



DANTE SCHOOL

Governing Board Minutes of Meeting #3

Thursday, November 13, 2014

PRESENT: James Fuoco, Lucy Beneventi, Lucy Preteroti, Alba Fiorino, Cynthia De Santis, Laura D'Arienzo, Carolina Del Papa, Chantal Dussault, Nina Tortorici, Lucy Preteroti, Maria Bilyj, Maria Santino, Giovanna Campoli, Josie Nardelli, Isabella Pasqualini, Maria Monaco, Angie Crispino, Pina Ippolito, Edith Cecilia Varga.

PRINCIPAL: Daniela Lattanzio

GUESTS: Patricia Lattanzio, Kevin Doyle

3.1 Public Question Period

- Ms. Patricia Lattanzio was elected as the new commissioner for St. Leonard and will be attending future Dante Governing Board meetings as commissioner when she is able.
- Mr. Kevin Doyle, the owner of Prestige Fundraising spoke about the products available to Dante School for fundraising. Among the products available are chocolates ranging from \$1-\$3. The chocolates are either the "World's Finest Chocolate" brand, "Cadbury" brand or "Nestlé" brand. The \$3 chocolates range in weight from 90g-100g. All the chocolates are peanut free. These chocolates earn a 50% return on the sales. Any unsold, undamaged chocolates can be returned at no cost.

Chocolates under the "World's Finest Chocolate" brand have the added advantage of having a free personalized color label with the school's logo added to chocolate's packaging. Furthermore, under the "World's Finest Chocolate" brand, a free Gourmet Chocolate Santa or Easter Bunny (depending on the season of fundraising) of 170g is available with every case of \$3 chocolate sold.

Other products available for fundraising include items such as jams, cookies and bags of popcorn. These products are not returnable if they are unsold.

There are prizes available that are based on a points system to encourage and reward students who raise an exceptional amount of funds with their sales.

3.2 Additions to the Agenda

- 3.12 Varia:
- Teacher's Parking
 - TCBY approval
 - update on spending of funds for Halloween
 - update on spending of funds for Open House
 - approval of field trips

- book sale and bake sale
- parent/teacher interviews

3.3 Approval of the Agenda

Motion to Accept: Chantal Dussault, seconded by Laura D'Arienzo, approved by all.

3.4 Approval of the Minutes from June 2nd, 2014

Motion to Accept: Alba Fiorino, seconded by Chantal Dussault, approved by all.

3.5 Approval of the Minutes from October 3rd, 2014

Ms. Lattazio's name will be placed under the separate heading of "Principal" under the "Present" members of the Governing Board in all future Minutes.

Motion to Accept: Giovanna Campoli, seconded by Carolina Del Papa, approved by all.

Items for Decision/Approval:

3.6 Clarification to Minutes

A clarification to the May 2014 and both June 2014 meeting Minutes is made for auditing purposes.

3.7 Chocolate Fundraiser Supplier

"World's Finest Chocolate" was chosen as the chocolate brand for fundraising. The varieties will be chosen in December.

Motion to Accept: Pina Ippolito, seconded by Laura D'Arienzo, approved by all.

3.8 Social Media (Facebook & Twitter) Promotion

Social Media was looked at as a way to positively promote and advertise Dante School for little to no cost. To be successful, Facebook and Twitter content would have to be managed daily by a moderator. The formation of a Social Media Committee consisting of 2 or 3 people who would take care of these matters was discussed. Cynthia De Santis and Carolina Del Papa volunteered to be a part of this committee.

3.9 Governing Board Addition (Daycare support staff)

Maria Santino is part of the Daycare staff (educator) and as such is a paid member of the support staff. After reading the Governing Board Manual and after consulting with Bridget Sellatto of the EMSB, the Governing Board agrees to include Maria Santino as a representative of the additional support staff on the Dante Governing Board.

Motion approved by all and passed.

3.10 Plan of Action for Enrollment

(Note: Items like these shall be placed under a new heading such as “Items for Discussion” on the next minutes as there was nothing to approve or vote upon regarding this topic.)

This was brought up as an item for discussion to explore various ways as to how we could increase and maintain student enrollment numbers at Dante School. Dante has been a Bilingual School since 2005. It was suggested that perhaps changing the school to an Immersion program would perhaps help to increase enrollment. A lively and heartfelt exchange of opinions and ideas were shared and discussed. It was suggested that we could have an online survey or a suggestion box that would give parents an opportunity to express their feelings and expectations of their school.

3.11 Information and Reports

- Principal:
- Thanksgiving Celebration - October 8th - Celebrations were lead by Mr. Vince, the spiritual animator. The daycare students provided a decoration that they worked together on for the event.
 - Halloween - October 31st - Was a very fun event that would not have been possible without the involvement of parents
 - Remembrance Day Ceremony - November 11th - Two Canadian Army soldiers and a bag pipe player attended the ceremony which involved the 3, 4, 5 and 6th grades. The daycare students and staff made gifts for the soldiers to take back with them. The bag pipe player visited the Kindergarten, grade 1 and 2 classes. The ceremony and activities were profoundly touching.
 - Ipads - These were ordered for the school early on and we are still awaiting the delivery of them.

- Teachers:
- Kindergarten: Halloween was lots of fun and had the children going from classroom to classroom playing games and doing great activities such as pumpkin carving. The work of the parent volunteers was really appreciated. Towards the end of the month of November, the children will be writing their letters to Santa and going to deliver them at the post office.

A breakfast with Santa is also being planned. The children are practicing for their Christmas Concert which will be held on December 9th and 10th.

- Cycle 1: No report.
- Cycle 2: “Daily 5” has been implemented.
- Cycle 3: Ski Trip plans are moving along. There are 26 students signed up to go. Report cards have been completed. A trip to Ottawa is being looked into as well as activities for Children’s Nights.

- Daycare:
- 2 workshops for professional development are in the works. “Play it Fair” a workshop for the children on the November 21st Ped Day will teach kids about fairness and basic human rights through play.

Regional
Delegate: There was an interactive meeting on Monday, November the 10th.
Objectives such as “what do we want to accomplish” were discussed. It was suggested that a list of items be compiled regarding this objective. Other topics included discussions on things such as the amount of homework assigned to students, the transition of grade 5 and 6 students to high school and the introduction of IB programs which focus on preventative measures to help kids stay out of trouble in the early years of high school.
An email from a parent suggested that a comparative chart be compiled comparing schools concerning things like school fees per grade level, workbook or agenda book fees to use as a tool to help cut costs, become more efficient and to share resources.
The EMSB will be holding their 14th annual Christmas Raffle.

PPO Delegate: No report.

3.12 Varia

-Teacher Parking:

The Governing Board will pay for the snow removal in the Teacher’s Parking lot.
The snow removal price will be for the parking only and not for the rest of the school grounds.
The exact cost will be given at the next meeting.

Motion to Accept: Alba Fiorino, seconded by Cynthia De Santis, approved by all.

-TCBY:

TCBY frozen yogurt will be sold as a PPO fundraiser once a month. The profit works out to \$1.40 per frozen yogurt sold. Deliveries will be made on Wednesdays and there will be parent volunteers to help distribute the frozen yogurt.

Motion to Accept: Josie Nardelli, seconded by Laura D’Arienzo, approved by all.

-Update on funds spent:

Halloween budget was for \$500.00.
\$402.50 was spent.

Open House budget was for \$2000.00
500 Color Brochures were printed as well as 2 banners.
\$1635.65 was spent.

-Approval of Field Trips:

A list of future field trips was reviewed for all grades from Kindergarten to Grade 6. Some are still in the planning stages. A field trip to the Centre de la Courge back on October 23rd for Cycle 2 students was cancelled due to weather. This will be rescheduled or replaced by another field trip opportunity.

Motion to Accept: Alba Fiorino, seconded by Maria Bilyj, approved by all.

-Book Sale and Bake Sale:

The annual Bake Sale will be taking place on November 19th & 20th.

The Book Sale will be taking place on November 18th, 19th and 20th.

Motion to Accept: Nina Tortorici, seconded by Lucy Beneventi, approved by all.

-Parent/Teacher Interviews:

Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on November 20th. Parents are to indicate the time for which they will be available for their appointment with the teacher.

3.13 Next Meeting & Adjournment

The next GB meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:15 PM.

It will also be the Christmas social. The potluck will begin at 6:30 PM.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Motion to Accept: Laura D'Arienzo, approved by all.

Principal

Chairperson
