



DANTE SCHOOL

Minutes

Governing Board Meeting

DATE: Thursday April 11th 2023

START TIME: 6:51 PM

PLACE: Virtual

PRESENT: Sue Iasenzaniro, Carme D'Iglio, Joe Schembri, Cindy Knafo, Fiorenzo Vetrone, Maria Maiorano-Drudi, Marianna Nudo, Andy Lee, Pina Ippolito, Antonio Zaruso, Patrick Marcovecchio, Josie Nardelli, Sirmatena Chasiotis, Johnny Piazza (Le Doral catering)

REGRETS: Kyle Stanley, Chantale Dussault, Mario Pietrangelo (EMSB Commissioner)

PRINCIPAL: Giuseppe Schembri

1. Opening & Welcome

- Start at 6:51 PM
- Johnny Piazza from Le Doral, arrived at the beginning of the meeting.

2. Approval of Agenda

- Miss Maria Maiotano-Drudi approves, Miss Pina Ippolito seconds for the approval of the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

- Miss Josie Nardelli approves, Andy Lee seconds for the approval of the minutes.

4. Business Arising

- Lunch deficit, status quo.

5. New Business

5.1 Johnny Piazza from Le Doral informs of us of a 3 point change to the menu

- 1 -Price increase as of September 2023 of 0.25 cents per meal for the next two years. This increase should be in effect for the next two years. Johnny was also adamant about using quality food products to maintain a high level of food quality. The new revised cost will be \$6.75 for the next two years.
- 2 -Government mandate banning the use of single use plastics is in effect as of April 23, 2023, he will be permitted to deplete his current inventory of plastic cutlery, and will also supply the cutlery to the schools on a need basis.
- 3 -Introduction of Vegan, Halal, and Lactose free Menu options will also be made available to all schools as these options offer a more inclusive choice for all students.
- Portion size will be reflective of what is considered to be a senior sized offering. Le Doral has also been certified within the French school board.
- A Motion to continue with Le Doral for another year was moved by Miss Josie Nardelli, and seconded by Cindy Knafo.

5.2 Monthly Fundraiser - TCBY

- The deadline to register is Friday April 14, 2023.
- The dates for the TCBY offerings are April 19, & 26, May 10 & 24, and June 7, 2023.
- Cost of TCBY is \$1.90 (our cost), sells for \$3.00.

5.2 Next Fundraiser

- Cookie fundraiser from Felix & Norton Cookie Dough
- Felix & Norton: \$6.50 per bag (our cost), 20 cookie ball doughs per bag, \$12.00 per bag (sell price).
- Sales options \$12.00/bag or \$20.00/ 2 bags. (Peanut Free)
- Minimum sale price to protect the vendor is \$10.00 per bag to the school community (parents)
- Of the three available flavors The two chosen flavors of cookie dough selected by the GB were “Bling Bling” (a sea salt caramel), and “Love” (Chocolate chunk chips). “Menage a trois” was the unsuccessful candidate.
- A memo will be sent out the week of April 17-21 to purchase the cookies with a deadline for purchase set for May 1, 2023.
- Orders will be available for pick up May 11, 2023.
- The motion was moved by Antonio Zaruso, and seconded by Fiorenzo Vetrone.
- Pizza Fundraiser by Vincent was successful.
- A total of 120 boxes were sold for a profit of around \$739.00
- The initial Pizza fundraiser sold 182 boxes for a profit of \$1,322 .00
- Patrick Marcovecchio suggested in the possibility of looking at different offerings for the pizzas a pre-made frozen option?

5.3 Trophee/Nomination Board

- Cindy Knafo suggested that the area either be kept relevant and up to date, or simply remove it, as it is an eye sore.
- Principal G. Schembri did make a mention that the said area was being currently reviewed and will be updated with some positive recent events within the Dante Community.
- Special mention with a shout out to our Chess teams.
- It was also mentioned that these highlights and noteworthy mentions are picked up

through Instagram and Facebook, and is a likely reason why our school doesn't receive any mention. We should find a way to increase our presence on these platforms and increase our visibility, within the EMSB community.

- Especially since we are having Plaques and awards being handed out to our kids from a Chess tournament, and a Science Fair.

5.4 French Book Fair

- Miss Josie Nardelli made mention that the French Book Fair was successful and managed around \$3000.00 in sales with a net of \$800.00, whereby the teachers were afforded a sum of \$500.00 to update their inventory, and still have an additional \$300.00 in reserve.
- Many comments from the GB members at the meeting were that the books on sale were seemingly expensive. This was explained likely due to the low sales for these particular books, however the prices did have a reasonable price point and range to them, depending on which books were being purchased.
- Sue did mention at this point in the discussion, that the original Dress Down Day for Autism will be moved to this upcoming Friday April 14, 2023.

5.5 End of Year BBQ

- This would be a welcome repeat event as brought forward by all GB members.
- The main discussion revolved around the number of participants which exceeded all expectations last year, and created some tense moments due to long line ups for food delivery.
- It was discussed and most GB members agreed that that several different food stations/suppliers/trucks or distribution areas be scattered throughout the school yard to avoid the unwanted infernal lineup.
- Many GB members also agreed that this end of year BBQ be more about making it a social event rather than a profit making one, with the focus on family and more on socialization and interaction.
- The school children of Dante have a free pass to this one, and the parent's costs will be determined on what and how we decide to proceed in terms of food, vendors, and entertainment.
- Miss Marianne Nudo did bring up a great point whereby Simplicity is Best, with the focus being more on a family fashioned affair.
- It was also mentioned that sometimes too many vendors or food choices may just acerbate the whole end of year BBQ event.
- A more simplistic approach should be sought out.
- A proposed date would be June 13, 2023 motioned by Andy Lee and seconded by Fiorenzo Vetrone.

6. Information and Reports

6.1. Principal

- Renovations are planned for the school, maintenance people have visited the school measuring walls within the school either for painting or what not.
- Unfortunately Principal G. Schembri is not being made aware of any upcoming work or not, unfortunately there is a lack of transparency towards Mr G.Schembri and the potential renovations to come.
- The HALO race is on once again the date is set for the May 11, 2023.
- The grade 5 and 6 students will participate, as well as some carefully selected top athletic children from other grades as well. These children will be selected by Mr. Ryan.
- The associated costs to this event will be covered and made available through Fund 6.

6.2 Teachers

- Miss Drudi did mention that from April 24-27 will be reading focused with the theme I Love to Read in Both English & French.
- Miss Marianne also mentioned how the Yoga inspired session along with the instructor helped create a sense of well being, and mind fullness.
- Miss Marianne was also praising the benefits of this 30 minute session, and how it helped in creating better bonds between the children, a sense of empathy, respect, politeness, and proper manners.
- Another session is due to be held around Earth Day.
- The Spring Concert is back and will likely take place this May 30, 2023.
- Two showings will be presented so as to avoid an overcrowded gymnasium, there will be an AM showing and a PM showing.
- The costs will all be determined once all equipment rentals have been finalized.

6.3 Daycare

- Sirmatenia Chasiotis has mentioned that she would like to have an outing on April 28, 2023 for an outing at the Atrium indoor skating facility.
- The event is dependent on whether or not bus transportation can be secured.
- The motion was moved by Antonio Zaruso, and seconded by Andy Lee.

6.4 PC Delegate

- Antonio Zaruso mentioned that the last EMSBPC meeting involved continued discussions around Bill 96.
- Topic discussed was Bill 96 and its impact.
- EMSB Parents Committee also had intense discussions on fund raising and how to avoid any complications

6.5. PPO

- Nothing to add.

6.6 Commissioner

- Nothing to add (as he was not present).

7. Varia

- Miss Carme D'Iglio brought to the GB's attention that the gate to the parking lot vis a vis the containers, has a broken wheel, and when would the repair likely be forthcoming to maintain some form of security within our parking lot.

Next meeting, May 10, 2023. This will be an in person affair.

Fiorenzo Vetrone also suggested that if another meeting was required to finalize some end of year costs another meeting should certainly be scheduled.

Motion to adjourn: Miss Josie Nardelli, and seconded by Fiorenzo Vetrone

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.