



Meeting Minutes

Immaculate Conception Catholic School Council

November 17, 2021

Meeting called to order by Guy Mathieu (Principal) and Susan Traverse-Wong (Chair)

1. Attendance

In Attendance: Guy Mathieu, Susan Traverse-Wong, Stella Holloway, Moira Swiatek, Ellen Balfe, Toni Leclair, Noah Maxwell, Tina Dubois, and Monique Martin

Regrets: De-Anne Szwed, Sarah Tousignant, Sarah Coulombe, Maggie Paton, Meghan Simon, Lisa-Lynn Hunter, and Delila Coutu

Opening Prayer and Welcome

- Catholic School Council meeting opened in prayer
- the meeting was recorded for notetaking/minutes purposes
- Mr. Mathieu welcomed Noah Maxwell to the Council team
- the agenda was adopted as presented

2. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

- Mr. Mathieu guided the group in a review of the minutes of the previous meeting
- the minutes (September 29, 2021) were accepted as presented and posted on the school website
- Mr. Mathieu reviewed where the archived Catholic School Council agenda and minutes can be found on the school website
- thank you to Mrs. Swiatek, our secretary, for capturing the conversation and producing the minutes for the team

3. Financial Update

- a financial update was provided by the principal
- there are no expenditures to report so far this year
- Parent Involvement Funds account balance currently stands at \$1,283.88
- these funds are traditionally used to promote parent involvement at the school
- since expenses related to parental involvement have been on pause due to Covid-19, the Council team agrees unanimously to divert \$1000.00 of Parent Involvement funds to support student activities and/or enhance student learning
- \$1000.00 will be used to partially finance the purchase of high-quality Bluetooth speakers for each homeroom

4. Report from the Learning Hearts Daycare

- the daycare continues to follow Covid-19 protocols
- children are being sent home if they are symptomatic

5. Report from the Principal

- there are currently no Covid-19 cases reported at Immaculate Conception
- Mr. Mathieu reviewed where Covid-19 information can be found on the board's website
- the information can be found at <https://www.sudburycatholicschools.ca/school-reopening-information-for-2020-2021-school-year/>
- we are seeing an increasing number of Covid-19 cases around the city
- the number of infections we are seeing in the schools reflects what is currently happening in the community
- at this point, the only disruption Immaculate has seen is one cancelled bus route
- some restrictions have returned (for example, non-essential visitors are not permitted inside the building)
- the addition of programs and services to students is currently on hold
- food services (including the breakfast program, fruit and vegetables, pizza) will continue for now – the children are happy to have Pizza Days back
- drop off and pickup zones are working well (thank you to our parents for their feedback) – we are using as many entrances and exits as possible to maintain as much physical distance as possible
- the traditional formats for the monthly newsletter and calendar have returned – they help to provide some structure and predictability to what is happening at the school
- extra-curricular activities started strong with basketball at the beginning of the school year, however at this point they have been put on hold due to rising cases of Covid-19
- spirit wear sales were launched during the month of October – various options were made available to all students, parents, and staff members
- we may do another round of school spirit wear sales in the spring, depending on demand

- the installation of the new school sign is now complete; we are very pleased with the results, and we are honoured to have been the first school chosen to lead the project
- improvements were made to the main parking lot, primarily to provide a stronger foundation to minimize the number of potholes that develop over time
- an emergency entry button for students will be installed during the Christmas break (outside entry door next to the gym)
- this is an additional precaution to ensure that students can safely enter the school in case they get accidentally locked out
- there was a significant uptake from families on the paperless option that was provided at the beginning of the school year; this results in savings on paper, printing costs, etc..
- information sent to parents continues to go out in a variety of ways, including paper, email, Facebook, website, etc.... depending on the nature of the message communicated
- all parents have the option of accessing the archives of recent letters sent home
- the new school photocopiers have the capacity to produce documents in full colour
- enrolment at the school is very stable; the number of student registrations is still growing, and the school continues to receive requests for enrolment
- we are aiming to host a Book Fair in the spring, if restrictions related to Covid-19 will allow it
- for future Book Fairs, the cash back option is preferred as opposed to "free books"
- the fruit and vegetables program is set to resume very soon; the program will be managed by the office staff and parent volunteers who are fully vaccinated

6. Round Table Discussion

- a round table discussion was held on the review of the school's Dress Code
- a presentation was made by Noah Maxwell on behalf of the student body
- the students have concerns, including: some of the girls find it challenging to find clothing that complies with the rules currently in place; for example, most styles of shorts or skirts for girls are much shorter than what the dress code allows
- some girls would like to wear spaghetti straps and tank tops when it is extremely hot
- some students like to wear their hoodies and have their hood up for comfort, without covering their face
- Council members thanked Noah for his presentation
- Mrs. Swiatek shared that situations where the dress code is not respected do not happen often at Immaculate, and they are usually quickly resolved by speaking directly with the student/parent
- Mme Martin also thanked Noah for his presentation, and echoed Mrs. Swiatek's comments
- parents at the table primarily voiced that schools are places of learning where it is important to have a certain decorum and respect for ourselves and the staff; therefore, the dress code currently in place is appropriate and supported by the parents

-Mr. Mathieu took a poll to see who is in favour of keeping the 2021-2022 dress code "as is"; the motion was passed with seven members in favour and two opposed

7. Fundraising Plan

- the school is looking to purchase a high-quality Bluetooth speaker for each homeroom
- Mr. Mathieu received the support of the Council to investigate and purchase a speaker for each homeroom as soon as possible
- the school will investigate the possibility of fundraising with Little Caesar's Pizza Kits in the spring to help fund a portion of this initiative
- the school will take part in its traditional Christmas Food Drive in December to support the needs of local families (cash donations will be accepted in lieu of non-perishable food items)

8. Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday evening works best for most Council members
- meetings will be held every six to eight weeks on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.
- there will be a minimum of two meetings before and two meetings after Christmas
- parents will be offered opportunities to participate in board-wide events through the RPIC (Regional Parent Involvement Committee)
- our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment

- the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.