



ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2024 MINUTES

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

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

<u>Staff & Community Representatives:</u>	<u>Parent Representatives:</u>
David Forte (Principal)	Meaghan Anderson - P
Lauren Swindley (Teaching staff member)	Dan Belford - P
Elizabeth Bennie (Teaching staff member)	Sara Chirico - P
Pratusha Caleb (Non-teaching staff member) - E	Lynn Dudok (Chair) - P
	Candace Manning-Ramage - P
	Iyanuoluwa Obadeyi - P
	Marnie Odell - P
	Sarah Pekaruk - P
	Priscilla Prias-Molina - P
	Breeann Staibano (Co-Chair) - P
	Alyshia Tuomi - P
	Taylor Venneri - P

Those who have expressed their regrets:

- Pratusha Caleb (Non-teaching staff member)

Early Departures:

- None

4. **Approval of the Agenda** - Agenda approved by Lynn Dudok; seconded by Breeann Staibano.
5. **Disclosure of Interest** - None.

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. **Presentation of Bylaws** - Mr. Forte reviewed the bylaws with the Catholic School Council members.
2. **Election of Chairperson** - Lynn Dudok, Chairperson; Breeann Staibano, Co-Chairperson.
3. **Catholic School Council Annual Commissioning** - All members participated actively in the Catholic School Council Annual Commissioning.

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 Fundraising Financial Report (as of 23/09/2024).
- 2) **Parent Engagement Funds** - The school has received an allotment of \$500.00 to use for parent engagement in an effort to support student achievement and well-being. Catholic School Council members are invited to work with the chairperson to discuss ideas for a parent engagement activity for St. John. Ideas need to meet the criteria outlined in the memorandum and will be discussed at forth-coming meetings.
- 3) **School Fundraising:**
 - ✓ **Dance-a-Thons** - The St. John Student Council is planning to run Dance-a-Thon fundraisers during October (Halloween), February (Valentine's Day), and June ('Surfs Up' theme). Families will be invited to make a small donation through 'SchoolCash' Online to support each fundraiser. Money raised will go toward school generated funds for the purchase of additional technology and other materials to support student learning and engagement.
 - ✓ **School Lunch Days** - The school will continue to work with Subway, Pita Pit, Little Caesars, and Antipastos to provide school lunch days to students. Lunch days continue to be scheduled on a monthly basis in an effort to avoid unforeseen conflicts that could occur. The school will schedule lunch days in compliance with The Board's Food & Beverage Policy, as well as the Ministry's Program/Policy Memorandum on School Nutrition Standards.

E. OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1) **Practice Fire & Lockdown Drills:**
 - ✓ **Fire drills** will be conducted at a minimum of six times throughout the duration of the school year, all at various times of the day.
 - ✓ **Lockdown drills** will be conducted at a minimum of two times throughout the duration of the school year.
- 2) **'SchoolMessenger'** - The school will continue to use the 'SchoolMessenger' platform to update the parent community with essential information pertaining to the school. Parents have been reminded to check the email account they have provided to the school frequently.
- 3) **'SchoolCash' Online** - The use of this platform will continue to be used as the sole means to make payments for school related expenses. The platform will also be used for **Parent Consent for Student Personal Information**, as well as **Consent & Risk Acknowledgement for Athletic Participation**, as required by the Niagara Catholic District School Board.
- 4) **Milk Program** - Due to a number of students in our care who have a severe anaphylactic allergy to milk, the school is not in a position to offer a milk program out of an abundance of care and consideration for the health and safety of these individuals.
- 5) **Food Arrival on School Lunch Days** - With the Balanced Day Schedule in place, food items on school lunch days will arrive for the second Nutrition Break. Families are reminded that students still need to come to school with sufficient snacks, especially for the first Nutrition Break.

- 6) **Kindergarten Playground** - The school continues to work with Facilities Services to have a Kindergarten playground installed at the school. Construction was deferred from this past summer due to incomplete projects taking place at other sites throughout the Board.
- 7) **Dismissal** - Out of an abundance of care and concern for the safety of all, and to ensure a safe dismissal of students at the end of the day, all Kiss n' Ride and Park & Pick-Up students will be dismissed first to avoid a back-up of vehicles onto King Street and to avoid congestion in the lot as buses arrive. Bus colours are dismissed as they arrive to allow for the safe loading of students onto the buses.
- 8) **Parish News:**
 - ✓ **First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion** - Parent meeting for St. John families to be held at St. Joseph Parish on *Wednesday, September 25 at 6:00 pm.*
 - ✓ **Confirmation** - Parent and candidate meeting for St. John families to be held at St. Joseph Parish on *Wednesday, October 9 at 6:00 pm.*
- 9) **On-going School Initiatives:**
 - ✓ Promoting equity and inclusivity and celebrating diversity in our school community.
 - ✓ Promoting online safety and responsible digital citizenship in our community.
 - ✓ Continue to strengthen the relationship with associate Catholic secondary school with a retention rate goal of 100%.
- 10) **Catholic School Council Goals:**
 - ✓ The school is working with a local arborist to fulfill the goal of having trees planted near the outdoor classroom and along the sides of the field where soccer nets are located to provide students with shade on hot weather days.
 - ✓ Continue to develop technological resources in the school with a goal of one Chromebook for every one student in Grades 1 through 8 and replacing non-functional Smartboards and LCD projectors with interactive TVs.
 - ✓ Organization and facilitation of a 'Family Fun Night' in June to continue to build community among students and families.

F. CHAIRPERSON REPORT:

- 1) **Expectations for Catholic School Council Members** - The elected Chair and Co-Chair of the Catholic School Council reviewed expectations of members.
- 2) **Fundraising for 2024-2025** - Members will move forward with a Krispy Kreme fundraiser in the Fall and a fundraiser through Niagara Fresh Market from December to May. If there is a need, a decision on a Spring fundraising option for will be made by the Chair, Co-Chair, and Principal, based on feedback provided by members.
 - ✓ Cookbooks
 - ✓ Watering Can DIY Planters
- 3) **Family Advent Mass** - This event will take place at St. Joseph Catholic Parish on *Tuesday, December 17 at 5:30 pm.* There will be a song performance put on by students in Kindergarten to Grades 3 following Mass. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided in the reception room following the Mass and song performance for those who wish to stay. Catholic School

Council members and other parent volunteers to work with the Chair/Co-Chair to facilitate this family social gathering and secure light refreshments and snacks through donations.

- 4) **Niagara IceDogs Night** - Dr. Chirico to share with the Council details pertaining to a St. John family night at a Niagara IceDogs game, which includes a pre-game skate. The St. John Catholic School Choir will also be singing the National Anthem at the game. The date for the game is **Thursday, October 17**. Tickets are sold via a link and password provided by the Niagara IceDogs organization, which will be shared with the school community. The school and Catholic School Council are making it mandatory for helmets to be worn by anyone under the age of 18 who wishes to participate in the pre-game skate.
- 5) **Family Movie Night** - The Council would like to move forward with a Family Movie Night to be held at Landmark Cinemas in St. Catharines in early Spring.
- 6) **Staff Appreciation Lunch** - Catholic School Council would like to move forward with facilitating a pot-luck appreciation lunch for St. John staff in the Spring. Members to work with the Chair and Co-chair to organize. Date to be established at forth-coming meeting.
- 7) **Monthly Newsletter Blurbs** - The Chair and Co-Chair will work with the Catholic School Council members to generate and provide a blurb containing information and updates to be included in monthly newsletters.
- 8) **Family Fun Night** - Chair/Co-Chair to share details regarding the planning of a Family Fun Night.
 - ✓ **Date: *Wednesday, June 4***
 - ✓ **Time: 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm**
 - ✓ **Items to be provided to the Principal by the February Catholic School Council Meeting:**
 - List of activities and cost for each activity within operating budget
 - Schedule to satisfy the activities on the list
 - List of volunteers to satisfy the activities and schedule
 - Donations for gift baskets to facilitate a raffle

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.
- ✓ *Meeting Dates (tentative):*
 - 1) Monday, September 23
 - 2) Monday, November 25
 - 3) Tuesday, February 25
 - 4) Tuesday, April 29
- ✓ *Dates of Interest:*
 - TBD First Holy Communion @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish
 - TBD Confirmation @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish
 - Grade 8 Graduation @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish - Thursday, June 19 @ 5:00 pm, followed by dinner and dancing for students at Galileo Gardens from 7:00 - 10:00 pm.

H. NEXT MEETING

Monday, November 25, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm

J. CLOSING PRAYER - led by David Forte