



*The Niagara Catholic District School Board through the charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ*



**MINUTES OF THE ALEXANDER KUSKA K.S.G. CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 26, 2023  
Library Information Centre**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Alexander Kuska K.S.G. Catholic School Catholic School Council, held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mr. Moscato

**A. ROUTINE MATTERS**

**1. Opening Prayer**

The opening prayer was led by Mrs. Wood

**2. Roll Call**

<b>CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP</b>		Present	Excused	Absent
P/VP/Secretary/ Treasurer	Chris Moscato Francesca Wood	x x		
Chair	Sara Ivicic	x		
Co-Chair	Ashley Steele- Durk	x		
Teacher Rep	Elena Gallo	x		
	Tina Fini	x		
	Jessica Pychel	x		
	Jen Danylko	x		
	Jolene Carter	x		
	Tina Goupil	x		
	Jennifer Lee	x		
	Martha Barnes	x		
	Meagan Hominuck	x		

	Krystal Craig		x	
	Belinda Ravazollo		x	
	Michelle Von Possel		x	
	Melissa Green		x	
	Tasha Dedonato		x	

### **3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Jessica Pychel

Seconded by Sara Ivicic

**THAT** the Alexander Kuska Catholic School Council approves the Agenda of the Alexander Kuska 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 Minutes of the Alexander Kuska Catholic School Council Meeting of**

No Minutes presented as this is the first meeting of the year.

### **6. Elections of Chair/Co-Chair**

Jessica Pychel nominated Sara Ivicic. Sara accepted.

Jennifer Lee nominated Ashley Steele-Durk. Ashley accepted.

An OAPCE representative was not elected.

## **B. PRESENTATION of the Bylaws**

Chris Moscato reviewed the CSC Bylaws. It was determined that there will be 16 voting members and 9 members are needed for quorum. This aligns with the Bylaw of 50% + 1.

## **C. POLICIES FOR VETTING-FEEDBACK**

- **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***

## **D. CHAIR'S REPORT**

- a. Parent Engagement activities - 3 events to build community, the Council agreed to repeat events from last year
  - Christmas Fun Night - a few changes to better accommodate a bigger group, changes to be determined when planning begins
  - Pasta Night - Grade 8 students to again be involved in running the event
  - June BBQ
  
- b. Food days
  - trying out 3 per month as the Council requested more frequent food days last year
  - we have added Pita Pit with smoothies
  - Sara asked about having a monthly payment option
  - Chris mentioned that the secretary will look into how to post this on School Cash, he also mentioned that it may be an equity issue, may be more difficult for families with more than one child to make a bulk payment for the month, we will try it in November
  
- c. Bingo volunteers
  - need commitment to sustain, Jessica said that there is enough people now who have signed up for the next few months, we need more people to be trained so that we have back-ups and so that we may be able to accept the second day per month that we have been offered
  - Kuska polo shirts ordered for volunteers and will be paid by Bingo funds
  - Francesca to post request for Bingo volunteers on social media
  - Francesca to create a Google Form to send out to families to connect those who want to volunteer to help at events/Bingo but who aren't Council members
  
- d. Bingo money
  - approximately \$6000.00 in account right now, not typically permitted to accumulate such an amount, but since we just started in April they have given us a bit of time
  - technology, subsidizing trip costs and the purchase of tables/chairs were all discussed as possible purchases
  - Chris to find out cost of tables and chairs and then make that purchase soon
  
- e. Fundraising events
  - decided to sell poinsettias at Christmas
  - Sara noted that Vermeer's was very organized and they have a voucher system so school will hand out vouchers and families will go pick up plants
  - Sara shared the profit per plant option
  - Ashley suggested limiting the options to 10" and porch pots, the Council agreed
  - info needs to be shared with families by October 19
  
- f. Lifetouch changes
  - new team in the Niagara Region, we are hoping for a better experience this year
  - class composites at a cost now, no longer complimentary
  
- g. School Name
  - Suggestion made to change school name to Saint name, came up organically with students and staff when staff was instructed to share story of school's patron Saint after the Faith PA day last year
  - we are one of only 2 schools in the Board who is not named after a Saint or some other holy namesake
  - Alexander Kuska was a former Director of Education, as well as a member of the Knights of St. Gregory, St. Gregory's name was brought forward as a suggestion because staff

learned at the Faith day last year that he is the patron Saint of teachers, students, singers and musicians, his feast day is during the first week of September which coincides with the beginning of the school year

- Chris shared that CSC Co-Chairs would need to bring this motion forward at a Board meeting and then a committee with all stakeholders would be created if the Director took the suggestion into consideration
- Student Council input was suggested and it was mentioned that past school members may also want some input as well, Martha mentioned that some may feel that a sense of tradition is being lost with a name change
- It was noted that the logo could continue to be Knights if St. Gregory was decided as the name and this would help carry on sense of tradition
- Council decided that a Town Hall could be organized to seek input from the community about whether the Co-Chairs bring this to a future Board meeting

## **E. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

### *1. Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Report (NCPIC)*

- First meeting on September 7 was canceled. First meeting will take place on November 2, 2023 at the CEC.

### *2. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Report*

- Meeting on September 6. Shared Department and local agency info. Next meeting will be held virtually on October 4, 2023.

### *3. School News/School Improvement*

- a. Drainage - corrected, new path paved and snow will be removed through the Winter, new wood chips added to playground
- b. Courtyard - postponed by the Board until next summer
- c. Library Furniture - design plans sent, first step of purchase decided, using money that was earmarked from 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 school years, next step is to complete purchase order
- d. School needs - Chromebooks, technology (finish purchasing tvs for those classes who didn't get upgraded last year, purchases needed for 2 new portables)

## **E. STAFF REPORTS - Mrs. Gallo**

September Prayer-Our Father

September 5-first day of school

September 13th- Opening mass at st. Kevin's Church

September 14th Curriculum Night/gr. 8 information night

September 15th-our first fire drill

September 20th- Pizza Day

September 22- Terry Fox Walk

September 25- Students Council Speeches

September 27- Lockdown Practice

September 28- Picture Day and Rowans Law

September 29- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

October Prayer Hail Mary

## **G. AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Chris to share Library design layout, multi-step purchase plan

**H. NEXT MEETING** - November 6, 2023

**I. CLOSING PRAYER** was led by Mrs. Gallo

**J. ADJOURNMENT** - This meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm

Moved by Sara Ivicic

Seconded by Ashley Steele-Durk

**THAT** the November 14, 2022 meeting of the Alexander Kuska Catholic School Council be adjourned.

**CARRIED**