



# St. André Bessette Catholic Elementary School Council

## APPROVED Meeting Minutes

Date | Time 2/8/2024 6:30 PM | Meeting called to order by Melissa Galluzzo

### In Attendance

Juliet Lugtu, Christine Zeni (remote), Antonietta Moniz, Melissa Galluzzo, Sabrina Schiralli, Miranda Loberto, Erin Rosart, Michelle DeMedeiros, Imma Vitale, Tania Dell'Erario, Myleene Consignado (remote)

### 1. Acknowledgement

We begin by acknowledging the land and our responsibility to care for and respect all that Creation gives to provide us with life. This land upon which we live, work and sustain ourselves is the ancestral and treaty lands of the Michizaagiig Anishinaabek also known today as the Mississaugas of the Credit, the rightful caretakers and titleholders of this land. We also recognize that this land is rich in pre-contact history and relationships, which includes the Anishinaabek and Onkwehonwe and since European contact has and continues to become home for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

As a responsible community we believe all people are sacred and possess inherent and immeasurable worth and dignity. Colonialism displaced and dispossessed Indigenous Peoples of their ancestral lands and continues to deny their basic human rights, dignities and freedoms. We are committed to the sacrament of reconciliation, making reparations and fulfilling our treaty obligations, duties and responsibilities as outlined in the Gdoo-naaganinaa (Dish with One Spoon) wampum. This treaty governs and affirms that we actively maintain mutually beneficial relationships and collectively respect and care for the land, water, animals and each other in order to guarantee a good life for our future descendants.

### 2. Opening Prayer

#### Council Prayer

John 13: 34-35

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this, all will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another."*

Heavenly Father,

*As we begin the month of February, the month of love and unity, we remember your commandment to love one another. May it serve as a reminder that our love should mirror your selfless and sacrificial love. By loving one another, we display the true essence of being your disciples, and by our examples draw others to you.*

*In Jesus' name,*

*Amen*

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### 3. Approval of Agenda

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Motioned by: Miranda Loberto; Seconded by Michelle DeMedeiros; Approved

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### 4. Approval of Minutes

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Motioned by: Melissa Galluzzo; Seconded by Michelle DeMedeiros; Approved

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### 5. Treasurer Update – Miranda Loberto

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- November – deficit of \$37.10 from Portuguese Chicken lunches
- December – profit of \$46.40 (Dec. 1) and \$53.10 (Dec. 15) for Portuguese Chicken
- Christmas Open House night
  - Purchased cookies & milk - \$539.16
  - Made \$975 – profit of 435.84 (deposited January)
- \$2207.22 balance
- Instead of transferring funds from SGF, will just take from SGF as needed

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### 6. OAPCE Update

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- No update

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### 7. Parish Update

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- March 17 – second annual spaghetti dinner
- April 30 – First Communions
- May 8 – Confirmation

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### 8. Teacher Update

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#### January/February

- The week of Jan 23rd to Jan 26th, we had a Mental Health Awareness Spirit Week. Students and Staff participated by wearing tie-dye to represent a range of emotions, blue as a calming colour to take time to talk to someone, green to remind everyone to get outside and enjoy nature, and a day of workout wear to remind us to exercise the mind and body.
- On February 1st, all students participated in National Sweater Day. The thermostat was put 1 degree lower to conserve energy.
- On January 30th the Boy's soccer team and on the 31st the girl's soccer team participated in a tournament. Both teams showed good sportsmanship and represented Bessette very well.
- Next Week our Junior Boys and Girls will be representing Bessette at a basketball tournament.
- On Feb 7th all students attended a Fire Safety presentation.
- On Feb 22nd the Grade SK/1, grade 1 and 2 classes will be participating in the Dairy Education Program. The presentations are connected to the Ontario curriculum. The Sk/1s will be learning about healthy vs

Sometimes foods, and grade 1s and 2s will be learning about Canada's Food Guide and Healthy Eating Choices

- Grad photos on Feb 21st

**YFL:** YFL planned a k-8 friendship dance held this Friday so that we are reverent next with Lent kicking off.

- announcements for St. Valentine
- Ash Wednesday pretzel sales begin on Wednesday, February 14th to March 1st, on school cash online only. Torres and Hall will be organizing delivery for Holy Week.
- We're also doing a flash (short) drive to help St. Patrick's Church "Coldest Night of the Year" initiative, to help collect hygiene items for the homeless. Feb 15th is the last day to bring in items. An email was sent to all staff members to post on their Google Classrooms with the list of items.
- virtue announcements continue
- Respect board: students had the idea of each class writing what respect means to them. Then we post each bubble on the board
- Feb 23rd is Wear Your Cultural Clothes Day
- Feb 28 is Pink Shirt Day
- We will do a liturgy for anti-bullying via Google Classroom
- Our school welcomes John Roda, our new EGELT (Elementary Guidance Experiential Learning). He's been working with our Jr and intermediate grades this week implementing coding-based learning through math and science. John and I have organized and sorted through our school's coding resources that will once again be available to staff and students.
- On that note, I have implemented a coding club that will take part during the week during lunch hours combined with our Mental Wellness group, currently being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- It is Black History Month and as a school, we have daily trivia questions over the announcements and music Fridays
- As a school, teachers and students will be displaying works that recognize black excellence throughout the school
- School spirit wear was available and the online store closed January 26th.
- Intermediate classes have registered for online information sessions on Discrimination and Racism.

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## 9. Principal Update

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- Report cards will go out February 13
  - IEPS February 23
- Interviews Feb 15 (evening) & 16 (day)
  - Online booking system being used again
  - Suggestion that phone interview option be available to book online
- Ministry has mandated a program this year for grade 2 & 5 teachers
  - PLC – professional learning cycles, math based
  - Focus on improving student confidence
  - There is no correlation between confidence and score according to student survey
  - Most kids had low confidence in math, goal is to improve attitude towards math
- Our school was recognized for using Knowledge Hook
  - Website for teachers to quiz and assess students

- Board can track usage, many teachers in our school using
- Land acknowledgement
  - Now using full version, mandated by board
  - Removed “stewards of our land”
- Standardization of council meetings
  - Board looking to standardize, more consistent approach between schools
  - Giving option for parents to attend remotely
  - Anyone who wants to join and is not a voting member needs to bring up issue before meeting
    - Send issue/question to council email
    - Chairs/principals decide if appropriate
  - \*concern raised about parents attending meeting in person being on video
  - \*concern raised about the online parents not being required to have their camera on to verify identity
- Pancake Tuesday
  - Reva, Sabrina & Michelle coming in to prepare pancakes
  - Schedule made for distribution – most kids in morning, some older kids after lunch
  - Older students will serve
- Valentine’s Day
  - Falls on Ash Wednesday this year
  - Direction from school board is focus should be on Ash Wednesday
  - Valentine’s celebration to be held early – dance on February 9
  - Handing out Valentine’s still okay on February 14
- Lenten Mass – February 14, 9am
  - 450 bottles = 29 cases

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## 10. Update of Council Priorities/Actions for 2023/2024

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- a. Shrove Tuesday Pancake event
  - Already discussed in principal update
- b. Spring Fundraising – Boxed Card Fundraiser
  - Dielman – higher profit, more cards
  - May not be able to run a fundraiser during Lent (focus should be on almsgiving), will need to be approved
    - Plan A – advertise at parent interviews, start fundraiser on Family Day (Feb 19), close end of March Break (Mar 17)
    - Plan B – advertise after March Break, open April 2<sup>nd</sup> (after Easter), close April 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Unanimous vote for both plans, preference for plan A
  - If plan A not approved, then plan B
  - Prizes – subcommittee to be formed – discuss prizes and how they will be distributed
    - Ms. Zeni to provide letter to bring around for donations
    - Gift cards from stores and restaurants
    - Lunch prizes, treasure box, pizza lunch
- c. Inclement Weather Games Update
  - Last meeting was decided school would pay
  - Will revisit at next meeting
  - Not all teachers want bin, would rather spend money on additional game instead
- d. School Jerseys and Spirit Wear update – sales results
  - Will update at next meeting

- e. Movie Night
  - cancelled
- f. End of year BBQ
  - To be held week of June 3
  - Judy at “Main Event” entertainment center has been contacted
    - Animals
    - Sports games
    - Table top games
  - Suggestion to have more face painters – was popular but wait too long
  - Food – BBQ again or try something different?
    - Food trucks – have to pay rental fee or guarantee a minimum sales amount
    - Popcorn – instead of renting cart buy large bags of pre-popped popcorn to cut down on cost and time
  - Vendor Market – in gym
    - Rent tables for \$100
    - Parents on council or in community can participate

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## 11. New Business/Open Floor

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- Fundraising profit inquiry
  - Dominos pizza - \$110 profit
  - Beef patties – approx. \$150 profit for 1 day
    - New vendor – Patty World, closer and cheaper - \$171 profit for one day
- Need more parent volunteers
  - Send an email for parent volunteers for lunch distribution, only one parent doing most of the work right now
  - Teachers can ask parents at parent interviews
- Upcoming meetings
  - March 6 meeting cancelled
  - Move up April meeting – April 3
- Staffing inquiry
  - Mr. Leo’s departure
    - Went to a smaller school due to knee injury
    - Now have a new daytime custodian
  - Mr. O’Neill – why couldn’t he stay?
    - Ministry dictates how long retired teachers/principals can come back without it affecting their pension, extension was not granted
    - Ms. Davenport here until Ms. Zeni fully returns

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## 12. Adjournment

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2/8/2023 8:19 PM

Meeting adjourned – Motioned by Melissa Galluzzo; seconded by Miranda Loberto

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 3