



NIAGARA CATHOLIC  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

**Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Saint Paul School Library**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Saint Paul High School Catholic School Council, held on November 28th, 2023 at 6:00pm.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Chair Amanda Leon

**A. ROUTINE MATTERS**

**1. Opening Prayer**

Led by Amanda Leon

**2. Roll Call**

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

Melissa Procopio	√		
Melanie Smith			X
Peter Smith			X
Monica Bertolo	√		
Monique Boehm	√		

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Robyn Pearson and Seconded by Dana Sacco

**THAT** the SPHS Catholic School Council approve the Agenda of the SPHS Catholic School Council Meeting of November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**CARRIED**

**4. Approval of Minutes of the Saint Paul High School Catholic School Council Meeting of September 19th, 2023.**

Moved by Erin Clark and seconded by Lisa Caruso.

**THAT** SPHS Catholic School Council approve the Minutes of the SPHS Catholic School Council Meeting of (September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023) as presented. Approved meeting minutes will be posted on the spchs.ca website.

**CARRIED**

**B. REPORTS;**

**1) Chair Report – Amanda Leon and Alex Attree**

Welcome STP CSC Members!

This year is already off to an amazing beginning, and we want to keep that momentum up! The first thing we want to bring up is that we have approximately \$1000-\$1500 for parent engagement that can be given to us from the board. This is to strengthen our connections between that school and home. In the past they can be hit or miss on attendance, so if we can think outside the box this could be a fun event!

Next Amanda and I have taken a step back to look at a great way to have parents more engaged in our conversations. We came up with the idea of a Q&A. Mrs Mika and her staff are already doing amazing things by keeping us informed, but these are just for areas that maybe we need to shine some light on. Quick and easy questions... For example:

How can I, at during the secondary years, be more engaged and u to date on what is in NCVLE?  
And by asking those questions we found out about the app.

Brilliant!

Sometimes, there may be a more in-depth question, and this will allow the staff to take it back with them to answer properly, rather than take up a lot of time.

Overall we want our CSC to be the eyes and ears of our STP community, the more engaged we are, the stronger our community will be!

## **2) Student Report – Charlotte Clark speaking for Charlotte Johnstone**

Good evening parents, Mrs. Majka and Mr. Folinazzo. My name is Charlotte Clark, I am a member of the 2023-2024 student council and this year's music council co-president. I am so happy to be here on behalf of Charlotte Johnstone, who is not able to attend tonight as she is fulfilling her role as student trustee and attending a meeting at the Catholic Education Centre.

The past few months have been very busy for our student council, from our annual pilgrimage to Halloween activities and now our Semi Formal, it goes without saying that we have been a busy group this year!

Most of our October was split between the preparation of our largest social justice event of the year, Pilgrimage and our Halloween Spirit week. Pilgrimage was a huge success as we raised over 15,000 dollars for our sister school, St Croix de Milot in Haiti. It is always such an honor to be a part of that event. Secondly, our Halloween Spirit week was a blast as we planned many activities for the classes including a pumpkin decorating competition, dress the teacher in an inflatable costume day, our annual teacher scare cam and a scavenger hunt.

Now, currently in November, not only did we make an appearance within our community at the annual Santa Claus Parade, but we also have been eagerly planning our semi formal. After a council vote, we decided on the theme "A Night in Paris". It is being held this Friday at Club Italia from 5-10. Council has been hard at work planning the centerpieces, decor and menu. We cannot wait to celebrate this night with our classmates.

Next Thursday, December 7th is our annual "Grade 8 Day". The students from our feeder schools will have the chance to see our music department's Christmas Roadshow, and follow members of our Athletic and Student Council through stations within the school.

Next on the Agenda for student council is a Christmas spirit week. Although it is still in the early planning phases, we are hoping that we will plan activities for our fellow Patriots to do to celebrate the holiday season. And to end off the year 2023, the Student Council is planning our annual secret Santa and Christmas party meeting. We are so incredibly proud of all that this group has accomplished within the last 3 months and are looking forward to the Christmas break to recharge and spend time with the ones we love.

That is all I have, if anyone has any questions, I'd be happy to answer them and if not, thank you for your time and I hope you all have a wonderful evening.

## **3) NCPIC/OAPCE/SEAC Report – Supriya Rave/Dana Sacco/Alex Attree**

NCPIC – Supriya asked for information about how she gets involved to serve on this committee; looking for some direction

OAPCE – OAPCE stands for Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education and is the voice of parents and guardians of children enrolled in the publicly funded Catholic Education in Ontario. As the OAPCE Liaison Representative, I am responsible to provide information between Parent Councils and OAPCE, this vital role is mandated through the Education Act in Regulation 612. This committee will be forwarding information for me to share with you and they hope to establish two-way communication. They believe deeply in the power of parental involvement in shaping not only our children's education but also their character and future. As parents, we play a crucial role in shaping our children's lives and guiding them toward success. We teach them values, educate them about the world, and help them navigate through their educational journey. But how often do we personally get involved and set the example of what it means to be a part of the school community? This is where the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) comes in: Our central mandate is to provide information and resources for parents, protect parental rights, and support our children to succeed in school to ENGAGE. ADVOCATE and ENHANCE.

By being an OAPCE member, becoming part of a community that advocates for the protection and promotion of Catholic education in Ontario. Being a member allows you to access ongoing information sharing, resources, learning opportunities, networking, and community building. It's a chance to engage, advocate, and enhance the education system for our children and future generations.

Members become a voice for parents, ensuring that their perspectives and ideas are heard and considered. You also have the chance to collaborate with various education stakeholders, such as the Institute of Catholic Education (ICE), Curriculum Review, and other Catholic education partners such as bishops, principals, trustees, and teachers. Together, we can work towards enhancing Catholic education in Ontario.

For instance, our school board is using the Religion Program called "Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ" in our elementary schools. Members from this committee were instrumental in providing input and feedback during the development of the resource. Parents worked alongside members of ICE (Institute of Catholic Education), educators, Bishops, priests and other clergy to develop the resource that all elementary teachers are using as their main Religion program. The driving force in the development of the resource was to ensure that educators across the province were able to consistently teach the catechism to students in publicly funded Catholic schools.

One call to action I was given was to **try to get 10 Parents to Sign up & Subscribe for OAPCE emails & information.** Parents will have access to the Ministry of Education and Catholic Parent communications, as well as surveys, resources and valuable information as well. As we teach our children the importance of education, faith, and community, let's also show them what it means to be actively involved in shaping their educational experience.

If you would like to sign up for these emails, please email Dana Sacco at [dana.sacco@ncdsb.com](mailto:dana.sacco@ncdsb.com).

The theme this year is: **Celebrate OAPCE 85: A Yearlong Celebration of Change, Commitment and Catholic Education.** As we celebrate this milestone anniversary of OAPCE, we recognize the importance of parent leadership in shaping the entire education landscape in Ontario. As part of our celebration, they are excited to unveil their new logo, symbolizing our unwavering dedication to families in Catholic Education.

Additionally, they are delighted to share that there will be an 85th Anniversary conference in Toronto in April 2024! Further details will be announced soon and they will be shared with our committee.

SEAC – Nothing new to report for this meeting

#### **4)- Parish Report-**

.No one in attendance for the parish report. Parish Report Representative has not yet been selected.  
-In the interim, Kelly Majka will ask the Saint Paul Chaplain to prepare a report for the next meeting  
-parents can reference the Parish weekly bulletin found on the website - [www.scapular.ca](http://www.scapular.ca)

#### **5) Staff Report – Lindsay Pacilli**

##### **Sports:**

- The Fall sports season of sports is almost done; results can be seen up on the board's N.C.A.A. website (<http://www.ncaa.ca/>)
- Winter sports are all practicing and gearing up for the start of their seasons. Winter sports include: Hockey, Swimming, Boys Basketball, Girls Volleyball, and Curling.

- In preparation for high school spring Rowing, the rowers are starting their winter training program indoors at the Niagara Falls Rowing Club.

### **Extra-curriculars:**

- MEAN GIRLS has begun rehearsals for choreography, vocal coaching, and staging! We have two really strong scenes fully staged and are bringing them (and 30 STP students) to the STAR Drama Festival at Brock University on December 14! The festival features high school arts students from Niagara to Toronto and is an opportunity to really showcase these immensely talented kids! While it isn't a competition, students will be able to participate in workshops and will receive feedback from professional adjudicators!

- Key Club has the following initiatives planned for December:

Candy Grams: We will be selling Candy Grams outside of the cafeteria on Thursday, December 14 and Friday, December 15. Delivery will be on Thursday, December 21. Money raised will be given to a charity TBD.

Motivational Candy Bags: On Tuesday, November 28 (during both lunch periods) we assembled candy bags with motivational messages written on them. Members of the Key Club will distribute these Motivational Candy Bags to random students.

Christmas Crafts/Cards for the Elderly: On Monday, December 11, we will be gathering in the cafeteria after school to assemble Christmas crafts and make Christmas cards. Items will be delivered to Millennium Trail Manor.

- The Music Department has the following items to report:

The entire department successfully performed at the Gr. 8 open house! We showcased our drumline, vocal, and rock ensemble and concert band. We played a live and interactive Name That Tune event for the Gr. 8's that toured our brand-new music room!

Both drumline and rock ensemble performed as part of our Santa Claus parade float - offering high energy and festive selections for all to enjoy!

All music ensembles and Music council are busy preparing for our annual Christmas Roadshow running on Dec. 7/8. We will have 3 Feeder school shows, and 2 evening shows!!

Our drama department is performing at the adjudicated Stars Festival on Dec. 14 - we will perform selections from our upcoming musical, Mean Girls, as well as solo monologues and duet scenes performed from members of our drama class.

And finally, we'll be preparing for our Advent Mass on December 13 and our Christmas assembly the last week of school!

### **Spec. Ed:**

- The Spec. Ed. Classroom is active and busy. Individualized student programming is occurring and students are integrated for parts of the day in a variety of classes (including Music, Food and Nutrition, Physical Education, Technology, and English);
- The staff and students did a series of in-class Halloween-related activities (e.g., Pumpkin Bowling, arts & crafts, etc.)
- SNAP (Supporting Neurodiversity through Adaptive Programming) was attended on November 16th
- We are having monthly masses in the chapel with Fr. Daniel.
- SOO Basketball Tournament is December 12th at Thorold Secondary School
- City Bus ride and trip to bowling the week before Christmas break.
- The Spec. Ed. Class is gearing up for Christmas; they are in the initial stages of decorating the class and are planning a variety of activities (academic and social) to celebrate and acknowledge the holiday season.

### **Good News:**

- Saint Paul Patriots Food Drive

On Monday, November 13, members of Miss Sheila DeLuca's Civics class received a volunteer recognition award from Mayor Jjim Diodati to recognize their contributions to the community in volunteerism. The award recognizes outstanding and exceptional volunteer contributions in the City of Niagara Falls. During the holidays in April of this year, the Civics Students at Saint Paul Catholic High School organized a school-wide Blessing Bag and Easter Food Drive for Project SHARE. With the help of their teacher; staff and students donated 526 pounds of non-perishable goods! This generous gift-in-kind donation created an environment that teaches and allows these students to be advocates for their neighbours in need. Seeing young adults supporting their community is a true example of Our Community at Work. The donation helped ensure that all stay healthy, housed, and fed. Saint Paul students were congratulated and recognized by Member of Parliament, Tony Baldinelli Member of Provincial Parliament, Wayne Gates, School Board Trustee, Dominic Massi, Our Lady of the Scapular priest, Father Daniel Corso and members of Project SHARE back in April.

- Key Club

The annual Key Club Car Wash was a success! We raised approx. \$600 for Project SHARE.

Members of the Key Club assembled Halloween treat bags for children staying at Birchwood Women's Shelter.

- Each year, the Niagara Catholic District School Board holds a Christmas card design contest. Ten cards from across the entire board are chosen. **Sienna Skinner**, a grade 10 student, had her card chosen as one of the ten designs that the school board will use this year!

### **6) Principal Report – Kelly Majka**

We hit the Midterm point of Semester 1 (Nov 7th). It has been a busy start to the school year with a myriad of activities and events that bring so much energy and spirit to the school. From our colour wars pep rally on Friday November 3rd, to the 2nd Annual Fred Girardo Cup Memorial Football game, our Proficiency Breakfast on Tuesday November 7th, to our various extra-curricular events and so much more, we have created so many memories for our students and staff.

On Wednesday October 25th our annual Pilgrimage campaign culminated with our Pilgrimage Mass and Walk. Our school community surpassed our goal and raised over \$15,000 to support our brothers and

sisters in Milot, Haiti. The entire student body participated in the mass and approx. 300+ students walked the pilgrimage. There were many school incentives and goals that were successfully achieved. A huge success!

Midterm reports were made available on the Parent Portal on November 16th. Parent – Teacher Interviews were held on Thursday November 22nd from 3 – 6pm in the Gymnasium and the Cafeteria. Parents and Guardians were encouraged to meet with their child’s classroom teachers to get updated on progress and achievement in all subject areas. Appointments were made online through the online registration portal.

For our Grade 12 Students: College & University visits have been and are still occurring. There was a Grade 12 assembly outlining College & University application process as well reviewing the NCDSB new Valedictorian and Salutatorian selection Process. The Grade 12 NCVLE Page outlines various scholarship/bursary opportunities. Any Grade 12 student/family is encouraged to make an appointment with student services should they need any support guidance in applying for post-secondary. Also Grad photos were scheduled Nov 6-17th. They will come again from Feb 5-9th for a retake week.

We have been very busy showcasing all the wonderful things that make Saint Paul such a special high school to our Grade 8’s. We’ve gone out and visited the feeder schools twice and also hosted them here for a Pep Rally Assembly, lunch and Senior Boys Basketball Game on Friday November 10th. Our Grade 8 Open House took place on Thursday November 16th at 6:30pm and was standing room only. This night was action-packed: there was a co-curricular fair, formal presentation and self-guided touring of the school of various interactive activities. We will be hosting our Grade 8 Day on Thursday December 7th which will be a day whereby our Grade 8’s can watch our Christmas Roadshow, rotate through various departmental activities and also have lunch. We will continue with the Registration process with our Grade 8’s in the New Year.

To work closely with our feeder schools I’ve implemented a Saint Paul Students of the Month. FOS Principals choose 2 students per month K-8 for whatever reason: kindness, to recognize a special award or act that they have done and I, as Principal, call each family and present Saint Paul swag to those chosen candidates to recognize and show our Patriot generosity!

As we approach the Advent season, we are doing a Reverse Advent Calendar approach in order to make a difference and give back to our local community. We also have our Advent Mass scheduled for Wednesday December 13th. Also, our annual Christmas Roadshow is scheduled for Dec. 7th and 8th. On December 7th there will be 3 total shows: 2 day shows for our Grade 8’s and one evening show for family, friends and staff. On December 8th there will be 2 shows: 1 daytime show for our FOS Grade 6’s and one evening show for family, friends and staff. Tickets are available for purchase on school cash online.

Finally, I would like to share some EQAO data from the 2022-2023 school year with respect to the Gr. 9 Mathematics and Gr. 10 Literacy Test. This data is based on 1st time Eligible participating students. I am proud to say that we remain very consistent over the years and continue to be at or above Provincial Average which shows that our Math & Literacy prep and develop is working.

## **Grade 9 MATH**

Saint Paul percentage of fully participating students at or above the Provincial Level (Levels 3 and 4) for the 2022-2023 school year is 58%.

Province – 54% 2022-2023

Province – 52% 2021-2022

## Grade 10 Literacy OSSLT

Saint Paul percentage of fully participating students at or above the Provincial Level (Levels 3 and 4) for the 2022-2023 school year is 85%.

Province – 85% 2022-2023

Province – 82% 2021-2022

### C. OPEN DISCUSSION –

#### QUESTION PERIOD:

Dana Q: Question from another parent – Do fall sports need to start so quickly at the beginning of the year? Students in Grade Nine are still getting acclimated and are nervous to start a sport or activity.

Kelly A: Yes unfortunately, the NCAA sets the schedules for fall sports and in order to give teams proper preparation time, they must start as early as possible. During feeder school visits, Student Council VP Sabrina Cottringer, Serena Santo and Intermural Rep Patrick Gurasci encouraged grade 8s to get involved.

Monica Q: Is there a buddy system between Grade 9s and Grade 12s in place?

Kelly A: Buddy System for all students is not feasible but during transition meetings ERTs meet with elementary ERTs to learn about and identify students with high anxiety. If a buddy system was necessary for an individual student, they would be paired with a student closer in age. It is also possible for parents to reach out to administration to identify students struggling with high anxiety. The school is willing and able to support but sometimes need information about students who are struggling and need more encouragement. It might also be possible in the future to have student council go to different classrooms to further encourage participation at the start of sporting or activity seasons.

Amanda Q: Brought up potential parent engagement grant and asked for comments

Robyn A: At her school, they are hosting a Wellness night but first hosted a poll to find out what the community needs and would support

Dana Q: During the newly proposed Question time, can members present questions from other parents not on council

Amanda A: Yes, all questions are welcomed. If they can not be answered quickly, we can put a pin in them for discussion in greater depth at the next meeting.

Kelly Q: Identified the requests from earlier meeting about Parent teacher interviews and wondered how changes were received

Amanda A: Everything went well and there was a flow, no one felt rushed

Dana A: too many schools scheduled on the same night

Erin A: Agreed that Saint Paul, Saint Michaels, Denis Morris and several feeder schools were on the same day.

Kelly A: Indicated that this is the first time that the board prescribed a week for interviews and it was a short week. Principals have provided feedback that more days are necessary or having elementary and secondary in different weeks to allow all staff and parents to attend interviews.

Erin A: Hearing from some parents that American Thanksgiving week may not be the best week for interviews

Supriya A: Had difficulty booking multiple interviews and said when she called the office was told others were having a similar issue

Lindsay A: Had her own difficulty booking interviews with the same teachers for multiple children



Dana and Robyn A: Making appointments on the computer is easier and problem free compared to using a phone

Kelly A: In the spring for parent teacher interviews, will direct trouble shooting to the program designers from out west as the office is not aware of the software involved.

Dana Q: Has the school considered using Microsoft Teams as the PT Interview program for booking costs money. Teams is free and her school uses it.

Kelly A: The system is used for multiple modalities so it is an effective economical choice

Dana Q: Indicated that OPACE is looking for each representative is encouraged to find 10 new members to join. Asked if that could be sent out on social media.

Kelly A: A message can be sent to all families. The school messenger might be a more appropriate method of delivering the message.

Dana Q: Commented that her daughter wrote the OSSLT and she appreciated all of the support. Examples included NCVLE, after school help, support from English classroom teachers

Kelly A: Applauded the efforts of Mrs. Constantini and the English department. Indicated that the goal was to use strategies that kept anxiety low

Monica A: agreed that the teaching practices at Saint Paul are to be applauded. Mentioned that as a parent with children at Myer and Saint Paul she has a unique perspective. Indicated her belief that Myer has scored below the provincial average on the OSSLT.

Monica Q: Comment that she is disappointed that she feels the public board is not celebrating academic achievement under the guise of equity. Commented on the number of students from ethnically diverse backgrounds who may not be able or allowed to participate in sports or activities but can excel in the classroom. Hopes that the Catholic Board does not stop celebrating academic success.

Kelly A: Recognized the need for equity but agreed it is important to recognize academic achievement. Cited changes to the Valedictorian process. Mentioned the Breakfast held this month to acknowledge the students with averages over 90%

Frank A: The breakfast was wonderful and his daughter reported that the food was excellent.

KellyA: Thanks go out to the culinary program and the school's resident chef. Indicated that Saint Paul is luck to now have a full time chef on staff for the culinary program.

**D. NEXT MEETING DATES;  
Tuesday, February 20th, 2024**

**E. Closing Prayer**

The closing prayer was led by Amanda Leon

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

That the November 28th, 2023 meeting of the SPHS Catholic School Council be adjourned. Moved by Erin Clark and seconded by Dana Sacco

**CARRIED**

This meeting was adjourned at 6:59 pm.