



MINUTES
OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

JANUARY 26, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
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Unapproved Minutes of the Meeting of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School, Council, held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Mrs. Taylor

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was led by Mrs. Taylor

2. Roll Call

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP		Present	Excused	Absent
Principal (Secretary/Treasurer)	Elizabeth Davey	√		
Co-Chairs	Cindi Taylor, Sara Turner	√		
Teacher Representatives	Toni Artista Marsh			√
	Mary D’Uva	√		
	Debra MacDonald	√		
	Greg Morawek/Melissa Tancredi	√		
Non-Teaching Representative	Sandra Stranges			√
Parish Representative	Anna Racine	√		
SEAC Representative	Anna Racine	√		
PARENT REPRESENTATIVES				
	Nicole Aubin	√		
	Kristy Carbonara			√
	Joseph Legace			√
	Kerry Morneau			√
	Kari Ratelle	√		
	Brianne Stoddart	√		
	Sante Visca	√		
	Terri Visca			√

3. Approval of the Agenda & Previous Meeting Minutes

Moved by Mrs. Racine
Seconded by Mrs. D'Uva

That the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School Council approve the Agenda of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic School Council Meeting of January 26, 2016.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Interest

No Disclosures of Interest were declared with any items on the agenda.

B. PRESENTATIONS/COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. SPECIAL EVENTS –

- Mrs. Davey thanked the council for their support of the school's 50th anniversary celebration. Mrs. Taylor represented the council very well at the event with her speech to the attendees.
- Mrs. Davey presented the plan for this year's Annual Kids Helping Kids taking place Feb. 8-12. Student Council has planned the activities: \$2.00 per student donation. Mon.: Crazy Hair or favourite hat day, Tues.: Mardi Gras accessories to dress code & pancakes, Wed.: Ash Wednesday, Thurs., Pyjama Day and Snuggle up and Read, Fri.: ELKP-Gr. 5 "Just Dance" & Gr. 6-8 "Just Sports"
- Mrs. Taylor requested volunteers for Feb. 9th Shrove Tuesday. Mrs. Visca, Mrs. Stoddart volunteered. Additional parents will be contacted to volunteer. Mrs. Simpson has already notified that school of her interest to volunteer.
- Movie Night: Originally planned for April 15th. That day has now been designated as a PA Day. Mrs. Taylor suggested that the event is moved to April 14th. The council was in favour of the change. Mrs. Maure will arrange for the popcorn donation for the event. Mrs. Turner and Mrs. Taylor will bag the popcorn. The food orders will be sent to the school community prior to the event for pre-order. It was noted at a previous meeting that the families receive a slip from the school to indicate verification of their order. Mrs. Matyas will consult with the students again this year to determine the movie to be shown.

2. SCHOOL NUTRITION

- Mrs. Stoddart gave the report on the program informing the council that the program received hundreds of dollars' worth of food from an anonymous donator. Muffin baking would continue. The school will request for additional volunteers via the church bulletin.

3. CHURCH REP: Mrs. Racine:

- Strong Catholic Families held a Gingerbread Nativity Advent Celebration in November which was well attended.
- Youth Ministry held an Advent Retreat in December.
- Children's Liturgy organized the children to participate in a Christmas Chorale at the 5:00 Mass on Christmas Eve.
- Refugee Committee has been working hard to raise funds to sponsor a refugee family. First fundraiser is a Pasta Dinner on January 12, 2016.
- 11th Annual Multi-Cultural Lunch is on January 31, 2016 at 12 noon. Looking for volunteers to donate food from their heritage and the families will receive complimentary

tickets for the lunch or they can purchase tickets for 8.00 for adults and 4.00 for children. Also looking for student volunteers.

- For the Year of Mercy Fr. Peter will be having evening workshops with the first on January 20, 2016, with the Theme – Feed the Hungry and Give Drink to the Thirsty with speakers from Project Share and Wells of Hope.
- St. Thomas More will be a host site in April for the Evangelization Summit which will be held in Ottawa. We will be hosting it at Saint Michael High School. More details to follow.

4. **SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REP:** Mrs. Racine:

- Ministry of Education, London District staff visited Niagara Catholic to attend the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well Being meeting.
- Special Education Plan – preparing to review and revamp the current version.
- Preparing to roll out the Denis Morris pilot project *Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA) in the Secondary Classroom* to all secondary schools.
- Currently piloting five schools for speech and language project. Looking at professional development on developing language skills.
- Looking at presenting the outcome of the Individual Education Plan (IEP) review audit.
- Mrs. Tancredi also reported that special needs students at OLMC would be attending the SNAP Program at Brock University
- IEP's forwarded home with the first term report cards on February 19th.
- Student Council is visiting the Niagara Children's Centre on February 29th. A Gr. 8 student with special needs who received services at the centre in the past will accompany the Council. Once they return, the students will kick off the Kids Helping Kids event by doing little presentations in each of the classrooms.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- The council was given a hard copy of the school year calendar and was asked to give their suggestions and input to Mrs. Taylor to submit.

6. **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS:**

- No Report

7. **FUNDRAISING:**

- Charity. "Kids Helping Kids"

C. **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

1. Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Report

2. **Fundraising Financial Report:** Mrs. Davey presented the Financial information from the Twelve Days of Christmas Fundraiser.

The Twelve Days of Christmas was very successful. Total raised was \$7,047.00. The fundraiser was designated for the following items: Hydration Station: \$2400.00, Field trip subsidy of \$10.00 per student \$3400.00 and approximately \$1000.00 for Grad expenses.

In past years the major fundraiser was the Dance a thon in February. Given the success of the 12 days of Christmas Mrs. Davey is recommending that this would be the major fund raiser for the 2015-2016 school year. Approaching the families again to raise money for Dance a Thon would not be necessary since there is now enough funds to cover the previously agreed upon purpose. Best practice regarding fundraising is that the majority funds should be spent in the school year that it is raised. The council agreed with the rationale. Mrs. Davey indicated that she reviewed current graduation traditions with the student council who are comprised of students in Grs. 6, 7&8. The

recommendation from students was as follows: Continue with Graduation Ceremony in the Church; have the dance and finger foods at an alternate location-perhaps Johnny Rocco's; change the cake to a cupcake cake; continue with the Mandarin Restaurant with the Gr. 8 teachers on the last day of school. Mrs. Visca indicated that he booked the restaurant for the event.

3. School Reports/Information:

- Registration for ELKP and for French Immersion taking place this week. OLMC has added ELKP French Immersion registration. There is interest from parents for ELKP French Immersion.
- French Immersion will be offered at the Gr. ELKP, 1, 2, 3 & 4 for September 2016. This is contingent on registrations. The entry point at OLMC is Grades ELKP, 1, 2 or 3. Grade four is not an entry point for French Immersion. Mrs. Davey stated that the students currently enrolled in the school's Gr. 1 & 3 French Immersion would not be required to register for Grades 2 & 4. Mrs. Davey is meeting with Roxanne Rees, French Consultant, to put together information for Grade 4 parents regarding the Gr. 4 French Immersion program. The Grade Fours are now entering a new division and the percentage of French/English will be slightly different.
- FI students attending Notre Dame elementary whose home school is OLMC, have been sent a letter that the Board will not be providing transportation to ND. They are being encouraged to return to their home school of OLMC. Families can remain at ND if they provide their own transportation.
- Grade 3-7 are attending a concert at the new Performing Arts Centre on February 19th. This is a free concert featuring the Niagara Youth Orchestras. They will highlight various genres of music and highlight the sounds that the various instruments make on an individual basis and as a section.
- Report Cards for term two will sent home on February 19th. Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences will be held the week of February 22nd at the request of either the parent or the teacher. The conferences will be held at a mutually convenient time for parent and teacher.
- March 4th is St. Michael's activity day at OLMC. Staff from St. Michael will be hosting a break out sessions of activities i.e., Music, Drum Core, Art, Phys. Ed., Math and much more for the students of OLMC. The day will start with Mr. Whittard doing the morning announcements after which, the students will be rotating through the sessions.
- After School Mad Science coming to OLMC for Grs. 3-6 in May. Tentatively booked for every Tuesday beginning in May for 6 weeks. Sessions are for one hour.

D. OAPCE REPORT

- Mrs. Aubin indicated that a report from OAPCE is forthcoming.

STAFF REPORT:

1. The **Grade 1** children participated in a workshop with the Scientists in the Classroom prior to Christmas. This helped to meet the requirements for the unit "Energy in our Lives".
2. The Roots of Empathy Program continues.
3. In **Grade 2** students have been learning about the Beatitudes. We have been focusing on Matthew 5: 9 "Happy are those who work for peace;

4. God will call them his children". Each child identified someone at home, or in the school community who is a peace-maker. They drew a picture, wrote the verse, and described how this person leads by example. The finished products were delivered to the people involved.
5. Parents and Guardians of those children who will be receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion were given letters today outlining all of the events and dates at St. Thomas More church involving parents and/or children for preparation. The first meeting will be on Thursday, Feb.4th in the church hall. Parents are asked to attend either a 10:00 a.m. or a 7:00 p.m. presentation.
6. In **grade 3** students are practicing Christian meditation on a daily basis. They are focusing on their inner selves and reciting the word "Marantha" which means "Come Lord Jesus". The students are focusing on being still and clearing their minds to come close to God and the Holy Spirit.
7. In addition, they are concentrating on guided meditation. In guided meditation they are opening their minds and hearts to the events that occur within the church calendar. So far they have taken visual journeys through the Epiphany and the Baptism of Jesus.
8. The students are finding calmness and enjoyment in these minutes of daily meditation.
9. The grade 3 teachers have taken the lead as all of the primary division teachers are introducing meditation in their classrooms. We invite you to look at the bulletin board in the hallway across from Mrs. Davey's office.
10. The Junior students received a presentation from the Dairy farmers
11. Poetry Café was used to showcase junior poetry. Three Gr. 5 students will represent the OLMC at the Board's Literacy Day on January 27th which is "Family Literacy Day."
12. Junior/Intermediates are also practicing Christian Meditation to develop further strategies to communicate with God; to assist with clearing and refocusing the mind; help with self-regulation.
13. A Youth Gambling presentation will take place for the juniors in April. The presenter will engage students in games that demonstrate odds and probability.
14. Ms. Gilliss, Child and Youth Worker, facilitates many activities with the students that are aimed at nurturing and developing a positive school climate; Zones of Regulations for all classrooms, Go Girls, Game on for boys, PALS. These activities help with student leadership, responsibility and ownership of positive school climate.
15. Mr. Macoretta and Mr. Stranges are running intramurals for junior students in the second term
16. Senior Boys and Girls Basketball taking place the first week of February.

E. AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS: Movie Night, Food Day for Spring

F. NEXT MEETING: Mrs. Taylor suggested that the meeting of April 13th be moved to April 5th in order to plan movie night and the next food day. The Council agreed with the change.

G. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

H. CLOSING PRAYER: Mrs. Stoddard closed the meeting with prayer.