**Parent Council Advisory Committee Meeting**

**April 11, 2017**

Parents Present: Nikki Crenna, Chair; Catherine Sinclair, Secretary/Treasurer; Jason Sweet; Deborah Maycock; Sheena Cassidy; Kate MacNaughton; Todd Lichti; Justin Venslovaitis; Abby Watson; Mary Rolston; Jesse & Chris Armstrong; Nicole Potts

Staff Present: Kevin Dorey

1. **Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. **Opening Prayer**

Mr. Dorey lead the group in prayer.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

***MOTION PC14/17, THAT the agenda be approved.***

***Moved by: Jason Sweet***

***Seconded by: Abby Watson***

**4. Approval of Minutes from the Parent Council Meeting of February 21, 2017**

***MOTION PC15/17, THAT the minutes from the meeting of February 21, 2017 be approved.***

***Moved by: Abby Watson***

***Seconded by: Nicole Potts***

1. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

1. **Financial Update**

The group was told from Catherine that the school could provide proof of donations for Balloon Tree for $100 from PEC, Todd Lichti, Justin Venslovaitis, Stormy’s, and $50 from Mary Mascarhenas and later noted that an additional $160 was noted in donations. The total invoice for the event was $904 which leaves an outstanding amount of $304. Catherine then stated that previously the group had approved a payment for no more than $200, which lead to a discussion regarding the donations and tracking of those donations. Catherine stated that she can only pass along what Kate has given her and this is what she could track. There was a discussion about changing staff and process for delivering cheques/money to/from the main office. Mr. Dorey noted that the all the donations came in but might not have been specifically earmarked for the event and stated that the group will not be out any more than first thought.

\*Catherine will add a footnote to the minutes regarding this.

Catherine then provided a recap of the Little Caesars fundraiser stating that total sales were $7223 with $5618 due back to the company so in the end Parent Council made $1605 in profit. Mr. Dorey added that the $100 refund was received (due to delivery error) from Little Caesars.

1. **Form for Teacher Funding Requests**

The Chair suggested that a form be made and distributed (to teachers) which easily allows the teachers the opportunity to request funds from Parent Council. There was a brief discussion and the group supported the idea.

1. **Nutrition ROCKS & 2018 ProGrant Application**

The parent that wished to discuss these two items was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting so the group decided this topic should be on the next agenda. However, the group learned that approximately 12-15 parents were present for the Nutrition ROCKS event.

1. **Upcoming Fundraisers**

A parent provided information regarding hosting a ‘Paint Night’. The organization requires a $100 deposit and that the event could occure 6 weeks after booking. The price of admission will be $45 per person and the school would receive $15 of every ticket sold. The organization provides all the supplies, but if deemed necessary, Parent Council could provide some refreshments/snacks for the event. A parent wondered how the school would advertise the event to which he was told mostly through facebook and posters at the school.

***MOTION 16/17, THAT the Paint Night be booked by Abby Watson and that the $100 deposit be paid to reserve the event.***

***Moved by: Justin Venslovaitis***

***Seconded by: Chris Armstrong***

The Chair then asked if there were any other fundraising ideas to which one parent suggested the spring bulbs (Vesey Bulbs) and anther suggested a scavenger hunt at Macaulay Mountain.

1. **Spring Fling/Fun Fair**

The group was told that the Spring Fling is being rebranded and will now be called the Fun Fair. The Chair said it would be good to look for donations for food in order to keep the costs down to which another parent noted that the chef from the Nutrition ROCKS event might be interested in doing falafels. The group decided that perhaps there could be a 50/50 draw and a common raffle with 3 prizes. Another parent noted that the fire department could possibly help out with the Fun Fair.

Also discussed at this time was the possibility of organizing a children’s flea market prior to Mother’s Day/Father’s Day. Families could be asked to send in small items to which the children could purchase for a nominal fee ($0.50 - $1.00). The group liked the idea and it was decided that the event could occur in the gym the Thursday and Friday before Mother’s Day.

Mr. Dorey noted that Parent Council should be sensitive in advertising the event as not all children would have a mother and/or father, however they could shop for a loved-one/grand-parent.

***MOTION 17/17, THAT the Parent Council organize a children’s flea market prior to Mother’s Day.***

***Moved by: Catherine Sinclair***

***Seconded by: Abby Watson***

1. **Principal’s Report**

Mr. Dorey stated there are 262 students enrolled.

Going back to the discussions regarding the sun interfering with the smartboards, he noted that Ms. Chapman is the only teacher still experiencing some issues but that the Plant will install what the other Kinder class has if she desires.

Next he spoke of several recent events/activities which included: RLC Public Speaking on February 23rd; Shrove Tuesday on February 28th where everyone enjoyed pancakes and sausages; school mass on March 1st & 31st; basketball tournaments held in early March; PULSE retreat March 8th; career women guest speakers for Gr.6-8 March 9th; several classes enjoyed the Frink sugar bush; Voyageur Errant which was partially funded by the French Dept.; Beacon of Hope Breakfast (Sophie Ward) on March 23rd; Science Fair; Kinder hat day fundraiser for the splash pad; Sacrament of Reconciliation April 4th; Spelling Bee April 7th; Lenten Activity attended by Sean Kelly on April 7th; vision and hearing screening for K-1 by the Lions Club April 10th.

Upcoming events include: Gr. 3 Swim to Survive at PEFAC; poetry challenge on April 26th; Confirmation retreat for candidates; Catholic Education Week is the first week of May and incudes a Mass at St. Joseph’s in Belleville; Theatre Guild on May 1st in the afternoon and on May 2nd in the evening; at least two Queen’s students starting May 8th for approximately a month for likely the primary and/or junior grades; Welcome to Kinder day on May 10th; EQOA testing the last week of May.

He then informed the group that the commercial dishwasher needs replacing and is likely to cost upwards of $5000 (one priced out at $6500), to which a parent asked if this was the responsibility of Parent Council. The group was reminded that it is used every day for school breakfasts, hot lunches, spaghetti dinners, etc. The group wondered if the Parish would contribute to a new dishwasher but Mr. Dorey stated that the church doesn’t use the kitchen very much anymore. A parent commented that perhaps the money raised from the Paint Night event could be put towards a new dishwasher.

1. **Other Business**

A parent spoke to the recent event where career women spoke to the senior grades and commented that it shouldn’t only focus on women but should focus on non-traditional roles in general.

A parent asked what the plans were for the Gr.8 Graduation as there was limited (or no) information coming home. Mr. Dorey stated that the Graduation is on June 23rd and will involve a mass in the church with awards afterwards. He added that if the children can fundraise there is talk of a 1000 Islands cruise afterwards. There was discussion about the lack of information about the event in general to which Mr. Dorey stated that parents need to talk to the teacher directly with their questions/concerns.

A parent asked about distributing Council funds to the teachers at the beginning of each year to help them set up their classrooms. The Chair said this would be on the May agenda. There was a brief discussion about this being a good idea and nice gesture from Council, adding that this would be helpful for teachers to know before summer break.

Next a parent asked if the school could automate the payments required for pizza day/sub day/milk/etc. Mr. Dorey stated the Board is considering this. A parent stated other schools use a program called ‘Lunch Lady’ which is an online payment system.

1. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be May 15, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

***MOTION PC18/17, THAT the meeting be adjourned.***

***Moved by: Nikki Crenna***

***Seconded by: Justin Venslovaitis***

*\*Note re: Balloon Tree*

*- In speaking with Mr. Dorey after the meeting, and reviewing paperwork the school had, the following donations for Balloon Tree have been received: Catholic Women’s League, Picton Kinettes, County Canteen, County Computer, Parson’s Brewing, Stormy’s, T-Square Building, Mary Mascarenhas. The confusion arose as there was a change in staff and accounting practices. Kate would not have known about donations received prior to her time at St. Gregs. In recognizing this, there was a total of $850 in donations received (total invoice of $904) so Parent Council will contribute $54 to make up the difference. There was a motion, MOTION PC11/17 at the February 21st meeting that no more than $200 be contributed from Parent Council to the school to cover this event (Moved by: Justin, Seconded by: Todd).*