

6:08pm - Round Table Introductions - All

6:12pm - Principal's Report – Amy Cooper

Highlights of the new school year:

- The school held a successful meet the staff BBQ on September 12. Despite the overwhelming attendance by families, everyone was fed and the meet and greet with teachers was a success. Due to the popularity of the BBQ, the school administration is considering holding the BBQ day prior to school opening day because the current setup can be disruptive as it happens on a school day and teachers will not have any updates to share with parents as they would still be settling into their classes. Other schools host BBQ days in August and that is becoming the norm.
 - The school is also considering buying its own grill, rather than rely on rentals.
- The school will hold 6 fire drills and 3 lockdown drills throughout the school year.

- Among other regular events, classes will receive Parish visits, there will be a Dance Residency, and a Rapunzeel theatre performance on October 8th.
 - Other notable events include;
 - Picture Day on October 15th,
 - Demonstration of Learning on November 28th,
 - Skiing Field Trip for Grades 4-6 on December 6th and
 - The Christmas Concert on December 17th.
 - The school's student capacity has increased from 350 students last year to 460 in the current school year. The current grade breakdown is:
 - 92 students in 3 kindergarten classes,
 - 60 students in 3 classes each for grades 1 to 4,
 - 45 students in grade 5, and
 - 35 students in grade 6.
- ❖ The current capacity allows for an expected influx later in the year of new students from new homes that are currently being completed in the Orchards neighbourhood.

6:30pm - Chair's Report

The chair moved a motion to postpone the review and adoption of the Operational Procedures to the next council meeting because she had printed copies to share with the meeting. VC Tommias seconded the motion and the postponement was agreed to unanimously.

6:35pm - Treasurer's Report - presented by Shelagh De Rossi in the absence of Tania Nieto.

- The general account stands at **\$2557.72**
- There is need to order cheques/bankdrafts
- Chair moved a motion for her to replace the previous chair, Karen Gilbert as a signatory to the general account. Motion was seconded by VC Tommias and the meeting unanimously adopted the new list of signatories as follows:
 - Shelagh De Rossi (chair)
 - Tania Nieto (treasurer)
 - Chelsea Dustin (fundraising chair)

6:49pm - Fundraising Report - presented by Chelsea Dustin

- Proposed fundraisers:
 - Healthy Hunger
 - Nellie's cleaning products (new)
 - Poinsettias
 - Spring baskets
 - Purdy's (new)
 - Cobs
- Call for volunteers to help particularly with distribution of food packages on Healthy Hunger days was answered instantly by parents: Wendy Dereck and Diana Vincent.

7:01pm - New Business - presented by VC Tommias Ksiazek

Helping Hands:

- Volunteers required
- Introducing a “very visual valentines” concept to improve the ongoing annual event when students sign Valentines cards for seniors and other less fortunate children.
- Introducing a school supplies program where families are requested to donate extra school supplies at the end of the school year for the school to establish a supply bank for donation to less fortunate children.

Other Council sponsored events to continue in the current school year:

- Halloween Dance (new)
- Mid-year Teacher Appreciation (new)
- Shrove Tuesday (pancake day)
- Winter Carnival (with a proposed 50/50 contest considered as part of activities)
- Grade 6 end of year field trip
- Year-end Teacher Appreciation
- End of year School Celebration

There was considerable parent participation in discussions throughout the meeting including:

- Questions on distribution of funding raised by the council.
- Suggestions to raise more money through, for example, sales of apples and collecting bottles.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 14th 2024 at 6pm** preceded by a light dinner at 5:30pm. Childcare will be provided.

Society Meeting

Meeting Call To Order: At 7:32pm - Chair, Shelagh De Rossi

Adoption of Previous Minutes: Motion moved by Shelagh, seconded by Andre and was adopted unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda: Motion moved by Shelagh, seconded by Chelsea and was adopted unanimously.

Casino Account: presented by the chair in the absence of treasurer, Tania Nieto

- Account balance: **\$58,392.07**
- Change of account signatories to remove former chair, Karen Gilbert
- new signatories: Shelagh De Rossi (chair)
 - Tania Nieto (treasurer)
 - Chelsea Dustin (fundraising chair)

Principal's Request for Casino Funds: (to be reviewed at the next council meeting)

- 60 Chromebooks (@ approx. \$500 each) with 2 carts for **\$30,000** to be purchased in March/April 2025 for the new school year beginning September 2025.
- Field trip cost reduction (K-6) @ \$20 X 475 children = **\$9500**

- Christmas Concert lighting/sound/staging equipment @ **\$3,000**
- Whole school activity @ **\$10,000**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm