



Minutes
ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
September 27, 2023 - 6:00pm

Welcome to a new year!

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer - J. DeCoff
2. Roll Call - Bonnie Manchuk, Lauren Cnossen, Monica Giammarco, Nancy Hermans, Lauren Oliveira, Jacqueline Swart, Sabrina Golini, Amanda Pokolic, Mychalyna Olwage, Kemi Ogunkoya, Sofia Pomroy, Ryan Harmon, Kerie Raymond, Lauren Brown, Tracy Clipsham, Fran Oliveira
Regrets: Rob Rapiti, Silvana Piscitello
3. Approval of Agenda – Monica Giammarco

B. ELECTION of Chair/Co-Chairs

1. Election of the Chair/Co-chairs for the 2023-24 St. Mark Catholic School Council nominations - once, twice, three times. Co-Chairs asked and elected. Monica Giammarco and Mychalyna Olwage

C. PRESENTATIONS

1. No presentations - Mrs. DeCoff welcomed everyone to the meeting and discussed policies below with links.

D. POLICIES FOR VETTING FEEDBACK

1. The following Governance Policies are currently being reviewed as part of the [Establishment and Cyclical Review of Policies Policy \(100.5\)](#) review process.
To be considered, all submissions must identify the specific Governance Policy and include your name, phone number, address and affiliation with Niagara Catholic.
Anonymous or pseudonymous submissions will not be considered
 - [Board By-Laws Policy 100.1](#)
 - [Trustee Electronic Meetings \(Board and Committees\) Policy 100.8](#)

Please submit your feedback to [Anna Pisano](#) by 12:00 p.m. September 28, 2023

- [Admission of Elementary and Secondary Students Policy 301.1](#)
- [Community Use of Facilities Policy 800.2](#)

Please submit your feedback to [Anna Pisano](#) by 12:00 p.m. November 1, 2023

E. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT - See report below for minutes.

1. Catholicity
2. Student Achievement
3. School Climate

F. OAPCE REPORT – next meeting we will ask for a volunteer to sit on this committee

G. STAFF REPORT – Miss Sirianni will present a report at the next meeting

H. SUBCOMMITTEE SIGN UP – will be done at next meeting

1. Church Liaison
2. By-laws/Policy
3. Fundraising
4. Graduation
5. Safe Schools

Mrs. DeCoff outlined that we would like to hold a “Parking Spot Raffle” to raffle off two designated parking spots to parents for the 2023-2024 school year. The winners will receive reserved parking for the entire school year and a sign, with their name on it, will be put on the parking spots. Several people asked if the tickets could be ready for our Welcome Back BBQ on Friday, September 29th and Mrs. DeCoff said we would do our best.

I. AGENDA ITEMS

The email will be checked frequently for CSC agenda items, so please email the chairs throughout the month if you have an item to add to the next meeting agenda. The CSC email is stmarkcsc@gmail.com

J. NEXT MEETING – Wednesday October 25, 2023 @ 6:00 pm

K. CLOSING PRAYER – led by Mrs. DeCoff

L. ADJOURNMENT - 7:05 pm

September 2023 St. Mark Catholic Elementary School Principal's Report

Catholicity

School Church Connections

September – Each grade will celebrate mass to start the school year

October – every Tuesday and Thursday two grades will be visiting the church at 12:30 to pray the rosary with Father Kryz.

April – Every Tuesday and Wednesday two grades will be attending and participating in mass at 12:30pm

Sacraments and Mass: Fr. Kryz has communicated to our grades 2 and 8 families regarding dates and activities surrounding First Communion and Confirmation.

Confirmation – Saturday, April 13th

First Communion – Dates TBD

Theological Theme 2022-2026 – Called by Name

2022-2023 You are Mine

2023-2024 Hear My Voice

2024-2025 Follow Me

2025-2026 Go and Make Disciples

Continued Focus on Graduate Expectations – Last year the Graduate Expectations were reintroduced into our classrooms and staff recognized students who demonstrated evidence of these expectations around the school. This year we will be holding divisional assemblies where classes will present the different expectations, and students who display the expectations will be celebrated and recognized by receiving an award. This will begin in November and last until June.

Student Achievement

October 6th, 2023 Professional Development Day

- Focus will be on School Improvement, Literacy and Numeracy

Reading Intervention supports for primary and junior grades

- Elementary Chaplains will be visiting the school to lead activities with our students while staff meet with Literacy and Numeracy consultants. Kindergarten to grade 8 teachers will be focusing the newly released Language Curriculum and continue with learning in Mathematics
- **Additional Lexia Licenses** are being purchased for all grade 3 students.
- **Tiered Reading Intervention** Mrs. Zamfir will be taking over with the Empower program and has already completed the training. The program will be starting in October. We will be tiering our reading intervention for students in primary and junior. Empower being the first tier, and Really Great Reading Intervention for the second tier for resource support. Mrs. Zamfir will be leading the tiered intervention for reading.
- **HD Word** – This program was piloted this past summer during summer learning. Resources have been purchased for grades 3 to 6 to support the rollout of the new curriculum. Staff are working with program resource coaches to learn and implement within their classrooms.
- **FlyLeaf** – Grades 2 and 3 are working together to implement this resource to support the transition from UFLI and Heggerty in primary. This resource supports the revised curriculum and was also piloted in Summer Learning with great success
- **Math Intervention** – Mrs. Duffy will be trained on the math intervention program that we are rolling out this year. The target group has not been determined as of yet.

- **Math Resources** – MathUp Consumable workbooks have been purchased for grades 3 and 6. These are new resources, and we are piloting them to see the benefit for our students. The Math Up teacher resource continues to be the prime resource for Math instruction.

- **Knowledgehook** – Web based program that students can access at school and home will continue to be used in grades 1 to 8. This is accessed through the NCVLE

- **Building Fact Fluency** – K to 8 resource focusing on addition/subtraction and multiplication/division. Both web-based and hands-on for students

Mental Health and Well-Being

- CYW support – continued support for all K to 8 classes – Abbie Vanderlee is our CYW and visits St. Mark on day 1 and 2 of the 5 day cycle. Visits are all classroom based in collaboration with the classroom teacher

- Social Worker support – Steven Johnston and Sabrina Fruci are our social workers for this school year. Referrals are submitted by the school after conversations with families

- Grade 7 & 8 Teachers will be participating in Professional Development within the next two weeks. They will be introduced to three Mental Health and Literacy Modules that support the current Health and Physical Education curriculum. These modules will be taught to our intermediate students throughout this school year.

- These modules as well as other supports for schools and families can be found by visiting School Mental Health Ontario at <https://smho-smsso.ca/> This website will continuously be found in the monthly school newsletter

Sports/Clubs/Activities Update

We are excited to have students start sports in TERM 1:

- Intermediate Soccer (Girls and Boys) - Oct. 11

- Cross Country – Grades 4-8 – Oct. 18

- Intermediate Volleyball – Girls – Nov. 16 and Boys – Nov. 17

- Tentative Junior basketball – girls and boys – December (dates to be determined)

Clubs/Activities:

- Choir

- Dance club

- Student Council

Looking ahead ... Thanksgiving food drive

School Climate

Welcome Back BBQ – Friday September 29th from 5:00 to 7:00pm Knights of Columbus will be cooking and selling hotdogs and hamburgers, Smoke and Moonshine Food Truck and Tasty Treats Food Truck will be selling food. This year families are invited into the school and classrooms. Due to an increase in cost, we will not have Bouncy Castles this year.

Facilities updates: This past summer has been very busy with construction. Our 2 kindergarten rooms have been updated and classes have moved back into their rooms. Lockers were replaced upstairs, and four staff washrooms were added over the summer. 2 Hydration stations have been added in the primary wing of the school (one upstairs and one downstairs). Lastly 3 Portables have been added outside. A retaining wall was built to accommodate the portables and to minimize the amount of field space lost.

- Looking ahead – downstairs lockers will be replaced, hallways and classrooms will start to be repainted, and the Kindergarten playground is in line to be completely redone

- New school update – shovel in ground will take place in Spring of 2024, with anticipated opening in September 2025

- Completion of Parking Lot/Kiss and Ride - line painting

Twitter/Instagram school account: Our Instagram account will be up and running once again. Mrs. Medeiros and Madame Appel will be taking the lead on our social media account.

Hallowe'en: This year we will be following the same format for Halloween as last year. Students are welcome to wear their costumes to school on Tuesday, October 31st. As an alternative, students are welcome to wear orange/purple and black as this will be an out of dress code day. We ask that costumes that intend to scare, including props, are to be saved for Halloween night. Halloween at school is for fun, and scary costumes are not fun for some of our younger students or students with special needs. Halloween activities will be taking place in each classroom throughout the day. We will be asking parents to refrain from sending in food items due to our many different food allergies and sensitivities.

Orange Shirt Day: On Friday, September 29th, St. Mark Catholic Elementary School will recognize National Residential Survivor Day. All students are encouraged to wear an orange shirt with their dress code bottoms that day. Many different activities are taking place within the school. Mrs. Dionne and Mrs. Semple are our Indigenous leads for this school year.

Student Council – Mr. Tolomeo and Mrs. McLaughlin will be leading Student Council this year. Elections will be taking place within the next couple of weeks, and council will be off and running.

School Spirit Initiative – School Spirit and pride of school. This year as a staff we would like to encourage and focus school spirit (pride of self, others and broader school community). This focus will be incorporated into our divisional assemblies, and various activities throughout the school year. Mrs. McLaughlin, Ms. Traficante and Mrs. Huot will be taking the lead on this initiative. The goal of this is to build community and pride of self, others and school.

Fundraising – this year fundraising will help cover the cost of replacing Classroom Projectors, purchasing 2 Interactive Flat boards, 20 Chromebooks to replace (damaged and old)

1. DFS Gift Wrap Fundraising – November 20 – 25th
2. Fielding Wine/Cider – Spring 2024
3. Dance-A-Thon – February
4. Basket Raffle – Late Spring 2024
 - a. Parking Lot Raffle – 2 parking spots will be raffled off. Prime parking for 2 lucky families located in the front row. This can be held at any time of the year, or incorporated into the Basket Raffle.

Thoughts for future fundraising

- Big Box of Cards
- Plant fundraiser
- Canadian Companies that can be considered
- <https://makeitsow.com/program/> or
- <https://www.growingsmilesfundraising.com/contact-us>