

# St. Denis Catholic School Council

## MINUTES

September 26, 2023

### 1. Greeting-V. Wegelin

**Roll Call:** V. Wegelin, D. Korsmit, J. Foster, M. Iorio, K. Janes, C. Bartlett, C. James, T. Wadson, J. Burtnik, S. Egbedeyi, B. Humble. Regrets: T. Lee, S. McCreadie, C. Pitt, C. Locke, K. Buczek

### 2. Land Acknowledgement:

The Niagara Catholic District School Board wishes to honour the Indigenous people who have been the protectors of this land, known as Turtle Island, for more than ten thousand years. We begin this meeting by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the land protected by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this gathering place is home to many First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and acknowledging reminds us that our great standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people.

### 3. Opening Prayer-D. Korsmit

Heavenly Father, we come together asking for your guidance, wisdom, and support as we begin this new school year. Help us engage in meaningful discussion; allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of the community. Fill us with your grace, Lord God, as we make decisions that might affect the students, staff, and families of St. Denis Catholic Elementary School. And continue to remind us that all we do here today, all that we accomplish, is for the pursuit of truth for the greater glory of You, and for the service of humanity. We ask these things in your name, Amen.

### 4. Declaration of new Catholic School Council 2023-2024

Introductions around the table of current and new CSC members.

### 5. Review of Catholic School Council Policies/Regulations

Principal reviewed the purpose and guidelines of the Catholic School Council.



**6. Selection of New Catholic School Council Positions-Chair/Recording Secretary**

Nominations for new Council Chair: Jayevan Foster & Michelle Iorio, ballot vote held. Decision to Co-Chair made. No nominations for secretary, Diane Korsmit acclaimed to Secretary Position.

**7. Election of the Ontario Association for Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE)**

Co-Chairs, Michelle Iorio and Jayevan Foster

**8. Principal's Report-V. Wegelin**

- Everyone has welcomed very warmly the new staff. Our new staff members are Mrs. Austin- our grade 2/3 teacher, Mrs. Bonin our FSL teacher, Mrs. Bilechi our new Itinerant Arts teachers, Mrs. Goulet who is our new Librarian Assistant, Mr. Quaranta and Mrs. Maingot are our new Educational Assistants
- Two new basketball nets were installed for the primary students to play with at the back of the school. We are also getting some shelving replaced in our school.
- We will be having regular fire drills and lockdown drills at the school. The City of St. Catharines Fire Department will be coming out to observe one of our upcoming drills.
- Our SNAC Program is up and running. We received a grant of \$8496.00 from President's Choice.
- As a school we are continuing to focus on literacy/numeracy as our main focus in academic improvements this year. The Math program that is being used this year called Math Up. This program has consistent overall expectations throughout all grades and time for consolidation in Grade 8. There are 151 fewer expectations. Foundational ideas developed in the early grades.  
There are high impact instructional practices such as: direct instruction, learning goals and success criteria, problem solving tasks, math conversations, teaching about problem solving, small group instruction, flexible groupings and deliberate practice.
- Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Report-Usually meet bi-monthly, the first Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. at the CEC, Rice Rd.



- Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Report-Usually meet the first Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. at the CEC, Rice Rd.

\*\* Please note that agendas and minutes of both meetings can be found on Niagara Catholic's website, under Programs. Scroll down to Special Education to find relevant agendas and minutes.

- Catholic School Council Financial Report

i) 2022-2023 Balances Forwarded: Nevada: \$44.93; Lottery-\$1445.15 as we purchased 21 Chromebooks last year for the school.

ii) Catholic School Council Parent Engagement Funds, to be used by June 14, 2024

\$1000.00 in funds to support parent engagement activities at the school level through an application process. First come, first serve basis. Application/funding will be approved in alignment with Ministry criteria in relation to identifying needs for the school community and how schools can improve in at least one the following areas:

- addressing social inclusion and racism specifically anti-Asian, anti-Black, and anti-Indigenous racism and other prejudices toward racialized and marginalized group
- creating a safe and welcoming environment
- informing parents about the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum and supporting resources
- providing workshops for parents/guardians to inspire their children to learn, mental health and well-being, internet safety, cyber bullying and healthy living
- projects to support Indigenous learners and their families
- programs for newcomer families to introduce them to Catholic education in Niagara Catholic
- parent resources and tools in multiple languages to make all parents/guardians and students feel welcome and include
- skill-building opportunities for parents –information sessions/workshops that provide parents with the knowledge, skills and tools they need to support student learning at home and at school.



- All Sacramental preparation classes will be completed by the church. Information can be found in the church bulletins. Please contact Father Stephen asap if you are interested in your child participating in a sacrament this year.

**9. Staff Report-T. Lee – Report read by Principal in Tina Lee’s absence.**

- The Terry Fox Run took place on September 22, 2023. Students walked the perimeter of the schoolyard and junior and intermediate students walked on the trail. All students wore red and white and their favorite sneakers.
- Orange Shirt Day will be held on Friday, September 29, 2023. Students can wear an orange shirt to acknowledge this important day.
- Junior Girls Soccer will be held on October 2, 2023.
- Junior Boys Soccer will be held on October 3, 2023.
- Thanksgiving Liturgy being held virtually on Thursday October 5, 2023. This is also World Teacher’s Day.
- October 6, 2023 will be a Professional Activity Day with a focus on mathematics, literacy and school improvement.
- Holy Childhood Walk will be held on Wednesday, October 18 2023.
- Picture day is held on October 25, 2023. All students are reminded to bring their best smile.
- Halloween will be held on Tuesday, October 31, 2023. Students may wear their costumes all day long and we will be having a Halloween parade at 9:45 am. Please try to keep treats at home as the school will prepare a healthy spooky snack on this day for the entire school.

**10. Correspondence**

N/A

**11. New Items:**

**A. Goals for this upcoming year**

Brainstorm and come back next meeting with thoughts. Reflect on goals and NCDSB Mission of Literacy & Numeracy, to deepen understanding, attend board events, focus on mental health & wellness is a high priority.



## **B. Fundraisers**

Continue with 12 Days of Christmas Raffle Dec. 1 – 18. Diane to get lottery licence. Burtnik printing to print tickets, thank you. Tickets to go home November 13, due back on Nov. 27. Looking for \$100 cash prize donations to maximize profits. Funds generated to use for school technology and resources.

Question posed to continue with Poinsettia sales for Grade 8 Grad. Vermeer's supplied last year. Principal declared conflict and left room for vote as to use Vermeer's again. Unanimous vote to proceed with fundraiser and use Vermeer's.

New fundraiser last year, Spring Cha-Ching, raffle like 12 Days of Christmas. Was easy to run and successful. Option to run again this year.

Other ideas brought forward to consider as a fundraiser:

Little Caesars' Pizza – K. Janes to look into/pick up-storage concern.

Cobs Bread – M. Iorio.

Movie Night – J. Foster

Trivia Night – M. Iorio.

Comedy Night – B. Humble

Spelling Bee.

## **C. Guest Speakers/virtual**

Potential to share with other schools to offset cost. Can access Parent Engagement Funds. We have had Internet safety with Paul Davis in past, great information, very relevant. Q-Mac another great option, ALLSTAR Message – Attitude, Leadership, Love, Self-Control, Teamwork, Accountability, Respect. Principal to look into pricing and availability.

If you have any ideas or suggestions please let principal know.

## **D. Policies for Vetting/Feedback**

### **Vetting:**

**Board By-Laws Policy (100.1** Please submit your feedback to [anna.pisano@ncdsb.com](mailto:anna.pisano@ncdsb.com) by 12:00 p.m. on September 28, 2023



**Trustee Electronic Meetings (Board and Committees) Policy (100.8)** Please submit your feedback to [anna.pisano@ncdsb.com](mailto:anna.pisano@ncdsb.com) by 12:00 p.m. on September 28, 2023

**Admission of Elementary and Secondary Students Policy (301.1)** Please submit your feedback to [anna.pisano@ncdsb.com](mailto:anna.pisano@ncdsb.com) by 12:00 p.m. on November 1, 2023

**Community Use of Facilities (800.2)** Please submit your feedback to [anna.pisano@ncdsb.com](mailto:anna.pisano@ncdsb.com) by 12:00 p.m. on November 1, 2023

Please view policies on the board website, [niagaracatholic.ca](http://niagaracatholic.ca). Changes will be in red.

Report your feedback to [anna.pisano@ncdsb.com](mailto:anna.pisano@ncdsb.com).

## **12. Agenda items for future meetings**

Diane to contact Pita Pit to request pickles as an option for student pitas.

Kim inquired about milk program, Victoria to offer/ask staff for possible resurrection of program.

Chantal inquired about Breakfast Program. Victoria explained the change in program delivery since covid to a morning snack program.

Tanya inquired about a Permanent Installation of a Communication Board. Guesstimated cost \$2000 - \$3000. Will follow up with a picture/sample of other installations.

Jayevan suggested a google form or tick box to increase readership for our monthly newsletter.

## **13. Adjournment – 7:55 pm**

## **14. Closing Prayer**

**15. Next Meeting Dates:** **November 7, 2023**    **April 2, 2024**    **June 4, 2024/Social**

**January 16, 2024**    **May 7, 2024**

