



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024
Saint Paul School Library**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Saint Paul High School Catholic School Council, held on February 20, 2024 at 6:00pm.

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by Chair Alex Attree

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

Led by Alex Attree

2. Roll Call

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

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

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Erin Clark and Dana Sacco

THAT the SPSHS Catholic School Council approve the Agenda of the SPSHS Catholic School Council Meeting of February 20, 2024

CARRIED

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

Moved by Monica Bertolo and Seconded by Robyn Pearson

THAT SPSHS Catholic School Council approve the Minutes of the SPSHS Catholic School Council Meeting of (November 23, 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

We (Amanda & Alexandria) would like to know how the Council feels about doing a Parent Engagement this year. The money would be provided by applying to NCPIC. One suggestion is a wellness evening. We are willing to spearhead the Evening if this is something the council would like to do.

We also want to talk about the Question and Answer on the agenda. This is a great opportunity to ask questions that can be given a simple answer. If it cannot be answered that night then it will allow our administration to take it away and provide an answer. It is a great opportunity to allow whispers or concerns you hear in our community to be addressed correctly.

2) Student Report – Charlotte Johnstone

Good evening. The Student Council has been incredibly busy throughout the last couple of months and after a quick break, I am so excited to announce here tonight the upcoming plans we have for the second semester.

We left off in November when we were finalizing the plans for our Semi Formal: A Night In Paris. The night was an absolute success with hundreds of students in attendance, great food and a jam packed dance floor. I would to express my thanks to the student council for all of their hard work in preparing the decorations, cleaning up and ensuring that the night went smoothly.

In December we had our Christmas spirit week. We filled the last few days before the holidays with many themed days including Christmas PJ pant day, Christmas accessory day and out of shoe-ifom. On the last day before the Christmas break we had our annual christmas assembly filled with many fun games and portions of the Christmas Roadshow to spread some Christmas Cheer.

Coming back from the Holidays we decided to take a bit of a break with semester one exams. However we met on February 7th to plan out the rest of our second semester. We celebrated Black

History Month with a presentation from the Get REAL Movement, organized by Mrs Majka. Student Council assisted in introducing and thanking out guests as they did grade level assemblies throughout the day. Joseph and Kelisha presented on many issues within today's society such as discrimination, stereotyping and racism. We all found their message very important and are aiming add the lessons learned in this presentation to the school community daily.

Along with the many exciting events we have upcoming for the spring, Student Council has a huge project coming just next week! I was approached by Grade 11 student Angelina Greco just a few months ago. She spoke to me how grateful she is for all McMaster Children's Hospital has done for her and that she wanted to give back. I brought this issue to the Niagara Catholic Student Senate and am thrilled to announce that we will be doing a board wide fundraiser for McMaster from February 26-March 8. Mac's requests for toys have been very specific due to storage and sanitary reasons, however we are working on creating announcements, social media posts and are going to visit classrooms later this week to spread the word. I am so excited that all of the 8 high schools will be participating in this initiative. However our council is working extra hard in making Angelina proud as this is such an important cause. We want to honour her, as well as thanks McMaster for all that they do as I know that this incredible hospital is a huge part of many people's lives within the region.

Thank you so much for your time, and if you have any questions I will gladly answer them.

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

NCPIC – Supriya was absent

Also Alex discussed money available for parent engagement and inquired whether Catholic School Council was in favour of supporting the application for this \$500 grant.

Robyn Pearson then presented the activity completed at Mary Ward (feeder school) that was fulfilled through this grant. Mary Ward hosted a Wellness Night with Yoga by Abby (Kristen French Foundation) who also focused on Meditation and Mental Health. Students were included with their parents and the night concluded with a sound bath and then light refreshments. Fifty people signed up and approx. 35 attended. Suggestion that a \$1 cost to sign up might make people more likely to remember and attend.

Kelly Majka indicated that she was supportive of any initiative for Parent Engagement but recognized that historically events are poorly attended.

Lindsey Pacilli suggested that involving more students in activity or planning may contribute to parent involvement

Dana Sacco suggested a “make and take event” – eg. Elementary schools have done gingerbread houses before Christmas

Melissa Ross asked what would happen if we don't use the money and Alex indicated that we would only apply for the Grant if we were prepared to move forward with an event.

Alex Attree suggested that a presentation from the Niagara Regional Police on current apps, jargon used by students could be helpful.

Dana Sacco indicated that the speaker for OAPCE was very engaging and that a discussion on AI or Chat GPT could be valuable. Lindsey and Erin also discussed some tools and ways that teachers are dealing with AI in the classroom. Alex followed up with discussion about her daughter's experience with AI in elementary school and how AI can be used like Grammarly to check work but stressed the dangers of using it to substitute student work or research

OAPCE Report

Dana Sacco attended a virtual meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2024. Two things were discussed:

1. April 13, 2024 is OAPCE's 85th Anniversary Conference at Monsignor Percy Johnson High School in Etobicoke. The conference will begin with mass with the Bishop. Workshops throughout the day and the Keynote speaker is Karl Suban, PK Suban's, a retired hockey player's father. There is a gala dinner at the Sandman Hotel in the evening. Registration details should be out very soon.

2. There was a guest speaker, Anthony Perrotta a Principal with the Toronto Catholic board and he focused on a parent's insight exploring the drawbacks and benefits of technology that high school students are using particularly Chat GPT and Artificial Intelligence technology.

Anthony Perrotta focused on how parents need to reshape conversations they are having with their children as most conversations parents have are about grades because they need to have certain grades to enter into post-secondary schools. Emphasized how grades do not define who they are rather how they evolve as learners and parents need to encourage students to thrive on the the journey of school

Students want to use this technology such as Chat GPT and AI technology to get the highest possible grades rather than learn how to be a student and thrive on the journey of learning. He asked us to reflect on what type of parent we are...are we mark focused? Are we helping our students become lifelong learners? Are we helping our children learn transferable skills? Are we being ethical?

Teachers have acknowledged that students are using these types of technologies and preventing students from learning transferable and life-long skills. Teachers are called to reimagine what learning tasks look like, what assessment looks like and how they get students to show what they know rather than just retelling facts.

Our students and children are now digital citizens and are called to act responsibly and do what is right and just. Even if this means they will not get a Level 4. Teachers and parents must want them to experience the learning journey.

There needs to be a balance of using technology and applying your own knowledge. It can be helpful and harmful.

Benefits: The technology can be used to edit and revise work the students have already written.

Drawbacks of this technology include: Students are not doing the thinking. The students type in what the topic is and the technology generates answers/essays. Students copy it and place it into a google doc or word doc and hand it in. Teachers can copy what they have handed in and put it in an Artificial Intelligence content director and determine how much of it is plagiarized. There is technology out there called AI Scrubbers and this technology will scrub out any AI detection. The students' ethics is

questioned because they are so driven by marks. Most school boards have not generated policies around this yet...there are a lot of grey areas. Must go back to the basics and not cheat.

This is just the beginning with regards to this technology. The speaker encourages us to start these conversations with our children, teachers and administrators.

SEAC – Alex was unable to attend the previous meeting but indicated that the most recent meeting occurred prior to Christmas where members discussed the current Math info and the activities occurring on the Professional Activity day. The next meeting is to be held in March.

4)- Parish Report-

.No one in attendance for the parish report. Parish Report Representative has not yet been selected.

- Melissa Ross filled everyone in from her work in the Parish
- The Parish hosted a Pancake Supper and are planning a Trivia event in May
- The RFM team at the Parish is looking for more volunteers to help with the background checks for those wanting to work at the Church
- The Children's liturgy is growing and currently welcomes 20 children consistently
- Coffee Sunday is taking place after 9:30 mass and is staffed with Youth Volunteers
- Fr. Daniel recently took some servers to a paint ball activity
- Female Altar Servers are now welcomed at the church again and the one of Saint Paul's grade 10 students will be the newest altar server this weekend.
- The Church's financial report was publicized the week prior to the meeting

5) Staff Report – Lindsay Pacilli

Sports:

- Winter sports are all practicing and well into their seasons. Winter sports include: Hockey, Swimming, Boys Basketball, Girls Volleyball, and Curling.

Extra-curriculars:

- MEAN GIRLS rehearsals for choreography, vocal coaching, and staging are still happening!
- Tickets for MEAN GIRLS will go on sale later this week or early next week.
- Key Club has the following initiatives to report:

Key Club teamed up with Music Council to sell Saxograms to raise money for both clubs

We are looking into having another car wash to help raise funds for Project SHARE

- The Music Department has the following items to report:

While rehearsals for the musical have been well underway - Concert Band will resume in March as we prepare for the upcoming NCDSB Music Festival. The festival is a regional affiliate of Musicfest Canada so we hope to qualify for Nationals again!

The music department is also embarking on a performance and culturally based trip to Montreal at the end of April! One of the highlights will be 2 performance-based workshops at McGill University.

- The Niagara Falls Public Library is hosting an art exhibit in March and invited local secondary school teachers to contribute art from their students to display in their Rosberg Art Gallery. Saint Paul will be showcasing 5-7 pieces of artwork.

Food Drive:

- Our Lady of the Scapular Parish Society of St Vincent de Paul conference, has reached out to us in need of assistance

- The Lenten food drive will begin on Thursday Feb 22 and continue to Friday March 8th (the week before March break)

- They have asked Saint Paul Catholic Secondary to collect 3 items, Peanut butter, jam spreads, and Nutella. Our Family of schools at the elementary level have also been given items to collect, each school responsible for various items.

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 Horticulture, Food and Nutrition, Physical Education, Technology, Math, Science, and English);

- The staff and students attended the Time to Shine event at Holy Cross last week. They dressed up, had a shared lunch, and enjoyed the music of Mendel Hoekstra (music therapist)

- We are having monthly masses in the chapel with Fr. Daniel.

- SOO Bocce Tournament is in March at Sinnicks Sportsplex. The students will begin practicing for the event with Mr. Keighan's Rec and Leadership class.

6) Principal Report – Kelly Majka

Good Evening and I hope everyone is enjoying 2024.

January 24, 2024 was the last official day of classroom instruction for Semester 1 classes. Semester 1 Final Exams were on January 23, 2024 and ran through January 30, 2024.

Our Gr. 9 Destreamed Math students completed the EQAO Math Assessment on Jan 18-19 and our SEM 2 Grade 9 Math students will write them June 12-13. Our Grade 10 students who had English Semester 1 and wrote the OSSLT their results came in from the Ministry and we handed those results out to our Grade 10 students during the EXAM period. We still have a second OSSLT session on April 15-17.

Our turnaround day was held on January 31, 2024 where students had the opportunity to view final assessments during the first portion of the day followed by students attending their semester 2 classes. Semester 1 Final Report cards were available on the Parent Portal during the week of February 12, 2024. Hard copies are available through the main office as per parent request.

Semester 2 is now under way and students last week began Course Option Sheets for 2024-2025 school year. This includes individually meeting with Student Services Guidance counsellors and ensuring their courses are chosen and entered into MyBlueprint. On Feb 27, 2024 verification sheets will go home with all students for parents to review, sign and students are to return them to their Period 1 teachers by Friday March 1st at the latest. Also the \$55.00 2024-2025 activity fee is due on school cash online. I encourage all parents and guardians to discuss intentions with their children throughout this process. Guidance Counsellors, Mr. Ryan Defoe and Mr. Ted Shellhorne are available to discuss course options and pathway planning until the registration period has been completed.

Our 12B and Gr. 12 graduating students have been receiving early acceptance offers from College and University Programs. Exciting decisions will have to be made by families in the months ahead. The Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for the evening on June 25th at the Niagara Falls Convention. The Graduation Fee will be determined in the coming weeks. Graduation activities such as the Grad Mass and Luncheon, Graduation Retreat, the Prom will be presented to Graduates on March 5, 2024.

February is Black History Month and Saint Paul has a number of planned activities: February 1st our staff and students heard from author, engineer, and STEM educator Jennifer Ladupo. Jennifer focused on the development of a new Black Youth in STEM program and oversees the National Girls Program. Daily on our morning announcements we play historic, legendary Black Musicians and read their Bio for all students and staff to appreciate and take in. Additionally, daily on our afternoon announcements we focus on Black Iconic Leaders that helped shape Canada and where we are today. These musicians and leaders are posted outside of our main office. On Thursday February 15th we had The Get Real Movement in to conduct 4 grade-level workshops on anti-black racism. On Friday February 16 (our PA Day) our staff heard from Leela MadhavaRau who spoke on equity, diversity and inclusion.

On February 26-29th our students will be competing in the NCDSB Skills competition in various disciplines including: Baking, Culinary, TV/Video Production, Coding, Robotics, Photography, Fresh Beats, Cabinet making, Carpentry, Home Building, and Plumbing. We certainly wish them luck in these events as they have been busy practicing and working to develop and hone their skills.

Also: Keep in mind and please SAVE THE DATE for our Spring Musical Production of Mean Girls: This surely will be a fantastic performance showcasing all the gifts and talents of our students. Tickets go on sale tomorrow via school cash online. Show times are

- Wednesday May 8, 2024 @ 10:00 am (shortened show; Elementary School performance)
- Wednesday May 8, 2024 @ 12:30 pm (shortened show; Elementary School performance)
- Thursday May 9, 2024 @ 7:00 pm
- Friday May 10, 2024 @ 7:00 pm
- Saturday May 11, 2024 @ 2:00 pm
- Saturday May 11, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

As you can see there are lots of activities occurring and planned for the coming months. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me and I will be happy to support you.

2023 Director's Report – Principal Kelly Majka reviewed and passed around the 2023 Director's report. It was also emailed to all families by the board.

C. Policy Vetting

Principal Majka reviewed the following Policies for vetting:

- Code of Conduct Policy (302.6.2)
- Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee Policy (800.7)

Please submit feedback to anna.pisano@ncdsb.com by noon on March 27, 2024.

D. NFCE Gala – Principal Majka reviewed and passed around the flyer for the NFCE Gala and both co-chairs will be attending and Saint Paul will cover the cost.

E. OPEN DISCUSSION –

QUESTION PERIOD:

Alex Q: Parents would like to know what is happening with the grade 9 and 10 exams.

Kelly A: Exams for all classes will be status quo. There is a commitment that semester one and two have the same mark breakdown for classes offered in the two semester. The School board has created an Assessment and Evaluation Committee comprised of Teachers, Administrators and Students to discuss final evaluations.

Alex Q: Parents would like to know if Saint Paul will be hosting the graduation before exams.

Kelly A: DSBN has reversed the decision regarding Graduation. NCDSB has no plans to make any changes to graduation at this time. Graduation is being held June 25th and the exam period begins on June 19th but may be moved up a day to ensure all students write exams before graduation.

Monica Q: Asked Charlotte Johnstone about the upcoming McMaster Hospital Fundraiser. What will the actual fundraiser involve?

Charlotte A: McMaster asked for specific toys like Lego or smaller items for their treasure box. Student Council is meeting the next day to discuss whether they will collect items or money to purchase items.

F. NEXT MEETING DATES; Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024

G. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer (*Hail Mary*) was led by Alex Attree

H. ADJOURNMENT

That the February 20th, 2024 meeting of the SPHS Catholic School Council be adjourned. Moved by Lori Caruso and seconded by Erin Clark

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm.