

Blessed Sacrament Parent Council Meeting Minutes November 27th, 2024

Attendees (Online): Mr. Finocchio, Erin Smith, Sarah Kloepfer, Paula Purvis, Marcia Cronkwright, Lisa Henrique, Ashley Kloepfer, Alina Olejniczak, Alicia Givens, Victoria Laurie, Alisha Peters, Crystal Zdriluk, Melissa Magda, Zoey Heltner, Sarah Schultz, Dave Miller

Regrets: Marcia Hensen, Kailey Keresturi

Welcome, land acknowledgment and opening prayer

Approval of previous minutes- June and October. Approved.

Principal's Report: No update on the arrival of our portable. Portables come from California and they are backordered. The class in the library is going well. The chocolate bar fundraiser did well, Shelly has the report. Catholic Education Week is May 5-9. There is a large event in place being planned by Mrs. Marr and Mrs. Green to re-bury a time capsule.

Teachers Report: Mrs. Yurcich kindly asking council again for \$500 towards the ingredients needed for gingerbread festivities. All in favour, approved. STEM items have been purchased and have arrived. Shelly just waiting on all receipts and will submit once she has them all. Christmas concert all set for Dec. 14th. Shows at 1pm and 6pm. Still trying to find out the capacity allowed within the Church. Ms. Purvis is still looking into getting recess equipment for each grade/class.

Father Report: Dave Miller, Councillor, Ward 4 attended our meeting on Father's behalf. He sits on the parish council. Dave was seeking input/suggestions from council on how the Church can increase family attendance and engagement in our local Blessed Sacrament Church life. He reminded us of all the values of attending regularly and the community feel that it provides especially in times of this secular world. Council was forthcoming with some input for Father to not put children on the spot by asking direct questions as they feel centered out. We also gave feedback about students being upset/confused they were told not to pray for their pets as they have no soul. We discussed how wonderful Bishop Crosby was at the recent Confirmation. He was very kind and spoke clearly about current/relatable topics for any age. Council feels the Church needs to try and be more relevant with the times. It was also suggested for Father to come visit the school/classes in an informal way so the students can see him and get to know him better.

Financial Report: Bingo account: \$9,524.58 (STEM items haven't been deducted yet).
General account: \$6,771.73.

Discussion Topics:

Halloween Dance Summary: 63 families pre purchased their attendance. \$575 was made overall. Pizza went over well and Ashley ordered about the same as last year. Next year was discussed-Ashley is passing the 'lead torch' to another willing council member. Ms. Purvis

suggested we increase the lighting in the hall just a bit. Council is wanting to make a donation to the Church as a thankyou for letting us use the hall for such events. Sarah K. to check with Shelly on what has been given in the past.

Christmas Planter Update: These sales were down again this year, so this fundraiser may have run its course. It made \$817, which is down about \$300 from last year. 35 wreaths, 44 planters, 84 poinsettias, and 4 build your own planters were sold. Council will discuss at next meeting if we want to try something with Miles Flowers in the spring instead. Pick up times were discussed and volunteers needed.

MacMillan's: This did very well. 202 items were sold at \$4, 448, with a profit of \$1,334.40. Discussed needing volunteers to help sort when food arrives and to hand out. These items will be handed out same time as Spirit wear, and discussed the best and safest times to do so it doesn't interfere with the bus schedule.

Spirit Wear: A total of 113 items were sold, \$565 was raised. 37 T-shirts, 69 hoodies, 5 toques and 2 trucker hats were sold. Brantford Apparel was great to work with and we discussed selling items again in the spring. Spirit wear days will be held in the New Year once/week and waiting on staff to let us know if they prefer a certain day of the week.

Christmas Lunch: All set for Dec. 18th. Wholesome Pickins is the caterer for the turkey and stuffing. Erin/Kailey are looking for lots of volunteers for the potato peeling party Dec. 17th as well as volunteers for serving and cleanup on the 18th. Ice cream scoopers will be used to serve some of the food to help reduce waste. Juice boxes will be served for each student and they are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.

Christmas Concert: Discussed how to refine the cookies and refreshments for after the evening show. Decided to just have a low sugar juice box and a cookie for each student at their seat in the hall. Students will be reminded to bring their own water bottles that evening.

STEM \$: Discussed using last years STEM \$ to purchase snap circuits for the whole school.

Popcorn: This is set to run with sales running Jan. 8-22nd and pickup in time before Family Day.

Raffle: Sarah K. and Lisa to lead. Lisa reminded council of the parent survey results that most families would like an event to go along with the raffle. Zoey has connections and resources if we wanted to do a 'touch a truck' event. Mark will look into insurance and permits needed for this, especially if it was to run on a weekend. Ashley had a great suggestion to do the raffle with our kids bingo event. The kids bingo is well attended and we could display/raffle off the prizes that are more kid friendly. Discussed how to involve the community if we ran it this way, so will need further discussion at our next meeting. Ms. Purvis reminded us to keep some time in between Lenten raffle and our raffle. May is a possibility.

Next Meeting: TBD in January