



MINUTES



DENIS MORRIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday March 19, 2024
6:30 P.M. Denis Morris Information Centre

Present: K. Timmins, P. Morgetano, T. Kramar, K. Forster, D. Scullion, S. Strickland, M. Vandervaart, L. Graham.

Regrets: T. Ostaszewicz, M. Rocco, S. Gualtieri, R. Pruyn, , J. Inch, A. Coleman, V. Tommasini.

A ROUTINE MATTERS

- 1 Opening Prayer – P. Morgetano
- 2 Roll Call
- 3 Approval of Agenda – March 19, 2024: 1st: S. Strickland, 2nd: M. Vandervaart
- 4 Disclosure of Conflict of Interest: NIL
- 5 Approval of the Minutes – January 16, 2024: 1st: T, Kramar, 2nd: M. Vandervaart

B. PRESENTATIONS

- Niagara Public Health Newsletters for March and April

C. POLICIES FOR VETTING

- [Advocacy Expenditures Policy 100.9](#)
- [Elementary Standardized Dress Code Policy 302.6.10](#)
- *Please submit your feedback to [Anna Pisano](#) by 12:00 p.m. March 27, 2024*
- [Employee Workplace Harassment Policy 201.7](#)
- [Employee Workplace Violence Policy 201.11](#)
- [Occupational Health and Safety Policy 201.6](#)
- [Purchasing Supply Chain Management Policy 600.1](#)
- *Please submit your feedback to [Anna Pisano](#) by 12:00 p.m. May 1, 2024*

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- 1 NCPIC (Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee) Report:
 - The March 7th meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

- 2 SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee) (Feb 7 and March 6 Meeting Highlights):
 - Board Financial Report by Giancarlo Vetrone, Superintendent of Business
 - 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 \$5000
 - Krispy Kreme Donut Fundraiser added in ...thanks for organizing and the support
 - Cobb's Bread Fundraiser for DM Cares/Breakfast Program – April
 - Will go towards Breakfast Program and DM Cares
 - Possible support requests in the future:
 - Grad Breakfast
 - LCD For Gym Contribution?

- 4 Principal's School Information Report:
 - Construction Update: Large gym just got a fresh coat of paint on the ceiling and three sets of new doors were installed as well as the windows that are part of the future rowing room.
 - January 30th – Gr. 8 Retreat at DM
 - Feb 2 – Gr. 11/12 Semi-formal @ John-Michael's
 - Finished semester one. Started the new semester – new start, grade level assemblies
 - February was Black History month(Dwayne Morgan, Brock Black Leadership Symposium, Cultural Food Day, VBlack Vendor fair among just some of the highlights).
 - Course Selection – Enrolment increase again ...here we grow again.
 - Return of the musical to Denis Morris – Back to the 80's
 - Coordinated effort between Drama, Music, Visual Arts, Construction and Tech
 - 3 Night performances and 2 feeder elementary performers.
 - Shrove Tuesday Breakfast for the entire school.
 - Ash Wednesday services at St. Julia's with Fr. Greg to kick off Lent.
 - Feb. 22 – Vaccination Clinic for students @ DM
 - Sacrament of Reconciliation offered at DM Feb 26 and Feb 27.
 - Lenten Mass tomorrow.
 - Skills Competition – 11 Medals: 4 Golds, 5 Silvers, 2 Bronze
 - New Valedictorian Criteria Presentation to Grads March 4
 - Family of Elementary Schools Basketball tournament.
 - Winter Season for sports: boys' basketball, girls volleyball, rowing, hockey, curling, swimming, ski club all wrapped up
 - Spring sports are ramping up : soccer, boys lacrosse, badminton, track and field, baseball, slow pitch.
 - Our Robotics team finished 3rd at their first competition (out of 30 teams) and have already qualified for Provincials.
 - Holy Week Next Week – Ways of the Cross on Holy Thursday – Gr. 9 Drama Classes
 - April 8th Eclipse Day and PA Day
 - Easter Mass April 17th
 - Parent Teacher Interviews – April 25 (Mid-term Report Cards are available on April 24)

Discussed Bussing "Possible" changes to boundaries. From 2.5 to 3.5 kms- will affect approximately 100 kids at DM. Only affects high school, not elementary schools.

P. Morgetano talked about Grade 8 day which was new this year, for the feeder schools of DM coming to grade 9 in September.

D. OAPCE REPORT: Marisa Vandervaat

OAPCE 85 Conference coming up ON Saturday April 13/24 at Monsignor Percy Johnson Secondary School (9-3)

- **Holy mass lead by Archbishop Leo at St Benedict Parish at 3pm**
- **Gala dinner and awards at Toronto Airport Hotel at 6pm**
- **Guest keynote speaker – Karl Subban**

In February OAPCE meetings featured Anthony Perrotta and he discussed: ChatGPT and AI technology's impact in schools – benefits and challenges

ChatGPT is Chat Generative Pre-Trained Transformer (An AI chat box that is designed for natural language processing tasks. • Teachers are seeing an increase in students using AI technology to create reports and projects.)

- **Benefits:**
 - Personalized learning – can provide personal assistance and support to students based on their needs and learning styles
 - Immediate feedback – can immediately provide feedback on students questions and responses – facilitates active learning and allows them to address gaps or misconceptions in their knowledge
- **Concerns:**
 - ChatGPT learns from text from the internet which could contain biases present in society, which could then generate biases or prejudice causing discrimination or stereotypes
 - Inability to learn from Interactions – it can not adapt and improve using feedback from users
 - Potential for Misinformation due to its reliance on existing data

Special Education and your Child

The Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario has compiled a list of websites and online resources to support parents in helping a child with learning disabilities thrive.

[Websites and Online Resources – Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario – LDAO](#)

Stem fun at home

Check out the Ontario Science Centre DIY Science for ideas for your kids – things to make, fun with food, experiments, puzzles & games and outside activities

[DIY Science Fun | Ontario Science Centre](#)

OAPCE – survey is still open

[**https://forms.gle/nUqxpmaL6AWhfAg8**](https://forms.gle/nUqxpmaL6AWhfAg8)

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

- Semi-formal there was a lot of kids, it was a great turnout. Food/Dance and DJ was really good.
- Colour wars was discussed /Pep-Rally, possibly going to sell beaded necklaces to raise funds to put into the student council fund.
- They are not meeting until April again.
- They will be starting to think about next year's student council in April (trying to do it earlier this year).

G. OLD BUSINESS: Guest speaker Dwayne Morgan debrief/feedback

- Chaplain Patricia organized it. Great feedback from students. Used the extra funds given to the school (\$500) to also have him do a presentation for parents. Approximately 25 people in attendance for the evening event with him.

H. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

I. AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETING: NIL

J. Next Meeting:

- May 28th (tentative as per K. Timmins). Quota for the year is 4 meetings, with May being the 5th meeting so it may not happen TBD.

K. CLOSING PRAYER

- P. Morgetano

L. ADJOURNMENT and Tour of Tech Department and Large Gym Renovation led by K. Timmins.