



**ST. JOHN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021
MINUTES**

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

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

David Forte (Principal) Amanda Iannazzo (non-teaching staff member) Andrew Natale (St. Joseph Parish representative)	Mrs. Milan
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Those who have expressed their regrets - Jennifer Durling (Public Health nurse); Enza Sorgini (teaching staff member); Mrs. Millar; Mrs. Chirico

4. **Approval of the Agenda** - Mrs. Milan / Andrew Natale
5. **Disclosure of Interest**

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.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

D. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- 1) **School Fundraising Financial Report** (as of 22/11/2021) - Financial report was shared with council members by Mr. Forte.
- 2) **[St. John Catholic School Google Website](#)** - The site continues to be a readily accessible point containing information pertaining to the school. SchoolMessenger notifications continue to be sent out to families and staff any time there are pertinent updates made to the site. Monthly newsletters and calendars continue to be embedded into the website.
- 3) **St. John Spiritwear** - Spiritwear continues to be sold through Maddalena Uniforms. The online store has reopened as of Monday, November 22nd and will remain active until Thursday, December 2nd. All orders are made and submitted online via the Maddalena Uniforms website. Parents have the option of either having their order shipped directly to their home for a flat rate cost of \$8.00 or picking their order up directly at the Maddalena Uniforms store at no extra cost.

- 4) **Advent Food Drive** - Our Advent Food Drive for **Community Care of West Niagara** will run from **December 6 - 17**.
- 5) **Christmas Activities 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 in their respective classrooms. Classroom teachers will organize class-specific activities that allow for physical distancing to maintain everyone's health and safety. Please note that due to Public Health restrictions, sharing of food items is not permitted.
- 6) **School Lunch Days** - The school continues to provide opportunities for contactless ordering through Pizza Hut (boxed personal pan pizzas) and Subway (personal wrapped subs).
- 7) **Volleyball Intramurals** - The Niagara Catholic District School Board has received approval to run volleyball intramurals within its schools for intermediate students before the Christmas break. Volleyball intramurals will run over the lunch period. Public Health guidelines and protocols will continue to be followed closely to regard the health and safety of all involved.
- 8) **Yearbook** - In an effort to reduce our ecological footprint, the school is exploring the idea of moving toward a digital yearbook that would be sent to all families at the end of the school year. Another option that school is exploring is moving toward a digital yearbook for the Grade 8 Graduating Class only. The digital yearbook will be considered a parting gift to our graduates.
 - ✓ *Motion to approve a digital yearbook for the 2021-2022 school year for either the whole school or Grade 8 students only - **GRADE 8 YEARBOOK GIFT OPTION APPROVED BY CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL.***
- 9) **My Life Online** - The school is currently working with 'My Life Online' to organize a possible virtual presentation for the parent community in the Spring. 'My Life Online' educates families on assisting their children with managing online platforms responsibly.
- 10) **Sidewalk Along Bus Pick-Up/Drop-Off Lane** - The school is currently working with Board personnel in the Facilities Services Department to have a sidewalk installed along the bus pick-up/drop-off lane.
- 11) **Cold Weather** - Parents are reminded to ensure that their children are dressed appropriately for the weather. Students are expected to go outside unless it is deemed an extreme an cold weather day in Niagara.
- 12) **Holy Childhood Walk** - On **Friday, October 22**, students and staff at St. John Catholic Elementary School participated in the annual Holy Childhood Walk and raised funds in support of the **Holy Childhood Association**.
- 13) **Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund** - On **Thursday, November 11**, students and staff at St. John Catholic Elementary School participated virtually in the National Remembrance Day Ceremony and received poppies to wear from the **Royal Canadian Legion**. Money was raised to support the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund.
- 14) **Plaid Friday: #ProjectPlaid** - On **Friday, November 26**, students and staff at St. John Catholic Elementary School participated in the #ProjectPlaid campaign to raise funds to support mental health programs at Pathstone.

15) **School Fundraising:**

- ✓ **Dieleman Fundraising Sales (DFS) Fall Fundraiser** - Money for general school funds raised through the Fall fundraiser to be put towards developing technological resources in the school.
- ✓ **Winter/Spring Fundraiser(s)** - The school looks forward to exploring ideas for a Winter/Spring fundraiser in the new year.

E. OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1) **Niagara Catholic School Reopening & Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year** - Families continue to be encouraged to read the plan carefully. The plan contains essential information for families to be aware of and will remain fluid to reflect current guidelines and practices provided by the Ministry of Education and Chief Medical Officers of Health.
- 2) **Niagara Catholic Active COVID-19 Screening Assessment** - Parents are reminded that they are required, under the direction of Niagara Region Public Health and the Niagara Catholic District School Board, to complete the Niagara Catholic Active COVID-19 Screening Assessment for their child(ren) each day prior to coming to school.
- 3) **Keeping Sick Children at Home** - As shared in previous parent communications, if a family member is ever showing any symptoms associated with COVID-19, parents are kindly asked to please consider keeping all children within the household home from school and follow the direction of Niagara Region Public Health. This will help limit potential transmission of the COVID-19 virus within the school and ultimately, the community.
- 4) **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.
- 5) **Kiss n' Ride Pick-Up** - To reduce congestion in the Kiss n' Ride line and along Regional Road 81/King Street, Kiss n' Ride students will continue to be dismissed from their classrooms at **3:15 pm**.
- 6) **Park & Pick-Up/Drop-Off** - To avoid congestion in the parking lot and to prevent a back-up of vehicles onto Regional Road 81/King Street, Park & Pick-Up students will be dismissed from their classes at **3:15 pm**.
- 7) **Visitors to the School** - School visitors continue to be highly restricted (this includes parents/guardians).
- 8) **Physical Distancing and Mask-Wearing on School Property** - In keeping with Public Health guidelines, parents continue to be reminded of the importance of wearing a mask on school property and maintaining a safe physical distance from others when picking up children.
- 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) **School Messenger** - The school will continue to update the parent community with information via SchoolMessenger.

11) **School Cash Online** - The use of this platform to make payments for school related expenses is highly encouraged. Further information is on the St. John Google Website.

12) **On-going School Initiatives:**

- ✓ Consideration of planting trees to provide a shade canopy near outdoor classroom.
- ✓ Continue to develop technological resources in the school.

F. CHAIRPERSON REPORT:

1) **Joanne Millar** - *Outdoor Christmas decorations for front of school.*

G. Review of Key Dates and Dates of Interest:

✓ In keeping with Public Health guidelines and in an effort to keep everyone safe, Catholic School Council meetings will be held virtually on the Google Meet platform.

✓ *Meeting Dates (tentative):*

- 1) Tuesday, September 28th
- 2) Tuesday, November 30th
- 3) Tuesday, March 1st
- 4) Tuesday, April 26th

✓ *Dates of Interest:*

- TBD - Confirmation Retreat @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish
- Thursday, April 7, 2022 - Confirmation @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish
- Sunday, June 12, 2022 - First Holy Communion @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish
- TBD - Grade 8 Graduation

H. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 1st, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

I. ADJOURNMENT

J. CLOSING PRAYER - David Forte