



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**AGENDA
OUR LADY OF FATIMA
CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

DATE Oct 2nd, 2023 @ 6:00 PM
Location Our Lady of Fatima, Virtual

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer led by Theo

O HOLY SPIRIT, Source of truth and grace, for those entrusted with the Christian development of children, enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills, and fill our hearts with generosity so that our homes, our parishes and our schools may cooperate effectively with you, and with one another in the exalted mission of Catholic Education. We make our prayer through Christ, our lord. Amen

2. Roll Call: Theo Dagenais, Susan Pemberton, Johanna Miller, Michelle Bruce-Pepe, Jillian Eles, Silvie DiNunzio, Amanda McIntyre, Okello Ojara, Ashley Chiarello, Deb Turkovich, Michael McKnight, Justine Saville, Shannon Fletcher, Amy Kita, Chris Campbell.
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Disclosure of Interest
5. Approval of Minutes of the Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School Council Meeting of May 2023

B. PRESENTATIONS

C. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Start of the year: it has been a challenging start to the school year with changes in staffing and classes. Theo did not want to make the changes to the FI classes, but was required to as per Board instructions. Board requires the school to be cap compliant. The cap is 21 students in Primary. 10% of the schools within the system can be over this. These schools are chosen by the Board. Caps are exclusive of the following: if a child from within the board is in the FI program and moves to our boundary to attend FI at our school and if a child is in-bound and Catholic moves into our boundary. Theo advocated for changes in the English stream in the spring as some of the classes were exceptionally large in the junior division. Question: why do we accept non-Catholic students? Approximately 40% of students are non-Catholic and are required to secure government funding for the viability of the school/board.
- Decisions to move children to a new class are not made lightly. Teachers are asked to consider and balance the following criteria: academics, exceptionalities, friendships, gender.
Stats for Fatima:
 - Our Lady of Fatima has an On-the-Ground Capacity (OTG) of 282 pupil places.
 - OLOF has 3 portables on site and has an adjusted OTG of 351 pupil places.

- OLOF has a utilization of 101%
- Over the next 10 years, enrollment at OLOF is projected to stay within 350 to 390 pupils.
- CSC meeting schedule – need to meet 4x yearly but can meet more if needed. Sub-committees may meet outside of these times for special projects.
- Parents are wondering how they can best have their concerns addressed by the Board. Some ideas were suggested to: contact trustees, ask the superintendent to attend a CSC meeting, attend Board meetings.
- Communication: a suggestion was made an app or shared social media account to communicate CSC information. After discussing the pros/cons it was settled that email meets the needs of most. Michelle has sent out a google doc so that emails can be updated as needed.
- Meet the Teacher/Christmas Concert: concerns were made that the early evening and/or afternoon only does not meet the needs of all families. Theo acknowledged that this is a difficult balance to strike as he cannot mandate that staff attend after school functions.
- Theo acknowledged that communications with families need to have more notice so that families can be prepared accordingly.
- Chris would like to keep a supply of clothing on hand for special event days (e.g. orange shirt, purple shirt, etc.).
- If CSC would like a hoodie Theo will cover half the cost (\$25).

D. OAPCE REPORT

E. STAFF REPORT

F. AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Purchase of Chromebooks (deferred to next meeting)
- Fundraising initiatives & Purposes (deferred to next meeting)

G. NEXT MEETING

Monday October 16, 2023 @ 6 pm

H. ADJOURNMENT

7:06 pm

I. CLOSING PRAYER (led by Theo)

Jesus, guard me through this day in all I do and all I say. We give you our school. We give you all the teachers and staff who work here, we give you all the children who study here. We pray our school would be place of great discovery, adventure and creativity.