

St. Brigid Catholic School CSPC Meeting**February 24, 2022 7pm via Zoom**

Meeting Attendees: Kimberley Blanchet, Lorrain Van Zon, Joel O'Keefe, Katie Young, Kelly Goetz, Amy Arens, Elliott Furlano, Bekki, David Forsayeth, Siobhan Flanagan, Rosa, Jonathan Maier, Linda Collins-Donleavy, Bellamy Lacay, Cramer, Tara A., Cheryl Devine, Marc Michalak, Gordon Finlay, Tamara Stefek, Brooke Duffy, Sheila

Agenda		
Time	Topic	
7:00-7:05	Welcome and Opening Prayer	K. Blanchet & L. van Zon
7:05-7:25	Principal Report	K. Blanchet
7:25-7:35	Vice-Principal Report	L van Zon
7:35-7:45	Co-Chair's Report	K. Goetz
7:45-7:55	Treasurer's Report	B. Lacay
7:55-8:05	Communication Report / Spirit Wear Update	C. Devine
8:05-8:10	Special Events Reports / 100 th Anniversary Update	B. Draper
8:10-8:15	Church Liaison's Report	M. Michalak
8:15-9:00	Any Other Business	

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer – K. Blanchet & L. von Zon

Opening Prayer

Protocols of Video Conferencing

2. Principal's Report – K. Blanchet

February Activities

Ms. Blanchet shared some pictures of the month's activities

- Virtue of the month: Love - Ms. Blanchet shared the different small acts of kindness and other displays of love that were displayed in the school.
- African Canadian Heritage Month
- St Brigid's Day was February 1. Different information about St Brigid was shared.
- Speaker Series: Stories of Resilience and Success
- Pink Shirt Day included an Anti-Bullying Pledge.
- New Addition to the Foyer – 100 Mosaic added to the foyer wall
- Wall of Excellence – two additional awards to be added
- Canadian Pediatric Cancer Awareness Day – raised approximately \$300

Staffing Update

- Welcome back Mrs. Vecchio
- Mr. Andrenacci .5 ESL until April
- We are still looking for a Nutrition Coordinator and Instrumental Music

Cold Weather Protocol

- Staff are encouraged to remind students to dress appropriately for the weather conditions and administration monitors local (this includes daily announcements from the Administration on dressing for the weather).
- Local weather is monitored through the Weather Network
- It is checked 10-15 minutes before each recess
- We refer to the Boards Guidelines for weather conditions for reference:
 - Indoors in the event of rain
 - Possibility of severe thunderstorms or lightning
 - When the temperature or temperature in conjunction with the wind speed, creates a wind speed, creates a wind chill factor that could possible lead to frostbite
 - In the event that the condition of the school yard, as a result of the weather, might pose a safety hazard
- Proposal to continue: -20C warmer student will go outside
- -20-25 student will go out for 10 minutes (staff to gauge based on wind)
- -25 colder students will stay inside

COVID Updates

This week 2 cases / last week 3 cases

Families doing a good job of keeping students home where necessary

Been successful as we continue to keep the Covid protocols in place

Request for rapid antigen test from M Garon hospital.

Questions – Ice is a huge safety concern – what’s the maintenance plan? Can we raise funds for snow clearing / maintenance?

Answers – Board doesn’t provide snow clearing of the schoolyard. We have a snow map directing what can be cleared and by whom. The schoolboard contracts snow clearing. School custodian keeps walkways and doorways clear.

We try to get the kids outside as much as possible based on the cold protocols.

Can’t sanction parents clearing the yard.

Q – Other TCDSB schools have their yards (paved areas) cleared so not sure if there’s a different protocol

A – Maybe because the church uses the schoolyard as a parking lot, but unsure if there’s another arrangement in place.

Q – No instrumental teacher in place since November.

A – Teacher is on leave, and we can’t fund a replacement.

Q – Are there non blowing musical instruments? Ukuleles?

A – Yes drums were used, and other options were explored. Ukuleles could get used. Working on different alternatives but cannot deploy without a teacher. May be able to add to the inventory.

Q – Would it be possible to review the schools learning plan at the next meeting?

A – Yes just being finalized and can be shared.

Q – Can salt be put on the yard?

A – We don't have enough salt that's required.

Q – Could we get one antigen and one rapid test per student?

A – Tests are available through the hospital if you have a school age child.

Q – Do we not have any other options to clear the yard if the Board is unable to? Can we raise money to hire a company to clear the yard?

A – We manage based on the Board policy and do our best to ensure the safety of the students and staff. We have revisited certain areas and whether different options can be applied.

Q – Is there a safety issue with the ice buildup in the yard? How can we make this better as a school community?

A – There are limitations based on liability and board policy.

Q – When we talk about this being a Board Policy – who do we need to talk to give us permission to do this? Do we need more parent support? Who's the decision maker?

A – You could reach out to the Superintendent. Policy is made by the Board of Trustee members which is followed by the Board. We will ask the questions about how the policy can be changed or parents can address this.

3. Vice-Principal's Report – L. van Zon

Busing – Buses are running well. We had been given notice that there maybe some interruption but that hasn't materialized. Green bus was a little late this week based on a driver having to take on two different routes. Everything seems to be working well.

Stories of resilience and success were held as part of the virtual speaker series. Eight different speakers who in some cases spoke more than once. Speakers talked about how they got to where there by overcoming obstacles through hard work that were very inspirational. Teachers have incorporated some of the stories into their lessons.

4. Co-Chair Report – K. Goetz

Shout out to Cheryl and team for developing the St Brigid quiz which was a lot of fun.

Couple resolutions were passed by email with the council since the last meeting.

- 1) Fundraising campaign is underway and extended to 5pm on Friday. Cookie dough event. Funds raised will be used for educational enhancements.
- 2) Deadline for programs related to the PRO Grant was Feb 15 so resolution was passed to have Anne Douglas present on Parenting in a Pandemic and speak about why this time is difficult, how to calm your child, how to feel good about parenting. Should be an engaging topic. Date has been confirmed as May 2nd. Need to confirm the start time at 630 or 7. Will canvass through the newsletter.

Will be collecting books and clothes during the week of March 10. We anticipate having a sale during the 100-anniversary event.

Still need to send out a communication about the playground renovation committee.

\$640 dollars raised so far with the cookie dough fundraiser

5. Treasurer's Report – B. Lacay

Not much activity in February other than the banking fees.

Bank balance is \$31,000 as of January 9

Books are balanced.

Q – Any items for approval

A – No items for approval

Q – Can Ms. Blanchet gauge if money earmarked for Scientist in School per class (\$230) could be repurposed for an equivalent activity.

A – Only hesitation is that a number of classes have either completed or have scheduled the sessions already. Ms. Blanchet will check with the staff.

Encourage the teachers to spend early in the year to meet the year end invoice deadline of May 15th. Receipts need to be submitted before May 1 which Ms. Blanchet will remind teachers about.

Some additional grant money is available but requires a cheque requisition.

Cookie pickup is scheduled for March 10 and there will be a need for a few parent volunteers to help with the handouts. Orders will be dropped off by noon on the 10th and pickup windows have been set for 2:30-4:00 and 5:00-6:15. Bellamy will follow-up with the details but there will be a need to allocate the specific quantities by student for pickup. Please reach out if you'd like to volunteer. A giant cookie will be shared due to the volume of orders that have been placed.

Thanks to all those involved.

6. Communication Update – C. Devine

Spirit Wear is now closed but may be reopened at a later date. 72 items were ordered. Still need to determine the profit from sales which may end up being around \$300.

A few surveys were sent out including a request asking if people wanted to be part of an email list.

A parent survey was sent out with a response rate of about 10% looking at possible family type events and what people might be interested in. Most popular choices were events involving whole families – communal art, magic shows, animal events. Some groups responded favorably to physical challenges.

Communication will be sent out for the playground interest and guest speaker timing.

7. Special Events – B. Draper

100-year events will require some funding. Ideas for the 100-year event have been submitted:

- Fence Art - Banner company that can print posters (2x3 feet - \$10) with the company 100-year logo. Thought we could make an art project into the banners and hang on the yard fences
- 100 Flowers – recycle material that could be hung on the fences. Different types of art could be used.
- Rock river / snake – each student decorates a rock and then would be arranged in a pattern within the school yard. Could take home at the end of the year as a keepsake.
- Large numbers (100) added to the fence that include interactive features to engage the kids or historical photos commemorating the 100 years.

Ms. Blanchet to go back to the SQS to determine if there are any restrictions on adding items to the fence. Will need to go back for approval on any suggestions.

Pricing for all items is estimated to be \$1500. We have sufficient dollars available in the community fund.

Work to rule may limit the ability for teachers to participate in the community / fence ideas.

Motion for \$1500 to fund the suggested 100-year yard enhancement (fencelift) project. Suggest \$1000 from playground funds and \$500 from PIC funds which will require a cheque requisition. Seconded by Katie and Bekkie. No opposition. Motion approved.

Actual event planning may need a separate discussion that will need to consider Covid restrictions and any planned changes to the restrictions. Would probably require an additional off schedule planning event.

8. Church Liaison – M. Michalak

Lent is upcoming on March 2 is Ash Wednesday. School mass in the morning with 2 classes and the rest being virtual. There will be masses at 12 and 7 pm for the wider St Brigid community. Throughout the season of Lent the Stations of the Cross hours on Fridays.

Singing will resume at the church with the restrictions being lifted. Contact tracing has been lifted at the church. Distancing restrictions will be lifted in the next two weeks though masking requirements will remain.

Communion and confirmation masses are upcoming. Eligible families are encouraged to participate.

Q – Is the church still using a live link for Sunday mass

A – No, only being used for certain events – weddings, funerals, etc.

9. Any Other Business

- Forest of reading is currently running – more details to come.
- Review and approval of previous minutes should be included in the agenda. Last months minutes were shared and posted.
- Ms. Blanchet conformed If a child is ill over March Break, they are able to visit the hospital for a test.

Motion to adjourn raised by Kelly and seconded by Bellamy. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned – 8:55pm.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, March 22, 2022 via Zoom. Link to be sent prior to the meeting.

Meeting Addendum – future meetings dates were confirmed as the following:

Tuesday, March 22, Thursday, April 21, Thursday, May 26 and Thursday, June 23