

## Mother Teresa Catholic School Parent Council Meeting

The monthly meeting of Mother Teresa Catholic School Council was held on March 26 at 6:30 p.m., in the staff room of the Mother Teresa Catholic School.

Present were: Janine Friesen, Cole Tymchuk, Dhanell Tymchuk, Lynda Atamanchuk, Erin Gallup, Rebecca Reed, Kitrina Lucuk, Marina Prystupa, Krystal Zhang, Nichole Gerein, Henry Chauvet, Crystal Ibach, Nancy Martin, Daryn Pinette.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Crystal.

Prayer by Henri.

Approval of agenda as amended:

- Motion to approve by Janine, second by Nancy. CARRIED.

Approval of previous minutes as distributed.

- Motion to approve minutes by Nancy, second by Becki. CARRIED.

Financial Report: (Kitrina)

- Updated as March 22, bank sitting at \$15, 095.19. Check to go in to school council account to refund the cost of soccer nets. Shrove Tuesday receipts not yet submitted but Crystal will do that this week.

- Approved by Nancy, second by Erin. CARRIED.

Trustee Report: (Eldon Wyant)

- Absent.

Principal Report: (Henri)

- Upcoming: Kindergarten reg tomorrow, March 27. An unknown for numbers but we track form year to year and how Riverstone is affecting our school. After tomorrow, we'll know better but probably down about 13 students. After that, plan will be made for the coming year as far as how many teachers we get etc. Henri optimistic that class sizes may be going down a bit for the coming year.

- Holy Week this week. Easter break right away.

- Boundary issues: Send questions to central office. If you are zoned for John Paul II but have a child already at St. Joe's, then that child may stay at St. Joe's but could move to John Paul II, if they are in 8-10. But a child not going to St. Joe's will need to go to John Paul II if zoned for it. (No Grade 11-12 at John Paul II yet.) But otherwise, all people north of the boundary line, will go to John Paul II. A larger map is supposed to come out to help define the boundary for the country people. In the end, likely some country people will get a choice, depending on bus. For programming, all students will get documentation regarding the programs offered and the kids will make choices at that time.

- Parent appreciation usually happens at the end of April.

- April 24 is City Scrub and kids will help clean up the neighborhood.

- Teacher appreciation is usually in May, probably May 14-17 or 22-25. This will go on next month's agenda. AGENDA ITEM

Vice Principal report: (Nichole)

- Elementary teachers want more presentations for younger kids. It's hard to find free programs for elementary but found Spuds in Tubs. These are growing programs to grow potatoes in classrooms. Another option is a drumming circle, French African. Its \$700 for half/day but is here in May and will work us into schedule if we are interested.
- Working with grade 7-8 to plan farewell. Google classroom set up and kids can show you how to get in. Meeting minutes are present. Nichole updates usually every Monday. There is a potluck committee. There is a Mass committee. There is a Powerpoint committee and a dance committee. So far all committee members are female as boys are not interested in giving up their lunch breaks. If there are any parents who want to help, Mrs. Martineau is heading up the potluck committee and would appreciate volunteers.
- Stations of the Cross production. Nichole showed off some of the costumes which were made. Thursday at 10 o'clock is the production in the school gym.

Teacher Report: (Krystal Zhang)

- Nothing from teachers. The trips are starting to be planned and teachers are hoping to post some pictures.

Old Business:

- a) Seed Fundraiser: (Crystal) Most of stuff distributed. A few things back ordered. Crystal emailed company to find out when those items will arrive. There are a few things which were missing. If no response from company tomorrow, she will call. We received about \$2500 profit. Work wise it wasn't too heavy.
- b) Lost and Found: (Janine) Asked about who actually does the lost and found which is Nancy. Asked about whether stuff with names in is donated and she said no. Nancy collects from all over the school and goes through it once a month.

New Business:

- a) (Erin) Support for Students with Learning Disabilities: Erin has a son who has been diagnosed with learning disability. During this journey, she has discovered that getting support for kids is difficult and there is never enough money for the supports. She talked to Superintendent last week and going to speak at School Board meeting April 23 at 5 p.m. at Central Office (across from Telus building downtown). This is not a GPCSD problem - it's provincial. However, her son attends within this district and he is entitled to receive the education that all other students receive. She is here tonight trying to recruit people to attend meeting on April 23 with her so that School Board understands that it's not a one person problem and to show solidarity. There are some strategic alliances happening provincially that are working on approaching MLA's to get more funding and support. Dhanell shared about their own daughter and the money they have spent trying to help her. The teachers have been remarkable but the funding is completely inadequate. Because their child is well behaved and quiet, she doesn't get the same help as someone who throws a fit. Those children need help for sure but the quiet ones need help too. She shared that we need more parents aware of how there is only so much the teachers can do. Kitrina asked if the grading for the lower grades hides some of these problems. Henri says that teachers will bring it forward if the parent doesn't notice or understand the

grading. Crystal mentioned that there isn't enough support for speech, kids wait  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the year for a referral. It's not that the teachers don't want to do it. There just isn't enough staff and funding to meet the needs. ACTION ITEM: Erin's email is [erintrydal@hotmail.com](mailto:erintrydal@hotmail.com) for any parents who wish to contact her with questions or concerns or who would like to support her efforts. Parents can attend the School Board Meeting with her on April 23 at 5 p.m. at Central Office.

- b) (Kitrina) Montessori Update: Henri says there is no change in Montessori for next year. There will be 1-2 and 3-4 splits but 5-6 is not going split because of provincial exams for grade 6. Not all teachers are Montessori trained because it is an expensive course and there are not enough qualified teachers. Marina asked if Montessori teachers are supposed to have an assistant but Henri clarified that there is no funding for that. However, there do tend to be smaller class sizes with Montessori. Kitrina asked why the school wouldn't have the staffing in place to support the Montessori program if that is what the school is doing. Henri says that the school does the best it can to get Montessori trained teachers and to train any who need it.

Round Table:

- Janine asked about Kindergarten registration which is scheduled tomorrow from 5-7. Henri clarified that there are class tours available during that time frame and information packets available to parents.

Next Meeting: April 30 at 6:30. For anyone interested in bringing fundraising ideas for next year, come at 6 and then these ideas will be presented at main meeting. The goal is to make a fundraising subcommittee of sorts. AGENDA ITEM

Motion to adjourn by Crystal at 7:42.