



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

**Tuesday, April 23, 2024
Saint Paul School Library**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Saint Paul High School Catholic School Council, held on April 23, 2024 at 6:00pm.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Alex Attree

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer – Hail Mary

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	√		
Co-Chair	Alex Attree	√		
Secretary	Erin Clark	√		
Teacher Representative	Lindsay Pacilli	√		
Student Representative	Charlotte Johnstone		X	
Parish Representative	Melissa Ross	√		
OAPCE Representative	Dana Sacco	√		
NCPIC Representative	Supriya Rave	√		
SEAC Representative	Alex Attree	√		
PARENT/GUARDIAN MEMBERS				
	Lisa Caruso	√		
	Frank Caruso	√		
	Robyn Pearson	√		
	Julie Bateman	√		
	Rhonda Van Kleef	√		
	Krista Forgione			X

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

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Robyn Pearson and Julie Bateman

THAT the SPHS Catholic School Council approve the Agenda of the SPHS Catholic School Council Meeting of April 23, 2024

CARRIED

4. **Approval of Minutes of the Saint Paul High School Catholic School Council Meeting of February 20th, 2024.**

Moved by Robyn Pearson and Lisa Caruso

THAT SPHS Catholic School Council approve the Minutes of the SPHS Catholic School Council Meeting of (February 20th, 2024) as presented. Approved meeting minutes will be posted on the spchs.ca website.

CARRIED

B. REPORTS;

1) Chair Report – Amanda Leon and Alex Attree

Amanda and I want to express our gratitude for both Lisa and Frank as well as ALL of our parent volunteers. Every year the Bingo gets better and better and we want to recognize all the amazing things that Lisa & Frank have done for our St Paul students and community throughout the year(s) Thank you again.

This year our STP CSC continues to grow strong. The CSC is a great way to provide valued feedback, learn about how our school and community, and just keep up with what our students are doing in their Student life.

This year Amanda & Alexandria have introduced the Questions Time during our meeting, to allow us to ask questions that parents or students would like heard, stop rumors, and allow our Senior administrators valuable insight as to what our STP community wants to know. We hope that this will thrive even more next year and that we can be the voices for our community :)

Finally, we would like to create a sub-committee before September next year to start brainstorming some innovative and fresh ways to have Parent and Family engagement. St Paul has always been trendsetter and we would like to continue to shine by coming up with an amazing time. If you are interested in joining this sub-committee, we were hoping to meet 2-3 times between May-August so that we can present to our STP CSC in September. We can also take the time to come up with some fresh ideas on how we can get Grade 9 engagement.

2) Student Report – Charlotte Johnstone

Read by Mrs. Majka:

Good Evening. I apologize that I am not present in person tonight but am still thrilled to share the exciting things the student council has been up to in the last few months. We left off our last meeting with the

initiation of the board wide McMaster Fundraiser led by grade 11 student Angelina Greco. The results of this toy drive were overwhelmingly positive as we as a school raised over 1,100 dollars and over 1,000 toys were delivered to the hospital from all 8 high schools across the NCDSB.

Although we are currently in the transition of shifting to our new 2024-2025 student council, last week our current council threw one of their last events, the “Spring Fling”. Saint Paul finally put on a dance in our cafeteria after a 12 year pause. The night was an absolute success as we had around 120 students dancing the night away! A huge thank you goes out to our administrators, council moderators and the other staff that helped make the night possible. I think it is safe to say that this will not be the last dance Saint Paul has!

Finally, we are planning our spring spirit week which will take place May 28-31st. Students will have the chance to participate in themed days such as “dress as your favourite teacher day”, beechwood donut day, and our brand new Patriot Palooza. We are arranging to rent inflatables, get food trucks and are pumped for the student body to have a day of exciting festivities and fun. We are so excited to finish the school year off with a new and exciting event that is unfamiliar to the student body. We hope they let loose and have fun before June exams!

Thank you for your time and support. If there are any questions feel free to email me.

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

Supriya contacted the organization and was told there is an application process to be a member and the welcoming of new members takes place in May. She indicated that the minutes of the previous January meeting are posted on the website. March is not posted as there was no meeting because they did not have a quorum.

There is a meeting planned for next Thursday (bimonthly meetings)

Alex indicated that Supriya did not need to follow the application process and should speak to Yvonne Anderson

Kelly Majka indicated that Holy Cross hosted a parent engagement night last week with support from NCPIC.

OAPCE Report

OPACE Report **April 23, 2024**

The annual OPACE conference was held on April 13, 2024 in Etobicoke. The committee celebrated 85 years of parental involvement. Karl Suban was the keynote speaker. Once the highlights from the conference are published, Dana will report to the group.

OPACE has a new initiative this year. They have partnered with a committee called “Let’s Get Together” and they are having a tech drive. They are collecting used, broken and unused computers to be refurbished and given back to people who need technology in the community.

NEW THIS YEAR!

We are partnering with Let's Get Together for a "Tech Collect Drive" - help to bridge the digital divide by helping to collect used, broken and unwanted computers to be refurbished and circulated back to those in need in the community!



TECH COLLECT & e-waste DRIVE

#LGTTechCollect

We have partnered with Let's Get Together to bridge the digital divide by helping them collect **used, broken, and unwanted computers** to be refurbished and circulated back to those in need in the community. They also **collect and safely recycle other e-waste** to protect our planet!

What's accepted:




- **Laptops** - PC & Mac parts, cables
- **Desktops and monitors** - PC & Mac parts
- **Consumer Electronics** - gaming consoles, iPods, mp3 players, stereo equipment
- **Handheld devices** - smartphones, cell phones, tablets, digital cameras
- **Printers** - Inkjet & laserjet, plotters
- **Copiers, scanners and fax machines**
- **Peripherals** - keyboards, mice, USB sticks, external storage devices, CD/DVD ROMs, power cables, ethernet cables, laptop bags, webcams, accessories, etc.
- **Home and business phones** - smart phones, IP phones, analog phones, etc.
- **Servers and other electronics** - switches, patch panels, cables, storage systems, etc.
- **Household, office & outdoor items** - TVs, microwaves, toaster ovens, radios, etc.
- **NEW! Batteries** and **print cartridges**.

Drop off your donations at
OAPCE conference

Monsignor Percy Johnson Catholic Secondary School
2170 Kipling Ave, Etobicoke, ON M9W 4K9, Canada

techcollectdrive.ca

info@letsgettogether.ca

   @GetTogetherTO #lgttech4all



Dana asked the committee if this is something that we would like to participate in?

Melissa P asked if the refurbished technology will be given out to students in our community or in the Etobicoke community.

Dana will look into and e-mail the committee in order for a decision to be made if this is something we would like to participate in.

Frank indicated that if this supported our own community it could be very valuable. Revealed that the cheapest chrome book costs \$199 which is too much for some families.

SEAC Report

SEAC has begun to visit our community partners to see all the amazing things they have to offer our Niagara Catholic Community. This month they visited Community Living.

SSAH funding will be coming out for this region by the end of April.

Get out and support Time Hortons when they sell the Smile Cookies. Smile Cookies are returning to Tim Hortons restaurants from April 29 to May 5.

Over here in Niagara, Tim Horton's restaurant owners are supporting a variety of causes. The restaurants in St. Catharines, Thorold and Niagara-on-the-Lake are supporting two charities, with 100 per cent of the proceeds from the cookie sales going to the Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region and Autism Ontario South Region Cookie sale proceeds in Niagara Falls are supporting the Alzheimer Society and Project Share.

Also, Autism Ontario is always looking for volunteers.

4)- Parish Report- Melissa Ross

The Trivia Night originally planned for May 3rd has been moved to May 31st since Holy Rosary is having their Trivia night on May 3rd as well. People are encouraged to support both events. There is an incentive to register before May 1st.

Melissa Ross' daughter held a fundraiser to support the Youth Ministry. She purchased Crocheted Stuffys from a seller in Stoney Creek in varieties like Octopi, Bumble Bees etc. and resold at the Church. So far \$1200 has been raised for the Youth Ministry and the sales will be moving to elementary schools soon with volunteers in the hope to raise more funds.

Life in Christ evangelization movement is taking place with Fr. Daniel and Fr. Michael as speakers. The first event was held April 20th and the second in the series will be held April 27th. People can still register and information can be found in the Church Bulletin. Fr. Agee will join for seminar and discussion at the next installment

Holy Land Olive Wood sale took place this past weekend. The Knights of Columbus also held their Spaghetti Dinner on the same night of our Purse Bingo.

Upcoming – Confirmations this week, Wednesday Catechesis Training with Terri Pauco will take place at 7pm, CWL are planning their annual Breakfast, and a Men's speaker's series is planned.

5) Staff Report – Lindsay Pacilli

Sports:

- Spring sports are all practicing and beginning their seasons.
- The Jr. Boys Soccer team has a tournament this Thursday at the Young's Sportsplex in Welland.
- The Track and Field team has a meet on Friday at Niagara Olympics Park in Saint Catharines.
- The Varsity Cheerleading Team are not only South Regional Champs for the OFSAA Cheerleading Competition that took place on Thursday April 4 but achieved the highest score out of all 3 regions in Ontario for the 2nd year in a row!

Extra-curriculars:

- Mean Girls tickets are almost sold out! I was asked to promote the Saturday matinee performance because they only have 25 tickets sold.
- NYC trip is running from April 30-May 3.
- Music/Drama kids are going to Montreal this week - Highlights include instrumental and vocal workshops at McGill, a Jazz Club dinner/performance, Ghost Tour, Notre Dame Basilica, etc.
- Concert Band is performing at the NCDSB Music Festival on Tuesday, May 14 - it's an adjudicated festival affiliated w/ Musicfest Canada (so we hope to get a high silver/Gold to qualify for Nationals next year!)
- Theatre/Drama students involved in Mean Girls go to Nationals in Ottawa on May 17 - 20. We qualified for that back in the fall at the Star Drama Festival held at Performing Arts Centre!
- Key Club's April Bake Sale was a success! We raised over \$300 for Autism Ontario.

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 enjoy music therapy from Mendelt Hoekstra (music therapist) every Tuesday
- The courtyard was cleaned up and flowers will be planed after Mother's Day.
- The class is participating in the board Sunflower Challenge. The growth has been slow but steady.
- Horticulture students planted trees for Earth Day.
- Life skills have a focus on laundry, filling/emptying the dishwasher, and baking
- An end of the year trip is being planned for Queenston Heights.

6) Principal Report – Kelly Majka

We are officially now in the second half of semester 2 – there is only 39 school days left followed by exams! Midterm report cards will be on the parent portal tomorrow (April 24, 2024) along with our

Parent-Teacher Interviews from 3pm-6pm. Parent-Teacher Interviews can be booked online and currently there are 620 appointments. Parent-Teacher Interviews allow you individual one-on-one time with your child's teacher to discuss your child's strengths, needs and overall progress in their classes. This interview experience is a valuable communication tool allowing you to be updated and also gives you the opportunity to discuss next steps to ensure your child is meeting their full potential.

Students have already made their course selections for the 2024-2025 school year and have paid their activity fee. Our student services department is now busy creating our Master Schedule for student schedules over the next month or two. Summer school course options is available and is opened until May 6th. Niagara Falls site for summer school is Saint Michael as we are getting our gym roof redone as well as HVAC system.

During the Easter season, the Saint Paul student body donated Peanut Butter, Nutella, jam-spreads as part of the Lenten Food drive in support of Our Lady of the Scapular Parish Saint Vincent de Paul food bank. Here at Saint Paul, we are many, we are one body in Christ true to our Gospel values.

Students will be participating in two Niagara Catholic vetted survey's (COMPASS Survey on April 24th during Period 2 and CSADS Survey on May 22 during Period 4). Results of these surveys will help to inform administration on key initiatives to focus on and implement school-wide.

Catholic Education Week starts on May 5 and ends on May 12th. Again, this year, the board is connecting Mental Health Awareness Week with CEW. We will be having a mental health and wellness fair on May 6th – various local community services will be onsite and offering information and small presentations for our students. Our Spring Musical Production of Mean Girls will kick off from May 8-11 with shows for our feeder schools, night performances along with a matinee. The students/cast/crew have been working tirelessly to put on this show for many months so please come out and support them. On Thursday May 9th – Father Daniel will lead us in a school wide Mass to celebrate our theme of “We are called to Love” – this Mass will be held at Our Lady of the Scapular Church.

On May 8th, Niagara Catholic will hold its “Celebrating Excellence” Awards at Brock University. This year's student recipient of the Saint Paul Catch the Spirit Award is graduating student Serina Santo. Throughout her 4 years at STP, Serina has been an active member of the Athletic council culminating this year with being the President of the Athletic Council. Serina has been instrumental in chairing the weekly meeting and planning and executing various transition and school spirit events this school year. In addition, our very own Mr. Candeloro and Mr. Seca will be receiving the Staff Inspiration Award for their commitment and service in teaching and coaching.

Final Exams are scheduled for June 18-June 26. The June Final Exam schedule will be finalized and distributed to families at the end of May. Families are encouraged to plan vacations after the formal exam period.

Graduation Activities are well under way with our Graduation Ceremony on June 27th @ the Niagara Falls Convention Center. Our Graduation retreat will be at Heartland Forest on May 10th...the Grads will be participating in many interactive activities. Prom is scheduled on May 24th at John Michael's and our Grad Mass and Luncheon will be held on June 11th at John Michaels as well.

C. OPEN DISCUSSION –

QUESTION PERIOD:

Alex Q: Is there a way to properly oppose the Student Transit Policy for distance?

Kelly A: Indicated that she had fielded four calls so far about the new transit policy. After an investigation it was discovered that 29 families in total at Saint Paul are affected by new policy. Of course, she hoped that no families were affected but once she discussed with primarily Saint Vincent de

Paul families that due to the declaration of hazards in the area (crossing the overpass - QEW), many students beyond the 3.2 km restriction still qualified for transportation. Also indicated that the decision affects both school boards.

Alex: As a family walked the distance in nice weather and found it to be about 60 mins of a walk

Lisa Q: How can the distance of a person's residence from the school be determined

Kelly A: NSTS precalculated and there is a link on the School Board website where you can put your address in and the distance. This is the recorded distance because NSTS would use the calculation between the bus stop and the front door of the school

Robyn: Indicated that she is aware that in calculating walking distance, NSTS will consider shortcuts like trails, forest pathways, etc.

Alex A: Can the school send a message out for families about the hazard determination that still allows them to receive transportation.

Kelly: Administration at Saint Vincent de Paul is aware and informing parents with siblings in elementary school. The NSTS website or the link on the board website will help parents with individualized information.

Erin Q: While discussing transportation, wondered if there are a number of buses having issues with punctual pick up and delivery. Stated that there were serious issues last semester with bus 6370 and she contacted NSTS and the route was changed but the problems have persisted. Cited 11 emails about delays in the morning or afternoon route in the month of April alone.

Kelly A: The problem appears isolated to one route.

Julie: Yes we are having issue with our bus as well and it appears to be related to the design of the bus route

Alex: I know that they are short drivers and having difficulty hiring.

Kelly A: I am aware of the problem. In particular we have students in high level math classes first period who are missing part of their math class numerous days which affects their education. I will contact NSTS again.

Melissa Q: On the issue of transportation, will there be a revisitation of the issue of the cancelled late bus

Kelly A: Unfortunately, probably not due to the high cost of running a late bus.

Kelly – final issue – wanted to discuss the efforts by the school to encourage retention of Catholic Elementary students to transition to high School at Saint Paul. Current numbers around 700 students with a projected growth to 787 for September.

Frank Q: What specific activities support this retention?

Kelly A: We have held Dodge ball tournaments and are looking to a grade 6-8 culinary activity next year. Kelly also encouraged schools to pick a student of month each year at the feeder schools. She then calls the winner and provides them with Saint Paul Swag. Additionally, starting colour wars with Grade 8s has proved successful. Finally, she also dialogued intimately with principals to find out what specific schools need. Eg. One school had students choosing co-terminus Board for Volleyball so Mr. DeFoe ran a Volleyball clinic and changed some minds.

Alex – AP is a big selling feature as the public board doesn't offer it.

Melissa P: we should try to include the public board kids who have declared their intent to go to Saint Paul to a greater extent

Erin – agreed that when public school kids hear that their classmate is out at Saint Paul doing fun things it creates a buzz. Also suggested that the opportunities to meet classmates ahead of time like Muskoka trip were a huge selling feather

Kelly – unfortunately the elementary principals were not on board due to the cost of teacher release time.

Alex – congratulated the school and Mr. Angrilli on the great transition for students with anxiety etc.

Robyn agreed and suggested the effort is what makes the difference and that she had a positive experience when Mr. Keighan went the extra mile to already know her child by name.

Other discussion:

Frank raised a congratulations for the great work raising \$1100 in the toy and money drive for McMaster Children's Hospital

Kelly discussed the successful spring fling and that there had not been a dance in a number of years. She mentioned that kids dressed up and Mr. Rondinelli and Ms. Iorio were the DJs.

Frank and Lisa mentioned that next year is their last year and would like to train someone to take the reins of Saint Paul Family. They indicated that thus far no one has agreed to take over.

Alex confirmed that this is the last meeting of the year and **Kelly** congratulated the volunteers for having the largest group that she has seen after working at a number of schools.

**D. NEXT MEETING DATES;
September 2024**

E. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer (*Our Father*) was led by Alex Attree

F. ADJOURNMENT

That the April 23, 2024 meeting of the SPHS Catholic School Council be adjourned. Moved by Lori Erin Clark and seconded by Robyn Pearson

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.