



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

AGENDA

ST. MARK CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Nov 24, 2020, 6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

ZOOM link: <https://zoom.us/j/4297424914?pwd=ajFpVFBOeTdrNUhyeUE4VUhhRaDVhUT09>

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer
2. Roll Call - *Mrs. DiBartolomeo, Mrs. Giammarco, Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Ward, Mr. Atkinson, Mrs. Gambale, Mrs. Swart, Mrs. Khory, Mrs. Golini, Mrs. Nicolazzo, Mrs. Gray, & Mrs. Manchuk.*
3. Approval of Agenda – *Mrs. Swart & Mrs. Nicolazzo*
4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of the 20-09-29 meeting - *Mrs. Swart & Mrs. Nicolazzo*

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. St. Mark Student Council Report – *Presented by Cole Thompson & Chiara Nicolazzo*
Good Evening,
My name is Cole Thompson, and with Chiara Nicolazzo we are the co-chairs of the St. Mark Intermediate Student Council. We met last week and have decided to coordinate our annual Advent/Christmas Food and Toy Drives. We all felt that although we have restrictions due to COVID-19, we would safely be able to run these drives that would allow us to help put smiles on the faces of people less fortunate than ourselves. Our Drive will begin this Thursday, November 26 and will run until Thursday, December 10th. The material will be bagged and left over the weekend before being shipped to their locations. Our council have decorated class boxes that will be used for all contributions. Our student council members will be assigned classrooms within the school and will complete daily sweeps of the material brought in. The toy and food items will be sanitized and placed in the front foyer.
In term two we will be working on a project to define our Belief statement around what it means to be a St. Mark Mountain Lion! We are enjoying the process of being involved in the Student Council this year.
Thank you.

- *Mrs. Swart ask if there will be any kind of communication about the drive to parents from the school. Cole said that there will be an e-mail sent out to all families this week.*

C. POLICIES FOR VETTING FEEDBACK - **None**

D. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

1. Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Report
At the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee meeting of November 5, 2020, Superintendent Forsyth-Sells welcomed new and returning members. Fr. Paul MacNeil, Bishop/Diocesan representative presided over the commissioning ceremony of the members of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, as they publicly proclaimed their commitment to promote the Mission of Catholic education and the Mission, Vision and Values of the Niagara Catholic District School Board.
Carrie Vernelli was elected as the Chair of the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee to hold a term of office from November 5, 2020 to September 2021. Chris Kouroushis will continue as the Co-Chair for the 2020-2021 school year.
The revised NCPIC By-Laws as approved by the NCPIC will be presented at the December 15, 2020 Board meeting.

2. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Report

The SEAC members have been working to update the SEAC Brochure and the Student Support Brochure to reflect updates to the publications. Upon final approval, the updated publications will be made available to families and to school staff.

3. Catholic School Council Financial Report – *no update*

Principal's Report

Catholicity

***Sacraments and Mass:** Fr. Krys is communicating directly with the parish in regards to making up the sacraments of Communion and Confirmation from last year. We have been told that attending Mass is not allowed at this time, so Fr. Krys and I will be working out a schedule for him to conduct Mass in our school Gymnasium for some of our students. Further, Fr. Krys is working on the sacramental preparation with our grade two and eight students for this year.*

***Mini-Retreats:** From December 1st -10th, 2020, our new Champlain, Diane Conidi, will visit our school and facilitate two classroom spiritual retreats per day - one in the a.m. and p.m. The themes of the retreat will be Prayer for primary classes, Love for junior classes, and Discipleship for the intermediate classes!*

Student Achievement

***Math UP:** St. Mark Catholic Elementary School has been selected to participate to be a MathUP school. This unique program offers a robust set of focused tools to help build capacity in teaching mathematics through professional learning for both teachers and administrators to benefit student learning! In addition, all grades three to six classroom teachers have received a license for MathUP Classroom to support the programming within the classrooms. Staff received a training session in the MathUP program initiative at the P.A. Day on November 18, 2020. We look forward to watching the growth in our students' mathematical thinking throughout this school year.*

***Progress Reports:** Progress Report Cards are now available in the Parent Portal, and the corresponding parent-teacher interviews will take place with virtual or telephone meetings at the request of the parent or teacher. Each teacher will be sending out correspondence to allow families the opportunity to request an interview date and time. I encourage all parents to discuss the report cards with their children and schedule an appointment with their children's teachers.*

School Climate

***Advent Food and Toy Drive:** The Intermediate Student Council met with me last week and we have decided to coordinate our annual Advent/Christmas Food and Toy Drives. They all felt that although we have restrictions due to COVID-19, we would safely be able to run these drives that would allow us to help put smiles on the faces of people less fortunate than ourselves. Our Drive will begin this Thursday, November 26 and will run until Thursday, December 10th. The material will be bagged and left over the weekend before being shipped to their locations.*

***St. Mark Clubs:** The grade five and six students elected two class representatives to form this year's Junior Student Council. This year's Junior Student Council will continue the fine tradition of increasing student voice and will be responsible for leading the St. Mark ECOSchools Team. I am in the process of determining a method of hosting other popular clubs at lunch recess times – further information will be available once I work out the logistics of each club.*

Q & A

Mrs. Giammarco asked:

- *Have we always had a Chaplain? Mr. Ward explained that Ms. Conidi is our new chaplain and the program started many years ago.*

- *Are we bringing back Pizza Day? Mr. Ward stated that we follow NCDSB direction, and when it is save to do so we will communicate that with all parents.*
- *Parents aren't wearing masks at pick up. Don't they have to? Mr. Ward stated that although masks are not mandated outdoors, he will add a reminder in the December Newsletter to maintain physical distancing*

Mrs. Thompson asked if there is still going to be a transition plan for High School. Mr. Ward said that there already was a virtual meeting with each class and that B.T. was making a virtual tour of the school to show the Grade 8's.

Mrs. Swart asked if there was any word on school closures in the future. Mr. Ward said that it is something that is decided by the Ministry of Education.

E. OAPCE REPORT - None

F. STAFF REPORT – *Mrs. Gambale reported that Kindergarten teachers are doing virtual tracking portfolios. This is replacing the observational visits that would normally take place. All other divisions are focused on our MathUp initiative. Teachers met as divisions at our staff meeting to share and discuss the findings of our classrooms assessments.*

G. SUBCOMMITTEE SIGN UP

1. By-laws/Policy
2. Community Outreach – *We are sponsoring a family again this year through Village of Hope.*
3. Fundraising – *Doing a wine fundraiser. Mr. Ward said that it's the first time so we will see how it goes. Dec. 16 is the pick-up date. Volunteers are welcome.*
4. Graduation – *No bookings yet because at this point in time, we don't know where things will stand in June.*
5. Hot lunches/milk - None
6. Safe Schools – *Meeting in the new year that will include the Student Council. Continuing on with the framework laid out from previous year.*
7. School Nutrition Action Council (SNAC) - *Mrs. Manchuk reported that we have been giving out apples and granola bars. Tongs are used to individually hand them to a student at the office.*

H. AGENDA ITEMS- *Confirmation was brought up and Mr. Ward stated that it usually takes place in late May or early June and he indicated that the method of delivery of Confirmation will depend on any restrictions in place at the time. Locker use was also addressed with winter around the corner. Mr. Ward said that staff were discussing how they can safely have students access lockers in their respective hallways.*

I. NEXT MEETING – *January 26th, 2021*

J. CLOSING PRAYER – *Mr. Atkinson*

K. ADJOURNMENT

“Seeds of Faith: Mass, Mercy, Mission”

“The Niagara Catholic District School Board, through its charisms of faith, social justice, support and leadership, nurtures an enriching Catholic learning community for all to reach their full potential and become living witnesses of Christ.”

