



## ST. JOHN CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2024 MINUTES

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

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

<b><u>Staff &amp; Community Representatives:</u></b>	<b><u>Parent Representatives:</u></b>
David Forte (Principal)	Meaghan Anderson
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) - E	Tina Colamartini - A
	John Del Col - A
	Lynn Dudok (Chair)
	Yolonda Holland - A
	Candace Manning-Ramage
	Samantha Michael - A
	Helen McNamara - A
	Lisa Milan
	Joanne Millar - A
	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:**

- Erika Elias (Non-teaching staff member)
- Andrew Natale (St. Joseph Parish representative)

**Early Departures:**

- None

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

6. Approval of Minutes of the St. John Catholic School Council Meeting of November 28, 2023 - Minutes approved by Sarah Chirico; seconded by Candace Manning-Ramage.

## B. PRESENTATIONS

1. **Andrew Natale** - *St. Joseph Parish Representative*  
On behalf of Mr. Natale, Mrs. Dudok reviewed the following parish information items with the Catholic School Council, as part of the Chairperon's Report:
  - ✓ Information regarding sacramental dates.

## C. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- 1) **Catholic School Council Fundraising Financial Report** - Mr. Forte shared the Catholic School Council Fundraising Financial Report (as of 27/02/2024).
- 2) **Niagara Catholic Director's Annual Report** - The report presents highlights of the many innovative programs, supports, and services throughout the system in 2023. Parents are encouraged to view the report, which can be found on the Board website.
- 3) **Lenten & Easter Food Drive** - Our Lenten & Easter Food Drive for the **Grimsby Benevolent Fund** will run from **February 14 - March 22**. We encourage students to bring in non-perishable items to support the cause.
- 4) **Salem Chapel Black History Student Presentation** - Students in Grades 3-8 participated in a presentation on the Niagara Freedom Trail led by Rochelle Bush from **Salem Chapel British Methodist Episcopal Church** on February 9. Students learned about early Black history specific to the Niagara Region.
- 5) **March Break** - March Break across Niagara Catholic will take place from **March 11 - March 15**. Students will return to school on Monday, March 18.
- 6) **Kids Helping Kids** - From **February 12 - 23**, students and staff at St. John Catholic Elementary School participated in the annual Kids Helping Kids Campaign in support of the **Niagara Children's Centre** and the **Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education**. Classes participated in a variety of activities throughout the campaign. Through donations made via 'SchoolCash' Online, St. John raised **\$465.00** to support the cause.
- 7) **Shrove Tuesday** - On **February 13**, students received a pancake snack, prepared by the Knights of Columbus. Through donations made via 'SchoolCash' Online, St. John raised **\$717.00** to support various local charitable causes in our community through the Knights of Columbus.
- 8) **Scholastic Book Fair** - St. John will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair from **Monday, April 22 - Thursday, April 25**. Proceeds will be put toward the purchase of additional titles and materials for our school library.
- 9) **International Women's Day** - The St. John Equity & Inclusivity Club is organizing a school event for International Women's Day for grades 4-8 classes on **March 8**. The club is gathering a group of positive female role models (i.e. firefighters, police officers, doctors, nurses, athletes, entrepreneurs, Catholic leaders, etc.) from the Niagara community to help empower and educate our students. The plan is to have individual stations or vendors set up in the gym or library and each class would filter in to mingle and ask questions. The goal is to give students the opportunity to build on soft skills and empower them to follow their dreams by asking questions and engaging with members of the greater community.

10) **School Fundraising:**

- ✓ **M&M School Shop Day Fundraiser** - Mr. Forte shared an update regarding the success of this fundraiser. Money raised is put toward the purchase of additional technology and other materials to support student learning and engagement.
- ✓ **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.

11) **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%.

12) **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 to be held at Landmark Cinemas in St. Catharines. The schools is booked for **Wednesday, April 10**. Tickets to be sold via 'SchoolCash' Online. Council members to assist with the organization of tickets, based on the 'SchoolCash' report, so they can be distributed efficiently at the school.
- 2) **Staff Appreciation Lunch** - Catholic School Council Members discussed ideas of holding a pot-luck appreciation lunch for St. John staff in the Spring. Members are working with the Chair and Co-chair to organize. Date established by the committee is **Friday, April 12**.
- 3) **Niagara River Lions Night** - Ms. Chirico shared details pertaining to a St. John family night at a Niagara River Lions basketball game. The date for the game is **Thursday, May 30**. Tickets will be sold via 'SchoolCash' Online. Ms. Chirico to craft a notification with details to share with 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
    - Crazy Cravings Ice Cream Truck
    - Beavertails (pending vendor availability)
    - Popcorn & Cotton Candy (pending vendor availability)

- ✓ **Items to be finalized at forth-coming meeting:**
  - List of possible activities and cost for each activity
  - 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) **Family Math Night (Parent Engagement Funds)** - The Principal and CSC Chair/Co-Chair continue to work with Board Program Department personnel and representatives from Knowledgehook to use Parent Engagement Funds to organize and host a **Family Math Night** at the school. Parent volunteers will be needed for setup and take down (tables, chairs, table cloths, etc.).
- 6) **Area Attendance Review** - Chairperson and Co-Chair shared an update regarding the proposed boundaries discussed at committee meetings and how St. John is affected. Parents are encouraged to submit feedback to [accommodationplanning@ncdsb.com](mailto:accommodationplanning@ncdsb.com).
- 7) **Fundraising Ideas for 2024-2025** - Ideas were shared among the group. Members were asked to take time to consider the options presented and think about which two options 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 feedback provided by members at the next meeting.
- 8) **Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Information** - Chairperson and Co-Chair shared updates from latest NCPIC meeting.
- 9) **Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) Information** - Chairperson and co-Chair to 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. 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, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

**G. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

**H. CLOSING PRAYER** - led by Breeann Staibano