



**STS. COSMAS & DAMIAN
CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

111 Danesbury Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M6B 3L3
Tel: 416-393-5398 • Fax: 416-393-5190



**CSAC – Meeting Minutes
February 27th, 2008
7:00 – 8:30 p.m.**

Present – Donna Bonanno, Rose Polifroni-Ficara, Lina Adamo Nocera, E. Salerno-Scarcelli, Christina DellaPia, Nick Arrigo, L. Manocchio, Lina Sconza, Eva D'Andrea, Joe Pisani, Ms. Bernardi, Margherita Esposito-Perrella, Sabrina Aversa-Ginevra, Silvana Casa, and Tony Dias.

Absent –Domenic Fragale, Linda Silva, Lisa Demaria, Domenic Scali.

Treasurer's Report – 2007-08 School Year Budget was reviewed, and reconciliation of CSAC account presented. Balance as of February 26, 2008 was \$13, 660.47, but many of the allocated 2007-08 budget expenses had not been incurred (e.g. graduation Gr.8 & SK, etc). If CSAC fundraising letter is not successful, the CSAC account will be left with approximately a few thousand dollars.

Principal's Report – Ms. Bernardi provided an update of on-going and upcoming events at Sts. Cosmas & Damian, it included:

- Walk of Art
 - Took place Feb 7th, 2008 and it was very successful.
 - School had a party atmosphere and students were very proud.
 - Receipts have not been tallied.
- Safe Schools Act – TCDSB Director Kevin Kobus wrote a letter which has been shared with parents. TCDSB has a code of conduct, and Sts. C&D will edit the present code of conduct to be in line with that of our board. Ms. Bernardi will develop the school's code of conduct by end of April, with CSAC to provide input.
- Eco School certification is near. Last week of February was energy conservation week. Certification elements include: Tree planting (2006-07); recycling; energy conservation. Ms. Bernardi will meet with landscape designer to do front of school and protect existing trees. TCDSB does have some funding available (donated by outside agencies) which Ms. Bernardi will apply for on behalf of Sts. C&D.
- Reptilia presentations took place week of Feb 18, 2008. Wining classes were the JK/SK and Grades 7 & 8.
- February is Black History Month – Sts. C&D has a related morning activity (bingo bios) with prizes
- Grade 4 classes will an opportunity to take part in swimming classes at McCormick Swimming Pool (Dundas & Dufferin/Landsdowne area)
- Week of Feb 25th, 2008 is Carnaval Week.



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- February is time for each school to do its enrolment projections for the 2008-09 school year.
 - Sts. C&D will have approx. 40 Gr.8 exiting; and to date 13 JK registrations
 - Advertising for JK registration has been done
- Lunch time supervision – 1 of 2 lunchtime supervisors is leaving for 6 weeks; referrals are accepted to find an emergency backup supervisor
- Sports Teams Update
 - Volleyball tournaments have taken place.
 - Toronto Police has also played against Sts. C&D – we “won”
 - Basketball tournament has taken place
 - Toronto Police to play Sts. C&D team in the future
 - **W5H participated in tournament**
- Ballroom Dancing – Sts. C&D is 1 of 3 TCDSB schools that are taking part in this initiative.
 - Sts. C&D will be picked for next round of TCDSB competition.
- Principal report back on Toronto Parks and Recreation After-School Program: Possibility at Sts. C&D
 - Participation Requirements: Gym availability from Monday to Friday
 - Supervision is done by TO Parks & Rec staff
 - DECISION: Ms. Bernardi declined due to the following reasons:
 - A) Use of gym would interfere with sports teams that use school gym after school. TO Parks & Rec needed the gym after 5pm, and often school teams practice past 5pm
 - Other times for school team practices were an option; yet Ms. Bernardi could not tell teachers and volunteers with school teams when to volunteer their time
 - B) Ms. Bernardi did not want to compromise the existence of Sts. C&D’s teams. The principal asked TO Parks & Rec if the school could participate part-time, but a five day commitment was required
 - **C) Some concerns re: age of the TO Parks & Rec staff that would supervise these programs**
- Grade 8 students are in the process of receiving a response to their High School selection; all are hoping to get their first choice.
- Exchange of information with TCDSB High Schools
 - Dante Alighieri & M. McLuhan will be at Sts. C&D this week
- Me to We Group: donation from skate night & Valentine’s candygrams
- **Police presentations have taken place in each homeroom**
- Skate night happened on Monday – after multiple cancellations due to the weather. We had a good turnout, but not as good as last year.



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Sub-Committees – The following were discussed and/or agreed to:

- *Fundraising* – CSAC Fundraising letter and request (\$50 fee)
 - as per Treasure's report, CSAC has approximately \$13,600 in the account, and expenses of approximately \$12,000 outstanding.
 - CSAC decided and agreed to attempt to fundraise through a single per student contribution, as opposed to using many other events – which end up costing families more (60%-70% fundraising cost is associated with activities used in the past).
 - October meeting – CSAC did not make a decision
 - November meeting – CSAC agreed to send a letter and collect feedback from parents: no negative feedback received
 - December – CSAC agreed to send letter in early 2008 (after Christmas bills were paid)
 - Yes, it is February – but CSAC did make this decision and if no money is collected we will have a couple of thousand dollars at best.
 - Suggestion that in letter CSAC outline what items it funds with the funds raised (Ms. Bernardi)
 - Suggestion that in letter it is clear that parents with a donation of \$25 or more will get a tax receipt
 - Suggestion that the activities funded and their cost be clearly outlined in the letter; and that the funds collected this Spring (2008) would be for the 2008-09 school year
 - Suggestion – that the 2008-09 school year fundraising letter be sent in mid-late October 2008
 - FINAL DECISION: Fundraising letter will be sent on February 28, 2008.
 - Collection dates: March 17th, 2008 and April 14th, 2008
 - Donna Bonanno will help with collection envelopes.
- *Safe Schools*
 - Gate closures during school hours
 - TCDSB Superintendent has changed. Thus, Ms. Bernardi has sent all information to returning Superintendent.
 - Attendees reviewed previous arguments
 - Margaret Esposito-Perrella has a letter that outlines the reasons why the gates should be closed, and wanted to get parents to sign off on this letter. A copy of the letter to be sent to the principal
 - CSAC members support and agree with content of the letter, and Margaret's intent to obtain parent signatures.
 - Some parents may not agree that gates ought to be closed during school hours.



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- Report that there is a need for a “shoe mat / rug” to be placed in classrooms so that students can place wet / snowy shoes
 - This would be used in the 2008-09 school year
 - Rose-P.Ficara to look into price of these mats/rugs

- *Social/Spiritual Sub-Committee*
 - Communion/Confirmation
 - Donna B. & Lina Sconza to look into this over the next few weeks
 - **Janice to join this sub-committee**
 - Annual BBQ to be held on June 11th, 2008

Next Meetings –April 16th and May 28th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.