



**ST. JOHN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021  
MEETING MINUTES**

---



---

**A. ROUTINE MATTERS**

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

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| David Forte (Principal)                          | Mrs. Millar  |
| Enza Sorgini (teaching staff member)             | Mrs. Chirico |
| Amanda Iannazzo (non-teaching staff member)      | Mrs. Milan   |
| Andrew Natale (St. Joseph Parish representative) |              |

Those who have expressed their regrets - Jennifer Durling (Public Health nurse)

4. Approval of the Agenda - *approved by Mrs. Milan*
5. Disclosure of Interest

**B. PRESENTATIONS**

1. Presentation of Bylaws
2. Election of Chairperson
  - ✓ **Chairperson** - *Mrs. Joanne Millar*
  - ✓ **Co-Chairperson** - *Mrs. Lisa Milan*

**C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**D. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

- 1) **School Fundraising Financial Report** (as of 07/09/2021) - Financial report was shared with council members by Mr. Forte.
- 2) [St. John Catholic School Google Website](#) - Families have been invited to access a Google site that has been created for our school. The site contains daily information items that parents and students should always be aware of.
- 3) **HEPA Filters** - Seven additional HEPA filters have been provided by the Board. All classrooms within the school building now have working HEPA filters.
- 4) **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. The ordering period has been active throughout the summer and closes on Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.

- ✓ *Motion to approve that all St. John spiritwear can be worn on any given day of the school year as part of the Niagara Catholic Elementary Standardized Dress Code. - **APPROVED***
  - ✓ *Motion to approve that all Grade 8 Grad Hoodies can be worn on any given day of the school year by Grade 8 students as part of the Niagara Catholic Elementary Standardized Dress Code. - **APPROVED***
  - ✓ *Motion to approve that all Blessed Trinity spiritwear can be worn on any given day of the school year by Grades 7 & 8 students as part of the Niagara Catholic Elementary Standardized Dress Code. - **APPROVED***
- 5) **Thanksgiving Food Drive** - Our Thanksgiving Food Drive for **Community Care of West Niagara** will run from **September 27 - October 7**.
  - 6) **Annual Terry Fox Walk** - On **Tuesday, September 28**, 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 has raised approximately **\$1,500** for the 2021 walk!
  - 7) **Orange Shirt Day (Every Child Matters)** - Staff, students, and community members at St. John Catholic School are encouraged to wear the colour orange on **Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>** 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.
  - 8) **Ontario Dress Purple Day** - On **Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**, all students, staff, and community members are encouraged to come to school wearing the colour purple in support of Ontario Dress Purple Day. This initiative supports the care and safety of children in the Niagara Region and province of Ontario.
  - 9) **Halloween at St. John** - St. John students will participate in Halloween activities on **Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>** in their respective classrooms. Students may come to school dressed in Halloween costumes and are invited to remain in them for the duration of the day. Students are asked to bring a change of clothes should they want or need to change out of their Halloween costume later in the day. Further details will be communicated to families as the date approaches. We will continue to follow the direction of Niagara Region Public Health in an effort to maintain everyone's health and safety.
  - 10) **School Lunch Days** - As we continue to hope for a progressive transition back to normalcy, the school is in the process of planning for the return of school lunches. We are currently working with businesses in the community to work out the logistics of providing lunches to students amid the pandemic.
    - ✓ *Motion to approve school lunch days through Pizza Hut and Subway. - **APPROVED***
  - 11) **School Fundraising** - The school is currently networking with Dieleman Fundraising Sales (DFS) for general school fundraising. This would be a completely virtual and contactless fundraiser in which parents are provided with a virtual catalogue to purchase items online in preparation for the Christmas holiday.
    - ✓ *Motion to approve the Dieleman Fundraising Sales (DFS) initiative at St. John to commence in early October (if possible). - **APPROVED***

**E. OTHER BUSINESS:**

- 1) **Niagara Catholic School Reopening & Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year** - Families have been encouraged to read the plan carefully. The plan contains essential information for families to be aware of and will remain fluid to reflect current guidelines and practices provided by the Ministry of Education and Chief Medical Officers of Health.
- 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 the September newsletter and previous parent communication updates, if a family member is ever showing any symptoms associated with COVID-19, parents are kindly asked to please keep 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) **Recesses at St. John** - During recesses, students are supervised by staff members and reminded to keep a physical distance of at least two metres between themselves and others at all times. The Ontario Ministry of Education has advised that students are not required to wear their masks while outside, as long as they can maintain a safe physical distance from others. Niagara Public Health has explicitly advised that if students cannot maintain a safe physical distance outside, they will be required to put their masks back on.
- 5) **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.
- 6) **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 be dismissed from their classrooms at **3:15 pm**.
- 7) **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**.
- 8) **Visitors to the School** - School visitors will continue to be highly restricted (this includes parents/guardians).
- 9) **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 when picking up children.
- 10) **Student Accident Insurance** - Parents are encouraged to consider obtaining student accident insurance. The Board has made an arrangement to offer student accident insurance through *insuremykids*®.
- 11) **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.

- 12) **School Messenger** - The school will continue to update the parent community with information as we receive it from the school board, Ministry of Education, and Medical Officers of Health.
- 13) **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.
- 14) **Parish News:**
- ✓ **Opening School Mass** - This was held on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. via the St. Joseph Parish YouTube channel. Father Rico joined us at the school to administer Holy Eucharist.
  - ✓ **Confirmation** - Parent and candidate meeting for St. John families will be held at St. Joseph Parish on **Wednesday, October 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm** (alternative date of Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm if families absolutely cannot make it).
  - ✓ **First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion** - Parent meeting for St. John families was held at St. Joseph Parish on **Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm** (alternative date of Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 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 October through March.
- 15) **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 - N/A**

**G. Review of Key Dates and Dates of Interest:**

- ✓ In keeping with Public Health guidelines and in an effort to keep everyone safe, all meetings will be held virtually on the Google Meet platform for this school year.
- ✓ *Meeting Dates (tentative):*
  - 1) Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>
  - 2) Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>
  - 3) Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - 4) Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ *Dates of Interest:*
  - TBD Confirmation Retreat @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish
  - TBD First Holy Communion @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish
  - TBD Confirmation @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish
  - TBD Grade 8 Graduation

**H. NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

**J. CLOSING PRAYER**

David Forte