



**ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 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)	Meaghan Anderson
Lauren Swindley (Teaching staff member)	Sara Chirico
Elizabeth Bennie (Teaching staff member)	Lynn Dudok
Valerie Volpini (non-teaching staff member)	Mary Glavac
Andrew Natale (St. Joseph Parish representative)	Shirley Kantartzis
Jennifer Durling (Public Health nurse)	Lisa Milan
	Joanne Millar
	Marnie Odell
	Breeann Staibano
	Mariam Vieira
	Hayley Coruzzi

Those who have expressed their regrets - Jennifer Durling (Public Health nurse); Valerie Volpini (non-teaching staff member)

4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Disclosure of Interest

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. Presentation of Bylaws
2. Election of Chairperson - Lisa Milan, Chairperson; Marnie Odell, Co-Chairperson

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 Fundraising Financial Reports as of 27/09/2022.
- 2) **[St. John Catholic School Google Website](#)** - Families have been invited to access the school Google site and check in on the site often for updated information.

- 3) **Refreshed School Jaguar Logo** - The school worked with New Vision Signs over the summer to update the school jaguar logo and give it a refreshed look. The updated logo still maintains the integrity of the original logo designed by a past St. John student. The new logo will be implemented on all new school documents, signage, and spiritwear moving forward.
- 4) **HEPA Filters** - All active classrooms within the school building, as well as our library and gymnasium have working stand-alone HEPA filters.
- 5) **Upgrades to Heating & Ventilation System** - The school recently received upgrades to the systems that monitor and control the heating and ventilation equipment in the building.
- 6) **New Windows** - Brand new windows were installed throughout the school over the summer months.
- 7) **New Basketball Nets** - The school received brand new basketball nets on the playground. These were installed over the summer months.
- 8) **Sidewalk Along Bus Pick-Up/Drop-Off Lane** - Sidewalk construction along the bus pick-up/drop-off lane has been completed. 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.
- 9) **St. John Spiritwear & Grade 8 GRAD Hoodies** - Spiritwear and Grade 8 Grad hoodies are sold through Maddalena Uniforms. All orders are made and submitted online via the Maddalena Uniforms website.
- 10) **Thanksgiving Food Drive** - Our Thanksgiving Food Drive for **Community Care of West Niagara** will run from **September 26 - October 6**.
- 11) **Annual Terry Fox Walk** - On **Friday, September 23**, students and staff at St. John Catholic Elementary School participated in our annual Terry Fox Walk in support of the Terry Fox Foundation. St. John raised **\$1,080** for the 2022 walk!
- 12) **Orange Shirt Day (Every Child Matters)** - Staff, students, and community members at St. John Catholic School are encouraged to wear the colour orange on **Friday, September 30th** as a visible symbol in support of the notion that *every child matters* and that we are all called to love, respect, and care for one another as children of God.
- 13) **Halloween at St. John** - St. John students will participate in Halloween activities in their respective classrooms, as well as a **Dance-a-Thon** on **Monday, October 31**. Students may come to school dressed in Halloween costumes and are invited to remain in them for the duration of the day. Due to a number of students in our care who are anaphylactic to nuts, peanuts, and other sources of nuts, **only prepackaged snacks that are clearly labelled as 'nut-free' may be brought in to be shared among students**.
- 14) **School Lunch Days** - The school is currently working 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.
- 15) **My Life Online** - The school is working with 'My Life Online' to organize a presentation for the parent community this school year. 'My Life Online' educates families on assisting their children with managing online platforms responsibly.

16) **School Fundraising:**

- ✓ **Dance-a-Thons** - The school is planning to run Dance-a-Thon fundraisers for *Halloween*, *Valentine's Day*, and *St. Patrick's Day*. Families will be invited to make a small donation through 'SchoolCash' Online to support each fundraiser. Money raised will go toward school generated funds for the purchase of additional technology and other materials to support student learning and engagement.
- ✓ **Big Box of Cards (Fall/Winter)** - The school is considering working with Big Box of Cards to organize a possible Fall/Winter fundraiser. The school would receive a portion of sales to be put toward school generated funds.

E. OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1) **Niagara Catholic Back-to-School Information Page** - Families are invited to carefully read through the Niagara Catholic Back-to-School Information Page as we enter a new stage of the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2) **Niagara Catholic Active COVID-19 Screening Assessment** - The Ontario government has indicated that the requirement for daily active screening has been lifted as of March 21, 2022 in favour of passive screening.
- 3) **Masking** - In keeping with Ministry guidance, masks remain optional for students and staff. Masks continue to be recommended for those who are vulnerable to serious illness as a result of a COVID-19 infection.
- 4) **Students Demonstrating Symptoms of Illness** - A designated Health Services room will continue to be used for anyone who falls ill at school and needs to be kept away from others.
- 5) **Recesses at St. John** - Ministry of Education no longer requires students to be cohorted according to their classes. The school will continue with its staggered recess schedule due to limited space on the playground.
- 6) **Practice Fire & Lockdown Drills:**
 - ✓ **Fire drills** will be conducted at a minimum of six times throughout the duration of the school year, all at various times of the day.
 - ✓ **Lockdown drills** will be conducted at a minimum of two times throughout the duration of the school year.
- 7) **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. Supervising staff will be present in the parking lot at 9:10 am.
- 8) **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**.
- 9) **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.

- 10) **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.
- 11) **Student Accident Insurance** - Parents are encouraged to consider obtaining student accident insurance through *insuremykids*®. Participation is voluntary but highly recommended and the costs are to be paid by the parent/guardian.
- 12) **Niagara Catholic Virtual Learning Environment (NCVLE)** - Families have been advised that the [NCVLE](#) will serve as the standard virtual platform for all classes throughout the Niagara Catholic District School Board.
- 13) **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.
- 14) **'SchoolMessenger'** - The school will continue to use the 'SchoolMessenger' platform to update the parent community with essential information pertaining to the school.
- 15) **'SchoolCash' Online** - The use of this platform to make payments for school related expenses is highly encouraged.
- 16) **Parish News:**
 - ✓ **Opening School Year Mass** - Father Rico led the school in an opening school year celebration of the Eucharist on September 20th at St. Joseph Parish.
 - ✓ **Thanksgiving Mass** - Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated in-person here at St. John Catholic School on Wednesday, October 19 with all students and staff.
 - ✓ **First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion** - Parent meeting for St. John families to be held at St. Joseph Parish on **Thursday, October 6th at 6:00 pm** (alternative date of Wednesday, October 5th at 7:00 pm if families absolutely cannot make it).
 - ✓ **Confirmation** - Parent and candidate meeting for St. John families to be held at St. Joseph Parish on **Wednesday, October 19th at 7:00 pm** (alternative date of Tuesday, October 18th at 6:00 pm if families absolutely cannot make it).
 - ✓ **Confirmation Preparation Program** - Andrew Natale, Youth Minister to work with Grade 8 students and teaching staff in class to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation using the Decision Point Resource. The program will run from September through March.
- 17) **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 - 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:*

- TBD First Holy Communion @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish
- TBD Confirmation @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish
- TBD Grade 8 Graduation

H. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, November 29th, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

I. ADJOURNMENT

J. CLOSING PRAYER - David Forte