

MINUTES

St. John CSPC Finance Meeting

November 3rd, 2020 | *Meeting called to order by Mr. C*

In Attendance

CSPC members: Nadia Niccoli; Claire O'Shea; Marianne Internicola; Marlo Taylor; Cathy Blewett; Melanie Battaglia; Sonia Pagliarello; Shelan McCreary; Carmen Vanderreest; Terry-Ann Isaac

Regrets: n/a

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

Approval of Minutes & Outstanding Updates

Marlo passed the minutes from the October AGM meeting and Melanie seconded the minutes

Principal's Report

Staff Update:

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

Maria Pannarale – Grade 6/7 LTO

Progress Reports: Teachers are currently completing Progress Reports for your children. The focus is to identify how students are doing at this early point in the school year. In many cases, units are still in progress and this is not to be considered a Report Card (February and June). This is an early assessment of where your child is at and it is an opportunity to inform parents the subjects / learning skills where your child may need some support. The report will also provide parents with suggestions on the areas your child needs to work on and how you can help so the February report card is a reflection of your child's achievement at mid-year. Progress Reports go home on Monday, November 16.

Parent / Teacher Conferences: This year, the conferences will occur either virtually or on the phone, based on what the classroom teacher chooses. The process of booking a day and time using the online booking platform will be the same as in previous years and that information will be going out to parents in the coming days. This year, the parent / teacher conferences will take place on Tuesday November 17 and Thursday November 19 – both from 6:00 pm – 8:30.

Please note that Friday November 20 will be a PA Day.

Modifying Morning Protocols for Colder Weather: As we prepare for colder weather, we are looking at how to modify the morning protocols for checking signed passports and hand sanitizing so that students can enter the building quickly while maintaining the excellent safety practices we have been following up to this point. We will continue to check passports outdoors and students without a signed passport will make their way to the office via the gym doors while maintaining proper social distancing. Once a class has been checked, they will enter the school and classroom teachers will provide hand sanitizer for the students in the building but before entering their classroom. We will continue to anticipate areas that may require some modifications and we will continue to communicate these modified protocols to you.

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

Curriculum Night: Thank you all for your support and positive emails regarding our first virtual curriculum night. Teachers worked very hard to provide you with the opportunity to engage with them as they shared their plans for the school year.

Virtual Liturgy: Thank you to Ms. Horbay's class for planning our first virtual liturgy and virtual virtue assembly. The class did a great job at leading us in prayer and reflection. Thank you to Ms. McBride and Mr. Griffiths for providing the music and thank you to Father John-Mark who provided us with his thoughts and prayers for the liturgy. His YouTube message was also shared with parents as an opportunity for you to watch and reflect together as a family.

Remembrance Day: This year the Board announced that this year's Remembrance Day will focus on honouring the contributions of Black Canadian military service people. The Equity department provided resources to support schools in acknowledging this day. Teachers have been given these resources and Ms. Mc Bride and Mr. Griffiths (teacher candidate) are planning the ceremony which will take place virtually in all classes. You child may ask you to record them singing a song which Ms. McBride and Mr. Griffiths will compile as a virtual choir.

This year, to ensure we are maintaining the privacy of our students, please understand that we will not be able to share the zoom links for the planned virtual events. We will share what we can as links, sent to the parents through school messenger. Thank you for understanding.

Photo Retake / Grade 8 Grad Photos: A reminder that photo day is taking place on Thursday November 5th for students who were absent on the Sept. 25 day. Photos will also be taken for the grade 8 graduates and there will be an opportunity for the students in the St. Anne virtual school to come to St. John from 2:30 to 3:30 to take their photos. ClearImages will have all safety protocols in place for the students.

Q&A:

As a parent community is there anything that can be done to advocate for the need to have a regular teacher for the afternoon grade 6 class? Mr. C continues to work with the Human Resources department on this matter and concerned parents are encouraged to send email to Mr. C and copy school trustee Angela Kennedy (who was in attendance at the meeting).

Who is our school nurse and how is that process working out? We've been assigned a different nurse and much of the nurse's time has been spent dealing with COVID-19 related issues vs. traditional medical matters (e.g. vaccinations). The TPH nurse is Xavier Debrah-Grant

Please confirm that there will be a photo retake day for people who were unhappy with the first photos? Also, with more than one week's notice. Yes, working on dates and options with the photo service provider and more information will be shared shortly (likely end of Nov/early Dec for retake).

What are the early thoughts around the Christmas concert for this year? I am assuming virtual? We are exploring creative options and more information will be shared over the coming weeks.

Is there a plan to improve the safety of the parents and children who have been asked to stand on the other side of the fence in the Notre Dame high school parking lot to drop off and pick up students? Cars continue to come down the driveway from Kingston road endangering people despite Mr. Comacchio's communications around this. Is there a possibility of blocking the driveway at Kingston Rd? Or is it possible for caregivers and accompanying children to stand just inside the school fence so they are safe from the cars? Mr. C confirmed that the driveway can't be blocked. He is continuing to work with Notre Dame school and will continue to remind parents including directing parents to the convent parking lot as an alternative. Parents are asked to exit the parking lot once they have picked up their child as the lot continues to be used by Notre Dame staff (teachers / evening caretaking staff etc.)

On the topic of safety, I recall seeing police during the first week of school. What support have you been getting from the city or Toronto Police to help with traffic calming? Toronto Police no longer in charge of hiring/assigning traffic guard; Mr. C submitted the application via the City of Toronto for a guard at the Lyaal street entrance – concerned parents are encouraged to also submit / advocate for a crossing guard by contacting Schoolcrossingguard@toronto.ca or <http://toronto.ca/schoolcrossingguard>.

Is a Christmas concert something that the teachers are able to manage this year, given the extra workload COVID has presented to them this year? As a parent, I am more than happy to have many "extras" pared back due to the extra strain and stress placed on our education workers this year. The school is reviewing options and looking at how to best balance the safety of all while commemorating this important event.

Last June, the former Director of Education, Rory McGuckin and Chair of the Board, Joseph Martino sent out a communication indicating the need to identify and eliminate discriminatory practices, systemic barriers, and biases that students who identify as LGBTQ+ may experience. Recently, Pope Francis voiced his support of same-sex civil unions. In light of these positive communications, has there been any update from the school board on specific plans being developed to ensure all TCDSB schools are creating inclusive environments for our LGBTQ students? Mr. C has yet received any updates and will continue to inquire. Ms. Kennedy indicated there are some plans being developed and further encouraged parents to CC her on any communications sent to the new Director of Education, Dr. Brendan Browne - Email: Brendan.Browne@tcdsb.org on this topic.

Finance / Budget Update

Claire presented the finance report and walked through proposed budget considerations. Voting on the budget will be deferred until the next CSPC meeting as additional time required for information on some of the line items.

In addition, the fundraising lead will send out a survey to better understand parents' preferences regarding fundraising this year and will explore different (virtual) fundraising options which also incorporate CSPC mission to strengthen the community. Agreement that more than ever this year, communications need to clearly indicate why funds are being raised and where they will be spent.

Anticipate majority of budget needs will be allocated to the teachers' allowance to support with classroom misc. items.

Approx. \$8400 has been allocated for last year's pizza lunch credit – pizza committee will work with board and Mr. C on safe options for the pizza program. Mr. C shared the board direction with respect to pizza / food programs; create a plan with detailed outline of COVID-19 protocols; no handling of food; must be pre-packaged; plan must be sent to the Health & Safety committee for review; cannot have outside people (parents) coming in to help; must only be staff – Ms. Kennedy shared information about a neighboring school that has successfully been delivering a program via Pizza Pizza which meets all safety standards and she offered her support to the pizza committee; also exploring alternative snack options; update communication to parents regarding outstanding pizza credit to be sent out.

Mr. C will explore virtual presentation offerings as an alternative to in-school – costs TBD.

Mr. C / Claire will confirm whether the payment for kinder development spent last year would be carry-forwarded this year.

No funding allocated to library resources at this time – hoping funding will come from the virtual scholastic Booksale next week.

Some allocation for percussion instruments has been requested by Ms. McBride and funding for athletic equipment by Mr. Breach.

Q&A:

How is the playground going? Is anything more needed, especially during the winter months? Shovels, snow paint, fort building blocks for the students? Not sure what will be needed yet however Mr. C confirmed the school can be creative without additional funds.

Could ukuleles be used if they weren't being shared? Confirmed that ukuleles are being used for the junior levels and proper COVID-19 safety procedures are being followed.

Is there a need for discretionary funds for Mr. C? How are families faring? Mr. C indicated that historically these funds have been to help subsidize school trips/ pizza lunch costs etc. He doesn't anticipate this would be a large line item for this year's budget however CSPC will likely allocate a small amount and revisit need for further funds as needed.

Can we just request donations from parents in lieu of fundraising? Agreement that fundraising efforts this year will need to be carefully considered. A survey will be sent out to the parent community to gather feedback and preferences.

Also, for community outreach, how about pairing with an elementary school in our Board that has lower fundraising success and provide some of our funds? Like having a "sister school" Agreement this would be a great idea that council will consider.

Mr. C - are you aware of any families at St. John's who the parents have been impacted by job loss, that we should consider food bank ideas/ distribution for those families (obv'ly we would need to work through confidentiality)? Mr. C is currently not aware of any families in need at this time however families are encouraged to contact him directly for support.

Next Meeting

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Mr. C at 8:51 p.m.

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

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

December – Tuesday December 1 @ 7pm.

February – Tuesday February 2

April – Tuesday April 13

June – Tuesday June 8

September 2021 (AGM) to be determined