

Notre Dame Catholic School Council Meeting – January 25, 2011.

Present: Jeff Lafontaine, Jennifer Biamonte, Jenny Abbruscato, Tina Devlin, Nancy Gardner, Mary Pagnotta, Christine Rotundo, Laura Saelens, Cathy Stranges, Lori Vieira

Regrets: Peggi Boutin, Lucy Camisa, Lesley-Anne Cook-Kay, Michelle Keltos, Dina Marcon-Argenta, Melinda Multari, Kathleen Parr, Lissa Scozzafava, Kim Sielicki,

Welcome and Prayer

- Mrs. Abbruscato opened with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes

- The minutes of the last meeting were presented. Add Nancy Gardner as present and Mary Pagnotta as formal regrets.
- Motion to approve the minutes by Mrs. Abbruscato seconded by Mrs. Devlin. The motion was carried.

Principals Report

- Primary Speak Out was held in the Arts room and it was a terrific venue for the students. The Junior/Intermediates presented in the Gym. Winners will represent the school at the Board competition on Thursday, February 24 at Cardinal Newman School.
- Carousel players will be performing at the school on Wednesday, March 2 for the Junior/Intermediate divisions. Since we have partnered with St. Mary School for this performance, the Primary division will be able to see a Carousel production in April. Teachers have received the teacher's guide for pre- and post-production activities.
- Kinecs project – We need someone from council to help Mrs. Becevel to assist with the project. An e-mail will be sent to council members and it will be included in the April Newsletter for parents to assist in the project as a result of the grant put forth by Grade 7 students. Part of the student proposal was presented by Mr. Lafontaine. Mrs. Stranges offered to assist in the project.

Chairs Report

- Correspondence received: Directors Report, People for Education Newsletter.
- We will e-mail Dina Marcon-Argenta to send a card to St. Paul regarding the student who passed away.
- Yearbook questions were addressed. Cookie will do it for this year with the help of the yearbook committee (2010-2011). All are included to help Mrs. Bortolon with this year's yearbook. The students have already taken many pictures thus far. It is our goal to purchase the software and slowly transition the responsibility to the school i.e. the yearbook committee. The parents would set up the program and the students could learn to cut and paste into the program to create the yearbook. It could be a student club that could occur throughout the year for next year.
- Although there has no information received on this year's spring convention for the School Council, it will be held at Blessed Trinity High School in Grimsby. There are keynote speakers and various seminars of interest to choose from.

Financial Report

- Hot Lunch Report was presented by Mr. Lafontaine as well as the Bingo Report. Books from Scholastic were purchased for the primary division's Bag-a-Book program. The students love the new books. Scientist in the Classroom was booked and hot chocolate for the Winter Carnival were also purchased.

Teacher Report

- Mrs. Saelens presented the interview form used by the primary division for the parent-teacher interviews. Parents who had it really liked it and found it useful.
- Mrs. Biamonte asked about the interview night...she found it late in the year to meeting with the teacher. Mr. Lafontaine stressed that there is always an open invitation for parents to come in to speak to teachers. He asked what the parents thought and some preferred interviews at the progress report time and some liked it later. Teachers can always provide feedback to parents.
- Mrs. Rotundo spoke to the parent volunteers. There are co-op students from St. Paul High School, Brock student teachers, a Brock concurrent education student, two tutors in the classroom, Niagara College EA and ECE students and the CWL reading program in the school this term.

Committee Reports

- Mrs. DiMaurizio is working on the PRO grant project. Mr. Lafontaine feels that we need to streamline the focus and keep up the Peace Garden. We should work together as the Green committee and the school as a team in the Peace Garden. Our goal should be to focus our energies and make it beautiful...make it inviting early on in the season. Mrs. Pagnotta suggested mats for use outdoors and Mr. Lafontaine loved the idea. No parish report this evening.
- Grade 8 Graduation committee stated that the pasta dinner is scheduled for March 30th. Mrs. Gardner thinks they need volunteers and more parent involvement. Mrs. Pagnotta presented the idea of selling tickets for prizes ahead of time and soliciting prizes in August for the entire school year.
- Social committee report was presented by Mrs. Biamonte regarding the June barbeque. Mr. Scozzafava said to give him a budget and he would tell us what his culinary class can do for us. Mrs. Biamonte will contact Mr. Lafontaine regarding the budget. Mr. Lafontaine discussed the issue of the hot dogs but do we want to make an exception? We are providing a fun gathering and social so let's be healthier. A suggestion for fish pond prizes is to use unopened McDonald toys.
- Mr. Lafontaine presented the plan (photograph) for the Rosary Garden on behalf of the Greening and Eco Committee.

New Business:

- The possibility of doing a trivia night as a fundraiser was discussed.

Adjournment

- Mrs. Laurie Vieira motioned to close the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Jennifer Abbruscato.