



**MINUTES OF THE
MARY WARD CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, September 26, 2023 - Library Information Center**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Mary Ward Catholic School Council, held on Tuesday, September 26 at 6:00 PM.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mr. Cardamone, Principal.

A. ROUTINE BUSINESS

1. Opening Prayer: Opening Prayer was led by Mrs. Kelly & Mr. Cardamone

2. Roll Call/Attendance

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP		Present	Excused	Absent
Principal / Vice-Principal	Mr. Cardamone, Principal	x		
Secretary / Treasurer				
Chair				
Co-Chairs	Kara Bishop & Natalie Mascia	x		
Teacher Representative	Marylee Kelly	x		
Non-Teaching Representative	Claudia Leo	x		
Student Representative	Bianca Nero	x		
Parish Representative	Lynne Orr	x		
Community Representative				
OAPCE Representative	Angie Costa	x		
PARENT/GUARDIAN MEMBERS				
Jessica Mancuso		x		
Angie Costa		x		
Linda Bush		x		
Mark Scott		x		
Melissa McDonald		x		
Robyn Pearson		x		
Adelia Moreira		x		
Amanda Leon			x	
Lisa Stirpe			x	
Lynn Orr		x		
Natalie Mascia			x	
Kara Bishop		x		

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Kara Bishop

Seconded by *Robyn Pearson*

THAT the Mary Ward Catholic School Council approve the Agenda of the Mary Ward Catholic School Council Meeting of September 26, 2023.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Conflict Interest

No disclosures of conflict of interest were declared with any items on the agenda.

5. **Approval of the Minutes of the Mary Ward Catholic School Council Meeting** – approved previous year’s meeting

B. CHAIR’S REPORT / PRESENTATIONS

- Mary Ward’s By-Laws & CSC Policy Review
 - NCDSB Catholic School Council Policy and By-Laws was printed for Catholic School Council members and key points were reviewed by Mr. Cardamone. Mr. Cardamone will send the CSC Policy Review on an attachment to members.
 - Purpose – Catholicity, Student Achievement and well-being, enhance the accountability of the education system
 - Every member can vote on items except the principal. Would like to come to a consensus on items.

- Niagara Nutrition Partner Grant
 - We partner with Niagara Nutrition – What is it?
 - \$1429.33 we have in our budget and we will ask for more funding.
 - They ask us to do one fundraiser a year that contributes to the Nutrition.
 - Student council will run this year’s fundraiser - Valentine’s Dance
 - Kara motioned yes to allow the student council to run the fundraiser, Melissa MacDonald seconded that.

- CSC Dress Code Donations Support
 - Requirement of the Dress Code policy is for schools to support a donation program
 - Mary Ward is asking for donations of any “gently-used” items to support families in the community
 - This will be advertised in the School Newsletter and donations can be sent to school with students
 - This will be advertised in the School Newsletter again before winter months.
 - Linda Bush asked for a box for donations – Mr. Cardamone asked to give to Mrs. Leo in Kiss and Ride
 - Kara suggested advertising on our MW Insta account
 - Kara asked about need for socks
 - Mrs. Parr from OLOS has reached out to MW for Christmas donations

Parent Engagement

- We are given \$500
- We can use funds for equity, mental health, anti-racism, newcomers from other countries, workshops for parents, cyberbullying
- Mr. Cardamone asked for members to brainstorm ideas – Melissa McDonald asked about Paul Davis. Scott Bush asked about how to get feedback from the school community as opposed to just the CSC. Bianca can talk to the student council about where students feel the need is.
- Send a google form to community about where the interest is for parent engagement

- Mrs. Kelly will create google form to send to the community to take a pole on topics parents want to learn about
- Unstoppable Tracy – recess project possible guest speaker

Food Days

- It will be documented on the Special Event Day Planner Sheet. - Food Truck Day
- Linda Bush said Gino’s Pizzeria is under new ownership and does a fantastic job, prepacked and cost was reasonable, they gave back money to the school. Gino’s will give a better price if in a tray as opposed to in packages
- Mr. Cardamone talked about price points and considering that when choosing pizza
- Mrs. Costa asked about having more food days
- Bianca and student council would like Fridays
- Mr. Cardamone talked about how some families can’t afford food days so that is why we limit it to two days.

Fundraising Goals

Fundraising goals discussed were:

- **Music Trivia Night Fundraiser** – Friday Nov. 10, 223 at MW
 - Poster and letter to families will go out to families
 - We need businesses to help support
 - We would like to sell 25 tables
 - CSC to help that night – need a committee, please contact Mr. Cardamone if you are interested in joining the committee
 - Dragon Brewery will support with liquor license and sell his product at retail prices
 - Food and snacks will be needed
 - Prizes needed for raffle table – silent auction
- Outdoor equipment funds – have only raised a small amount in the last couple of years for a new playground. We have shifted our goals – we have spent money on Creative Playground activities. We have used the money from various fundraising. Recess kits – ordered primary and junior kits. Kits will be out for students to use by the end of next week.
- Technology – we used fundraising money to spend on chromebooks and TVs for classrooms.
- New technology needs for the students:
 - Intermediate students want laptops as opposed to chromebooks
 - New sound system in the gym
 - Robotic Kits
- **Delta Bingo:** Robyn explained how Delta Bingo fundraiser works for new Council members.
 - Last year we spent \$8000 on sports equipment, sport jerseys, robotics, Marchants
 - We currently have \$14,495.91
 - Robyn will share a google doc so parents can sign up to volunteer
- Family BBQ with Raffle Baskets – we will have in June
- Night out for families – Suggestions - Antica? Bingo?

We need two committees:

1. Trivia Night
2. Fundraising

C. ELECTIONS

- Chair: Linda Bush and Robyn Pearson nominated and confirmed as Co-Chairs
- Our Lady of Scapular Parish Rep
- OAPCE Rep: Angie Costa

D. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT –

1. Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Report
 - The Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, as supported by the Niagara Catholic District School Board, promotes active parent/guardian engagement with all parents/guardians in all schools for the improvement of student achievement and the well-being of all students in the Niagara Catholic District School Board.
 - Nomination forms can be found on the NCPIC website [here](#)
2. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Report
 - Meeting minutes can be found on the NCDSB website [here](#)
3. Catholic School Council Financial Report
 - Antica - \$2000
 - Krispy Kreme - \$3464.00
 - Gift Card – \$850
4. School News
 - Welcome: To Mrs. Cottringer, Gita Borzooeain, Lorie Panetta, Maddy Orth, Allan Orth.
 - Vetting of Policies: The following Policies and Administrative Guidelines are currently being reviewed as part of the cyclical Policy and Administrative Guidelines Review process.
 - Faith Theme: “Called by Name – Hear My Voice” Chaplaincy Leaders will be visiting classrooms on November 2, 2023.
 - School Building Improvements: staff parking lot
 - Tiger Spirit Wear: While following the Elementary Standardized Dress Code policy, we will get pricing from approved Designated Board Suppliers. Once we choose supplier, we will share ordering information with families.
 - Meet The Teacher/Classroom Communication: went very well, good turnout, great to have parents back into the building.
 - Fire Drills/Hold & Secure/Lockdown: Emergency procedures are in place and practiced in all Niagara Catholic schools throughout this school year. We continue to be required to conduct 6 fire drills and 2 hold & secure / lockdown drills each year. Both practices were well done.
 - Terry Fox Walk: Mary Ward once again supported cancer research through ‘walking’ for Terry Fox. Mrs. Mastracci-Fera led a virtual assembly at 9:30 a.m. as a kickoff and classroom teachers shared information and videos of Terry Fox’s journey. Students and staff walked through the neighborhood on September 22, 2023. Mary Ward raised \$625 for the cause. Thank you to our community for donating and thank you to Mrs. Mastracci-Fera for her leadership and Mike Stranges for being our guest speaker.
 - Halloween: On Tuesday Oct. 31, 2023 the students of Mary Ward will be celebrating Halloween. This day will be designated an alternate dress day and students may wear black and orange or dress in costume. Students are to come to school in costume or black and orange. Parents will not be permitted within the school. As per our H&S guidelines, parents are asked not to send any Halloween treats for the class as they cannot be shared with other students. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding.
 - Stay Connected: Follow us on Twitter [@MaryWardNF](#) and/or Instagram [marywardniagara](#)

- Upcoming Events: Rowan's Law Day Sept. 27; National Day for Truth & Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day Sept. 30; Fire Prevention Week Oct. 8th thru 14th; ;Thanksgiving Oct. 9th; Holy Childhood Walk Oct. 13th
- Halloween:
 - Celebrate Tuesday Oct. 31st
 - Students can wear a costume and/or black & orange
 - Students are encouraged to come to school dressed in costume
 - Costumes should be simple and easy for students to independently take on/off
 - Parents should send a change of clothes in the event their child wants to change out of their costume at any point in the day
 - Parents are asked to not send any treats to school

E. OAPCE REPORTS (Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education)

- Mary Ward School Rep: Angie Costa will report next meeting

F. STAFF REPORT

- Completing the Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Mary Ward Student Council will be elected this week – one member of each class from Gr 5-8. Bianca Nero and Violet VanDyke are Mary Ward's Senator Co-chair
- Sports report – Cross Country right now, Oct. 11th at Queenston Heights, Int. Girls and Boys Soccer tournaments tomorrow at Saint Paul, Jr. Girls and Boys basketball last week of Oct. tournament second week of November.
- Empower Reading program, Lexia online program will be distributed soon

G. PARISH REPORT / COMMUNITY REPORT

- Confirmation and Communion meetings have started at OLOS. Parents are to sign up for their dates to attend the meetings.
- Upcoming Rosary Circle visits by Jose at MW on Fridays
- Anniversary of Fatima at OLOS Oct. 13th
- Advent Mass @OLOS Dec. 12th

H. AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Organizing fundraiser committee

I. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 21, 2023 @ 6:30 PM

J. CLOSING PRAYER was led by Mr. Cardamone

K. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Kara Bishop

Seconded by *Robyn Pearson*

THAT the September 26, 2023 meeting of the Mary Ward Catholic School Council be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.