



MINUTES



DENIS MORRIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday January 16, 2024
6:30 P.M. Denis Morris Information Centre

Present: K. Timmins, M. Rocco, T. Kramar, K. Forster, D. Scullion, S. Strickland, M. Vandervaart,

Regrets: T. Ostaszewicz, S. Gualtieri, R. Pruyn, P. Morgetano, J. Inch, A. Coleman, V. Tommasini, L. Graham

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

- 1 Opening Prayer – Kevin Timmins
- 2 Roll Call
- 3 Approval of Agenda – January 16, 2024: 1st: T. Kramar, 2nd: S. Strickland
- 4 Disclosure of Conflict of Interest: NIL
- 5 Approval of the Minutes – November 21, 2023: 1st: T, Kramar, 2nd: S. Strickland

B. PRESENTATIONS

- SHSM / Skilled Trade Promotion Night @ DM Feb 1, 6:30 pm

C. POLICIES FOR VETTING

- [Employee Hospitality Policy 201.14](#)
- [Student Transportation Policy 500.2](#)

Please submit your feedback to [Anna Pisano](#) by 12:00 p.m. January 23, 2024 (links sent via email on January 19/24)

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

1 NCPIC (Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee) Report:

- Experiential Learning-Technology, Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM), Cooperative Education and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP)
- SHSM / Skilled Trade Promotion Night @ DM Feb 1, 6:30 pm

- 2 SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) (Dec 6 and Jan 10 Meeting Highlights):
 - Presentation SEA Coaching/Screening/Reading Intervention – Bryan Nesbitt
 - ABASE Classroom Update – Julia Nemcko, ABA Lead; Tina Hornick, BRTMath Strategic Plan Presentation
 - Pathways to Potential - Ann Marie Criddle – Student Support Coordinator, Niagara Catholic
 - Standing reports from Niagara Children’s Centre, Pathstone Mental Health, Down Syndrome Niagara, Bethesda Service, Autism Niagara , Mainstream, Community Living

- 3 Catholic School Council Financial Report.
 - Current balance of \$2700
 - Krispy Kreme Donut Fundraiser – Closed January 15, 2024. 375 dozen sold.
 - Cobb’s Bread Fundraiser for DM Cares/Breakfast Program – April
 - Possible support requests in the future:
 - Shrove Tuesday, Grad Breakfast

- 4 Principal’s School Information Report
 - Open House – Great night for DM , over 400 in attendance
 - Construction Update: Large gym occupancy for public events (e.g. games, open house) received.
 - Exams next week: P1 Jan 23, P2 Jan 24, P3/4 Jan 25, P5 Jan 26
 - Tuesday is a regular school day (must be in school uniform) with an adjusted P1 assembly schedule to accommodate exams.
 - Jan 24-26 - 8:10 am start time, students can be out of uniform, no cafeteria service, buses depart at 2:20 pm, students can go home to study (no need to sign out) or study at school in the library of cafeteria.
 - EQAO Math Gr.9 Jan 18 & 19
 - Report cards will be available to parents/guardians in the Parent Portal the week of February 12, 2024.
 - Semester 2 begins Wednesday Jan 31. Student timetables can be found in the parent portal.
 - Gr.2/3 Feeder School Visit for Christmas Craft Activity and Drama Performance
 - January 30th – Gr. 8 Retreat at DM
 - Advent Mass, Weekly mass, Rosary in the chapel, classroom visits to the chapel
 - Food Drive donated to SVDP and help northwards of 80 families.....Community Cares Christmas fundraising drive raised \$3800. Turkeys and gift cards were also purchased for families in need through generous donations. Coat drive donations to adult education and SVDP.
 - Breakfast program is going strong and on solid financial foundation.
 - Winter Season for sports: boys’ basketball, girls volleyball, rowing, hockey, curling, swimming, ski club
 - Spec Ed Trip to see Descendants Musical/Special Olympics Basketball
 - Feb 2 – Gr. 11/12 Semi-formal
 - Feb. 22 – Vaccination Clinic for students @ DM
 - Feb 22 -24 Musical Back to the 80’s
 - Wells of Hope Guatemala Trip March 2025 In planning Stages
 - Graduation Information Package Sent to parents.

D. OAPCE REPORT: Marisa Vandervaart

OAPCE advocates for integrating family values, educational growth, and spiritual guidance.

- Home, school, and church working together - values and teachings imparted at home are complemented by those learned at school and in the church community.
- Nurtures a child's spiritual growth, intellectual development, and character formation.
- First home – values, beliefs and traditions are passed down throughout generations – parents are kids first and most important educators – OAPCE provides information, resources, and a platform for parents to engage with other parents.
- School shapes children academically and socially.
- Church helps children grow spiritually.
- “We believe that when these three fundamental pillars of the community work together, children thrive academically, spiritually, and personally.”
- By bringing together home, school and church, OAPCE helps to create a strong and supportive network for children to succeed and grow.

Engage

- OAPCE 85 – celebration of education and faith in Toronto on Friday Apr12 and Saturday Apr13, 2024
- First guest will be his Grace Archbishop Francis Leo

Advocate

- OAPCE is conducting a survey to begin planning their areas of focus for upcoming year.
 - Open until January 2024

Enhance

- Teresa Hartnett – Director of Family Ministry for the Diocese of Hamilton
 - Retreat message – Love, Life and Joy – gifts brought to us that first Christmas.
 - “**Love** - God created us to love and loves us. He taught us that love comes at a price, but it is a gift – it fills us and sustains us. **Life** - the gift given to us by God, who asks us to share it with others, and he gives us eternal life. **Joy** - God's love and gift of life brings us joy and a sense of peace. All these gifts are given to us freely with no price but are priceless.”
 - Christmas gives us the opportunity to show these gifts – love in the nativity, red bows and giving gifts to one another, life in evergreen trees, wreaths, lights and candles and joy seen in the music, angels, and bright colours.

Institute for Catholic Education (ICE)

- New Family Life Education curriculum for grades 1-8
- New curriculum document should be ready later this year and come into effect for the fall of 2024.
- Once the curriculum is available, there will be resources made available to help parents learn more such as FAQ and pamphlets.

Here is the website for OAPCE related activities. <https://niagara.oapce.org/>

E. STAFF REPORT: Mrs. Ostaszewicz sends her regrets Report is covered in Principal's report

F. STUDENT REPORT: Kennady Forster

- 12 days of Christmas gift giving ran in December which included daily draws for ROC card holders.
- A “Milk and Cookies” drive also ran and money raised from this activity went to support the “Community Cares” drive.
- The next big upcoming event is Colour Wars!
- Next student council meeting is set for late February

G. OLD BUSINESS:

- CSC Funding Suggestion (\$500) – Guest Speaker Dwayne Morgan: Feb 8 @ 6 pm in the Library
- Possible Topics:

FOR PARENTS

RACE & OUR CHILDREN

This session looks at how race impacts our children, how they see themselves, what they imagine as their potential for the future, and how we can better live together in a world that no longer pretends that race isn't a thing that affects us all.

RAISING RESILIENT STUDENTS

With technology, the world is changing at speeds that we have never seen or experienced before. Many parents are completely out of touch with the realities of their teens, and some of the potential dangers of this new cyber world. This session breaks down how the world is changing and offers some strategies for how we can stay connected to our plugged-in children.

Dwayne Morgan is a Canadian artist and motivational speaker. The plan is to book Mr. Morgan in the afternoon for the students. There is an opportunity for him to stay in the evening and speak to the parents from our school community. Mr. Morgan comes highly recommended and has a variety of topics for students and parents. The “Raising Resilient Students” topic may be a good option for the parent group. Resiliency is an important skill to deal with obstacles and challenges in life. You can learn more about this speaker at the following link: [Dwayne Morgan](#)

The council discussed sending a note to the school community to determine interest. There may be a requirement to RSVP so we would have an idea of the number of people expected to attend.

H. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

I. AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETING: NIL

J. Next Meeting:

- Tuesday March 19, 2024.

K. CLOSING PRAYER

- Kevin Timmins

L. ADJOURNMENT @ 7:25pm.