



## ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023 MINUTES

### A. ROUTINE MATTERS

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

<u>Staff &amp; Community Representatives:</u>	<u>Parent Representatives:</u>
David Forte (Principal)	Lisa Milan (Chair)
Lauren Swindley (Teaching staff member)	Marnie Odell (Co-Chair)
Elizabeth Bennie (Teaching staff member)	Meaghan Anderson
Sarah Dobrindt (Non-teaching staff member) - A	Sara Chirico - A
Andrew Natale (St. Joseph Parish) - A	Lynn Dudok
Austin White (Public Health nurse) - A	Mary Glavac
	Shirley Kantartzis - A
	Joanne Millar - A
	Breeann Staibano
	Mariam Vieira - A
	Hayley Coruzzi - A

Those who have expressed their regrets -  
Sara Chirico; Joanne Millar; Sarah Dobrindt; Andrew Natale; Hayley Coruzzi

4. Approval of the Agenda - Lisa Milan & Marnie Odell
5. Disclosure of Interest - N/A

### B. PRESENTATIONS

1. **Andrew Natale** - *St. Joseph Parish Representative*
  - Upcoming events at St. Joseph Parish.
  - Sacramental preparations update.
2. **Austin White** - *Public Health Nurse*
  - ✓ Austin continues to serve as a contact person for matters pertaining to the health and well-being of our students and community members.

### 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 Financial Reports as of 07/03/2023.
- 2) **[St. John Catholic School Google Website](#)** - The site continues to be a readily accessible tool containing information pertaining to the school.
- 3) **Bus Pick-Up/Drop-Off Sidewalk Barrier Fence** - 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.
- 4) **King Street Sidewalk** - The Town of Lincoln and the Board's Facilities Services Department continue to work together to finalize construction of the sidewalk along King Street and connect it to the existing walkway on school property.
- 5) **Lenten & Easter Food Drive** - Our Lenten & Easter Food Drive for the ***Grimsby Benevolent Fund*** will run from ***February 22 - April 6***.
- 6) **Paul Davis Internet Safety Parent Presentation** - Mr. Paul Davis (Internet and Social Media Safety Specialist) was booked for a parent presentation for the evening of ***Wednesday, March 1 at 6:30 pm***. The presentation was open for all parents in the Blessed Trinity Catholic Family of Schools to attend.
- 7) **Internet Safety & School Devices** - IT services is investigating instances of unsafe browsing on school devices brought forward throughout the Board to determine a need to enhance firewalls and security on devices.
- 8) **Anti-Black Racism Student Workshops** - Students in Grades 3-8 participated in workshops led by the ***Get REAL Movement*** on February 15. Students learned about what racism is, and how we all have a role to play in building accepting and supportive communities for all.
- 9) **Anti-Black Racism Parent Presentation** - As a follow-up to the student workshops, the school is considering a parent presentation to take place at the school, pending availability.
- 10) **March Break** - March Break across Niagara Catholic will take place from ***March 13 - March 17***. Students will return to school on Monday, March 20.
- 11) **Kindergarten Open House** - Our Kindergarten Open House took place on ***February 16*** and was a tremendous success.
- 12) **Kids Helping Kids** - From ***February 13 - 24***, students and staff at St. John Catholic Elementary School participated in the annual Kids Helping Kids Campaign in support of the ***Niagara Children's Centre*** and the ***Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education***. Classes participated in a variety of activities throughout the campaign. Through donations made via 'SchoolCash' Online, St. John raised ***\$461.50*** to support the cause.
- 13) **Shrove Tuesday** - On ***February 21***, students received a pancake snack, prepared by the Knights of Columbus. Through donations made via 'SchoolCash' Online, St. John raised ***\$554.00*** to support various local charitable causes in our community through the Knights of Columbus.
- 14) **World Down Syndrome Day** - St. John will be participating in ***"Rock Your Socks"*** on ***Tuesday, March 21*** in recognition of World Down Syndrome Day. Staff and students are encouraged to come to school wearing their most colourful socks.

- 15) **Sparkle Day: Feast of the Annunciation** - **Saturday, March 25** is the Feast of the Annunciation. To celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation we will be having Sparkle Day at St. John on **Friday, March 24**. Students and staff are encouraged to come to school wearing sparkly clothing/accessories and/or their favourite white shirt or sweater.
- 16) **Epilepsy Awareness Day** - St. John will be participating in "**Epilepsy Awareness Day**" or "**Purple Day**" on **Monday, March 27**. Students and staff are encouraged to wear the colour purple in an effort to create awareness of epilepsy as a brain disorder and to eliminate any fear and stigma surrounding it.
- 17) **School Fundraising:**
  - ✓ **M&M School Shop Day Fundraisers** - The school raised **just under \$500** for general school funds to be put towards the purchase of additional technology and other materials to support student learning and engagement.
  - ✓ **Dance-a-Thons** - The school is planning to run a final Dance-a-Thon fundraisers for St. Patrick's Day. Families will be invited to make a small donation through 'SchoolCash' Online to support each fundraiser.

#### E. OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1) **Students Demonstrating Symptoms of Illness** - Parents and guardians of ill children continue to be encouraged to follow the most current guidelines provided by Niagara Public Health.
- 2) **Practice Fire & Lockdown Drills:**
  - ✓ **Fire drills** - Fire drills are to be conducted at a minimum of six times throughout the duration of the school year (three per term), all at various times of the day. St. John has completed three of its six required fire drills this year.
  - ✓ **Lockdown drills** - Lockdown drills are to be conducted at a minimum of two times throughout the duration of the school year (two per term). St. John has completed one of its two required fire drills this year.
- 3) **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.
- 4) **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.
- 5) **'SchoolMessenger'** - The school will continue to use the 'SchoolMessenger' platform to update the parent community with essential information pertaining to the school.
- 6) **'SchoolCash' Online** - The use of this platform to make payments for school related expenses is highly encouraged.
- 7) **Parish News:**
  - ✓ **Easter School Mass** - Our Easter School Mass is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday, April 11 at 10:00 am** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish. Families are welcome to attend!
  - ✓ **Year-End School Mass** - Our Year-End School Mass is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, June 14 at 10:00 am** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish. Families are welcome to attend.

✓ **Confirmation** - Students in Grade 8 who are Roman Catholic will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Tuesday, March 28 at 7:00 pm** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.

✓ **First Communion** - Students in Grade 2 and other grades who are Roman Catholic will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist on **Sunday, April 30 at 3:00 pm** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.

8) **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:**

1) **Lisa Milan** - *St. John Catholic School Council Chair*

✓ **Advent Family Mass** - Our Advent Family Mass was a success. Small changes in terms of the amount snacks and coffee to be ordered was discussed for next school year.

✓ **Catholic Education Week Raffle Baskets** - Fundraiser for consideration in May. Baskets made up of donations collected by parents on Catholic School Council.

✓ **Fall Wine Fundraiser** - The idea of running a wine fundraiser in the Fall was discussed. Catholic School Council will consider this idea for next school year.

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 27<sup>th</sup>

2) Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>

3) Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> (rescheduled to March 9<sup>th</sup>)

4) Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

✓ *Dates of Interest:*

**Tuesday, March 28** - Confirmation @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish

**Sunday, April 30** - First Holy Communion @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish

**Thursday, June 22** - Grade 8 Graduation

H. **NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

J. **CLOSING PRAYER** - David Forte