

**Notre Dame Elementary School Council**  
Minutes of the January 26, 2010 (6:30 p.m.) Meeting

**Call to order:** Jennifer Biamonte.

**In attendance:**

Mrs. MacKenzie	Mary Pagnotta	Jennifer Biamonte	Sue DiMaurizio
Kathleen Parr	Antoinette Bortolon	George Gallo	Tracey Papetti
Nancy Gardner	Dina Elefante	Cathie Zarafonitis	Melinda Multari
Dina Marcon-Argenta	Cathy Stranges	Pina Page	Kim Montagano
Lori Vieira	Michelle Keltos	Allison Termaat	Caroline Matovic

**Regrets :** Lucy Camisa, Kim Sielicki, Leanne Becevel, Josephine Ferro, Lissa Scozzafava

**Absent:** Crystal Sargenson, Jennifer Aberscatto, Lesley-Ann Cook-Kay, Kim Marchese, Sara Synder

**Prayer:** Antoinette Bortolon

**Motion to approve minutes:** Dina Marcon-Argenta / seconded by Sue DiMaurizio

**Financial Report (Mrs. MacKenzie):** The income from the Hot Lunch sales in December was \$557 and in January, \$309.20. Recent expenses included CD players: \$513.23 and Wintergreen Listening Centers \$687.43 (committed, but not yet spent).

The current balance in the Hot Lunch account for January is \$1686.74.

Bingo expenses for December included the theatre production of Charming \$598 (\$1306.75)- we have overspent our predicted amount due to the school having 2 theatre productions instead of one, math manipulative bins \$813.50, and library expenses \$271.77.

**Parish Report:** (Kathleen Parr) Please see the parish bulletin, which is posted weekly in the school office for parish updates.

- The children's Nativity story on Christmas Eve was a success. Many Notre Dame students participated.
- Altar servers are needed.
- The church roof is completely replaced. The balance due is \$6,000 (a tremendous funding effort by parishioners).
- Contributions to Haiti relief will be accepted at the parish office until Feb. 12. \$17,000 has been collected to date.
- Interest in the children's choir has declined over time. The parish is trying something new. The various school choirs have been invited to sing, on a rotating basis, at the 9:30 am Sunday Masses. Four schools are set to participate. Our school choir, led by Mrs. Cukierski, will sing on the First Sunday of Lent. All children are invited to participate in the choir.
- Fr. Hugh recently spoke about the fact that the Catholic Women's League needs new members. He mentioned that the C.W.L. is a national organization and women of all ages are invited to join. Members' dues are \$15 per year. A newsletter explaining the activities of the organization are sent to members. League members have a voice even if they cannot attend meetings. The C.W.L. gets involved with important government issues.

There is a free breakfast coming up after the 9:30 Mass for all women of the parish. C.W.L. members will be available to talk about the League and to further explain what the organization is all about.

- Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Easter falls on April 4.

- The candidates for First Communion have had their Inscription Ceremony. The Confirmation Inscription is set to take place in February.
- On March 6 and 7 Irish festivities will take place in the parish hall. The proceeds will go to the work of Development and Peace.

**Principals Report:**

Through staff, student, and parent donations Notre Dame was able to collect \$1000.00 for the Haiti Relief effort.

Effective February 1, 2010, Bill 157 came in to effect – Safe Schools. All staff are now responsible for dealing with student behaviour. All staff attended an inservice as to the expectations for all staff in terms of responding and reporting behaviours that impact on school safety.

Mrs. MacKenzie informed the council that effective immediately OPHEA (the governing board for physical education in Ontario) has mandated that goggles are now mandatory for badminton playing in both P.E. and tournaments. The school does not have any. Mrs. MacKenzie approached council about paying for 20 goggles.

Caroline Matovic made a motion for Council to purchase goggles for badminton at a cost of \$198. Nancy Gardner seconded the motion. All approved.

**Teachers Report: (deferred)**

**Old Business:**

Playground update regarding whether or not having a border around the rubber playground surface meets the requirements of the warranty:

- Mrs. MacKenzie reported that Tundi Labbancz (from the school board) and Fortco reps reviewed the playground surface warranty and felt that the surface prep and absence of a border met the warranty requirements.
- The warranty information that the board possessed was a different version of the one given to Mrs. Marcon-Argenta and the Playground Committee.
- Mrs. Marcon-Argenta reported that she had spoken to Fortco who offered an economical border solution. She further explained that the issue of installing a border more so fulfills our agreement with the City of Niagara Falls and McDonald's (our major donor) rather than being a warranty issue. However, according to Mrs. MacKenzie there was never a border mentioned in any of the playground installation quotes from the supplier.
- Mrs. MacKenzie felt that no more action need be taken.
- Mrs. Biamonte stated that she felt that we had done our due diligence.

Playground Surveillance Cameras: the board approved the installation of 10 surveillance cameras around the school property. Six have been installed to date; four more are coming. The cost of this project is \$15,000. The cameras will record for 30 days and can be time stamped. The data is then erased (recorded over). The data is recorded the board office as well.

Rosaries: Free Rosaries are coming to Notre Dame students. A representative from the Legion of Mary has unfortunately had to cancel three times, but assures us that she will be coming.

Shrove Tuesday: Volunteers are needed to serve pancakes to the students. Please see Dina Marcon-Argenta, if you can help. Griddles are needed as well. Cooking starts at 8:30 am.

Literacy Day: volunteers are needed to serve hot chocolate, donated by Tim Horton's. (10:00 a.m., come in PJs).

**Motion to Adjourn:** Dina Marcon-Argenta / seconded by Kim Montagano.

**Next Meeting:** February 23 (6:30 p.m.)

*Submitted by: Mary Pagnotta*