



**ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025
MINUTES**

A. ROUTINE MATTERS - The meeting began at 6:03 pm

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 - A
Elizabeth Bennie (Teaching staff member)	Sara Chirico
Dawn Vien (Non-teaching staff member) - E	Lynn Dudok (Chair)
	Candace Manning-Ramage
	Iyanuoluwa Obadeyi - A
	Marnie Odell
	Sarah Pekaruk
	Priscilla Prias-Molina
	Breeann Staibano (Co-Chair)
	Alyshia Tuomi
	Taylor Venneri

Those who have expressed their regrets:

- Dawn Vien (Non-teaching staff member)

Early Departures:

4. Approval of the Agenda - Agenda approved by Meaghan Anderson; seconded by Candace Manning-Ramage.
5. Disclosure of Interest - None.
6. Approval of Minutes of the St. John Catholic School Council Meeting of **February 25, 2025** - Minutes approved by Sarah Pekaruk; seconded by Priscilla Prias-Molina.

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 29/04/2025).
- 2) **New Catholic School Naming Presentation & Student Vote** - On April 15, students in Grades 4-8 participated in a presentation, led by Board Chaplaincy Leaders, about potential names for the new Beamsville Catholic elementary school to be built on Greenlane. Students then had the opportunity to cast their vote for the name they feel would be most suitable. Student voice will be considered by Board representatives when determining the name of the new school.
- 3) **Catholic Education & Mental Health Week** - Niagara Catholic schools will be participating in Catholic Education Week with the theme of "*Pilgrims of Hope*", in conjunction with Mental Health Week, from **Monday, May 5 to Friday, May 9**. The connection between our Catholic faith and mental health will be highlighted. Further details regarding Catholic Education & Mental Health Week activities are outlined in the letter sent to families.
- 4) **EQAO Digitalized Assessments** - The EQAO Assessments in Reading, Writing, and Math are for Grade 3 and Grade 6 students participating in in-person learning. All students who are accessing the Ontario Curriculum are expected to participate in the assessments. Assessments will take place digitally, using school devices from **May 20 - 23 (Grade 3 students)** and **May 26 - 30 (Grade 6 students)**.
- 5) **Term 2 Report Cards** - Please be advised that Term 2 Ontario Provincial Report Cards will be made available in the [Niagara Catholic Parent Portal](#) the **week of June 23**. This reporting period reflects learning that has occurred since the commencement of Term 2 at the start of February.
- 6) **2025-2026 Classroom Placements** - Due to ongoing changes in teaching staff throughout the Board, the name of your child's classroom teacher for the 2025-2026 school year will appear in the [Niagara Catholic Parent Portal](#) in late August / early September.
- 7) **School Summer Garden Maintenance** - Catholic School Council Members and anyone wishing to assist with garden maintenance over the summer months are asked to contact Mrs. Binfield if they have any questions. A notification with a form to complete will be sent out to families in May. Families will be required to state their availability on the form and return it to the school by a specified date in June.
- 8) **Meet the Staff Open House & Knights of Columbus BBQ** - This event is tentatively scheduled to take place on **Thursday, September 18 from 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm**. The school is looking for parent volunteers from the Catholic School Council to run an exchange for gently used elementary standardized dress code items during the event.
- 9) **In-School Fundraising:**
 - ✓ **Dance-a-Thons** - The St. John Student Council will run its third and final Dance-a-Thon fundraiser in *June ('Surfs Up' theme)*. Families will be invited to make a small donation to the school through 'SchoolCash' Online to support the fundraiser. 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:**

- ✓ **Closing School Year Mass** - Father Rico will host St. John students and staff at St. Joseph Parish on **Thursday, June 5** at 12:30 pm for our Closing School Year Mass. Families are invited to attend.

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:**

- ✓ 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. The St. John Catholic School Council's application for additional funds up to \$1,000.00 has been approved.

- ✓ *Paul Davis - How parents can support their child in managing and navigating online platforms and digital devices safely (with St. Edward)*
 - **Grades 4 - 5 Virtual Learning Session: Link to be provided to teachers.**
 - **Grades 6 - 8 In-Person Presentation: Monday, May 12 (during the school day).**
 - **In-Person Parent Presentation: Monday, May 12 @ St. John (6:30 pm).**

2) **Fundraising for 2025-2026** - Members discussed possible fundraising options for next school year. A decision on fundraising options for 2025-2026 will be made by the Chair, Co-Chair, and Principal in the Fall based on feedback provided by members.

3) **Ad Hoc New Catholic School Naming Committee Meetings** - On April 9th and 28th, representatives from St. John, including the CSC Chair & Co-Chair, Principal, and Student Council President & Vice-President participated in committee meetings about potential names for the new Beamsville Catholic elementary school to be built on Greenlane. Community members will have an opportunity to explore the considered names and cast a vote. Community voice will be considered by Board representatives when determining the name of the new school.

4) **Family Movie Night** - Mrs. Anderson shared details pertaining to a St. John Family Movie Night, which was held at Landmark Cinemas in St. Catharines. The school sold approximately 60 tickets. Families thoroughly enjoyed the experience together.

5) **Staff Appreciation Lunch** - Catholic School Council will move forward with facilitating a pot-luck appreciation lunch for St. John staff on **Friday, May 2**. Members to work with the Chair and Co-chair to organize.

- 6) **Family Fun Night** - Chair/Co-Chair to share details regarding the planning of Family Fun Night.
 - ✓ **Date:** *Wednesday, June 4*
 - ✓ **Time:** 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm
 - ✓ **Food options:**
 - Knights of Columbus to Facilitate the BBQ (food items to be purchased with cash at the event; prices to be shared in communication to families)
 - Sunshine Smoothies (nut-free items to be purchased with cash at the event)
 - Funnel Cake Dream Truck (nut-free items to be purchased with cash at the event)
 - Popcorn & Cotton Candy (parent volunteers required to run these stations)
 - ✓ **Finalized items to be provided to the Principal:**
 - 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

- 7) **Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Information** - Chairperson shared updates from NCPIC.

- 8) **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.

- ✓ *Dates of Interest:*
 - 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

September, 2025 (specific date and time to be determined).

I. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm

J. CLOSING PRAYER - led by Breeann Staibano