



ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024 MINUTES

A. ROUTINE MATTERS - The meeting began at 6:00 p.m.

1. **Land Acknowledgement** - led by David Forte
2. **Opening Prayer** - led by Lynn Dudok
3. **Roll Call (7 parent members required to attain quorum):**

<u>Staff & Community Representatives:</u>	<u>Parent Representatives:</u>
David Forte (Principal)	Meaghan Anderson
Lauren Swindley (Teaching staff member)	Dan Belford
Elizabeth Bennie (Teaching staff member) - E	Sara Chirico - L (arrived at 6:08 pm)
Pratusha Caleb (Non-teaching staff member) - E	Lynn Dudok (Chair)
	Candace Manning-Ramage
	Iyanuoluwa Obadeyi
	Marnie Odell - A
	Sarah Pekaruk
	Priscilla Prias-Molina
	Breeann Staibano (Co-Chair)
	Alyshia Tuomi
	Taylor Venneri

Those who have expressed their regrets:

- Elizabeth Bennie (Teaching staff member)
- Pratusha Caleb (Non-teaching staff member)

Early Departures:

- None

4. Approval of the Agenda - Agenda approved by Meaghan Anderson; seconded by Taylor Venneri.
5. Disclosure of Interest - None.
6. Approval of Minutes of the St. John Catholic School Council Meeting of **September 23, 2024** - Minutes approved by Sarah Pekaruk; seconded by Candace Manning-Ramage.

B. PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

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 25/11/2024).
- 2) **Advent Food Drive** - Our Advent Food Drive for the **Grimsby Benevolent Fund** will run from **December 2 - 13**. We encourage students to bring in non-perishable items to support the cause.
- 3) **Joy Day at St. John** - On **December 6**, students and staff at St. John will engage in school decorating activities in anticipation of the Advent and Christmas Seasons.
- 4) **Weekly Advent Prayer Service Celebrations** - Select classes to lead whole-school prayer service celebrations for each week of Advent. Parents of students in classes leading each celebration are invited to attend.
- 5) **Christmas Activities at St. John** - At St. John, all students and staff are invited to come to school on the last day of classes prior to the Christmas Break dressed in Christmas and/or Advent colours (*red, green, white, purple, & pink*). Students will participate in Christmas activities in their respective classrooms. Teachers will also be encouraged to have joint celebrations with other classes where possible and practical.
- 6) **Scholastic Book Fair** - St. John will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair from **Monday, January 20 - Thursday, January 23**. Proceeds will be put toward the purchase of additional titles and materials for our school library. The Chair/Co-Chair to work with Catholic School Council members and parents in the community to secure volunteers to assist the Librarian.
- 7) **Holy Childhood Walk** - On **Friday, October 18**, students and staff at St. John participated in the annual Holy Childhood Walk in support of the **Holy Childhood Association**. Through donations made via 'SchoolCash' Online, St. John raised **\$264.00** to support the Holy Childhood Association.
- 8) **Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund** - On **Monday, November 11**, students and staff at St. John participated in a Remembrance Day ceremony and received poppies to wear from the **Royal Canadian Legion**. Through donations made via 'SchoolCash' Online, St. John raised **\$150.00** for the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund.
- 9) **In-School Fundraising:**
 - ✓ **Dance-a-Thons** - The St. John Student Council will run Dance-a-Thon fundraisers during February (Valentine's Day) and June ('Surfs Up' theme). Families will be invited to make a small donation to the school through 'SchoolCash' Online to support each fundraiser. Students will be encouraged to come to school dressed according to the theme and will also receive a glow stick to use during the Dance-a-Thon. Money raised will go toward school generated funds for the purchase of additional technology and other materials to support student learning and engagement.

E. OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1) **Parish News:**
 - ✓ **Advent School Mass** - Our Advent School Mass is scheduled to take place on **Monday, December 2 at 10:00 am** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish. Families are welcome to attend.
 - ✓ **Advent Family Mass** - Our Advent Family Mass is scheduled to take place on **Tuesday, December 17 at 5:30 pm** at St. Joseph Catholic Parish. All families are invited and encouraged to attend the Mass.

- ✓ **Confirmation** - Students in Grade 8 who are Roman Catholic will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation on *Thursday, February 27 at 7:00 pm* at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.
 - ✓ **First Communion** - Students in Grade 2 and other grades who are Roman Catholic will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Eucharist on *Saturday, April 26 at 11:00 am* at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.
- 2) **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%.
- 3) **Catholic School Council Goals:**
- ✓ The goal of having trees planted along the sides of the field where soccer nets are located has been fulfilled. Over time, trees will 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) **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 Councils may apply for additional funds up to \$1,000.00 to support parent engagement activities at the school level through an application process.
- Parent engagement ideas discussed among the Catholic School Council included:
- ✓ *Public Health presentation - Mental health and how parents can support their children*
 - ✓ *Literacy presentation - How parents can support their child's literacy development at home*
 - ✓ *Online safety presentation - Paul Davis*
- 2) **Fundraising for 2024-2025** - Members will move forward with a fundraiser through Niagara Fresh Market, which will continue throughout the school year. 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. Ideas discussed included:
- ✓ *Cookbooks*
 - ✓ *Watering Can DIY Planters*
 - ✓ *Big Box of Cards*
- 3) **Family Advent Mass** - Catholic School Council members and other parent volunteers to work with the Chair/Co-Chair to facilitate a family social gathering in the reception room following the Mass and song performance. Light refreshments and snacks to be secured through donations. Chair/Co-Chair to work with parents to establish a set-up and clean-up crew.
- 4) **Stocking Stuffer Drive for the Niagara Regional Native Centre** - Dr. Chirico provided details on this initiative to be run at the school in an effort to combine Christmas Spirit with Discipleship and action towards Truth & Reconciliation.

- 5) **School Lunch Days** - The school will continue to endeavour to schedule school lunch days on dates that don't conflict with other school events in an effort to ensure that all families have the opportunity to order for their child. The school will endeavour to provide four lunch days per month (one per week) when possible and practical.
- 6) **Family Movie Night** - The Council is moving forward with a Family Movie Night to be held at Landmark Cinemas in St. Catharines in early Spring. Date to be established at the February CSC meeting.
- 7) **Staff Appreciation Lunch** - Catholic School Council will 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 the February CSC meeting.
- 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
- 9) **Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Information** - Chairperson shared updates from latest NCPIC meeting.
- 10) **Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) Information** - Chairperson shared updates from OAPCE.

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:*
 - First Holy Communion @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish - Saturday, April 26 @ 11:00 am
 - Confirmation @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish - Thursday, February 27 @ 7:00 pm
 - 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

Tuesday, February 25, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

J. CLOSING PRAYER - led by Breeann Staibano