



**St. Bernard Catholic School  
Parent School Council Meeting  
Minutes**

**Date:** October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
**Time:** 6:30pm – 8:30pm  
**Location:** Atrium, St. Bernard C.S., Whitby

Present	Regrets	Name	Role
X		Kathryn Hadden	Principal
X		Rodrigo Fernandez	Chair
	X	Andrea Keogan	Vice-Chair
	X	Sue Kanemy	Parish Representative
X		Anya Murphy	Financial Representative
X		Sonia Tipping-Edwards	Secretary
X		Krista MacNeil	Volunteer Coordinator
X		Amanda McGinnes	Teacher Representative
	X	Colleen Finn	Non-Teacher Representative
	X	Denise St. Marie	Parent Representative
X		Tanya Baglole	Parent Representative
	X	Janine D'Souza	Parent Representative
	X	Erin Groat	Parent Representative
	X	Stacey Morrison-Hadden	Parent Representative
	X	Christine Wood	Parent Representative
X		Claudia Nosseir-Deyong	Parent Representative

Agenda Item	Decision / Action Taken	Person(s) Responsible
1. Opening Prayer	Rodrigo welcomed those present and opened the meeting at 6:30pm with a prayer.  Thank you to Amanda McGinnes for the wonderful treats!!	Sonia will bring treats to the November meeting
2. Review and Approval of Minutes	Minutes from Sept meeting were sent electronically.  Minutes were approved	Sonia to bring copies of minutes to each meeting for review.



<p>3. STEAM Presentation</p>	<p>Ms. Gardin gave a presentation about STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts &amp; Mathematics) and requested council approve additional spending on the robotics program.</p> <p>Ms. Gardin spoke STEM vs STEAM and the importance of adding ART as it adds the beauty &amp; elegance.</p> <p>Ms. Gardin also advised that some people refer to it as STREAM.</p> <p>The 'R' sometimes refers to Religion – ethics / the moral questions that are raised.</p> <p>The 'R' is also used to refer to Reading – as there is a need to be literate to understand it all.</p> <p>Ms. Gardin emphasized that STEAM is the future and it is the focus of the school. She stated that there are millions of jobs that are not being filled in these disciplines because there are not any qualified candidates.</p> <p>Canada needs to invest in STEAM now in order to keep pace with the rest of the world. The United Kingdom and Australia are outpacing us. In the UK, coding is mandatory programming and Canada only has 2 provinces that has coding as mandatory in their curriculum.</p> <p>Companies such as google, Facebook, General Motors, TELUS...are sponsoring coding programs because they need the workforce. There are not enough kids graduating in this area.</p> <p>Coding is hard work but it promotes problem solving, higher level thinking, and collaboration.</p> <p>Ms. Gardin showcased the current STEAM resources the school has available for the children. She stated that she would like to purchase more so that they could have one robot at each station and have everyone in the class working on the same challenge. Ms. Gardin</p>	
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<p>STEAM Presentation</p> <p>continued...</p>	<p>emphasized that the children at St. Bernard's are so engaged with the robots!</p> <p>DASH – aka Bernard, was available to the primary students only last year. He is controlled remotely and advances with challenges. Recently, the students programmed him to go to the office. More investigation is needed to see what else he can do. St. Bernard currently has 1 DASH and would like to have 4-5, which would be one robot for 4-5 kids. DASH costs approx. \$120.</p> <p>SPHIRO – connects to an iPad. He can go in water and over jumps. This is the most expensive as he is almost indestructible and the possibilities are endless. They cost approx. \$189. Ms. Gardin stated that they have had difficulty connecting him to the iPad. The Tinker Trailer contact from Queen's University wasn't a fan of SPHIRO.</p> <p>OZO BOTS – these are popular for all ages. There is a legend and they follow a colour code to follow directions such as 'go right'. It is drag and drop programming. The Kindergarten children have a lot of fun with them and are able to program them to go in a line.</p> <p>LEGO ROBOTICS CLUB: In Grades 4-8 each teacher nominates 2 students. This is still in its infancy stages but there was a team last year and St. Bernard's team came in second in the Board wide competition. St. Bernard currently has access to 4 Lego robotics kits. They are approximately \$400/kit.</p> <p>MAKEY-MAKEY – the kids eyes light up when this is used. It plugs into a laptop and uses a conductor such as playdoh.</p> <p>All of the robotics are so engaging that the children forget that they're learning.</p>	
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<p>STEAM Presentation  continued...</p>	<p><b>CODING CLUB:</b> there is a coding club for children is Grade 6-8. Ms. Foran also helps out. They use a program through Google. There has not been an enthusiastic response. Currently, there are 12 students in the club and they meet on Thursdays at lunch. The programming is in Scratch. Google has step by step program and the tasks increase in difficulty. Unfortunately, many of the students don't want to follow a program they just want to DO. Ms. Gardin is looking for ways to promote the coding club and believes that it is about exposing the children to it. The school needs more resources so the teachers can sign out the robots and they are not waiting for Ms. Gardin to come to their classes. The teachers can learn how to use the robots at lunch &amp; learns. The hope is that next year there will be 30 kids in the CODING CLUB.</p> <p>Ms. Gardin showed a SPRITES demonstration which was done by a student. Ms. Gardin emphasized that more girls need to be coding. Only 18% of computer graduates are girls.</p> <p>Ms. Gardin then spoke about what opportunities the children will have to experience robotics and coding throughout the year with Whitby Library visit, and possible the Tinker Trailer from Queen's University.</p> <p>Rodrigo stated that he has resources in google and he will ask them if they could host a field trip or come to the school. Ms. Hadden stated that a school visit would be preferable as transportation costs are expensive for field trips.</p> <p>Coding seems overwhelming to the students until they see the products. Parents are an important resource and robots are a great gift for children. It's like hiding the veggies in the dessert! Even some of the kids are making recommendations to Ms. Gardin about what robot she should get! It is important that everyone has a basic understanding/knowledge –</p>	<p>Rodrigo will speak to his contacts at google re: school visit or field trip opportunities</p>
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<p>STEAM Presentation continued...</p>	<p>even if it is ‘not their thing’.</p> <p>Ms. Perron suggested that the school/Ms. Gardin could host an evening session to have parents come in and learn about robotics and coding.</p> <p>Ms. Gardin said that the library has a small collection of coding books. The books may encourage children to use the resources more, but learning is done by doing not by reading.</p>	<p>The February night is focused on STEAM. Should we revisit having a parent learning session as well? Perhaps in the early spring, keep STEAM in the forefront?</p>
<p>4. Christmas Market Presentation</p>	<p>Ms. Perron gave a presentation about the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Christmas Market on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 from 5-9pm. There are almost 30 vendors and now we need shoppers! Everyone is welcome, not just the school community.</p> <p>Ms. Perron reminded us of the importance of ‘A’ in STEAM – ART! Ms. Perron took us on a visually descriptive tour of what guests will expect when they arrive at the Christmas Market. The school will be transformed into the North Pole.</p> <p>The front door will be decorated and guests will know the real meaning of DECK THE HALLS.</p> <p>Santa will be in a throne in the Atrium and will be available to take photos with the children.</p> <p>The stage will be transformed into a hot dog stand with other snacks available.</p> <p>There will be a KIDS WORKSHOP – where the children can be dropped off so the adults can shop. While at the KIDS Workshop, the children will be entertained with crafts, movie and snacks.</p> <p>The gym will be transformed into the North Pole Town Square and this is where the vendors will be set up. Some of the vendors confirmed are: PartyLite, Sweet Cheeks Leggings, Nygard,</p>	



<p>Christmas Market Presentation</p> <p>continued...</p>	<p>Origami Owl, Scentsy, a photographer...</p> <p>Along REINDEER LANE guests will be able to purchase raffle tickets and caramel corn. The teachers, as part of their Outreach, will be donating a gift card wreath to be raffled.</p> <p>Mrs. Claus' Tea Room &amp; Coffee Bar will be in the library. It will be a place to rest and enjoy a beverage and snacks. The menu is still being developed but some ideas are sandwiches, squares &amp; chili.</p> <p>Ms. Perron reminded us to promote this to everyone. There will be advertising in the Church Bulletin &amp; in the local newspaper. There are signs outside the school. There is a Facebook page 'St. Bernard's Christmas Market' that can be shared.</p> <p>The Island of Misfit Toys is the white elephant sale that will be open to the children to purchase inexpensive gifts for their family. More donations are needed.</p>	<p>ALL – Promote the Christmas Market. EVERYONE IS WELCOME</p> <p>ALL – Donations are needed for the Island of Misfit Toys.</p>
<p>5. Principal's Report</p>	<p>Kathryn Hadden presented the Principal's Report.</p> <p>October has been a busy month.</p> <p><b>Cross Country</b> was on Tuesday October 3, 2017 and 78 students participated. This is the first 'team' that students in Grade 3 can go out for – everyone makes the team.</p> <p>The Grade 7 &amp; 8 co-ed <b>Flag Football</b> team had a lot of fun!</p> <p>The Grade 8's had their first visit to <b>Taunton Mills</b>.</p> <p>The school had their first <b>Rosary visit</b> and this will continue each month (it is the third Monday of each month).</p>	



<p>Principal's Report continued...</p>	<p>Grade 7 &amp; 8's had their first <b>health shots</b>.</p> <p>The Grades 1 &amp; 2 went to <b>Heber Downs</b>.</p> <p><b>Math &amp; Balanced Numeracy:</b> extends into the Junior Grades. From Grades 3-6 with the use of centers and stations. Using problem solving, it gives them number sense and numeration. They work on the Waterloo Problem of the Week.</p> <p><b>Mexican Visitors:</b> Ms. Hadden stated that it was confirmed on Oct 25/17 that the school would again have Mexican visitors this school year. The children's ages have not yet been confirmed but they are usually children in Grades 4-6. They will arrive after Family Day and stay until the March Break. It is a great opportunity for them to attend the STEAM night in February and experience the Tinker Trailer from Queen's if it comes.</p> <p><b>Buddy Bench:</b> Ms. Hadden has an upcoming meeting with a parent about their company purchasing a buddy bench for the school. More information to follow.</p> <p><b>Book Fair:</b> The book fair will be here November 8-10<sup>th</sup>. The hours each day will be from 8:30am to 1pm. On November 9<sup>th</sup>, the book fair will be open from 5pm to 8pm during Parent/Teacher Interviews.</p>	<p>Suggestion was to have Parent Council have a table set-up with some materials to promote the Parent Council and welcome new membership.</p>
<p>6. Fundraising Update</p>	<p><b>Fresh from the Farm Fundraiser:</b> raised \$1350. St. Bernard's will receive \$650 from this fundraiser.</p> <p><b>Laura Secord Chocolates fundraiser:</b> the school reached 100% of the goal! Ms. Hadden is still waiting for the final invoice, but she stated that the school raised at least \$10,000!!</p> <p>There are 7 cases of chocolates that couldn't be returned. They will be sold at the Christmas Market. A representative(s) from the Parent</p>	<p>A volunteer is needed to staff the table selling the remaining cases of Laura Secord chocolates.</p>



<p>Fundraising Update</p> <p>continued...</p>	<p>Council is needed to staff the table.</p> <p>Monday October 23<sup>rd</sup>, was the prize assembly. There were prizes for the Primary, Junior, and intermediates sellers. Some of the prizes were: Toys R Us gift card, stuffed animal, blue tooth speakers, earphones, book fair coupons, \$50 pre-paid visa cards, virtual reality glasses. The Major prize was a Segway and that was won by Jacob D. in Grade 5.</p>	
<p>7. Update on volunteers</p>	<p>Volunteers are able to sign up for activities by mailing Krista and/or by using the binder available at the office.</p> <p>Volunteers are still needed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kiss &amp; Ride</li> <li>• Lunch Delivery</li> <li>• Lunch Supervisors</li> <li>• Special Events</li> </ul> <p>This was communicated in the Parent Council Newsletter that was recently sent to all parents via email.</p> <p>Discussion took place about what the Parent Council could do to encourage more parents to attend. All agreed that the Newsletter that was recently sent was a good start. We discussed having high school students offer child minding during the Parent Council Meeting (or paying for a child minder during the meetings).</p>	<p>Krista will create a poster to be distributed in the children’s agendas.</p> <p>ALL – to reach out to responsible high school students to ask if any of them are interested in volunteering.</p> <p>Sonia has one male Grade 10 student confirmed. May be able to secure 1 more male grade 10 student and 2 female Grade 10 students from Sinclair.</p>
<p>8. Update on Parent &amp; Teacher Surveys</p>	<p>The Surveys are still in the works and should be ready for review at the next Meeting.</p>	<p>Andrea Keogan is developing the Surveys for parents and teachers</p>
<p>9. Budget &amp; Wish lists</p>	<p>The Parent Council Expenses was provided by Rodrigo. Copy attached.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Total Budget for 2017/21018: <b>\$21,050</b></p>	





Budget & Wish lists

continued...

<b>Expense</b>	<b>Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Approved / Amount</b>
Sacraments	\$1100	Approved \$1100
Grade 8 Graduation	\$1500	Approved \$1500
Dances	\$450	Approved \$450
Garden	\$100	Approved \$100
Freezie Day	\$100	Approved \$100
Team Transportation	\$500	Approved \$500
BBQ Start Up	\$250	Approved \$250
Family Night	\$200	Approved \$200
Misc.	\$100	Approved \$100
Health shots	\$75	Approved \$75
Race Against Drugs	\$100	Approved \$100
Scientist in the School	\$2500	Approved \$2500
Principal Fund	\$500	Approved \$500
Library Resources	\$1000	Approved \$1000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,475.00</b>	<b>\$8475.00</b>

**WISH LIST:**

<b>Expense</b>	<b>Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Approved / Amount</b>
Taunton Mills	\$400	Approved \$400
Robotics	\$1500	Approved \$2500
Author Visit	\$350	Approved



Budget & Wish lists  continued...			\$350	
	Sports Jerseys	\$500	Approved \$500	
	Games for BBQ	\$500 – 1000	Approved \$1000	
	Kindergarten Yard	\$500	Approved \$500	
	Bus for School Mass	\$500	Approved \$500	
	Recess Equipment	\$1000	Approved \$1000	
	Teacher / Classroom	\$100/teacher 15 teachers	Approved \$1500	
	Speakers for classroom use	\$500	Approved \$500	
	Ms. Perron – Art Supplies	\$250	Approved \$250	
	iPad & OSMO	\$500	Approved \$500	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,500.00</b>	<b>\$9,500.00</b>	
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES: 17,975.00</b>			
10. Hallowe'en Dance	<p>All of the rentals are set to go. Glow sticks and necklaces will be purchased to give one to each student. Ms. Hadden suggested to buy for 300 students.</p> <p>The children are able to come to school in costume. Ms. Hadden stated that costumes must be culturally sensitive.</p> <p>Ms. Hadden provided an article by Christine Way Skinner titled "Halloween Reminds Us of Central Christian Messages". Copy attached.</p>			
11. Closing Prayer / Dismissal	Rodrigo closed the meeting with a prayer at approximately 8:30pm.			

**Next Meeting:**

November 26, 2017 @ 6:30pm  
The Atrium  
St. Bernard Catholic School, 1000 Dryden Blvd., Whitby