Blessed Sacrament Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: **October 7th, 2026**

Meeting began: **7:10pm**

In attendance		
☐ Alisha Peters	☒ Alicia Givens	☒ Mr. Finochio
☐Lisa Henrique	☒ Alina Olejniczak	☒ Paula Purvis
☐ Brealle Stewart	☒ Melissa Magda	☐ Marcie Hensen
☐ Don Hamilton	☐ Nancy Spierenburg	☐ Kailey Keresturi
☒ Katie Hines	☐ Erin Smith	☐ Melissa Marr
☒ Zoey Heltner	☐ Victoria Laurie	☐ Susana Martins
☒ Monique Donmoyer	☐ Sarah Kloepfer	☐ Jessica VanDyk
☒ Emily Tonelli	☒ Brooke Botting	☒ Steph Kershaw

Opening

Approval of Previous Minutes Without Corrections

- Mark Finochio Motioned.
- Melissa Magda Seconded.

Business Arising out of the Minutes/Updates

- Sport Tickets for Fundraising (Don)
  - Binder returned from Don to school.
  - This item has been unpursued, no updates to provide.
- Outdoor Equipment (Paula)
  - During a discussion with colleagues, it was brought up about purchasing equipment for recess.
  - Staff agreed that it may not be best use of Parent Council funds; while good intentions the recess equipment isn't always taken care of by students.
  - Discussed that there are options to use the $750 each teacher is allotted by the government to purchase balls and certain equipment so if teachers wanting recess equipment, part of their classroom allotment could go towards that.

Parish Report

- Doreen to send email to parent council with any updates going forward to Zoey/Katie to report.
- Doreen wants to remind any parents about confirmation and to return forms

- Also – reminder that the Hall is available to rent if anyone is looking for a rental space.
- Discussed that if you are a parish member, the space may be rented by donation.

Principals' Report

- **Good news!** We are system-compliant regarding numbers. This means no classroom shuffles will be required.
- New AHL team in Hamilton (Hamilton Hammers) and are having a "School Day Game". Grade 4-8 will have a trip in November to participate. 11am game.
- Halloween Walk is coming up. Brant County Office called – they are in!
- 14 students participated in the 1st attendance reward –Pizza with the Principal. It was a lot of fun!

Teachers' Report

- Paula – coaches for soccer team wondered whether in the future parent council has interest to pay for goalie jerseys and goalie gloves. Next step: the coaches would need to explore cost and bring those numbers to council for consideration.
- Safe patrollers – We haven't participated in a few years, but we are starting back for the 2026/2027 school year. Training date is scheduled for Tuesday morning at Safety Village. 30 students have shown interest and will need to participate in training, complete a multiple-choice test and then will be able to become a patroller. These responsibilities will be shared with students from Burford Elementary as we share bussing with them. The role will be to help students walk to parents, watch getting on and off the bus and give reminders about safety. Should be up and running shortly after training is completed.
- Newcomb Ball 1st game – Grade 5/6 will run now and wrap up mid-November while grade 3/4 will play in February.

Financial Report

General account: $849.43 at year end 2025/2026

- Board moves everything into parent council general account

Lottery account: 2224.73$ - raffle with class baskets, minus signs from Ms. MacKay (approx. 300$)

- STEM – around $75
- We have approximately $1855.10 that will go towards bussing for class trips in June (currently approx. $6.44 per student)
- Fundraising for bussing is always appreciated; this year we have a goal to have $10 per student available for their year-end trip.
- Council voted – all in favour to formally accept goal of $10 per student for fundraiser.

- Quick math shows we would need $2880, and we are starting off with $1855. This means we will need to fundraise additional $1025 to reach this goal.

Topics of Discussion

End of Year Raffle Event (Katie)

- This didn't have a lead from last meeting – Katie volunteered to take it on.
- Katie will lead this event for 2026/2027.
- Monique and Paula can assist, including Paula to support for the licensing.
- This event requires family participation to bring items in for the raffle baskets.
- At the end of 2025/2026 year, council agreed that any money raised in these baskets should always go to year end trip.

Spirit Wear (Erin)

- Erin is absent, no update.

Halloween Dance (Melissa, Nancy, Alicia)

- The Hall had a lot of booking; the date we could secure is Thursday Oct 29th – 6pm-8pm
- Pizza, chips and juice boxes will be available for prepurchase on SchoolCash (Shelly to set up after thanksgiving)
- Flyer have been prepared and will go out to parents.
- Looking for a budget for prizes and updated decorations, looking for $150.
- Event is $5 per family, plus sales of chips, pizza and juice, this usually will offset the cost of prizes and upgraded decorations.
  - Paula Motioned to approve the spending of $150 for decorations and prizes.
  - Monique Seconded.
- Set up begins at 2pm, will be looking for volunteers on WhatsApp closer to.

Halloween Walk (Zoey)

- This event is school run, but parent council (Zoey and Sarah) supported by handing out flyers to businesses.
- This walk always happens on Halloween or on the Friday before.
- A lot of businesses will hand out candy as children trick or treat around Town
- Mark will call the principal of Burford Elementary (Andy) to ensure coordination.
- Parents may come as volunteers to support; it is fun and helps with traffic.

Christmas Dinner (Sarah)

- Sarah – Quote from Wholesome Pickins Catering (same as 2025) for 180 lbs turkey - $4.49, $808.20 plus cooking fee ($90/turkey). Total for Turkeys including cooking is $990, plus quoted $450 for stuffing. Gravy drippings included.
- Tentatively booked for December 10th.
- For council consideration: New butcher in Burford, should we wait or go with Wholesome Pickins Catering.
- Discussion to use Wholesome Pickins Catering for 2026 due to timing and to ensure something is booked, and then the new butcher to be considered for 2027.

- Donation will be available on SchoolCash to offset any costs. Would be options for $5, $10, or $20, and an "other" option.

Macmillan's Fundraiser (Victoria)

- Victoria absent, no update.

(Added) Popcorn fundraiser (Emily)

- Scheduled for January 29th, open for 2 weeks. Vendor needs a 21-day turnaround, hoping orders will be sent home before March Break.
- Emily stated she will need help packing orders but will look for volunteers closer to.
- Vendor needs number of families participating by December.

(Added) Social media (Mark)

- Council looking for clarification on any updates and direction from board.
- Mark confirmed that what is required from the Board is that we tag them in Facebook message/post.
- Mark is requesting someone send him the link to our page and he will forward it to Tracey at the Board (Tracey Austin or Shaylyn Dulong) as someone from the Board will join the group to monitor.

Adjournment & Next Meeting

Adjournment:

This meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for **November 4th – Teams**

Blessed Sacrament School

2026-2027 Parent Council Minutes

Scheduled Events		
<u>September:</u> Spirit Wear (Erin) <u>October:</u> Halloween Dance (Melissa) Halloween Walk - Oct 30 (Zoey) – pamphlets <u>November:</u> MacMillians (Victoria) Poinsettia (Nancy) Craft Sale (Victoria)	<u>December:</u> Christmas Dinner – 16th (Erin) Christmas Concert – 17th (Sarah) – snacks <u>January:</u> Popcorn (Emily) <u>February:</u> Pancake Tuesday – 9th (Melissa)	<u>March:</u> N/A – open to ideas <u>April:</u> Bingo (Zoey) <u>May:</u> Graduation (Sarah) <u>June:</u> Teacher Luncheon (Kailey) End of year raffle – (Katie, Monique & Paula)

Scheduled Meetings		
2026/2027 Meeting Dates (7:00pm)		
September 23rd – in person *October 7th – Teams* *November 4th – Teams*	*December 2nd – in person* *January 13th – Teams* *February 3rd – Teams*	*March 3rd – Teams* *April 7th – In person* *May 5th – Teams* *June – TBD (After School BBQ)*
Dates Subject to Change		