

Minutes from Parent Council Meeting held November 16, 2021

PART 1 – WELCOME, PRAYER AND APPROVAL

Call to Order: 6:34 p.m.

Attendance:

Parents: Madelaine Carruthers, Christina Likely, Andrea Minarchi, Laura Lee, Angelina McLaughlin

Staff: Ed Kucy – Principal, Kristine Willis-Dengler – Assistant Principal, Nikki Brouwer - Teacher

Opening Prayer – Kristine Willis-Dengler

Treaty Acknowledgment – Ed Kucy

Introductions

Approval of October 19, 2021 Minutes – minutes edited to include discussion about Artist in Residency revised minutes approved by Andrea Minarchi/2nd by Laura Lee

Approval of November 16, 2021, Agenda – approved by Andrea Minarchi/2nd by Laura Lee

PART 2 - SCHOOL UPDATE – Nikki Brouwer

Kindergarten students are enjoying Dinovember centres and will be having an in-school field trip – Zoo 2 You.

Grade 1 students are preparing for the Advent Celebration where they are leading the assembly.

Grade 2 students just completed the Small Crawling and Flying Insect unit and learning about temperature with thermometers. They are also taking an in-class flight to Meteghan.

Grade 3 students are practicing their numbers from 1 to 1000. They just began their unit on Rocks and Minerals. They are beginning an Advent calendar for activities in Language Arts and learning about Peru in Social.

Grade 4 students began their unit on lights and shadows. They are also focusing on summarizing and retelling stories.

Grade 5 students began their unit on weather. They are estimating in math and sharing small writing pieces in Language Arts.

Grade 6 students are working on decimals in math. In science, they began evidence and investigating.

Grade 7 students are working on short stories and fractions in math.

Grade 8 students are learning about our changing world and began studying about the Bubonic plague. They began the Mix and Flow unit in science.

Grade 1 -4 students working on Christmas Concert songs.

Administration Report – Ed Kucy

- October was exciting with all the Halloween activities. Grade 5-8 students did a great job in running activities in gym on Halloween.
- Just had a volleyball pep rally. The season ended with the boys winning bronze and the girls very close to winning bronze.
- School had a Remembrance Observance
- Leadership students are doing a great job with taking leadership within the school
- Opportunity of Opera presentation coming to Holy Redeemer. It was booked two years ago but cancelled due to covid. Put on table for PAC to decide on later in the meeting.
- Christmas Concert preparation underway. Still working out details. Will probably take place virtually.
- Question from Andrea Minarchi – The volleyball teams were combined grade 5-8 students. With basketball tryouts beginning this week, will it be the same combined grades as it was with volleyball.
Ed Kucy: All students have the opportunity to tryout. It is a junior high league. There will be a grade 5 and 6 student non-competitive league for our school giving the students developmental opportunity. We will see how much interest we have for tryouts.

PART 3 – PARENT COUNCIL-PROJECTS:

a) Treasurer's Report:

Andrea not sure if current treasurer, Lauren Unrau had opportunity to meet with past treasurer, Shelley Leroux. No budget update tonight. We will have a better idea on budget at January meeting once fundraisers have been completed.

b) Fundraising:

Read-a-thon – Christine Likely touched base with librarian, Tracey Scoggins. January will be a better time to begin Read-a-thon with students having more indoor time. It was discussed we could offer prizes to students for the read-a-thon as incentives. Andrea Minarchi indicates that when read-a-thon was originally discussed, incentives were brought up. For example, prize for top earner or top classroom. Question asked – Does Tracey Scoggins have our school registered on website yet? Christine Likely and Tracey Scoggins will touch base again in two to three weeks. Andrea M. indicates we can also have an internal meeting in December with Tracey Scoggins if required.

c) Holiday Fundraisers

Purdy's - Angela Morin took on Purdy's fundraiser and provided an update. A slower start this year compared to last year. To date, the amount purchased is \$596.00. Closing date is November 28 with delivery expected the week of December 10. No catalogues this year. Purdy's said they were sent to school but school didn't receive them. Link can be sent to family and friends. Last year a business purchased chocolates for all staff which could have been why there was a higher purchase number last year.

Fundscrip – this is a fundraiser for parents to purchase gift cards and school receives kick back. Forms have been sent out to parents. Deadline for payment and order forms is December 3. Payment is through cheque or cash. Tess Guerin is collecting forms and payment at the office. Gift cards to be shipped the week of December 13. A drive through pick up at school can be arranged or if parents comfortable, gift cards can be sent home with students.

Andrea Minarchi asks if any Christmas gatherings can be held? Ed Kucy confirms all get together on hold due to covid restrictions. Concessions will also not be allowed due to no spectators at games.

Andrea Minarchi asks could the Bring and Buy Sale be a possibility this year? The following is discussed:

- Would need about 4-5 parent volunteers.
- Parents mostly needed for wrapping. One to handle cash. One to oversee.
- Grade 7 and 8 students a possibility to assist with wrapping.

- How do parents feel about receiving items from another household due to Covid?
- Students can point to items they wish to purchase to reduce handling.
- Parents could be spaced out to allow social distancing.
- Ed Kucy indicates this could be a possibility if we keep in line with restrictions. He will check on the possibility and let PAC know.
- Kristine Willis-Dengler adds a side note that she was contacted by a grandmother, Lisa Topilko (sp?) who is interested in volunteering at the school. Kristine can get her contact information.
- We can put a call out for volunteers in Smores.
- When picking a date, PAC should check it doesn't conflict with the K-4 Christmas countdown.

d) School Support – Allocation of Funds

Opera – Ed Kucy indicates Rachel McMaster brought up the possibility to book opera presentation at school. The cost is \$1000.00. Rachel McMaster indicates if we don't book in the next week or so we will miss opportunity. Andrea Minarchi asks if in-person presentation and if it is suitable for all grades. Ed indicates text from Rachel yes it is in-person and it is for all grades. PAC received refund last year from the booking two years ago.

Andrea Minarchi asks if we can get more information and we can hold a meeting in December to vote on the opera booking.

Artist in Residency –discussion can be delayed until further information on budget received

Subscriptions – Ed Kucy indicates subscriptions paid for this year. PAC can decide how much to set aside in their budget towards subscriptions. Whatever amount PAC decides to contribute towards the subscriptions, that amount will go back to school to wishlist items from teachers.

Question: Have subscriptions gone up in price?

Ed Kucy answers: yes, they've gone up approximately \$100-\$150.

We will delay decision on subscriptions until more information on budget.

e) Yearbook – Andrea Minarchi will check with Jess Koehli to see if information was forwarded by Angela Morin from previous yearbook. Jess Koehli and Tess Guerin have met to go over photos.

- f) **Hot Lunch** – first hot lunch is tomorrow. Over 90 pizzas ordered. We will put a request in Smores for any additional parent volunteers. Laura Lee will do the write up for Smores once hot lunch is up running and volunteer times are definite.
- g) **Thoughts on Smores** – Ed Kucy puts out the question on how parents like Smores. Andrea Minarchi indicates it does get long sometimes. Difficult to scroll through sometimes. The pictures are great to see though. Christine Likely indicates she reads it and it's helpful. Ed Kucy indicates it is preset to go out on Fridays.
- h) **Charity work/Acts in Community** – Andrea Minarchi asks if the students are doing any charity work or what we have done in the past. Donations for Valeda House done with teachers in school. Hearts for Homeless were done by PAC in previous years. Andrea will put that on next agenda to look into for the new year.
- i) **Teacher Recognition** – Andrea Minarchi says it would be nice to do something for the teachers and staff sometime during the school year and not just the end. She suggests treating them to coffee and/or muffins around Christmas time. There are 20 staff members. Kristine Willis-Dengler says anything would be appreciated but Keurig coffee pods would last longer and coffee creamer would be great.

Vote held to spend up to \$100.00 for teacher recognition gift prior to Christmas (coffee, creamer etc.)

1st approval – Angelina McLaughlin

2nd approval – Laura Lee

Andrea Minarchi will look at purchasing coffee items.

- j) **Grade 8 Farewell** - Kristine Willis-Dengler will let PAC know once plans have begun.
- k) **How to get more parent involvement**
- It's a great reminder when Tess Guerin sends out the reminder on meeting day.
- l) **Additional and other comments**
- Andrea Minarchi will provide Smores recap and write up for Bring and Buy sale if allowed

- Laura Lee was asked by parent (Tannis) who provided last year's RCMP virtual Christmas book reading if school is interested in it this year. Ed and Kristine say yes. Laura Lee will let Tannis know.

Next meeting is scheduled January 18. Meeting can be held in December to vote on Opera. If December meeting is required, we can put meeting invitation into Smores. Ed Kucy will look into getting brochures or further information for meeting.

End: 8:01 p.m.