

MINUTES

St. John CSPC Meeting

February 23rd, 2021 | *Meeting called to order by Mr. C*

In Attendance

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

Regrets: Shelan McCreary

Faculty / Admin: Ms. Horbay; Ms. Hatch-Ennis; Mr. Comacchio

Approval of Minutes & Outstanding Updates

Marlo passed the minutes from the December meeting and Nadia seconded the minutes

Pizza Update

- Liz confirmed pizza lunch starting Friday February 26
- Individually wrapped slices will be provided
- Enough time between now and June to deliver on pizza lunches (includes the missed lunch – confirmed for March 12th)
- Volunteers already identified to help – safety protocols in place to access the school
- Only cheese option available for this lunch series
- Liz will try to work with Pizza Pizza on two separate installments (delivery approx. 10:50am)
- Patience appreciated as this will be the first pizza delivery for the school during Covid-19 and anticipate there will be opportunity to refine process for future
- **Action: Liz and Mr. C to finalize logistics for pizza delivery to classrooms and Liz to draft communication to parent community confirming remaining dates - Completed**

Financial Update

Claire presented the month's expense report:

- Revenue sources – \$5,958 (donation \$50; pizza lunch \$3778; raffle \$2130)
- HST Rebate for 2017 – 2020 - \$5,228.60
- Anticipating \$150 donation from Spirit wear sales
- Additional application for HST rebate for 2021 in process
- Estimating \$3,402.35 unallocated funds (as long as we can deliver on all the pizza lunches)

Principal's Report

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

Ms. Santana – Filling in for Ms. Reford (Grade 1)

Ms. Seath – Head secretary filling in for Ms. James

Congratulations to Mr. Eoghan Morishita-Miki for being promoted to VP at St. Lawrence and St. Albert

We say good-bye to Mr. Wigglesworth who has moved to St. Kateri. Mr. Telesca will fill the daytime duties until the position can be filled.

French positions continue to be difficult to fill. HR is working closely with the schools that still have French positions that require teachers.

September 2021 Registration: Registration is open for September. Numbers are lower than a year ago at this time across all schools. Parents can register at soar.tcdsb.org

Report Cards: By now, you should have all received a signed, hard copy of your child's First Term report card. Please contact your child's teacher if you have not yet received it.

Junior / Intermediate Novel Studies: Teachers in grade 4-8 will be looking at replenishing our current novel studies with more culturally appropriate and diverse texts from BIPOC authors and more diverse characters. Ms. Foster, along with the Equity Department at the Board are generating a list of texts that teachers can look at. The goal is to get the novel studies purchased and ready for use for September 2021. The school will ask CSPC for financial support to help purchase the books.

Pink Shirt Day: Taking place in all school tomorrow – Wednesday February 24. Pink Shirt Day aims to reduce bullying by celebrating diversity in all its forms to be safe, supportive, welcoming and inclusive of all students and staff. While all people can be the target of bullying, some groups or individuals experience more bullying than others. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and other sexuality and gender diverse identities (2SLGBTQ+) people experience higher levels of bullying. Pink Shirt Day started because people wanted to stop homophobic and transphobic bullying. At St. John, we want students to know that we love and accept you for who you are.

Covid Protocols at St. John: St. John students, parents and staff have been doing a great job respecting the Covid protocols we have in place. We understand the additional work that is involved for all members of the school community but we appreciate your commitment to ensuring our students come to school – free of Covid symptoms and understand the TPH guidelines when a child is to stay home. Thank you for doing the daily Covid checks and signing the Covid Passport prior to students arriving at school.

Clarification provided on Covid-19 take home test kits – the school has approx. 50 kits and these are reserved for cohort testing where a student in that cohort has tested positive. School will continue to work with TPH and MGH to acquire additional test kits.

Black History Month: Our teachers have been doing numerous in-class activities and accessing the many resources provided by the Board that focus on Black history and the contributions of Black Canadians and Americans. As this year's PRO Grant applications have been extended, school administration would like to work with the Equity and Inclusion Committee to consider a virtual school presentation (or 2) on the topic of equity and inclusion.

Action: Mr. C to work with the D&I committee on PRO Grant application – Application has been submitted. In the process of looking into a presenter that is available for a parent info session between now and June.

Extended French Info Night: Took place on January 19. Parents who are interested in having their child enrol in the Extended French for Sept. 2021 are to contact the school. Students starting grade 5 in September are open to join the program.

March Break: Has been moved to APRIL Monday, April 12 – Friday, April 16, 2021.

Committee Reports

Fundraising (Sonia Pagliarello):

Christmas concert raffle was successful. Raffle tickets were purchased on December 16 during the virtual St. John's Christmas concert; using the KEV system to sell the tickets and collect the money. This year a portion of the money raised was donated to a charity. The ratio of the money raised would be allocated to 40% to the school, 40% to a winner, and 20% to a charity. The charity to receive the funds was Center 55.

Total Funds raised:

\$2130

Cheque for Centre 55: \$426

St John CSPC: \$852

Prize winnings: \$852 (generously donated back into the community)

Next steps, before we left for the Christmas break there was discussion to canvass business to sell St. John's merchandise and whether we want to move forward with spring walk/run-a-thon when there is there a chance that we could have another lockdown?

Council reviewed and decision made that Spring walk/run-a-thon would be postponed this year given the uncertainty of potential lockdowns or restriction due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Fundraising committee will move forward on canvassing potential vendors to provide St. Johns merchandise.

Action: Sonia to gather a few cost quotations to present to the committee at the next council meeting including exploring potential St. John parent vendor referred by Mr. C. Contact info has been sent to Sonia

OAPCE (Shelan McCreary / Terry Isaac):

Monday March 1st next OAPCE meeting – there will be a special presentation from Derek Chen, Superintendent of Equity, Diversity, Indigenous Ed, & Community Relations and Lavian Latham, Human Rights & Equity Advisor. The discussion will be centered on the TCDSB's role in regards to Equity, Diversity and Indigenous Initiatives, the Equity Action Plan, Community Relations and Human Rights.

Parents are also encouraged to check out OAPCE's "Parents 4 Parents Press" newsletter - filled with valuable resources and info.

OAPCE will be hosting a free Webinar Series with Paul Davis, Anthony Perrotta, and Wes "Maestro Fresh Wes" Williams. Registration is now open.

Anyone interested in attending the meeting or learning more about the above initiatives can visit the OAPCE website for additional information and registration details <https://toronto.oapce.org/>

Parish (Carmen Vanderreest):

At this time the church continues to have 20 minute Holy Communion services on Wednesday mornings and Saturday evenings / Sunday mornings, but no public Masses at this time. Stations of the Cross and Confessions have been added on Saturday afternoons during Lent. At this time all services are limited to 6 -7 people.

For complete details and to register (required for all services) please visit the parish website: www.stjohnsrc.ca

Sunday Mass is now being posted to the parish YouTube channel every Sunday at 12 noon.

Fr. John-Mark is also posting a weekly Lent meditation on the parish YouTube channel each Friday.

These talks are based on the Stations of the Cross that are in our church and will feature two stations each week. The talks are only a few minutes in length which are great for family viewing and discussion.

Each video talk will be paired with a movement of Vivaldi's *Stabat Mater*, performed by Fr. John-Mark and our organist Eric Walker – the *Stabat Mater* is a 13th-century hymn to Mary, which portrays her suffering as the mother of Jesus during his crucifixion.

Please check the parish YouTube channel for these and other updates during Lent.

When visiting the YouTube channel be sure to subscribe and to 'like' it!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8pLWrdARlezRMzjHZJv9aQ>

The Knights of Columbus are again holding their Lenten collection "40 Cans for 40 Days" for the Good Shepherd Centre. This is an opportunity to give during Lent instead of 'giving-up' by donating one canned or non-perishable food item equal to each day of Lent. During the pandemic the Centre is providing takeout meals only for those who are homeless and marginalized.

Non-perishable foods can be dropped off at the church's ramp door entrance during scheduled church service times.

Check the church website for those times.

Daily reflection booklets for Lent are available through the church office for \$3.00.

Contact the church office through the website to buy one.

Action: Carmen to work with Ms. Horbay to leverage school social media and raise awareness for parish initiatives

Diversity & Inclusion (Terry Isaac, Melanie Battaglia & Cathy Blewett)

Thus far we have spent \$144.62 of the Lego Raffle funds on classroom Autism books and the laminating of Allergy Awareness posters. We attempted to purchase some Black History Month posters, however they were no longer available. The Diversity & Inclusion Committee will be looking at new ways to spend the remaining \$177.57.

We would like to welcome Rachel Thomas to the Diversity & Inclusion committee. Rachel is a teacher at St. John Paul II Secondary School in Scarborough. At JP II, Rachel is working to increase anti-racism education and work, and hopes to help St. John in those areas, as well.

Congratulations to Mr. Morishita-Miki on his appointment to Vice-Principal-ship. We are happy for him, but sad to lose him as a trusted advisor. On the up side, though, we are looking forward to working with a new staff representative going forward.

We look forward to working with Mr. Comacchio to put together a funding proposal to the Pro-Grant program, for guest speakers, because the reality is that racialized incidents are still happening at St. John. The incidents are happening in the upper grades, particularly; some of the behaviour has been going on for years, and so it's clear that the response has been insufficient and help is needed.

[Mr. Comacchio has met with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee to identify areas of ongoing concern regarding the continued racialized incidents in the various grades. School and Committee are committed to providing support for students as well as support and resources to support staff and are looking into presentations for students as well as using the PRO Grant funds to address racism in the school for parents.](#)

[Mr. Comacchio and the school Social Worker, Niki Wilhelm, are looking into resources for teachers to use and Ms. Wilhelm has made herself available as needed.](#)

Q&A / Misc.

Angela Kennedy, school trustee attended the meeting and collected feedback from parents on how families and students have been coping. Appreciation from parent community on support received from faculty during and post shut-down; return to in-school having a positive effect on students. Mr. C provided update on safety protocols in place including free-standing air purifiers in each classroom – should additional safety measures be required; they will apply for additional school funding.

Carmen updated council that through follow up, stop signs have been installed at the intersection of Lyall Ave. and Osborne Ave. making this intersection a mandatory two-way stop. Additional safety measures of 'stop bar markings' and pedestrian crossing lines will be painted on the road once the weather allows. This was a safety issue raised by council a couple years ago during safety talks with representatives from the city, police services and school board as this was the only intersection without a mandated stop along Lyall Ave from Walther St. to Pickering Ave. – and well used by pedestrians and students. As this is a new stop for the community, there have been instances where the stop sign is missed.

Action: Carmen and Mr. C to develop communication for parent community in order to raise awareness and help reinforce behavioral change. [Message to parent community was sent](#)

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Mr. C at 8:36pm.

Next Meeting

2020/2021 CSPC Meeting dates:

- ✓ November (Finance Meeting) – Tuesday November 3
- ✓ December – Tuesday December 1
- ✓ February – Tuesday February 23

April – Tuesday April 20

June – Tuesday June 8

September 2021 (AGM) to be determined