



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE SAINT PAUL HIGH SCHOOL CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday, April 22, 2025
Saint Paul School Library**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Saint Paul High School Catholic School Council, held on April 22, 2025 at 6:00pm.

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Chair Alex Attree

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer – St. Francis of Assisi

Led by Alex Attree

2. Roll Call

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP		Present	Excused	Absent
Principal/Vice-Principal	Kelly Majka – Principal Jennifer Pirosko - VP	√		
Co - Chair	Amanda Leon			√
Co-Chair	Alex Attree	√		
Secretary	Erin Clark	√		
Teacher Representative	Lindsay Pacilli	√		
Student Representative	Kate Bishop		√	
Parish Representative	Melissa Ross	√		
OAPCE Representative	Dana Sacco	√		
NCPIC Representative	Julie Bateman	√		
SEAC Representative	Tara Formisano	√		
	Lisa Caruso	√		
	Frank Caruso	√		
	Robyn Pearson			√
	Rhonda Van Kleef			√
	Shelby Brunni	√		
	Melissa Procopio	√		
	Christine Sidhorn			√

Jennifer Dolon	√		
Monica Bertolo	√		
Teresa Reich	√		
Sandra Greco			√
Impa Bahati	√		
Linda Rosano	√		
Tara Thornton			√

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Melissa Ross and Erin Clark

THAT the SPHS Catholic School Council approve the Agenda of the SPHS Catholic School Council Meeting of April 22, 2025

CARRIED

4. **Approval of Minutes of the Saint Paul High School Catholic School Council Meeting of February 18, 2025.**

Moved by Lisa Caruso and Melissa Ross

THAT the SPHS Catholic School Council approve the Minutes of the SPHS Catholic School Council Meeting of February 18, 2025

CARRIED

B. REPORTS;

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

Last month, Amanda and I had the opportunity to attend the Niagara Catholic Education Awards, where three very deserving individuals were honoured: two trustees and our former Director of Education.

Each of them shared their story, and while their journeys were unique, one thing united them all—their unwavering commitment to supporting and encouraging Catholic education.

I want to take a moment to thank all of you for your time and dedication. Life is busy, and our children are growing up so quickly, yet you continue to give your time to support our school and our kids—and that truly matters.

This year, two very special members of our STP family will be celebrating their final STP graduation. With that, it's time for them to pass the baton to the next group of parents.

Lisa and Frank have given countless hours in service to our St. Paul community—working Bingo nights, organizing fundraiser pickups, preparing for Purse Bingo, speaking with donors and OLG staff. Their dedication has not gone unnoticed by anyone here.

Tonight, we want to present you with this small gift as a token of our heartfelt appreciation. Thank you for everything you've done for our school. You will always be a cherished part of our STP family

2) **Student Report – Kate Bishop**

3)

Hello Catholic School Council, Moderators, Mrs. Majka and Parents,

Since our last meeting, some Female Music Students recorded and put together a song and video for International Women's Day highlighting all the female talent and abilities we have at Saint Paul, not only in music but also tech, arts, leadership and education. Just after that we broke for March Break and everyone enjoyed the much needed time off! Returning back from our week off, Student Council organized school-wide events such as our rock-paper-scissors challenge where each student was given one necklace and were able to challenge another student to a game of rock-paper-scissors, winner takes all! Another school wide event hosted by our council was the March Madness bracket where each period one teacher was given a link where they were able to choose their picks for who they thought was going to win each match of March Madness.

Student Council and Athletic Council had their elections for next year both through video submissions and both of their council lists for 2025-2026 were posted within the past two weeks.

Our Lenten journey started with our school-wide mass for Ash Wednesday and in the spirit of almsgiving we had a blessing bag drive where items of self-care were collected in boxes at the front of the chapel and were put into bags for our brothers and sisters in need.

To commemorate and recognize Jesus' 40 days spent in the desert and journey to death and resurrection, all classes attended stations of the cross at Our Lady of the Scapular lead by Father Ronnie and Coordinated by Ms. Rocca.

Also, for our Easter celebrations, Student council had an Easter themed basket given out to a lucky VIP member and gave out Easter eggs for period four classes to design and gave mini Easter prizes to the winning class. Also, in the spirit of Easter, Student Council put egg stickers under lucky chairs for the lucky patriots who won Easter gift baskets!

We are looking forward to the rest of April to the end of the year. Graduates will be going on their grad retreat on April 29th to go through team building activities before the end of the year. Concert band members are getting ready for their national competition and Music Theatre members are preparing for their Star Festival national competition all taking place within the first few weeks of May. Student Council members will be attending a board wide leadership event on May 7th under the theme Limitless where they will hear from keynote speaker Jeff A.D. Martin who will be speaking specifically towards mental health and empowering future leaders.

In mid-May Student Council will be pairing up with Athletic Council to host a spirit week leading up to Patriot Palooza which will be taking place on May 16th. Half of the event will be a teacher vs student soccer game and the other half will be a celebration of school spirit with inflatables, food trucks, a dunk tank and some friendly competition.

Finally, moving into June, grad season is in full effect with the grad luncheon, prom, exams and Graduation leading us into summer break.

All of the events just mentioned could not have been possible without the planning, organizing and coordinating of Music Council, Athletic Council, Student Council, their moderators, administration, Mrs. Majka, Student Support, and, of course, you, our Patriot Catholic School Council.

3) NCPIC/OAPCE/SEAC Report –/Julie Bateman/Dana Sacco/Tara Formisano

NCPIC Report – Julie Bateman

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday following this CSC meeting. Julie did mention that there are positions available for the next election. Register by May 5th if interested. Meetings are Bi-Monthly

OAPCE Report – Dana Sacco

There hasn't been an OAPCE meeting since our last CSC meeting. Dana Sacco will attend the virtual Niagara OAPCE on Wed. April 23, 2025 at 7:00 pm and report at our next meeting.

Registration is OPEN for....

The Ontario Association for Parent in Catholic Education (OAPCE) is pleased to announce that the 86th OAPCE Conference "Coming Together as the Power of One", will take place in Niagara this year at St. Michael High School.

This is an incredible opportunity for parents, educators, and community members to come together, gain valuable insights, and strengthen our Catholic education system. Participants can expect dynamic speakers, engaging workshops, and meaningful networking opportunities that will empower and inspire!

On behalf of the Niagara Catholic District School Board and the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee, all Niagara Catholic parents/guardians are invited to attend the OAPCE Conference.

Date: Saturday, May 24, 2025 Time: 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Location: Saint Michael Catholic High School 8699 McLeod Rd., Niagara Falls

Topics and Guest Speakers include:

- The Power of One: Joe Perri, OAPCE Co-Executive Director
- Pilgrims of Hope Live in Families: Teresa Hartnett, Director Family Ministry OfficeThe Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton
- AI in Education: Anthony Perrotta, Guiding the Next Generation of Learners, Educator, Storyteller, and Digital Learning Advocate

Please click on the link below if you are interested.

Parent Link: <https://oapce.org/product/one-day-conference-ticket/>

SEAC Report – Tara Formisano

SEAC Meeting Summary – March 2025

1. Presentation Highlights

After School Social Skills Programs Tayler Sergenese shared that the board continues to run a variety of after-school programs that support social skills and independence for students with diverse needs.

Programs include:

- Cooking, Gardening, Coding, Arts & Crafts
- High school & post-high school readiness
- Summer Social Connections These are supported by both central and school staff and funded through ministry grants.

Holy Cross Secondary Tour Principal Filice gave SEAC a tour of their new kitchen facilities in the special education classrooms.

2. Chair's Report

- The Ministry's Advisory Council (MACSE) is asking for feedback on special education services to help shape future policies.
- A letter from Algoma DSB was discussed; voting will happen at the April meeting.
- Future SEAC meetings will continue to be held at the Catholic Education Centre.
- Trustee Marino suggested inviting Gary Parker (Indigenous Lead) as a guest speaker.

3. Community & Agency Updates

Autism Ontario – Niagara They are preparing for Celebrate the Spectrum on April 2 (World Autism Day). Schools can order flags, bracelets, and more by March 19. A video and flyers are available to help raise awareness.

Community Living (Welland/Pelham) A new residential program is being developed to support teens (15–18) with complex needs who are in care and need more support transitioning to adulthood.

Down Syndrome Niagara

- Trivia Night Fundraiser: April 12 at Merritton Community Centre.
- World Down Syndrome Day: March 21 – resources for schools are available to promote inclusion and understanding.

Niagara Children's Centre

- Staff changes: Michelle Maxwell will be replaced by Kylee Daley in April.
- The extensive needs funding has been extended into 2026.

4. Student Support Updates

New Programs and Opportunities:

- Bursary Available: Anne Stafford Light Up the Future Bursary is open for individuals with intellectual disabilities (deadline: April 25).
- Para Hockey Game: Students are invited to cheer on Team Canada vs. USA on March 26 at Canada Games Park.
- Celebrate the Spectrum: April 2 – an important day to raise autism awareness and support.
- Gifted Program Update: In April, students will engage in Indigenous land-based learning activities, including a Medicine Walk.
- Hoot Reading: A Tier 3 literacy intervention is being piloted in some schools. Early feedback is being collected to determine its future use.

Community Input Opportunities:

- Budget consultation for the 2025–26 school year
- Naming new schools in Niagara Falls and Beamsville (student vote coming soon)

5. Trustee Report

- Recipients of the 2025 Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction include former trustees and a former Director of Education. Awards will be presented March 27.
- The Indigenous Education Team shared how they support Indigenous students with land-based learning and connections to the community.
- Student video contest: St. Mary and Notre Dame students placed among top winners again!

6. Parent Involvement Committee

- OAPCE Conference: All parents are invited to attend on May 24 at Saint Michael Catholic High School. Great opportunity to connect with Catholic parent leaders.

· Murder Mystery Fundraiser: Hosted by Serra Club – May 3 at Club Roma. Tickets are \$65 and include dinner and entertainment.

4)- Parish Report- Melissa Ross

Prayer for Pope Francis

O God, immortal shepherd of souls,
look on your people's prayers
and grant that your servant Pope Francis,
who presided over your Church in charity,
may, with the flock entrusted to his care,
receive from your mercy the reward of a faithful steward.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Coffee Sunday

- Now taking place once per month and hosted by a different group each time.
- Next date is April 27th after all masses.
- This week is hosted by the CWL.

Anointing of the Sick

- Taking place on Monday, May 5 at the 9:00 am mass.

Youth Ministry / Stuffy Sale

- Fundraiser has completed sales, yet there are about a dozen left.
- Selling those this weekend at Coffee Sunday after the 9:30 am mass.
- Total raised so far - \$1,684.50

Spring Church Yard Clean Up Day

- Taking place on Saturday, May 3rd at 8:00-10:00 am
- Bring own rakes, shovels, pruners, spades, and gloves
- They will provide treats · Email the parish office if you can make it. ourladyofthescapular@saintcd.com

New Catholic Moms Group

- Launching the Our Lady of the Scapular Parish Mother's Group · Holding two information sessions, where interested mothers can learn more about this vibrant ministry focused on supporting moms in their vocation of family life. · The sessions will take place in the Ferrando Room on: o Wednesday, April 23rd at 10:00 a.m. o Thursday, April 24th at 7:30 p.m.
- Check out www.CatholicMomsGroup.com to learn more about this ministry · Contact Stephanie at momsgroup@scapular.ca with any questions

CWL Annual Communion Breakfast

- Being held on Sunday, May 4th
- Gathering at the 9:30 am mass, followed by breakfast at Club Belvedere, 57 John Street, Thorold.
- Guest speaker is Betty Colaneri, VP of the National Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada.
- Cost is \$28/person. Tickets on sale until April 25th in the parish office

CWL Mother's Day Tulip Sale

- Taking place this weekend
- \$10 per bunch
- Pick up the weekend of May 10th/11th

OLOS Rummage Sale

- Taking place May 24th from 8:30 – 11:00 am
- In the Church hall
- Looking for donations of clothing, household items, toys, books and more
- Drop-off of donations will take place in the days leading up to the sale. Times and location TBA.

Development and Peace Share Lent Collection

- Took place on April 6th
- Passed their \$9000 parish goal.
- The funds will help support our sisters and brothers in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.
- You can still make a contribution by using a Development and Peace envelope or writing Development and Peace on an envelope and dropping it into the collection basket over the next few weeks. Please ensure you address cheques to “Our Lady of the Scapular”.

Legion of Mary

- Open invitation to join them to recite the Rosary before the Tuesday evening Mass at 6:15 pm, and then stay for mass at 7 pm.
- Additionally, every Saturday before the 5 pm mass starting at 4:15 pm, they will be praying the Rosary
- ALL are welcome to attend for meaningful prayer and fellowship.

The Prayer Shawl Group

- Still looking for donations of yarn. Anything is appreciated.
- Drop off at the parish office.

Choose Life Niagara: March for Life

- Invites high school and post-secondary students to join their annual March for Life trip to Ottawa.
- Departing the Vineland Carpool lot at 5:00 am Thursday, May 8th
- Returning at 9:30 pm on Friday, May 9th.
- Cost is \$120 and includes the National March, the Youth Conference, the Rose Dinner, hotel accommodations, and a coach bus. · For more information and to register, visit chooselife.ca/events or email info@chooselife.ca.

Catholic Engaged Encounter

- Holding in-person weekends March 14-16 and October 17-19 this year
- May 1-3 and October 3-5 next year. · Visit www.ceecanada.ca for more information and to register
- Urgently looking for married couples to help minister to the engaged

· Celine de Grosbois 289-241-4390 or Jennifer Stoop 289-228-0140

Pilgrimage to Rome with His Excellency Bishop Gerard Bergie

- To enter through the Holy Doors of St. Peter's Basilica, the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran and the Basilica of St. Mary Major during the 2025 Jubilee Year.
- The Spiritual Journey starts on October 16th and returns October 24th.
- For more information on the program and registration, contact Ineke Brinkman, Travel Advisor for Direct Travel and Organizer of Pilgrimage Tours at ibrinkman@dt.com or call Ineke at 905.988.1313.

Jubilee - Messages of Hope Speaker Series

- Continues to engage those living in the Diocese of St. Catharines to learn about hope, and together, reflect and explore ways to restore a climate of hope in our world that desperately yearns for it.
- Each month, in venues around the diocese, a speaker has been invited to give a talk that explores some messages and themes that Pope Francis highlighted in the Jubilee's Bull of Indiction - SPES NON CONFUNDIT: Hope does not disappoint.
- Please visit the 'Around the Diocese' page of the diocesan website or Facebook page for dates and more information.
- April 30, 2025 Speaker: Father Peter Rowe, Pastor, St. Vincent de Paul Parish
Place: St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 73 Picton St., NOTL
- May 24, 2025 Speaker: Dr. Joseph Lombardi, Assoc Prof, Assist Dean, St. Augustine's Seminary
Place: Our Lady of the Rosary Shrine, Port Colborne
- June 14, 2025 Speaker: Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop Emeritus Toronto
Place: Gethsemane Ministries, Wellandpor

5) Staff Report – Lindsay Pacilli

Sports:

The Spring sports season is just getting started; results can be seen on the board's N.C.A.A. website (<http://www.ncaa.ca/>)

Extra-curriculars:

Multicultural Club:

Multicultural Day - Friday, May 9th

There will be music, dancing, food samples for 1\$/ticket, and some trivia during both lunches

Art:

Night of Art: High School Edition

May 1, 2025

6-9pm

FREE Event

Experience the next generation of artists in a vibrant celebration of talent. Enjoy as local Niagara-based high school students (including our very own PATRIOTS!) bring their passion to life through visual art and stunning performances in drama, music, and dance. All are welcome.



FOR MORE DETAILS,
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:
NFEXCHANGE.CA

THE EXCHANGE
NIAGARA FALLS
5943 Sylvia Place, Niagara Falls, ON



DRAWN 2025 juried show received submissions from 16 secondary schools with 152 total works submitted. The jury selected 61 works for the exhibition. The jury made their selections based on several criteria: technical skill, strength of ideas/concepts presented in the work, originality, and promise. Additionally, the jurors considered how the submissions developed thematic connections to other works accepted into the exhibition or how the works reflected students' lived experiences. We thank all students who submitted their works.

Dorothy Duong Dorothy in Wonderland

Sienna Skinner Prowl

*Sienna Skinner Don't Bite the Hand that Feeds**

Hayoon Kim Nostalgia

Chris Shu Ishida Coccyx

*Kristof Takacs Sketchbook(s) *multiple works*

Kristof Takacs Abandoned Station

Where: Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts

Exhibition Dates: May 6 – 17

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 10, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Opening remarks and awards presentation at 2:00 pm

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Music:

Our Concert Band received a GOLD standing at the regional MusicFest competition we hosted last week, so we are invited to Nationals AGAIN next year!

We are going to Nationals on May 15 at York University

We are part of the NIGHT OF ART at the Exchange on May 1st - featuring all 5 Niagara High Schools - our musicians, vocalists, drama students, and visual artists! Some students will also be selling their artwork/photography, etc!

StarFest Nationals, May 8-10, for our Theatre and Drama students

Our Spring Showcase (Arts & Culture Night) has been changed to May 22 - featuring our musicians (Concert Band), vocalists, theatre students, film students, and dancers!

Music festival at Canada's Wonderland is on May 30 (Concert Band/Choir)

The Arts Banquet is on June 5, and we will celebrate all of their accomplishments with a little dance, appetizers, cake, and awards!

Spec. Ed:

- Patriot Perks continues to be a success
- Students are "paving the path" to employment through a 12-week program from the March of Dimes
- Students made and sold tie-dye socks for World Down Syndrome Day (March 21st)
- Students and staff made class tie-dye shirts to wear on special occasions
 - They were worn for the first time on World Autism Day (April 2nd)
- A number of transition activities are planned, including a visit/tour of Niagara College on May 1st, as well as visits with five future Patriots in the special education class

6) Principal Report – Kelly Majka

Term 2 – SEM 2

We are officially now in the second half of semester 2 – there is only 40 school days left followed by exams! Midterm report cards will be on the parent portal tomorrow (April 23, 2025) along with our Parent-Teacher Interviews on April 24, 2025 from 3pm-6pm.

Parent-Teacher Interviews can be booked online and currently there are ?? 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.

Course Selection

Students have already made their course selections for the 2025-2026 school year and have paid their activity fee. Our student services department is now busy creating our Master Schedule for student & teachers schedules over the next month or two. Summer school course options is available and is opened until May 5th. Niagara Falls site for summer school is ???

Easter Season

During the Easter season, the Saint Paul student body donated Cereal as part of the North of 60 Food drive in support of Diocese of St. Catharine's (The Society of St. Vincent de Paul), supporting our Northern Neighbours in need. Here at Saint Paul, we are many, we are one body in Christ true to our Gospel values. Also: on Thursday 17th our school went to Our Lady of the Scapular Church and went through the Stations of the Cross for Holy Thursday. I sincerely wish all families a happy and blessed Easter.

COMPASS Survey

Students will be participating in the yearly Niagara Catholic vetted COMPASS survey on Thursday May 1st during Period 1. Results of these surveys will help to inform administration & key student leadership groups on key initiatives to focus on and implement school-wide. I will share the results with the Catholic School Council as well.

Catholic Education Week

Catholic Education Week starts on May 4 and ends on May 9th and the theme is Pilgrims of Hope. 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.

On May 6th, Niagara Catholic will hold its “Celebrating Excellence” Awards at Central Community Centre in NOTL. This year's student recipient of the Saint Paul Catch the Spirit Award is graduating student Lorenzo Lopez. Throughout his years at STP, Lorenzo has been an active member of Chaplain's Crew, attends weekly mass at Our Lady of the Scapular Church, holds a high academic standing and embodies the true heart of a Patriot daily with his teachers and peers. In addition, our very own Rick Oreskovich and Karen Oreskovich will be receiving the Staff Inspiration Award for their commitment and service in teaching and coaching.

On Thursday May 7th – Father Greg will lead us in a school wide Mass – this Mass will be held at Our Lady of the Scapular Church.

Exams & Grad

Final Exams are scheduled for June 18 – 24. 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 25th @ the Niagara Falls Convention Center at 6pm. Our Graduation retreat will be at Heartland Forest on April 29th -- the Grads will be participating in many interactive activities. Prom is scheduled on June 12 at Americana and our Grad Mass and Luncheon will be held on June 10th at John Michaels.

C. OPEN DISCUSSION –

A general discussion about parking and traffic flow around the school after Shelby brought up parking and safety concerns. Alex suggested a traffic survey is possibly necessary as the direction of flow might seem backwards. Jenn indicated that there should only be one way in and one way out. Melissa asked if we tried to get a traffic light in the area some previously deemed necessary. Kelly indicated that when she contacted the city, the road was in fact under Regional jurisdiction. Kelly indicated that she is currently in talks with NSTS to re-evaluate the bus parking and arrival procedure as there are no set spots for buses. Alex indicated that there may be a board person who is in charge of traffic flow and Kelly reviewed the capital project requests which included the re-roofing of the school this summer, the repainting of the gym and floor improvements, the theatre upgrading and a repaving of the “kiss and ride” area which may help with traffic flow. Finally,

Melissa suggested that visitor spots are often full and asked if Kelly could remind supply teachers etc. that the intention of the visitor spots are for quick delivery, visits and should be kept free generally for that purpose. Kelly agreed that she would discuss with the office staff that have a larger interaction with supply teachers and other visiting education staff.

An additional open/general discussion took place following Kelly's tour of the new Indigenous Mural installed in the Library. The general consensus was one of appreciation for the art work. The following is the plaque that will accompany the mural:



QUESTION PERIOD:

Dana: I heard that Our Lady of Scapular is running a camp all summer long.

Teresa: Yes and you can contact the church to find out more

Frank: Is the Church holding VBS programming this summer

Teresa: Not at Scapular this summer, the new camp will take it's place

Melissa: There have been issues with poor attendance at VBS post covid which has prompted this change.

Dana: Is anyone else going to the OAPCE conference

Julie: I am planning on it and they are looking for Niagara Area, Faith Based Vendors in addition to the already attending New Leaf, Oxford and Niagara Speech Services

Frank: Do we have any graduating students from the special education department

Lindsay: No, we have grade 12's but all are planning to stay until 21 years of age so they will not be participating in graduation activities until they are aging out of our system.

D. NEXT MEETING DATE; SEPTEMBER 2025?

E. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was led by Jenn Dolan – Hail Mary for the Repose of the Soul of Pope Francis

F. ADJOURNMENT

That the February 18th meeting of the SPHS Catholic School Council be adjourned. Moved by Dana Sacco and Frank Caruso

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm