



**ST. JOHN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022
MINUTES**

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

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

David Forte (Principal) Enza Sorgini (teaching staff member) Amanda Iannazzo (non-teaching staff member) Andrew Natale (St. Joseph Parish representative)	Mrs. Chirico
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Those who have expressed their regrets - Jennifer Durling (Public Health nurse); Mrs. Millar (Catholic School Council Chair); Mrs. Milan (Catholic School Council Co-Chair)

4. **Approval of the Agenda** - Approved by Mrs. Chirico
5. **Disclosure of Interest**

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. **Andrew Natale - St. Joseph Parish Representative**
 - St. Joseph Easter Mass Schedule.
 - Events and activities at St. Joseph Parish.
 - Sacramental preparations update.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

D. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- 1) **School Fundraising Financial Report** (as of 28/02/2022) - Financial report was shared with council members by Mr. Forte.
- 2) **Purchase of Additional Chromebooks** - The school has used a portion of its School Generated Funds to purchase additional Chromebooks. These will be distributed to classrooms to support student learning and engagement. A sincere thank you is extended to our families for supporting our school fundraisers and lunch days.
- 3) **Easter Food Drive** - Our Easter Food Drive for the **Grimsby Benevolent Fund** will run from **March 28 - April 8**. We encourage students to bring in non-perishable items to support the cause.

- 4) **School Lunch Days** - The school continues to provide opportunities for contactless ordering through Pizza Hut (boxed personal pan pizzas) and Subway (personal wrapped subs).
- 5) **My Life Online** - The school is currently working with 'My Life Online' to organize a possible virtual presentation for the parent community in the Spring. 'My Life Online' educates families on assisting their children with managing online platforms responsibly.
- 6) **Sidewalk Along Bus Pick-Up/Drop-Off Lane** - The school is currently working with Board personnel in the Facilities Services Department to have a sidewalk installed along the bus pick-up/drop-off lane.
- 7) **Sidewalk Along King Street** - The school continues to work with the town and NSTS to have a sidewalk installed along King Street.
- 8) **Indoor Footwear** - We continue to remind parents to send students to school with a pair of indoor shoes.
- 9) **March Break** - March Break across Niagara Catholic will take place from **March 14 - March 18**. Students will return to school on Monday, March 21.
- 10) **Kindergarten Virtual Open House** - Our Kindergarten Virtual Open House took place on February 16 and was a tremendous success. Those who were unable to attend have been invited to access the St. John Kindergarten Open House Slideshow Presentation in a notification sent via SchoolMessenger. The link to the presentation has also been posted to our school webpage on the Board website, as well as our St. John Google Website.
- 11) **Kids Helping Kids** - From **February 14 - 25**, 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**.
- 12) **World Down Syndrome Day** - All schools across Niagara Catholic have been invited to participate in a "Rock Your Socks" event on **Monday, March 21** in recognition of World Down Syndrome Day.
- 13) **Epilepsy Awareness Day** - At St. John Catholic School, we join the grassroots campaigns to raise awareness about Epilepsy in our community by encouraging all students and staff to wear the colour purple on **Monday, March 28**.
- 14) **Sparkle Day: Feast of the Annunciation** - To celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation on Friday, March 25, we will be having Sparkle Day here at St. John. Students and staff are encouraged to come to school wearing sparkly clothing/accessories and/or their favourite white shirt or sweater.
- 15) **'EcoSchools' Initiative** - The following events will be taking place throughout the month of March as part of the St. John 'EcoSchools' Initiative...
 - ✓ **Waste-Free Lunch Wednesdays:** To continue with our ECO initiatives, we will promote Waste-Free Wednesday lunches.
 - ✓ **World Wildlife Week:** Throughout the **first week of March**, St. John will be participating in World Wildlife Week. Each class will learn about the many threats facing wildlife, and the conservation of endangered species and their ecosystems.

- ✓ **Global Recycling Day:** Global Recycling Day takes place on Friday, March 18 (during the March Break); however, at St. John, we will celebrate this day on **Wednesday, March 23** by having students and staff take part in various recycling activities.
- ✓ **World Water Day:** At St. John, we will be celebrating World Water Day on **Tuesday, March 22**. Students will participate in activities that highlight the importance of having clean, available water and how we must focus on conserving and protecting this most precious resource.
- ✓ **Earth Hour:** Families are reminded that Earth Hour takes place on **Saturday, March 26 from 8:30 pm - 9:30 pm**. Students and staff will be participating in Earth Hour as a school on **Friday, March 25**.

16) **School Fundraising:**

- ✓ **St. Patrick's Day Dance-a-Thon** - On **Friday, March 11**, students and staff are invited to come to school dressed in green and with appropriate accessories reflective of St. Patrick's Day. Students will participate in a Dance-a-Thon in the gymnasium according to a pre-determined schedule. A voluntary donation of **\$2.00** per student participating in the event is encouraged. Parents may make a larger donation if they wish. Money raised will go toward school generated funds.
- ✓ **Big Box of Cards (Spring)** - The school is currently working with Big Box of Cards to organize a possible Spring fundraiser.

E. OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1) **Niagara Catholic School Reopening & Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year** - Families continue to be encouraged to read the plan carefully.
- 2) **Niagara Catholic Active COVID-19 Screening Assessment** - Parents are reminded that they are required, under the direction of Niagara Region Public Health and the Niagara Catholic District School Board, to complete the Niagara Catholic Active COVID-19 Screening Assessment for their child(ren) each day prior to coming to school.
- 3) **Keeping Sick Children at Home** - As shared in previous parent communications, if a family member is ever showing any symptoms associated with COVID-19, parents are kindly asked to please consider keeping all children within the household home from school and follow the direction of Niagara Region Public Health. This will help limit potential transmission of the COVID-19 virus within the school and ultimately, the community.
- 4) **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.
- 5) **Kiss n' Ride Pick-Up** - To reduce congestion in the Kiss n' Ride line and along Regional Road 81/King Street, Kiss n' Ride students will continue to be dismissed from their classrooms at **3:15 pm**.
- 6) **Park & Pick-Up/Drop-Off** - To avoid congestion in the parking lot and to prevent a back-up of vehicles onto Regional Road 81/King Street, Park & Pick-Up students will be dismissed from their classes at **3:15 pm**.

- 7) **Visitors to the School** - School visitors continue to be highly restricted (this includes parents/guardians).
- 8) **Physical Distancing and Mask-Wearing on School Property** - In keeping with Public Health guidelines, parents continue to be reminded of the importance of wearing a mask on school property and maintaining a safe physical distance from others when picking up children.
- 9) **Niagara Catholic Virtual Learning Environment (NCVLE)** - The [NCVLE](#) continues to serve as the standard virtual platform for all classes throughout the Niagara Catholic District School Board.
- 10) **School Messenger** - The school will continue to update the parent community with information via SchoolMessenger.
- 11) **School Cash Online** - The use of this platform to make payments for school related expenses is highly encouraged. Further information is on the St. John Google Website.
- 12) **On-going School Initiatives:**
 - ✓ Consideration of planting trees to provide a shade canopy near outdoor classroom.
 - ✓ Continue to develop technological resources in the school.

F. CHAIRPERSON REPORT:

- 1) **Joanne Millar** -

G. Review of Key Dates and Dates of Interest:

- ✓ In keeping with Public Health guidelines and in an effort to keep everyone safe, Catholic School Council meetings will be held virtually on the Google Meet platform.
- ✓ *Meeting Dates (tentative):*
 - 1) Tuesday, September 28th
 - 2) Tuesday, November 30th
 - 3) Tuesday, March 1st
 - 4) Tuesday, April 26th
- ✓ *Dates of Interest:*
 - Thursday, April 7, 2022 - Confirmation @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish
 - Sunday, June 12, 2022 - First Holy Communion @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish
 - Tuesday, June 21, 2022 - Grade 8 Graduation

H. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

I. ADJOURNMENT

J. CLOSING PRAYER - David Forte