



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE
SAINT PAUL HIGH SCHOOL CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 19th, 2023
Saint Paul School Library**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Saint Paul High School Catholic School Council, held on September 19, 2023 at 6:00pm.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Mary Carlesso

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Land Acknowledgement and opening prayer was led by (Mary Carlesso)

2. Roll Call

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP		Present	Excused	Absent
Principal/Vice-Principal	Kelly Majka – Principal Luigi Folinazzo - VP	√ √		
Chair – Secretary	Mary Carlesso	√		
Teacher Representative	Lindsay Pacilli	√		
Student Representative	Charlotte Johnstone	√		
Parish Representative	Lynne Orr			X
OAPCE Representative	Dana Sacco	√		
NCPIC Representative	Supriya Rave	√		
SEAC Representative	Alex Attree	√		
PARENT/GUARDIAN MEMBERS				
	Erin Clark	√		
	Lisa Caruso	√		
	Frank Caruso	√		
	Amanda Leon	√		
	Robyn Pearson	√		
	Julie Bateman		X	
	Rhonda Van Kleef	√		
	Krista Forgione	√		

Melissa Procopio	√		
Melanie Smith	√		
Peter Smith	√		
Monica Bertolo	√		

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Erin Clark and Seconded by Alex Attree

THAT the SPHS Catholic School Council approve the Agenda of the SPHS Catholic School Council Meeting of September 19th, 2023.

CARRIED

4. **Approval of Minutes of the Saint Paul High School Catholic School Council Meeting of May 9th, 2023.**

Moved by Amanda Leon and seconded by Lisa Caruso.

THAT SPHS Catholic School Council approve the Minutes of the SPHS Catholic School Council Meeting of (May 9th, 2023) as presented. Approved meeting minutes will be posted on the spchs.ca website.

CARRIED

B. REPORTS;

1) Chair Report – Mary Carlesso

Good evening Everyone, Welcome to all the new faces and those who have returned! Thank you for joining us!

To introduce myself, I am Mary Carlesso- I have been attending Saint Paul CSC meetings for 8 school years. Seven of them as either Co-chair or Chair. My daughter Melisa graduated in 2019 and my son Taner graduated this past June 2023. I am here to pass on the baton during the Chair Election portion of the agenda at which time I will review the duties and responsibilities as per Board guidelines.

The CSC at Saint Paul supports Catholic education and values the partnership of school, church, and home. We have representation from educators, student body and spiritual connection.

Our meetings are informal but very informative- We meet about 4-5 times a year, the 5th being a social meeting unless the school board requires a review of the system priorities and budget reports.

Being a member of council is a great way of staying involved and being informed of all the wonderful activities taking place in the school as we know our children don't always come home sharing with us. Also learning what goes on in preparing them for post-secondary opportunities and guiding them with our support.

Social media is also a great way for parents to stay connected in our children's educational experiences in real time. Wishing you all a great school year head, thank you for your time.

Policy Vetting:

Communication Notices from NCDSB. On the Board website under 'Governance Policy Vetting', will be a list of policies up for review with a due date. There is a link to provide your feedback. We recommend that you submit any type of feedback, even if you agree with the changes. We all represent the Saint Paul

Community and should take an active role in participating. Currently there are two policies for vetting, due on September 28th and November 1st. Thank you for your support.

Elections:

CHAIR - Alex Attree and Amanda Leon self-nominated – a call three times for additional candidates was held and they were ratified unanimously as the incoming co-chairs of Saint Paul’s Catholic School Council.

SECRETARY – For the past several years, Mary Carlesso acted as both chair and secretary, Erin Clark volunteered and with no other volunteers was unanimously accepted as secretary for the upcoming year.

2) Student Report – Charlotte Johnstone

Good evening, my name is Charlotte Johnstone and I am a grade 12 student here at Saint Paul Catholic High School, a Niagara Catholic Student Trustee and am honored to be the 2023/2024 Student Council President. I am so proud to say that our student council is made up of 19 incredible student leaders who, like myself, are eager to get this school year running!

We kicked off this year on August 31st with our Hunger Games themed Orientation! The day was a success as incoming grade nine students had the chance to participate in head to head activities in the morning followed by lunch and the chance to roam the halls, grasping a feeling for the school. Orientation is an amazing way for our new students to meet their future classmates and I can tell from observing in the hallways that some incredible friendships have blossomed over just the past two weeks.

The Student Council consists of multiple positions and teams. This year we have myself as president. My Vice President Sabrina Cottringer and our four teams: Catholicity and Inclusivity, Public Relations, Spirit and Social Co-ordinations and the Tech Team. Without these four groups of students, Saint Paul would not achieve all that we do during the school year! The final piece to our puzzle is our Grade 9 Representative who will be selected this Friday, September 22nd! Grade nine students have had the chance to create a one minute video, promoting why they should be chosen as our representative. Tomorrow at our weekly meeting we will be selecting the top five candidates and on Thursday, their videos will be shown to the grade 9 classes where the students will have the chance to vote via Google Form for who they believe is best fit for the position!

The remainder of September will be dedicated to planning our annual Pilgrimage assembly which is taking place on October 11th. This assembly is the perfect way for the entire school to come together in prayer and acknowledge why we walk for Haiti. The pilgrimage is not only a great way for students to achieve half of their necessary community service hours for the year but it plays a key role in bringing our school community together early in the school year.

We plan on wrapping up October with our usual Halloween Spirit Week! Although we do not have any definite plans in place yet we have spent the past 3 years with several fun activities throughout the week including pumpkin decorating, guessing the number of candies in the jar, the classic teacher “Scare Cam” and of course the costume competition on October 31st.

From there, the month of November will be dedicated to planning our Annual Semi Formal which is set to take place in early December. As a council we have the responsibility of coming up with the theme, decor and menu ensuring that the student body will have the best and most enjoyable night possible!

It is also important to note that the Student Council also has several fun events going on throughout the entire year! One of my favorites is our Trivia Tuesdays. Our PR team will make a Google Form with 3 trivia questions. Themes range from teachers around the school to holidays and pop culture! After morning announcements the quiz is sent to all period one teachers for classes complete to win a prize! Another special Saint Paul item is our Patriot

Pit. Created last year, the student of the month has the opportunity to hangout in our Patriot Pit Lounge. There is a special locker, desk for studying, TV and even a mini fridge. It is student council's responsibility to keep it tidy and loaded with snacks so our students of the month have this special space to kick back and celebrate their accomplishments.

Although my opinion may be a tad biased, our student council has always been a special group and for the past 3 years I have been a member, I am proud to say that I have been a part of this fantastic group that has the power to promote positivity and community within our school. That pretty well sums up all of the student council's plans for the first 3 months of the school year. If anyone has any questions I will gladly answer them and if not, thank you so much and have a great night.

3) NCPIC/OAPCE/SEAC Report – Alexandria Attree

OAPCE:

As another school year begins, the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) would like to extend a warm welcome to all parents, guardians, and students. We hope that you have had a restful and rejuvenating summer break and are ready to embark on a successful year of learning and growth.

As the voice of parents and guardians of children enrolled in the publicly funded English Catholic System of Education in Ontario, OAPCE is here to support and advocate for you. We believe that parents play a crucial role in the education of their children, and we encourage you to get involved and be a part of your child's educational journey.

“As we begin a new school year, let us hold onto hope and prioritize the health and well-being of our children. Together, with faith as our guide, we can navigate any challenges that come our way and ensure a bright future for our children.” *A. Crudo-Perri and J. Perri, Co-Executive Directors, OAPCE.*

One of the ways you can get involved is by becoming an OAPCE representative. As per Section 612 of the Education Act, every local parent school council whose board pays membership is required to have an OAPCE representative who acts as a link between the school council and the provincial association. This position provides an opportunity for you to engage with other parents, share your views and concerns, and play a part in shaping the future of Catholic education in Ontario. Consider becoming a representative and making a difference in your child's school community.

As we start a new academic year, here are some helpful tips for parents:

1. Establish open lines of communication with your child's teacher. Regularly check in on their progress and discuss any concerns or questions you may have.
2. Create a designated study space at home where your child can focus and concentrate on their schoolwork. Minimize distractions and provide a quiet and organized environment.
3. Encourage healthy habits, such as a balanced diet, regular exercise, and a consistent sleep schedule. These habits can greatly impact your child's ability to stay focused and engaged in their learning.
4. Stay informed about your child's curriculum and assignments. Attend school events, parent-teacher meetings, and stay updated on any communication from the school. Being actively involved in your child's education shows them that you value and support their learning journey.

5. Foster a love for learning and encourage your child to explore their interests. Provide opportunities for them to engage in extracurricular activities and discover new passions.

Moreover, here are some tips you can share with your children to help them make the most of the school year:

1. Set goals for the year and break them down into smaller achievable tasks. By setting goals, your child can stay motivated and focused on their objectives.
2. Develop good study habits, such as creating a study schedule, taking breaks, and reviewing material regularly.
3. Be organized by keeping track of assignments, due dates, and important school events. Use a planner or digital tools to stay on top of your responsibilities.
4. Seek help when needed. Encourage your child to reach out to their teachers or classmates if they are struggling with a particular subject or concept. Remind them that asking for help is a sign of strength and a way to grow.
5. Take care of their well-being by practicing self-care activities such as exercise, spending time with family and friends, and engaging in hobbies they enjoy.

As we embark on a new school year, let us remember the importance of working together as a community to support our children's education. OAPCE is here to serve as your voice and advocate for the continuation and preservation of publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario.

In 2024 we will be celebrating our 85th Anniversary and we invite you to join us in our mission to Engage, Advocate, and Enhance the Catholic education system. Whether it's becoming an OAPCE representative, attending our annual conference, or simply staying informed and involved in your child's education, your contribution matters.

Together, let's make this school year a memorable and successful one for our children. Welcome back, and may God bless you and your families.

Stay tuned for many new initiatives coming from OAPCE including a fresh new logo, website and many other new ideas from us!

Here's to the 2023/24 school year!

Sincerely,

The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE)

4)- Parish Report- Lynne Orr

.No one in attendance for the parish report. Parish Report Representative will be confirmed or selected at next meeting

-parents can reference the Parish weekly bulletin found on the website - www.scapular.ca

5) Staff Report – Lindsay Pacilli

Sports:

· The Fall sports season is under way – sports include Football, Girls Basketball, Boys Volleyball, Cross Country, Tennis, and Golf. Our zone Senior Tennis tournament is tomorrow at the Welland Tennis Club. Senior football begins this Friday at home vs. Lakeshore at 3:00. · Schedules and results can be found on the board's N.C.A.A. website (<http://www.ncaa.ca/>).

Co-curriculars:

- Saint Paul has an upcoming MUSICAL - Mean Girls!!!
 - Running May 8-11.
 - Auditions begin this week.
 - Lots of excitement and buzz between both students and staff. Great student meeting!!
 - This will be the first musical we've done since before Covid! Acting, Singing, Dancing, live musicians for pit band - great team of staff on board to assist!!

- New Music Room looks great and the students are enjoying the new space.

- All music ensembles will be up and running by end of September as we have a busy performance year ahead. Eg. Santa Claus parade, pilgrimage, Christmas roadshow, Gr. 8 day, pep rally, football games, etc.

- Saint Paul Music Department is running a Music/Arts trip to Montreal in April! With a workshop at the university - hopefully McGill and a production of Cirque de Soleil!

- We had a very successful opening Mass today. Both masses were held at Our Lady of the Scapular church.

- The Key Club had it first meeting last week and is planning its events. They are discussing some fundraising options including. The first fundraiser is a car wash, which will be held on Sunday, September 24th from 9:30-12 at Zehr's.

Spec. Ed:

- The Spec. Ed. Room is up and running. The staff and students are really enjoying the new space. Students are integrated and doing great things in a variety of classes including Science, Physical Education, Food and Nutrition, Art, Technology and English.

- There will be a number of activities, events and opportunities for these students to participate in during the school year (such as the 35-session program "Niagara Catholic ROCKS with Mendelt!"); there will be more information as these events are offered and planned.

6) Principal Report – Kelly Majka

Introduction of Mrs. Majka (Principal)

- Niagara Catholic Grad
- 4 years at St. Michael (Science & PE)
- 1 year at St. Alfred (Grade 8)
- 1 year as Fresh Start/Jump Start (Alternative Education)
- 4 years at Lakeshore Catholic (2 years: Science; 2 years Special education Classroom Teacher)
- 5 Years at Saint Paul (Program Chair of Special Education, Educational Resource Teacher)
- 5 Years at Notre Dame (Vice Principal)
- 1 year at Denis Morris (Vice Principal)
- First year at Saint Paul (Principal)
- Very excited and enthusiastic to be back at Saint Paul. Feel extremely blessed and grateful to have this opportunity to lead and journey alongside students and staff.

Introduction of Mr. Folinazzo (Vice Principal)

- Niagara Catholic Grad
- 1 year at OLF St Catherine's grade 7 & 8
- 17 years French, Spanish, Italian, Religion, ESL @ Holy Cross
- 2 years VP Notre Dame Welland
- 14 educational trips to Italy, often included St Paul students

The start of the school year was a success. Students and staff have settled into their class routines and our fall co-curricular program is in full swing. We had approx. 45 new student registrations this year and our student population has grown to approximately 720 students. Currently our grade cohorts are as follows:

- Grade 09: 195
- Grade 10: 180
- Grade 11: 147
- Grade 12: 198

Ø We have several new staff members due to retirements and an increase in enrollment:

- Loreana Armenti – LTO French Teacher
- Stacey Brown – Social Sciences Teacher
- Chaundra Collin – Librarian
- Jay Cukierski – Special Education Classroom Teacher
- Ryan Defoe – Program Chair of Student Services; Guidance Counsellor
- Fiona Garner – Attendance Secretary
- Nancy Hermans – LTO Math Teacher
- Cory Maddalena – LTO Business Technology Teacher
- Zachary Rondinelli – LTO English Teacher
- Claudia Spiteri – Culinary Teacher

I am proud to announce that we have full cafeteria services back. Chartwells has secured the tender and have many cold grab-and-go options and well as hot menu options at reasonable costs. We are currently waiting for them to install vending machines for the kids to enjoy as well.

September 6 & 7 we had our Grade Level assemblies which reviews the rules, student code of conduct, policies and procedures so that all staff and students are safe.

Picture Day was held on Monday September 11th

We had 2 successful Practice Fire Drills and still need to have one more fire drill as well as a practice lockdown drill before end of January.

Today, September 21st was our Opening School Mass held at Our Lady of the Scapular Church.

Tomorrow we have Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education Charity Golf Tournament (one admin and one student represents Saint Paul).

This Thursday September 21st is our Grade 9 Curriculum Night. Parents will have an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of their child's steps as they visit with their classroom teachers. Teachers will provide a brief but descriptive outline of the Grade 9 program specific to the subject.

Chaplain Brandy has been busy Preparing for our upcoming Grade 9 Retreats on September 26, 27, 28 as part of their Period 1 classes. These retreats will take place at Our Lady of Scapular Hall.

Grade 12 Retreats - TBD

PA Day Scheduled for Friday October 6th. The Board has not indicated theme yet

Pilgrimage – supporting our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Our Pilgrimage will take place on Wednesday October 25th. During Period 4 there will be a Pilgrimage Mass followed by the Pilgrimage walk after school. Students will receive community service hours for raising funds and walking. We will finalize plans and rolls it out to the students through our Pilgrimage committee during the first couple weeks in October.

There are many unique components to curriculum delivery at Saint Paul:

- To begin our French Immersion Program in now available to Gr. 9, 10 & 11 students.
- Also, the Advanced Placement (AP Prep) program is in our Gr. 9 classes in English, Geography, Mathematics and Science. Grade 10 classes in English, History, Mathematics and Science.
- New this year is the Grade 9 de-streamed English classes and the NBE3C and U English Class.

Parent-Teacher Interviews is scheduled for Wednesday November 22nd from 3pm-6pm in our Gymnasium.

C. OPEN DISCUSSION –

QUESTION PERIOD:

Alex: Q: Is there a menu or budget parents should be aware of for Cafeteria

Kelly: A: She will attempt to have some parent communication on the menu via school messenger, there are specials and theme days that are announced daily on the announcements. There are various cold grab and go options as well and hot menu items.. Saint Paul will also have food truck days and special events.

Supriya Q: Is there a listing of clubs and Teams? Where can parents and students find the information

Kelly A: The website is a work in progress due to the fact that the School Board may begin to assume some responsibility for the website. Students can check in Student services and the hope is that eventually the announcements will also be posted on the website. Saint Paul Social Media is also a good way to keep current.

Dana A: Suggested downloading the PULSE App to stay informed and showed others how to use it.

Robyn Q: Can we ensure that no clean up of the gym or desks is done during the final interviews as that is booked time

Kelly A: Appreciated the feedback and indicated that would be easy to implement. She will make note of this for our upcoming PT Interviews this November.

Dana Q: Can parents be given more information to gr.9 parents for interviews that it is all in the gym so there is no need to leave travel time like in Elementary School. And can parents have more travel time on Gr.9 Information night as many have never been in Saint Paul before

Kelly Q: Appreciated the feedback and will certainly send something out via school messenger when the time comes.

Amanda Q: Who runs the Instagram as it is well done and very informative and visually appealing

Kelly A: Thanked Amanda for the recognition. Administration is overseeing at this time in order to ensure ALL that Saint Paul does is covered EQUALLY: i.e. academics, faith, mental health, sports, clubs, music, etc. We do have 2 staff members that are the point people: Jake Maiuri & Antony Tropea.

D. NEXT MEETING DATES; Tuesday, November 28th, 2023

E. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was led by Mary Carlesso

F. ADJOURNMENT

That the September 19th, 2023 meeting of the SPHS Catholic School Council be adjourned. Moved by Erin Clark and seconded by Lisa Caruso.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm.