

St Brigid CSPC Year End Chair's Report - 2018-2019

**This report provides information to the St. Brigid community on CSPC-related activities. It is an expanded/updated version of the annual report submitted to the TCDSB in June, 2019.

The purpose of all parent councils in Ontario is to improve student achievement and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. Our CSPC works to achieve this by:

- **Holding regular meetings and receiving updates from our administration, teachers and non-teaching staff.** In the 2018-2019 year we held 7 regular meetings in addition to a number of other meetings held about specific initiatives at the school.
- **Ensuring that parents are informed of matters of importance to our school, and seeking input on matters under our consideration.** In the 2018-2019 year we worked to achieve this by holding CSPC meetings to which all parents were invited, posting minutes, financial reports and other information on our website, sending emails or confirming that messages would be sent by the school's administration, and setting up a few surveys seeking parent input on matters such as where to direct funds raised in 2018-2019. We also held poster campaigns and set up a table at curriculum and parent interview nights, informing parents about an all candidates meeting of trustees before the 2018 municipal election, as well as a reminder to vote in an International Languages program survey held by the Board in November, 2018.
- **Arranging special meetings and reporting to the School Board when needed.** In the 2018-2019 school year we arranged for our trustee, Angela Kennedy, to meet with parents and answer questions regarding changes to the International Languages program delivery at our school.
- **Working towards improving family connections to the school.** To achieve this our volunteers arranged several community engagement events this year. These were done with approval of/in conjunction with school administration and are listed later in this report. We also arranged for free babysitting for those interested in attending CSPC meetings.
- **Working to provide enhanced learning experiences for all students at the school.** We are lucky to have a very generous parent community at our school. In order to provide educational extras such as those listed later in this report, we engaged in several fundraising initiatives this year. The following sections contain a summary of fundraising done and initiatives/activities the money was spent on, and more information can be found in the treasurer's report. We believe that raising funds to cover the cost of these items/activities is an equitable way to provide extra learning opportunities for all of our students.

CSPC Structure

This year's CSPC was structured as follows: 2 co-chairs (Helen Dunn and Cheryl Devine); 1 vice chair (Diana Gonzales); 2 co-treasurers (Mike Brannon and Clifton Corbin); 1 communications rep (Jen Clarke); 1 church liaison (Kristen Hawkeswood); 2 OAPCE reps

(Patricia Lagan and Margharita Atterasio); 1 special education rep (Eileen Pipher); 4 special events reps (Kristen Hawkeswood, Germana Nunes, Ann Poochareon, Richard Payne); 1 secretary (Rosanna O'Higgins); 1 web admin (Agueda Gallego); 1 grant writer (Danielle Pollington). Many other volunteers that are not listed above also helped with the events and fundraising efforts listed in this report, or donated items to these efforts.

Fundraising/Income

The 2018-19 school year was another successful fundraising year. We added an occasional sub day to the pizza lunch rotation, and had another successful Fun Fair (with the weather mostly cooperating). A summary of net income from fundraising initiatives this year is shown below.

Item	Net Income (after expenses)
Pizza & Sub lunch	\$19 983.98*
Halloween "just ask" fundraiser	\$11 310.63
Fun Fair	\$6,313.77, plus \$930 expected from RBC**
QSP, Spirit Wear	\$129.59
Agendas	-\$1032.21 (agendas are subsidized by CSPC)

*2 weeks of pizza profits reported here were allocated to staff appreciation luncheon and gifts for retiring staff, with any remaining money going towards educational expenses. **Fun Fair profits reported here have been earmarked for playground improvements.

We also raised separate funds to cover the Staff Appreciation luncheon, and received \$500 in funds from the Ministry of Education, to be spent to promote parent involvement. A successful proposal for Parents Reaching Out grant from the Ministry of Education netted a further \$1000, which was used to help cover the cost of an internet safety presentation as well as a family STEAM night at the school.

School Events/Items

A large portion of the fundraising raised by CSPC goes to support items requested by staff annually. This includes buses for field trips, science speakers, theatre productions, and additional supplies not provided by the TCDSB (e.g. decorations, supplies for art or STEAM projects). Other funds are used for the students, in consultation with Administration and Staff (eg., babysitting course, Halloween dance, Family STEAM night, etc.). Below is a list of all items supported by CSPC during the 2018-19 school year. We try as much as possible to ensure an even distribution of funds.

Event/Items	Amount	Comment
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Agendas	\$2,967.96	Subsidized by CSPC
Scientists in school/Mad Science	\$2,784.22 (Approx. \$3000 more pending from 2018-2019)	1/class
Buses for field trips & TTC tickets	\$8,835	1 bus/class and tokens for all parents going on field trips
Teacher allotment (for extras in the classroom): \$100 per teacher	\$2,469.73, plus ~\$400 uncashed cheques	\$100 per teacher
Theatre	\$950	
Grade 8 grad & ballroom dancing lessons	\$2,396.27	
Forest of Reading books	\$1,984.25	
Mr. Moulds Skating Day	\$	New Request
Kindergarten Social/Welcome to Kindergarten	\$67.19	Welcome to kindergarten & kindergarten social
Athletics (curling, swim, equipment)	\$463.30	
End of year awards	\$42.04	

Additionally,

- \$254.57 on bank fees and new cheques
- \$587 was spent on the MunchaLunch and Parent Interview application use.
- \$959.37 on the Halloween dance
- \$1,020.21 on Staff Appreciation lunch (2 weeks of pizza profits were allocated)
- \$1437.57 on the Parent/Child Internet safety series & Family STEAM night (funding provided through the PIC and PRO grants)

Funding for some requests from the 2018-19 school year have been approved, however not yet invoiced. These include:

- Artist in the school
- Gym equipment
- Kindergarten light table
- Kindergarten social
- Mr. Mould's skating day

- Sensory hallway items

Details can be found in the Year End Treasurer's report.

Two larger-scale projects/sub-committees where we expect to spend funds over the next few years are a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) initiative and a playground renewal project. All profits from this year's Fun Fair were allocated to the latter of these two initiatives. Both initiatives were undertaken based on results from a survey sent to the parent community. The two projects will nicely compliment each other as we head into planning for our 100th year celebration.

Events Hosted for Parents/families/teachers

Over the course of the 2018-2019 year several events were hosted by CSPC to encourage parent engagement, provide learning opportunities and celebrate our amazing community. These included:

- CSPC meetings (7, plus AGM, throughout the year)
- 2nd annual Community ping pong night
- Halloween dance
- Parenting speaker, Paul Davis, "Cyber & Social Media Safety"
- Family STEAM night
- Welcome to Kindergarten CSPC info table
- Arranging St Brigid spiritwear
- Staff luncheon
- Fun Fair

Feedback from all of the above events was overall very positive. Running any of these again would require enough volunteers and this should be considered in advance of any scheduling.

Summary and Recommendations for the 2019-2020 CSPC

The 2018-19 school year was eventful and saw the start of two large projects. We expect both the STEAM and Playground Improvement committees will start to gain traction and bring exciting new change to our school. If possible, we recommend that a review of CSPC bylaws be undertaken this year, to ensure that they are up to date and meet the needs of our community. We also think compiling a list of parent experts at our school could be useful both for teachers and for parent volunteers looking to organize initiatives such as an art night, playground improvement planning, or grant writing and submission. The recent introduction of French Immersion and confirmation of interest in our International Languages program may also warrant the creation of a languages rep position or subcommittee and this possibility/what this role would involve should be considered.