



## ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023 MINUTES

**A. ROUTINE MATTERS** - The meeting began at 6:00 pm

1. **Land Acknowledgement** - led by David Forte
2. **Opening Prayer** - led by David Forte
3. **Roll Call (12 parent members required to attain quorum):**

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

**Those who have expressed their regrets:**

- Sarah Dobrindt (Non-teaching staff member)

**Early Departures:**

- Joanne Millar left the meeting at 7:05 pm
- Meaghan Anderson left the meeting at 7:30 pm

4. Approval of the Agenda - Agenda approved by Sarah Chirico; seconded by Meaghan Anderson.
5. Disclosure of Interest - None.

6. Approval of Minutes of the St. John Catholic School Council Meeting of September 26, 2023 - Minutes approved by Sarah Pekaruk; seconded by Tina Colamartini.

## B. PRESENTATIONS

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

Mr. Natale reviewed the following parish information items with the Catholic School Council:

- ✓ St. Joseph Christmas Mass Schedule.
- ✓ Christmas events and activities at St. Joseph Parish.
- ✓ Updates regarding sacramental preparations.

## C. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- 1) **Catholic School Council Fundraising Financial Report** Mr. Forte shared the Catholic School Council Fundraising Financial Report (as of 28/11/2023).
- 2) **Advent Food Drive** - Our Advent Food Drive for the **Grimsby Benevolent Fund** will run from **December 4 - 15**. We encourage students to bring in non-perishable items to support the cause.
- 3) **Joy Day at St. John** - On December 1, 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) **Advent Family Mass** - This event will take place at St. Joseph Catholic Parish on **Monday, December 11** at **5:30 pm**. There will be a song performance put on by students in Kindergarten to Grades 3 following Mass. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided in the reception room following the Mass and song performance for those who wish to stay. Catholic School Council members and other parent volunteers to work with the Chair/Co-Chair to facilitate this family social gathering and secure light refreshments and snacks through donations.
- 6) **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.
- 7) **Holy Childhood Walk** - On **Friday, October 13**, 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 **\$391.00** to support the Holy Childhood Association.
- 8) **Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund** - On **Friday, November 10**, 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 **\$184.00** for the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Fund.
- 9) **#ProjectPlaid** - On **Thursday, November 23**, students and staff at St. John participated in the #ProjectPlaid campaign to raise funds to support mental health programs at Pathstone. Through donations made via 'SchoolCash' Online, St. John raised **\$326.00** for the campaign.

- 10) **St. John Equity & Inclusivity Club** - This club has been initiated to support diversity initiatives within the school. Intermediate students will be invited to engage in Niagara Catholic District School Board approved activities such as the 'unlearn' Posters and monthly recognition of marginalized groups through meaningful conversations in meetings and classroom visits.
- 11) **Food & Beverage Special Event Day Planning Sheet** - Planning sheet shared and discussed with Catholic School Council Members. As per the Ontario Food & Beverage Policy (PPM 150), schools are allowed ten special event days whereby food and beverages sold to students do not have to comply with nutrition standards. The school plans on utilizing nine of those days for Pizza Days and one for Family Fun Night in June.
- 12) **Milk Program** - The school is looking into initiating the Milk Program in the new year. Parents will be invited to place orders via 'SchoolCash' Online.
- 13) **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 Council members have been invited to work with the chairperson to discuss ideas for a parent engagement activity for St. John. Ideas need to meet the criteria outlined in the memorandum. 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, which requires approval in alignment with Ministry criteria. The funding application been shared with the chairperson.
- 14) **School Fundraising:**
- ✓ **Dance-a-Thons** - The St. John Student Council will continue to run Dance-a-Thon fundraisers in *February (Valentine's Day)* and *June ('Surfs Up' theme)*. Our Halloween Dance-a-Thon was a tremendous success and students had fun creating decorations and dancing. Families are invited to make a small donation through 'SchoolCash' Online to support each fundraiser. Money raised will go toward school generated funds for the purchase of technology and materials to support student learning and engagement.
  - ✓ **Wine Fundraiser (Fall/Winter)** - Chairperson to share an update regarding the success of the fundraiser during the Chairperson's Report.
- 15) **Parish News:**
- ✓ **Advent School Mass** - Our Advent School Mass is scheduled to take place on *Friday, December 8 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 *Monday, December 11 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 *Saturday, April 6 at 2:00 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 *Sunday, April 28 at 3:00 pm* at St. Joseph Catholic Parish.

16) **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%.

17) **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 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.
- 2) **Wine Fundraiser** - Catholic School Council Chair shared an update regarding the fundraiser. Volunteers are needed to assist with the receiving of the orders on December 5 at 4:00 pm, as well as the distribution of orders on December 6 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm in the gymnasium. Chair and Co-Chair to coordinate volunteers.
- 3) **Niagara IceDogs Night** - This event was well attended with over 100 tickets sold. Students and families thoroughly enjoyed the pre-game skate. A recommended change for next year is to make it a requirement through the school to make helmets mandatory for anyone under the age of 18 years who wishes to participate in the pre-game skate.
- 4) **Family Movie Night** - A movie theatre rental was discussed for a 'St. John Night at the Movies'. Mrs. Anderson to coordinate with local theatres, as well as the Chair/Co-Chair and the school to determine an appropriate family movie, theatre size, and ticket sales to accommodate families interested in attending.
- 5) **Family Fun Night (June)** - Members to work with the Chair/Co-Chair to plan the event, pending availability of volunteers to satisfy activities and schedule. Members are welcome to share ideas for activities with the Chair/Co-Chair to be brought forward to the Principal for review and consideration. A tentative date and time for the event was established. Along with items to be discussed for next meeting.
  - ✓ **Tentative Date & Time:** Wednesday, June 5 from 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm.
  - ✓ **Items for next meeting:**
    - List of possible activities
    - Schedule to satisfy the activities on the list
    - List of volunteers to satisfy the activities and schedule

- 6) **Teacher Appreciation Lunch** - Catholic School Council Members to discuss the possibility of holding 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 forth-coming meeting.
- 7) **Parent Engagement Funds** - Co-Chair to work with the school to look into the possibility of utilizing these funds to hold a Family Math Night that centres on the use of the Knowledgehook resource, and how families can use it to support Numeracy skill development at home.
- 8) **Area Attendance Review** - Chairperson shared options discussed at committee meetings for proposed boundaries and how they affect St. John. It was clarified that the French Immersion Program will not be impacted by the redrawing of boundaries at this time. Parents are encouraged to submit feedback to [accommodationplanning@ncdsb.com](mailto:accommodationplanning@ncdsb.com).
- 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 to share updates from OAPCE newsletters as they are made available.

**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. If the Ontario Government decides that it is no longer safe to gather in-person, then meetings will be held virtually.
- ✓ *Meeting Dates (tentative):*
  - 1) Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>
  - 2) Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>
  - 3) Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>
  - 4) Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ *Dates of Interest:*
  - Confirmation @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish - Saturday, April 6 @ 2:00 pm
  - First Holy Communion @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish - Sunday, April 28 @ 3:00 pm
  - Grade 8 Graduation @ St. Joseph Catholic Parish - Thursday, June 20 @ 5:00 pm

**F. NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

**H. CLOSING PRAYER** - led by David Forte.