

**Notre Dame Elementary School Council**

Minutes of the April 27, 2010 (6:30 p.m.) Meeting

**Call to order:** Jennifer Biamonte.

**In attendance:**

Mrs. MacKenzie	Mary Pagnotta	Jennifer Biamonte	Sue DiMaurizio
Lissa Scozzafava	Antoinette Bortolon	George Gallo	Nancy Gardner
Lucy Camisa	Cathie Zarafonitis	Melinda Multari	Lesley-Ann Cook-Kay
Dina Marcon-Argenta	Kim Seliecki	Kim Montagano	Michelle Keltos
Lori Vieira			

**Regrets:** Leanne Becevel, Jennifer Abbruscatto, Kathleen Parr, Caroline Matovic, Pina Page, Allison Termaat

**Absent:** Crystal Sargeson, Cathy Stranges, Sara Synder, Dina Elefante, Josephine Ferro

**Prayer:** (Michelle Keltos) Tolerance

**Motion to Approve From Feb 23, 2010 Minutes: Kim Seliecki / seconded by Lissa Scozzafava**  
**Motion Carried**

**Elmo demonstration:** (Mrs. MacKenzie) This new tool, purchased for the Junior division was demonstrated by Mrs. MacKenzie. It was used to project the minutes for the meeting on to the wall screen. It is a very versatile teaching and learning tool.

**Financial Report:** (Mrs. MacKenzie)

- The March (month end) balance for the Hot Lunch Account was \$932.02. The total hot lunch expenses for the month were \$272.12.
- The April balance of the Hot Lunch Account was \$977.71. The total hot lunch expenses for the month were \$251.61. Items purchased for the month included:
  - Bookmarks for First Communion and crosses for Confirmation.
- The expenses to the Bingo account were discussed. The total amount spent in March \$1530.31 Expenses included:
  - ELMO
  - Gr. 6 -Trip-Warplane Museum
  - Gr. 3/4 - Science in the Classroom

Total amount spent in April \$539.14 Expenses included:

- Flowers for the Greco Family
  - Gr. 8 -Science in the Classroom
  - Gr. 2-First Communion Cake
  - Gr. 7- Marineland trip
- The Bingo sales are down. The estimated income to date was supposed to be \$7200. We are currently at \$5300. Two factors contributed to this, a water main break and two incidences where volunteers did not show up. This left us with three lost Bingos. Mr. Gallo said that school staff would cover if volunteers were needed in a pinch.

- Nevada tickets sales are higher than expected, approximately \$200 more than projected as of this month.
- Magazine sales yielded a profit of just over \$2000 - \$2057.83. These funds were used for the purchase / installation / training associated with the new white board. Our school acquired this \$5000 unit through a cost-sharing partnership at a discounted price, \$2414.15. Therefore school funds were used to supplement the difference in monies required.
- Pasta dinner proceeds: This fundraiser was a good first effort. Funds raised were divided between the teachers for resources and are to be spent by the end of May.

**Parish Report:** (Mary Pagnotta for Kathleen Parr) Members are asked to refer to the parish bulletin for upcoming news. It is posted in the school office weekly. Mrs. MacKenzie commented on the First Communion and upcoming Confirmation.

**Principals Report:** (Mrs. MacKenzie)

- May 3-7 is Catholic Education Week. The theme is Rejoicing in Hope. And each day there is a subtheme Monday – Rejoicing in our Hearts, Tuesday – Rejoicing in our Homes, Wednesday – Rejoicing in our Schools, Thursday – Rejoicing in our Communities, Friday – Rejoicing in our World.
- Natalie Pagnotta will be receiving the Catch the Spirit Award on Monday May 3 as part of the Catholic Education Week activities.
- The school calendar has been finalized for 2010-2011. It is on the board website.
- Other Catholic Education Week highlights at Notre Dame include:
  - Monday: the crowning of Mary
  - Tuesday: a Festival of Arts
  - Wednesday: Confirmation
  - Thursday: Grade 8 students will travel to Saint Thomas More to hear motivational speaker Fr. Tony Ricard. Also the School Volunteer Tea is upcoming.
  - Friday, May 7: Grades 1 and 6 will travel to the Niagara Square to present a French play. The Grade 6s will sing and present puppet plays which they wrote.
- The board bus tour to various education sites was cancelled due to lack of interest. It may be rescheduled in the fall.
- Class photos are coming up. They will be taken by the playground.
- Father Hugh will be presiding at the grade 8 Confirmation.
- Meeting treats were provided by Marina Greco as a thank you to the Catholic School Council for their support during her recent illness, and over the loss of her mother-in-law.

**Teachers Report:** (Mr. Gallo)

- Resurrection Eggs Project, junior and intermediate grades
- Easter Weekend
- FSL Concert: Juli Power
- Gr. 7 Cyberquest
- Jr. Girls Basketball - winners
- Jr. Boys Basketball – winners
- Chess Tournament
- Easter Mass @ church
- Gr. 2 celebrates First Holy Communion
- Gr. 6 travels to Canadian Warplane Museum

- Gr. 8 explored waterways with a Scientist in the Classroom
- Earth Day celebrated outside with cleanup
- NCDSB Bus Tour for Parents was cancelled and is to be rescheduled for the fall.
- Gr. 8 Pasta Night Fundraiser
- J the Juggler arrives for fun
- SK Grad Photos
- Class Pictures
- Spirit Assembly
- Toonies for Autism

**Old Business:**

- Pops and Pals was discussed. It was originally an event just prior to Father's Day. If it is to take place parents must come forward to volunteer to coordinate and run the event.
- All 10 security cameras are currently up and running. Some trees will be trimmed to ensure better surveillance.
- Full day SK was discussed.

**Motion was to formulate a letter in support of Notre Dame being granted full-day SK to be sent to the NCSB board.**

**Made by Lissa Scozzafava /seconded by Kim Montagano**

**Motion Carried**

- Year End Barbecue was discussed. The majority agreed that the Catholic School Council should host the event again this year. Last year, 105 families attended, (a total of 395 people). The cost for food alone was approximately \$625. After donations it was approximately \$400. It was discussed that in September the Council should revisit the idea of the barbecue for 2011. The event's budget for 2010 is \$500 – the amount given to schools by the board. Therefore we will need to solicit donations.
- Proposed project: Water fountains converted to water refilling /hydration stations. This idea was brought to Council's attention. This project cost is \$2500 per filling station. Apparently grants are available. The water is not cooled. It just makes water bottle refills easier. A Council member asked why not just put a new tap with a gooseneck in each bathroom? It would be cheaper.
- Staff Appreciation Lunch was discussed

**Motion was as to whether or not Council wanted to host this event.**

**Made by Dina Marcon-Argenta and seconded by Lissa Scozzafava.**

**Motion Not Carried.**

Parents who wish to pursue this project on their own may speak with Dina Marcon-Argenta.

- O.A.P.C.E. Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education will host their annual convention. There is one \$40 ticket available to a parent who is interested in attending.
- Policies that need vetting were e-mailed out to Council members.
- Correspondence: thank you notes were received from Di Pasquale & Spagnuolo Family, and Greco families as well as from Mrs. Helsten. Also, newsletters were received as well as fundraising ideas.
- Comprehensive schools: a meeting took place to discuss the surveys that came back from the families. Interestingly enough parents felt the top priority was nutrition and health and expressed a desire for seminars on these subjects. Other topics of interest were eating and exercise, water stations, track and field, additions to hot lunches, and a morning breakfast program.

**Committee Reports:**

**Bingo:** (Kim Seliecki) Volunteers are especially needed during the summer months for the July 13 and August 3 & 17 Bingos (8:15 AM-12:30 PM). Kim has asked for any teacher to volunteer in the summer. Mrs. MacKenzie said she would mention it at the next staff meeting.

**Exceptional Children:** (Mrs. MacKenzie on behalf of Mrs. Sargeson) Toonies for Autism takes place this Friday

**Parent Education:** (Antoinette Bortolon). The group is looking into hosting guest speaker Samantha Pelligrino.

**Spirituality committee:** (Antoinette Bortolon) the Resurrection eggs Project went very well. The crowning of Mary will take place on May 3. The grade twos will soon have their culminating activity for their Deepening the Roots Program. A May date is being set for the Brown Scapular Enrollment (grade 3 students).

**Social Committee:** (Dina Argenta) several condolence cards were sent out.

**Gardening Committee:** (Jen Biamonte) On Earth Day the Orange Team and JKs helped to clean up the Peace Garden. Mrs. Biamonte contributed several bags of mulch to the garden.

**Motion to purchase additional mulch.**

**Made by Lissa Scozzafava / seconded by Kim Montagano.**

**Motion Carried**

Twenty-nine bags of compostable material were collected on Earth Day by students'/volunteers.

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

**Next Meeting:** May 25 (6:30 p.m.)

*Submitted by: Mary Pagnotta*