



Divine Mercy School Council Meeting – Minutes

January 24, 2024, 5:30 pm | Meeting called to order by Nuno Tome

Staff/School Representatives:

Nuno Tome (Principal)

Daniela Letterio (Teacher Representative)

Pamela Leermakers (Community Representative)

Parent Representatives:

Tannice Ashman	Lisa Bitonti-Bengert	Johnson Lai
Angela Trewartha	Paula Mendonca	Katrina Vieira Reis
Vivian Correa-Pinto	Jonathan Walker	Jessica Clayton
Tashani Parker	Adriana Paniconi	Caroline
Pearl Mofunanya	Karen Chan	

Parent Regrets:

Elaine Dantas		
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1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement, Opening Prayer - Mr. Tome
 - Approval by Jonathan Walker and Vivian Pinto
2. Approval of last meeting minutes
 - Approval by: Daniela Letterio and Lisa Bitonti-Bengert
3. Co-Chair's Report (A. Trewartha & T. Ashman)
 - Update on pizza- going well, almost at the end of the session, new e-mail is being shared at the end of January- similar # of weeks; information will include details regarding how the funds are used;
 - **Parent Question:** can we add an option to buy pizza for someone else?
 - **Response:** some families bring snacks and pizza- sometimes supplementing lunches with snacks. If you would like to contribute to pizza- call Rita (secretary) at the office, who you can share guidance regarding how to go about this. We want to keep the information confidential regarding whom the pizza is going to, and Rita has a line of sight to these details and the need amongst our school community

- **Parent Question:** can we add an option (in-school cash online) that lists contributions?
 - **Response:** The Council has an angel fund that helps to address the cost of trips, etc.... Mr. Tome will follow up with co-chairs to discuss potential options. Council is allowed to have 2-3 fundraisers, so we have to consider what can be done with this in mind
- **Parent Question:** can we provide an allotment of money, and Rita oversees it?
 - **Response from co-chair:** That's what happens already for pizza- everyone pays on a deadline; we send the list to Pizza Pizza- and then we send an updated list that includes people who may not have ordered due to personal circumstances or paid late. In the end, we have to figure out how to collect funds within the fundraising rules
- **Chair question:** Any update on Subway?
 - **Response:** An e-mail will be sent to the council chairs and Mr. Tome later today regarding the outcome of the smaller committee that met and discussed subway options. Aiming to start at the beginning of February
- Fundraiser: a big box of cards- a box of really nice birthday cards-
 - Get a box of cards; every family gets one, \$35 for 35 cards- can sell more boxes online, pizza party for the class that sells the most, deliver all boxes that everyone ordered- works out to \$1 per card
 - Only one box per family is provided
 - March to April timing for launch
 - Someone needs to be present when the cards are dropped off and distributed; someone needs to mark off that boxes are received
 - Goal to make \$3,000-5,000- a similar school in the neighbourhood in Mississauga made about \$6,000 and was able to recover the cost and a little more- suggestion to give the box to the youngest in the family as they are the most excited to share what they have received
 - Return on investment is \$11 per box
 - **Question:** do they do different versions per year?
 - **Response:** 4 options are currently available, and it does change.
Response from parent- some individuals still have some at home from another school; **Response:** Suggestion to send birthday card box home to help identify the variability
 - **Suggestion for alternate fundraiser:** Maple syrup
 - **Response:** many questions, how does the ordering process work, etc.
 - **Suggestion:** sell syrup at end of year
 - **Question:** can we do donations instead of cards?

- **Response:** raise almost \$3,000 with cards; kids are more motivated to sell because they get a prize in the end;
- **Suggestion:** ask for donations: **response:** had donation recently with dance-a-thon; therefore, suggest doing a formal fundraiser
- **Vote for approval of Big box cards fundraiser: passed.**
 - Tannice Ashman, Paula Mendonca, Angela Trewartha, Pearl Mofunanya, Pamela Leermakers, Daniela Letterio, Vivian Correa-Pinto, Lisa Bitonti-Bengert, Tashani Parker, Jonathan Walker
 - Suggestion to send home cards before the March break

4. Principal's Report (N. Tome)

Faith -

- Gr 5/6 Retreat -
- Remembrance Day Liturgy
- Christmas –
 - Mass
 - Retreat – All Day Gr1-8
 - Food Drive
 - Concert (English & French)
 - Movie Day
- Visits from Alphonse & Morning Star



Faith Con't

- Alfonse – 2nd Thursday
- Rosary – Morning Star - Jan 19
- Pancake Tuesday – Feb 13
- Ash Wednesday – Feb 14
- Stations of the Cross – March 28
- Food Drive – Feb 14- March 28
- Easter Egg Hunt – Tues April 2
- 25th Anniversary - Wed April 17 Mass 6p.m. & Celebration 7p.m.
- 6 pm mass and then walk over from merciful redeemer in the gym

Faith

First Confession – Feb
28th

Confirmation Mass May 6

28 Feb.

6 Mar.

6 May

26 May

Confirmation Crosses &
Confession

Gr 2 First Communion
May 26th

Equity – Since we met last

- Teacher PD – Nov 24 – Whole staff workshop on how we as individuals, our perspectives are based on many of our societal & personal norms. Focus on how many of our norms benefit some (privilege), they can be painful to others (oppressive). Workshop look at some of the norms & biases that have become norms within us & society that need to be changed.
- Visit from Elder Albert Marshall and author Louise Zlmanyi who have co-written the book *Walking Together*. Read aloud and sharing sharing of their picture book that introduces readers to the concept of Etuaptmunk—or Two-Eyed Seeing, the gift of multiple perspectives in the Mi'kmaw language—as we follow a group of young children connecting to nature as their teacher.



Upcoming Equity

Asian Heritage Month – Lunar New Year (activities (videos, colouring pages, etc) re lunar New Year;

Black History Month - Canadian 'Kayak' Black History Month booklets in both english and french for all students in the school; Links to Canada History.ca to staff to supplement lessons and activities for Black History Month;)

Wellbeing
– Since we
met last



Flag Football



Intermediate Boys/Girls Volleyball Teams



Soccer Clubs Gr 1-8, Creative Gr 1, Gr 2, Gr 3, Board Game Gr 2-8, Karoke Gr 2-7), Dance3-7) Book Clubs Gr 1-8



Immunization Clinics – Gr 7 & 8



Rope Sports/Jungle Sport -

Wellness Week – No Homework

Wellness Week Jan 15-19

- Monday – Gratitude
- Tuesday – Keynote- Flightunit Speaker – K-8
- Wednesday – Outdoor Wellness
- Thursday – Family Night – Pizza, Clubs, Parent Chat – Sign Up
- Friday – Pyjama Dance Party

Wellness –
Looking
Ahead



Sports Teams – Indoor Soccer (Jr/Int Boys/Girls), Jr Boys/Girls Basketball, Jays Challenger Baseball)



Clubs – New Session – Singing Club, Gr1, Gr2, Gr 3 Puppet Clubs, Creative Art Club Gr 3-4, Gr 1, Gr 2, Gr3, & Gr 4 Hockey Club, Gr 4-8 Soccer/Basketball every last recess.



Mental Health Modules – GR 7 & 8



Gr 5/6 1.5 Hour Workshops & Gr 7/8 Lunch & Learns (Jan 23, Jan 31, Feb 5)

- Jays Challenger baseball- focus on engaging Mr. Domelo's class every Friday in the gym with students from the rest of the school

- **Question:** are students allowed to be in more than one club?
 - **Response:** Try to avoid having clubs for the same group of students in a club on the same day; there is no maximum number of students that can attend

Learning – Since we met last

- Earth Rangers
- Junior Achievement – Gr 8
- Archimedes - Science / Dramatic Presentation Gr 3-6
- Gr 8 – Guidance / Course selection with Gonzaga
- Primary Division workshop w/ OT
- Fine motor work with occupational therapy

Learning – Moving Ahead

Student Intervention Meetings – Whole School w/ Teaching Staff

School Improvement Focus – PLC - Gr 2 & 5 Math -(Improviing Mathematical Understanding, focus on attitude toward math/use of technology)

Book Fair – Feb 7-19

Report Card – PA day Jan 22, Feb 13 Reports Go Home, Feb 15 - Interviews

- Mr. Tome met with teachers about their classrooms and any concerns
- ICX- there is a cost associated with the program, and the board is paying for Knowledge Hook, so we would have to pay out of pocket for this program

Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol

- Policy/Memorandum 166 Subject: Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols. One component of the DPCDSB prevention protocol is education for students about human trafficking. Pope Francis has described human trafficking as “an unjustifiable violation of the victims’ freedom and dignity” that must be considered a crime against humanity. Human trafficking involves forcing, pressuring, or threatening a person into carrying out sexual acts for money. Human trafficking is prevalent in Ontario, and education is key to its prevention and to keeping students safe.

- Every board is required to develop a plan of action to address this and support and protect victims
 - A letter will be sent out to parents in March about the content
 - Last year, Mr. Tome had discussions with each class about this topic and used the example of touching someone’s hand vs. giving a high five

Anti-Sex Trafficking

- Kindergarten: Identifying feelings.
- Grade 1: Becoming aware of feelings.
- Grade 2: Using our voices to speak up.
- Grade 3: How speaking up creates change.
- Grade 4: Learning about friendships and healthy relationships.
- Grade 5: Making healthy choices..
- Grade 6: Making informed decisions.
- Grade 7: Talking about healthy relationships and how to make informed decisions.
- Grade 8: Making reasoned and informed decisions, informed through a Family Life lens students will enter into conversations about human sexuality.

5. Treasurer’s Report (V. Pinto)

- Rita sent the December report today- Vivian will share the budget report for December before the next meeting

6. OAPCE Report (P. Mofunanya)

- No meetings since the last update

7. Parish Report/Pastoral Update

- Mr. Tome: No updates at this time beyond what was shared in the principal's report

8. New Business

- **Suggestion:** The anniversary celebration is a great opportunity to raise funds
- **Comment:** Thanked Mr. Tome regarding how great school communication is

9. Closing/Adjournment

- **Next meeting: Monday, February 26, 2024, at 5:30pm**