Minutes

St. John CSPC AGM Meeting

October 13th, 2020 | Meeting called to order by Mr. C

# In Attendance

CSPC members: Nadia Niccoli; Claire O'Shea; Marianne Internicola; Marlo Taylor; Cathy Blewett; Lianne Tapuska; Tanya Bismayer; Terry-Ann Isaac; Sonia Perez; Melanie Battaglia; Sonia Pagliarello; Shelan McCreary; Liz Sconce; Kim Cho

Regrets: Carmen Vanderreest; Jacky Arminen; Jennie Gaffney; Jamie Wilson; Angela Visconti

Faculty / Admin: Mr. Comacchio; Ms. Horbay; Mr. Morishita-Miki

# Approval of Minutes & Outstanding Updates

Marlo passed the minutes from the June meeting and Sonia seconded the minutes

# Chair Year End Update

* Nadia presented YE Chair report:

First off thank you for attending my second AGM as chair. What an unprecedented CSPC year we had and I feel honoured to be able to stand alongside such incredible, dedicated and compassionate parents in making another year a success. We were able to navigate these unchartered waters together and find solutions and support in a timely and empathetic matter that continued to deliver on our mission to build a strong school community.

What the last half of the year brought, no one could have ever predicated, but as a committee we quickly mobilized funds to offer support to families that needed it most and we worked together to support our amazing administration, who’ve worked tirelessly since this all began to ensure that our children, the students of St. John’s and their families have been protected and supported throughout all of this.

The theme for my report this year can be summarized in one word; ***grateful***. I have immense gratitude for the incredible and strong executive that stand alongside me; Marlo, Marianne and Claire, and gratitude for Mr. Comacchio’s endless leadership, kindness and dedication to our children. Appreciation for our dedicated committee members who have been there with support, guidance and grace. And of course, sincere thanks to our incredible staff, parents and school community, who’ve been compassionate, patient and supportive. I truly feel grateful and blessed to be part of this school community.

The Mission for the CSPC is to support The TCDSB’s Mission to educate ‘students to grow in grace and knowledge and to lead lives of faith, hope and charity, and this council and committee has been an exemplary illustration of that. We started off the school year strong with instituting our inaugural Diversity and Inclusion committee who got to work right away to make impactful changes to the way in which our children see themselves and I am proud of the work that has been done and will continue to be done. Thank you to the fearless committee leads, Cathy and Terry Ann for all their hard work.

We also had another monumental fundraising year with events such as the Halloween Dance-A-Thon, which surpassed expectation and continued to build upon the student’s health and wellbeing and our second annual Parent’s Night Out at The Balmy Beach Club. We saw an incredible turn out of parents and support in this 80’s themed event. Thank you to the incredible fundraising lead by Tanya and the numerous committee members she had behind her supporting her. We had another successful Pizza lunch year, albeit it was cut short. Thank you, Angela, for leading that and of course, who could forget the deliciousness that was the Christmas Bake Sale and 50/50 draw led by Jill. These successful events have allowed us to enrich the beautiful school community we already have and I am proud to say we did so this year by supporting Arts Development, STEM, Diversity and Inclusion, Teacher Support, Playground Improvements and so much more.

So with that, a big congratulations to everyone who made all of this possible. We should all be incredibly proud of the community we are building and the opportunities we are giving to our children. But more importantly, THANK YOU! Thank you for giving your time, energy, hard work, compassion and kindness. We are blessed to have the school that we do and the parents that we do that work so hard for one another’s families, so thank you for your support in having me lead the council last year. It takes a village they say, and thank goodness we have an incredible one.

# Financial Year End Update

Claire presented the year end expense report

# Principal’s Report

**Staff Update:**

We welcome the following staff to St. John for the 2020-2021 school year:

Dalia Gadek – DECE working with Ms. Valentini

Natalie Reed – DECE working with Ms. Craig

Ron Eusebio – Grade 7 an 8 teacher – filling in for Ms. Van Wyck who is on parental leave

**Staffing Needs as of Oct. 13:**

* Extended French Grade 5/6 AM and Core French PM – for Mme Dhefto
* Core French AM and Grade 6 (English) PM – for Ms. Misaljevic
* Grade 6 / 7 – currently filled as an LTO (Ms. Pannarale) – for new Grade 6 / 7 class

We have approximately 53 students participating in distance learning. A communication was sent out by the Board today advising parents about the process and option to switch between in-class and distance learning. Parents interested in switching should review and note timelines in the communication.

**Curriculum Night:** This year, Curriculum Night will take place VIRTUALLY on Tuesday October 20 from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm. The plan for the evening is as follows:

Principal’s message and introduction of staff – sent to families via School Messenger on the evening of Tues. Oct. 20

Parents will then be able to join a virtual session with your child’s teacher(s) (either as a zoom meeting or google meet platform)

The times for the sessions are:

SESSION A 7:20 – 7:30

SESSION B 7:35 – 7:45

SESSION C 7:50 – 8:00

A list of all the classroom links will be sent to all parents on Tuesday October 20th.

**Orange Shirt Day:** On Wednesday, September 30th, St. John once again recognized Orange Shirt Day.  Orange Shirt Day is a national movement which invites all Canadians to wear orange shirts to acknowledge the history of residential schools, and to stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples.  Staff and students were invited to wear an orange shirt to bring awareness to the issue.

**Picture Retake Day – Thursday November 5th – PM:** St. John photo retake day will be for those students that were not able to take their photo on the original date. We will have another opportunity in a few months for those that wish a retake.

**Google Classroom:** All classes should be set up for Google Classroom. If you have not been sent any information, please contact your child’s teacher. It’s important to ensure all students have access in the event there is a disruption due to COVID / need to quarantine a class.

**Covid – 19 Safety Practices @ St. John – update**

1. Play structures are now accessible during the school day. Teachers are able to bring their classes to use the play structures (1 class at a time). Students will be practicing proper hand hygiene once the class is done using the play structure.
2. **Covid -19 Passports.** Parents are reminded that the Assessment must be completed and signed everyday. Students are not allowed entry into the building without it. The office will contact you to send an email confirming your child does not have any of the new or worsening symptoms but we want all students in their classrooms as soon as possible. **We typically have approx. 13 students daily who forget their passport / confirmation note - your assistance with this is greatly appreciated**
3. **Morning and afternoon pick up / drop off:** If parents are driving, we ask you use **the convent lot** for drop off in AM and parking in the PM. Thank you to all parents who have been accessing the drop off system we have designed for the morning. We appreciate that you are respecting the safety of our students and the Notre Dame staff and students by **not** parking behind the church. If you are picking up your child at 3 pm, you are asked to please park in the convent lot, **NOT** the Notre Dame lot, as was originally agreed. We have a number of families and young children walk through the Notre Dame lot at 3 pm and we want to ensure everyone is safe.
4. **Rainy Day morning routine.** On rainy days, students who use usually enter from Doors A, B or C are asked to enter from Door B when they arrive. A staff member will be there to check their Covid passports. If your child usually enters from the front door, a staff member will be there checking passports. Buss children will enter using the front door. On rainy days and if necessary, parents can enter the schoolyard to walk students to the door – however please follow all safety protocols including mask wearing and maintaining distance.

# Committee Year End Updates

**Committee reports**

* **Fundraising Leads** (Tanya Bismayer / Sonia Pagliarello):

Three events were organized last year as follows:

Oct 31/19 – **Halloween Dance** involving individual classes or grades being invited to the school gym with the students in costumes, for a one-hour dance. DJ, lights, and a cosmic store rounded out the event. This event has been held for many years and is highly enjoyable for the students, to get ready for trick-or-treating in the evening. Total funds raised by student fundraising = $10,115.37 (gross)

Jan 18/20 – **2nd Annual Parents Night Out** at Balmy Beach Club. This ticketed event involved a silent auction, DJ, finger-foods, and door prizes. The event is a nice winter break and night off for parents. Total funds raised = $6,929.85 (gross)

Canceled – **Spring Carnival**. This event was cancelled due to COVID-19. This ticketed event has been held for many years and involves inflatables, raffle baskets, magic show, pizza lunch, bake sale, and carnival games.

* **OAPCE Leads** (Shelan McCreary / Terry Isaac):

2019/2020 was an introductory year for Terry and Shelan as the OAPCE representatives for St John CSPC. OAPCE, the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education, provides resources to CSPCs to help them operate in accordance with the Ontario Education Act. OAPCE provides resources and news from multiple levels of the TCDSB and Ministry of Education and seeks input from schools and parents to assist with guiding the Catholic Education System. OAPCE shares its information through a number of mediums including; meetings and social media which can be accessed by any member of the Catholic School system. The meetings usually have a guest speaker and open discussion on a variety of topics of interest. This year a primary focus of the meetings were revising the Catholic School Parent Council Policy S. 10.

* **Diversity & Inclusion** (Cathy Blewett / Terry Isaac):

The 2019/20 school year marked the first for St. John’s Diversity and Inclusion Committee, also known as Pangea. The Committee is proud of the work that it did over the 6 ½ months that students and staff were in the school, and following is a list of our projects and initiatives:

* First and foremost, we are proud of the fact that the Committee came to exist, and we are grateful to CSPC, Administration and parents for understanding the need and value of such a committee.
* Pangea asked Administration to purchase skin tone markers and construction paper for all classes, so that all children can accurately represent themselves in their artwork.
* With funds from CSPC, we purchased and laminated several beautiful and diverse religious posters, which can be seen on the wall outside the main office. As well, we purchased a new, diverse nativity set.
* Pangea used $500 received from CSPC for the purchase of diversity- and inclusion-themed books. (Thank you CSPC for the funds, and to Ms Foster for sourcing the books!)
* We will be using funds raised from the 2019 Christmas Concert Lego Raffle to purchase books about Autism for select classrooms, and to purchase and laminate Black History Month posters for the 2020/21 school year. (Thank you, Ashley and Ciera T, for donating the Lego set!)
* Together with Administration and SJCS Sports Representatives, we started a discussion about diversity and inclusion in the SJCS sports program.
* Pangea made a proposal to make Scholastic available to the entire school, to take the burden of Scholastic management off the shoulders of the teachers, and to use the Bonus Bucks to purchase diverse materials for individual classrooms, where such diverse materials are lacking.
* We raised concern about school practices that are exclusionary - e.g. End-of-term electronics/devices days.
* Pangea created a monthly bulletin board that drew the attention of staff, students and visitors to the many ways that diversity and inclusion can be seen and are lived.
* **Parish Lead** (Carmen Vandeeresst):

Produced and submitted monthly parish newsletter for distribution to school community

Submitted school information, as requested, to the parish

Worked with all kindergarten classes

* Introduced children to the church building and its different parts.
* Introduced children to the different church features
* Worked both in-class and in-church discussing the Liturgical year - Advent, Christmas, Lent and had started to prep for Easter

Offered all teachers to lead any class on church tours

Greeted students, staff & parents at church doors when filing in for school Masses and again as they made their exit.

Reconciliation/Communion & Confirmation Classes

* Am an instructor for First Holy Communion and Reconciliation classes
* Gave Rosaries to every student on behalf of the St. John’s Catholic Women’s League (CWL) council and explained its history and how to use it
* Had students make poppies for Remembrance Day and placed them around the church stain glass windows dedicated to fallen WWII parishioners
* Am a substitute instructor for Confirmation classes

Had started plans for a Narrated Mass for grades 6, 7 and 8 – (each part of the Mass is explained historically, noting its significance, by a narrator while Mass is being celebrated at a slower pace.)

Had started school plans for Fr. John’s retirement.

Through the CWL, have created an annual *Fr. John Newton Pax Award* plaque to be awarded to the student who best exemplifies Fr. John’s love of peace and peacemaking. Fr. John’s personal motto was *Pax* (meaning peace).

**Q&A / Misc:**

**Amendments to St. John CSPC Bylaws:** Marianne presented changes to the St. John CSPC Bylaws – adopting the board approved new template finalized in September 2020. Nadia passed the motion to accept the bylaws and Marlo seconded it. The new bylaws will be in effect immediately and a bylaw committee can determine in May whether amendments are required for the next AGM.

**Clarify outside mask use for students?**

We want to support students to have mask breaks when possible during outdoor playtime however the playing / activity does not always allow for proper distancing; therefore, we are asking all students that when they need a break, they can take off mask if they physically distance from each other.

**Are parents required to wear masks?**

Same distancing policy applies to parents, please wear a mask if on school property and also when unable to maintain proper physical distance.

**Will there be any townhalls throughout the school year?**

School messenger will be the main way to communicate as well as via CSPC meetings; however, will assess throughout the year if need for townhall arises and continue to work with the board regarding increasing maximum allowable participants in Zoom.

# Next Meeting

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Nadia at 8:43 p.m.

New elected council members:

Chair – Nadia Niccoli

Co-Chair – Marlo Taylor

Secretary – Marianne Internicola

Treasurer – Claire O’Shea

Fundraising Lead – Sonia Pagliarello

OAPCE Rep – Shelan McCreary

D&I – Terry Ann Isaac; Cathy Blewett; Melanie Battaglia (lead to be determined)

Teacher Rep – Ms. Horbay & Mr. Morishita-Miki

New appointed council members:

Parish Lead – Carmen Vanderreest

2020/2021 CSPC Meeting dates (established after CSPC Elections):

**November (Finance Meeting) – Tuesday November 3 @ 7pm.**

January – Tuesday January 12 (TBD)

March – Tuesday March 2 (TBD)

May – Tuesday May 11 (TBD)

June – Tuesday June 8 (TBD)

September 2021 (AGM) to be determined