



ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2022 MINUTES

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Land Acknowledgement - David Forte
2. Opening Prayer - David Forte
3. Roll Call -

<u>Staff & Community Representatives:</u>	<u>Parent Representatives:</u>
David Forte (Principal)	Lisa Milan (Chair)
Lauren Swindley (Teaching staff member)	Marnie Odell (Co-Chair)
Elizabeth Bennie (Teaching staff member)	Meaghan Anderson
Valerie Volpini (Non-teaching staff member)	Sara Chirico
Andrew Natale (St. Joseph Parish representative)	Lynn Dudok
Jennifer Durling (Public Health nurse)	Mary Glavac
	Shirley Kantartzis
	Joanne Millar
	Breeann Staibano
	Mariam Vieira
	Hayley Coruzzi

Those who have expressed their regrets - Elizabeth Bennie, Valerie Volpini, Andrew Natale, Lisa Milan, Mary Glavac, Lynn Dudok, Shirley Kantartzis, Joanne Millar, Mariam Vieira

4. Approval of the Agenda - Marnie Odell
5. Disclosure of Interest - N/A

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. **Andrew Natale** - *St. Joseph Parish Representative*
 - St. Joseph Christmas Mass Schedule.
 - Christmas events and activities at St. Joseph Parish.
 - Sacramental preparations update.
2. **Jennifer Durling** - *Public Health Nurse*
 - ✓ Jennifer continues to serve as a contact person for matters pertaining to the health and well-being of our students and community members.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Nil.

D. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- 1) **Catholic School Council Fundraising Financial Report** - Mr. Forte shared the Catholic School Council Financial Report as of 28/11/2022.
- 2) **[St. John Catholic School Google Website](#)** - The site continues to be a readily accessible tool containing information pertaining to the school.
- 3) **Bus Pick-Up/Drop-Off Sidewalk Barrier Fence** - The school continues to work with the Board's Facilities Services Department to have a barrier fence installed between the sidewalk and ditch as an added safety measure.
- 4) **St. John Spiritwear** - Spiritwear continues to be sold through Maddalena Uniforms. All orders are made and submitted online via the Maddalena Uniforms website. Orders will continue to be distributed to students at the school, as long as it is safe to do so.
- 5) **Orange Shirt Day (Every Child Matters)** - On September 30, staff, students, and community members at St. John Catholic School were encouraged to wear the colour orange (in any capacity) as a visible symbol in honour and recognition the harm done to generations of Indigenous children and their families through the Residential School System.
- 6) **Equity & Diversity Monthly Book Features** - The school is allocating a portion of its budget for the purchase of additional library books that centre on celebrating equity and diversity. Each month, a collection of book features will be highlighted during staff meetings.
- 7) **Advent Food Drive** - Our Advent Food Drive for the ***Grimsby Benevolent Fund*** will run from ***December 5 - 16***. We encourage students to bring in non-perishable items to support the cause.
- 8) **School Lunch Days** - The school continues to work with *Subway*, *Pita Pit*, and *Little Caesars* to provide school lunch days to students. Lunch days continue to be scheduled on a monthly basis in an effort to avoid unforeseen conflicts that could occur.
- 9) **Joy Day at St. John** - On November 24, students and staff at St. John engaged in school decorating activities in anticipation of the Advent and Christmas Seasons.
- 10) **Advent Family Mass** - Our Advent Family Mass is scheduled to take place on ***Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 pm*** at ***St. Joseph Catholic Parish***.
- 11) **Christmas Activities at St. John** - At St. John, all students and staff are invited to come to school on the last day of classes prior to the Christmas Break dressed in Christmas and/or Advent colours (*red, green, white, purple, & pink*). Students will participate in Christmas activities.
- 12) **My Life Online** - The school is working with 'My Life Online' to organize a presentation for the parent community later this school year.
- 13) **Cold Weather** - Parents are reminded to ensure that their children are dressed appropriately for the weather.
- 14) **Holy Childhood Walk** - On ***Friday, October 14***, students and staff at St. John Catholic Elementary School participated in the annual Holy Childhood Walk in support of the ***Holy Childhood Association***.

- 15) **Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund** - On **Friday, November 11**, students and staff at St. John Catholic Elementary School participated in a Remembrance Day celebration and received poppies to wear from the **Royal Canadian Legion**.
- 16) **#ProjectPlaid** - On **Thursday, November 24**, students and staff at St. John Catholic Elementary School participated in the #ProjectPlaid campaign to raise funds to support mental health programs at Pathstone.
- 17) **School Fundraising:**
 - ✓ **Big Box of Cards (Fall/Winter)** - The school raised money for general school funds to be put towards the purchase of additional technology and other materials to support student learning and engagement.
 - ✓ **M&M School Shop Day Fundraiser** - M&M Food Market (36 Main Street East, Grimsby), will be holding a School Shop Day specifically for St. John on **Friday, December 2 from 10:00 am - 8:00 pm**. During this time period, **10% of all purchases made by supporting customers will go directly to the school**.
 - ✓ **Dance-a-Thons** - The school is planning to run Dance-a-Thon fundraisers for Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. Families will be invited to make a small donation through 'SchoolCash' Online to support each fundraiser.

E. OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1) **Niagara Catholic Back-to-School Information Page** - Families continue to be encouraged to visit the site and read through the information.
- 2) **Masking** - In keeping with the guidance provided by the Ministry of Education and Chief Medical Officers of Health, masks are encouraged but remain optional for students and staff.
- 3) **Students Demonstrating Symptoms of Illness** - Parents and guardians of ill children continue to be encouraged to follow the most current guidelines provided by Niagara Public Health.
- 4) **Practice Fire & Lockdown Drills:**
 - ✓ **Fire drills** - Fire drills are to be conducted at a minimum of six times throughout the duration of the school year (three per term), all at various times of the day. St. John has completed three of its six required fire drills this year.
 - ✓ **Lockdown drills** - Lockdown drills are to be conducted at a minimum of two times throughout the duration of the school year (two per term). St. John has completed one of its two required fire drills this year.
- 5) **Kiss n' Ride Drop-Off** - In an effort to keep our students and staff members safe, families are reminded that when using the Kiss n' Ride drop-off, drivers are asked to please **remain in their vehicle** and have child(ren) exit the vehicle directly onto the sidewalk when it is safe to do so.
- 6) **Kiss n' Ride Pick-Up** - To reduce congestion in the Kiss n' Ride line and along King Street, Kiss n' Ride students will be dismissed from their classrooms at **3:15 pm**.

- 7) **Park & Pick-Up/Drop-Off** - Families of children in car seats who need park their vehicles and walk their children to the school sidewalk are asked to please be mindful of oncoming traffic, which includes busses and Kiss n' Ride vehicles. For their own safety, families are reminded of the importance of utilizing designated walkways to access the sidewalks.
- 8) **Visitors to the School** - School visitors will continue to be restricted out of an abundance of care and consideration for the health, safety, and privacy of students and school staff.
- 9) **Niagara Catholic Virtual Learning Environment (NCVLE)** - The NCVLE continues to serve as the standard virtual platform for all classes throughout the Niagara Catholic District School Board.
- 10) **Student Absences & Late Arrivals** - It is essential that all student absences and late arrivals are called into the Safe Arrival Program by **8:30 am** via phone (1-844-287-6287), website or app.
- 11) **'SchoolMessenger'** - The school will continue to use the 'SchoolMessenger' platform to update the parent community with essential information pertaining to the school.
- 12) **'SchoolCash' Online** - The use of this platform to make payments for school related expenses is highly encouraged.
- 13) **Parish News:**
 - ✓ **Advent School Mass** - Our Advent School Mass is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday, December 13 at 10:00 am** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.
 - ✓ **Advent Family Mass** - Our Advent Family Mass is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30 pm** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.
 - ✓ **Confirmation** - Students in Grade 8 who are Roman Catholic will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Tuesday, March 28 at 7:00 pm** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.
 - ✓ **First Communion** - Students in Grade 2 and other grades who are Roman Catholic will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist on **Sunday, April 30 at 3:00 pm** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.
- 14) **On-going School Initiatives:**
 - ✓ Consideration of planting trees to provide a shade canopy near outdoor classroom.
 - ✓ Continue to develop technological resources in the school with a goal of one Chromebook for every one student in Grades 1 through 8.

F. Chairperson Report:

- 1) **Lisa Milan** - N/A

G. Review of Key Dates and Dates of Interest:

- ✓ Catholic School Council meetings will take place four times per year and will be held in-person in the school's Library Information Centre. If the Ontario Government decides that it is no longer safe to gather in-person, then meetings will be held virtually.

- ✓ *Meeting Dates (tentative):*

- 1) Tuesday, September 27th
- 2) Tuesday, November 29th
- 3) Tuesday, February 28th
- 4) Tuesday, April 25th

- ✓ *Dates of Interest:*

- Tuesday, March 28** - Confirmation @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish
- Sunday, April 30** - First Holy Communion @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish
- Thursday, June 22 (tentative)** - Grade 8 Graduation

H. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 28, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

I. ADJOURNMENT

J. CLOSING PRAYER - David Forte