

## St Basil CSC January Meeting Minutes

**Date:** January 24 2022

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Called to Order:** 6:34 p.m.

**In attendance:** Fil Lettieri, Stephanie MacWilliam, Jill Micomonaco, Linda Barone, Kirk Crosson, Susan Metzger, Sarena Gray, Melinda Boulard, Alison Address, Rachelle Foster, Jennifer Mihaliuk

**Prayer:** led by Linda

**Minutes:** of November 22 2021 meeting presented and adopted. No errors or omissions. Motion-Sarena 2<sup>nd</sup>-Alison

### **Principal's report:**

Fil informed the committee this is his last meeting. He has accepted the position of Superintendent. Corey Gardi will become the next principal of St Basil effective February 7 2022. Fil provided a bio of C. Gardi by way of introducing him to the CSC. Fil anticipates St Basil will be part of his new portfolio so he will retain connection with the St Basil community, both as a superintendent and a parent.

Jill asked about the continuation of the LIM program. Fil has spoken with Corey about LIM and it will remain as it is part of the very important culture of the school and Corey is eager to embrace LIM.

There continues to be much more reliance on the school messenger and the school app to communicate effectively with the school community. No January monthly calendar was sent because of the delayed start back to in-person learning. A February calendar will be sent next week.

Grade 8 grad photos and KP year 2 photos will be taken January 25 & 26.

Fil spoke with Steve Brown about the status of the school yard improvements, and Steve had some input about installing the new basketball nets on the wall. Steve could foresee too many balls ending up on the roof and will bring forward an alternative.

Phase 1 was delayed due to unavailability of the contractors and is expected to move forward in the summer.

Rink is open and in use. Snowshoes are also available and being enjoyed.

School vaccine clinic info [including a consent form for students aged 4-11]. Based on response received a clinic may be set up at St Basil. The vaccine is voluntary.

Fil outlined the changes to the Covid guidelines for schools. Staff has option to upgrade to N95 masks. Students have been provided with antigen new 3 ply cloth masks and 2 rapid tests. The tests are to be used at home when students are symptomatic. Tests are to be repeated after 48 hours and when 2 negative tests are received, and the isolation periods are over students and staff return to school. All siblings and other family members are required to isolate with symptomatic individuals regardless of vaccination status. It is hoped the government will be providing more rapid antigen tests.

There were some questions and clarification around the rapid antigen testing.

Other measures in the schools continue, including strict class co-horting, mask wearing, hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, no congregating for assemblies etc.

Management of cases has changed. There will no longer be classroom dismissals. Outbreaks will not be reported as before. An outbreak will be based on school wide absenteeism instead. 30% or greater of the school population absent will be the trigger for next steps decided by the public health unit. Absenteeism will be reported to the province daily.

No one in a school setting is regarded as a high-risk contact under the new guidelines. With no public health testing and no way to confirm positive tests, there is no longer any sharing of cases. Parents are discouraged from sharing results of rapid antigen tests with the school because nothing can be done with that information. The public health units have advised that the schools are to operate with the knowledge that Covid is present in the schools and to adhere to all measures of protection.

There is a transition time to virtual learning in early February and families may keep their children home for the time being if they choose.

With more absences of staff, other board employees [department and non-union] have been made available to replace absent teachers. Our school enrolment of approximately 528 students and 80 staff means about 158 individuals absent would reach 30%.

Jill spoke of parental concern for the well-being and feelings of the staff working under the new guidelines. The staff representatives expressed their gratitude for the acknowledgement of the staff burdens.

Prior to the Christmas break, a very successful Candy Cane Olympics was held. It was a great opportunity for participation within the school while still maintaining the co-horting.

During the delayed return to in-person there were a few students who met the board's criteria, in the school with some staff.

Chrome books were made available to students who were learning at home.

### **Vice Principal's report:**

Stephanie spoke about how the transition to in-person went this time. The school's Cash Online program was used to have parents request one Chromebook per student. This took pressure off the hard-working clerical staff. Well over 200 were distributed in the first couple of days this way. The majority have been returned already and in good condition. It is a time-consuming undertaking to re-wire all the carts for the computers and the staff stepped up to assist.

Some of the popular food-based fund raisers are returning. The cash online allows for easier reimbursement when needed. Pizza days, breakfast program, fruits and vegetables, and popcorn are some of the offerings for students.

### **Pro-Grant report:**

Jill had submitted the proposal, but it did not meet the desired criteria. The proposal has been re-worked with the addition of incorporating a rock garden feature that shows the diversity of our school community.

Pro Grant expects indication of the grant money being used to address racism, diversity, and parent involvement in supporting inclusion.

Jill will send a copy of the proposal to CSC while she waits on a response from Pro-Grant. In addition, Jill would like to incorporate some Indigenous elements to the set-up of the garden. Fil pointed out that our school has become much more diverse with students from many countries. Some discussion took place, and a suggestion was made to have flags to represent many countries made and hung in the school.

**Fund Raising report:**

Alison informed us that the book fair has provided a credit of \$263.48. Another book fair is planned for April 28 -May 10 to align with the Read-a-thon and education week. Alison will consult with the librarian to choose books with the credit available. Our librarian has been searching out some books in other languages to give our new English language learners a way to take out books along with their classmates.

The information for the Make It Sow fundraiser is expected soon. It will be done entirely online with families ordering direct. Alison will provide the link.

Flip-Give has ended, and Alison will set up a new Flip-Give account and share the information link. The cheque for the completed one will be sent to the school. It raised nearly \$500.00.

**Parish report:**

Jill gave a report on behalf of Connie Mazzuca. The parishes are having some difficulties maintaining their operating budgets with the 2 years of restrictions due to Covid. Any help from parishioners and families would be most welcome. We are connected to 4 different parishes. The churches are offering the preparations for sacraments, but Priests are not yet comfortable coming into the schools.

**Other business:**

Fil spoke of how successfully Alison has run the official St Basil Facebook page. There are many strict parameters, and it has continued to gain in popularity and use

Jill spoke of the need for some donations to the Community Closet used clothing resource. She has made up a bundle of extra clothing items for each class from kindergarten to grade 3 and will continue working to provide the same to the rest of the classrooms.

A parent has asked if there is a possibility of school cash online to offer an alternative of allowing the use of credit/debit. Fil responded that this is supported and being investigated with the board's financial officer.

The funds received through fund raisers are not to be used for anything that a school budget provides for. These funds are additional monies to benefit students. There are very firm guidelines around the use of raised monies. We have been using the money raised for school yard improvements and LIM program.

CSC voted to use monies raised for the school yard improvements.

The many challenges around having a pasta day offering were discussed. This possibility will be further investigated by Stephanie.

A gift from the CSC was presented to Fil in great appreciation of his time as our first St Basil elementary principal.

Fil took some time to recall these past 5 years.

**Motion to adjourn:** Susan and Linda

**Adjourned:** 8:13 p.m.

**Next meeting:** February 28

