



ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024 MINUTES

A. ROUTINE MATTERS - The meeting began at 6:02 pm

1. **Land Acknowledgement** - led by David Forte
2. **Opening Prayer** - led by Lynn Dudok

3. **Roll Call (11 parent members required to attain quorum):**

<u>Staff & Community Representatives:</u>	<u>Parent Representatives:</u>
David Forte (Principal)	Meaghan Anderson - left meeting at 6:40 pm
Lauren Swindley (Teaching staff member)	Dan Belford
Elizabeth Bennie (Teaching staff member)	Sara Chirico
Erika Elias (Non-teaching staff member) - E	Marialba Cipriani - A
Andrew Natale (St. Joseph Parish representative)	Tina Colamartini - A
	Lynn Dudok (Chair)
	Candace Manning-Ramage
	Samantha Michael
	Helen McNamara - A
	Lisa Milan - A
	Joanne Millar - A
	Marnie Odel
	Sarah Pekaruk
	Priscilla Prias-Molina
	Breeann Staibano (Co-Chair)
	Taylor Venneri
	Mariam Vieira - A
	Brian Violante - A
	Kimberlee Warburton - A

Quorum not attained as of 6:40 pm

Those who have expressed their regrets:

- Erika Elias (Non-teaching staff member)

Early Departures:

- Meaghan Anderson left the meeting at 6:40 pm

4. Approval of the Agenda - Agenda approved by Marnie Odell; seconded by Sara Chirico
5. Disclosure of Interest - None

6. Approval of Minutes of the St. John Catholic School Council Meeting of February 27, 2024- Minutes approved by Meaghan Anderson; seconded by Sara Chirico.

B. PRESENTATIONS

1. **Andrew Natale** - *St. Joseph Parish Representative*

Mr. Natale shared an update regarding the following items:

- Upcoming events at St. Joseph Parish.
- Conclusion of Sacraments and preparation for next school year.

C. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- 1) **Catholic School Council Fundraising Financial Report** Mr. Forte shared the Catholic School Council Fundraising Financial Report (as of 30/04/2024).
- 2) **Scholastic Book Fair** - St. John hosted a Scholastic Book Fair from **Monday, April 22 - Thursday, April 25**. Proceeds will be put toward the purchase of additional titles and learning materials for our school library and school. The event was a tremendous success.
- 3) **International Women's Day** - The St. John Equity & Inclusivity Club organized a successful vendor fair for International Women's Day for grades 4-8 classes on **March 8**. The club gathered a group of positive female role models (i.e. firefighters, police officers, nurses, athletes, entrepreneurs, Catholic leaders, etc.) from the Niagara community to help empower and educate our students.
- 4) **Staff Appreciation Lunch (Thank You)** - On behalf of the St. John staff, a sincere thank you is extended to the Catholic School Council members for facilitating the staff appreciation lunch here at the school on April 12. Staff were most appreciative of everyone's generosity!
- 5) **Saint Vincent de Paul North of 60 Project** - St. John has received a request from the Saint Vincent de Paul Society to collect **cans of plain pasta sauce** for the North of 60 initiative to help support our neighbours in the Northwest Territories in need. Each school throughout Niagara Catholic has received a request for a different item. Further details will be shared with the school community as they are received.
- 6) **Catholic Education & Mental Health Week** - Niagara Catholic schools will be participating in Catholic Education Week with the theme of **"We are Called to Love"**, in conjunction with Mental Health Week, from **Monday, May 6 to Friday, May 10**. 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 on April 29.
- 7) **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 21 - 24 (Grade 3 students)** and **May 27 - 31 (Grade 6 students)**.
- 8) **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 24. This reporting period reflects learning that has occurred since the commencement of Term 2 on February 1, 2024.
- 9) **2024-2025 Classroom Placements** - Due to ongoing changes in teaching staff throughout the Board, the name of your child's classroom teacher for the 2024-2025 school year will appear in the [Niagara Catholic Parent Portal](#) in late August / early September.

- 10) **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.
- 11) **Meet the Staff Open House & Knights of Columbus BBQ** - This is tentatively scheduled to take place on **Thursday, September 12 from 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm**. The school is looking for parent volunteers from the Catholic School Council to run a stand where families can donate and/or take gently used elementary standardized dress code items during the event.
- 12) **School Fundraising:**
 - ✓ **Dance-a-Thons** - The St. John Student Council will run its final Dance-a-Thon fundraiser in June ('Surfs Up' theme). Families are invited to make a small donation through 'SchoolCash' Online to support the final Dance-a-Thon fundraiser. Money raised will go toward school generated funds for the purchase of technology and materials to support student learning and engagement.
- 13) **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%.
- 14) **Catholic School Council Goals:**
 - ✓ Consideration of planting trees to provide a shade canopy near outdoor classroom and along the sides of the field where soccer nets are located.
 - ✓ 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' to continue to build community among students and families.

D. CHAIRPERSON REPORT:

- 1) **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 61 tickets, which filled one of their small theatres. Families thoroughly enjoyed the experience together.
- 2) **Niagara River Lions Night** - Ms. Chirico shared with the Council details pertaining to a St. John family night at a Niagara River Lions game. The date for the game is **Thursday, May 30**. Tickets will be sold via 'SchoolCash' Online.
- 3) **Family Math Night (Parent Engagement Funds)** - St. John is using its Parent Engagement Funds to host a **Family Math Night** at the school with Board Program Department personnel and representatives from Knowledgehook. The event will run from **5:30 - 6:30 pm on Wednesday, May 15**. Specific details are outlined in the communication sent to families.

- 4) **Family Fun Night** - Chair/Co-Chair shared details regarding the planning of a Family Fun Night.
- ✓ **Date:** *Wednesday, June 5*
 - ✓ **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)
 - 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
- 5) **Fundraising Ideas for 2024-2025** - Members voted on two options they feel would be best for next school year. A decision on fundraising options for 2024-2025 will be made by the Chair, Co-Chair, and Principal based on the feedback provided by members and shared with the school community in the new school year.
- 6) **Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Information** - Chairperson shared updates from latest NCPIC meeting.
- 7) **Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) Information** - Chairperson shared updates from OAPCE.

E. 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 20 @ 5:00 pm.

F. NEXT MEETING

September, 2024 (specific date and time to be determined).

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm

H. CLOSING PRAYER - led by Breeann Staibano