



MINUTES



DENIS MORRIS CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday January 14, 2025
6:30 P.M. Denis Morris Information Centre

Present: K. Timmins, E. Farkas, A. Natale, D. Scullion, M. Vandervaart, T. Kramar, M. Rocco, D. Rapone.

Regrets: D. Williams, S. Strickland, L. Graham.

ROUTINE MATTERS

- 1 Opening Prayer – A. Natale
- 2 Roll Call
- 3 Approval of Agenda – January 14, 2025: 1st: T. Kramar 2nd: E. Farkas
- 4 Disclosure of Conflict of Interest: NIL
- 5 Approval of the Minutes – November 19, 2024: 1st: E. Farkas 2nd: M. Vandervaart

PRESENTATIONS

- COMPASS Survey Discussion May 2024
 - summary page presented and a review of survey results took place
- EQAO Results 2023-24
 - Literacy Action Plan & Math Action Plan

POLICIES FOR VETTING

- None

D. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

1 NCPIC (Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee) Report: K. Timmins

- Board website: [Livestream](#).
- Two presentations were made:
 - The Vision of Evangelization”- Nick Ali, Director of Evangelization and Faith Formation at the Diocese of St. Catharines”
 - “Strengthening the Home-School-Parish Triad through youth and young adult formation” with Frank Capisciolto, Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministry
- Nick and Frank are two new hires by the Diocese to assist with youth and evangelization. They are just up the road with offices at the Chancery. Both Nick and Frank participated in faith formation activities with staff at DM. Nick is a member of St. Julia Parish.
- There were three presentations for parents at the NCPIC meeting: Mental Health and Well-Being, Niagara Public Health, and Catholic School Councils.
- These presentations were already distributed to the parent group on Friday November 15, 2024.
- The next meeting is Thursday, January 9, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at the Catholic Education Centre.

2 **SEAC (Special Education Advisory Committee):** K. Timmins

- Annual Behaviour Management Systems Certification for elementary and secondary ERTs, Secondary Special Education Classroom Teachers and Program Chairs took place on Wednesday, November 20th.
- Transition to School Parent Information Sessions which are hosted at the Niagara Children's Centre in collaboration with our regional partners have begun. This session allows parents the opportunity to learn more about Niagara Catholic kindergarten classrooms along with the transition to school process.
- Upcoming Gifted Module The next module is planned for late January. This module will focus on the art, science and design of carpentry and take place at the Notre Dame Launch Centre.
- Student Support Family of School Resource Teacher meetings are also in the planning stages to take place in January at each of the Secondary Schools. These meetings focus on successful student transitions from grade 8 to grade 9 and those students entering Kindergarten.
- Registration is now open for the 2024-2025 Niagara Sledge Hockey League season! Register here: <https://parasportontario.ca/niagara-sledge-hockey-league>
- Special Education Event: Winterfest Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School hosted a celebration bringing together students from special education classes across the board on Wednesday, December 11th. The theme of this event is Winterfest and the students were engaged in winter-themed activities including singing festive songs, a luncheon followed by a dance.
- [SEAC Website](#)

3 **Catholic School Council Financial Report (unchanged from last meeting):** K. Timmins

- \$4400 was our opening balance from the used uniform sales.
 - Burgers for the whole school expensed to the CSC for our Spirit Day as well as Pizza for Pilgrimage participants. (\$1600)
- \$2800 remaining in the account.
 - Enough for 11 scholarships at \$250 per at Grad.
- Still have potential funds from our Krispy Kreme Donut fundraiser.
 - Possible grad breakfast expenditure in June.
 - The account is zeroed out at the end of the year. Any "extra money will be used to increase scholarship fund.

4 **Principal's School Information Report:** K. Timmins

- Semester 1 Report Cards – Uploaded to parent portal Monday Feb 10
- Course Selection Process for 2025-26 is underway – Gr. 9-11
- University and College Application Deadlines – Jan 15 and Feb 1 respectively.
- First Day Semester 2 – Thurs Jan 30
- PA Day – Wed June 29
- Examinations Jan 22 – 28
- Gr. 8 Open House – Jan 9 - We welcomed and opened our doors to our future Reds and families.
- Ran a Christmas Food and Kleenex Drive; Community Care Out of Uniform Fundraiser; Turkey/Gift Cards distributed to some of our families most in need.
- Whole school Advent Mass celebrated with Fr. Ronald on Dec 18th
- Whole school Mass of Remembrance with Fr. Ronald on November 20th
- Reconciliation preparation with Chaplain Andrew Natale and Advent Reconciliation with Fr. Ronald, Fr. Daniel and Fr. Janusz
- Advanced Placement Information Night for Gr. 8 Parents

- DM will offer AP prep courses to Gr. 9's in 2025-26
- Gr. 8 Day at Denis Morris – A day in life of a student at DM - November 26
- FOS Course Selection Presentations at all Feeder Schools in the first week of December
- Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week Nov. 18 - 22

E. OAPCE REPORT: M. Vandervaart

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

OAPCE meeting on November 20, 2024:

Super Parents – Unlocking the Powers of Advocacy

Over the past several years, as a result of the many challenges facing Catholic Education in Ontario, OAPCE has taken a big step forward in empowering parents and advocating for our children.

As parents we need to set an example for our children to follow and model their lives after. Set an example of kindness, compassion and strength. We need to be a role models for our children.

A-D-V-O-C-A-C-Y

Unlocking the Powers of Advocacy

Awareness – keeping up to date with education news – being aware makes us stronger (an informed parent is an engaged parent)

Determination – advocating for resources and support for your child, advocating for policy changes that benefit all children

Voice – OAPCE is the voice of parents in the Catholic System of Education to advocate for the continuation and preservation of publicly funded Catholic Education

Open-mindedness – being receptive to different perspectives and ideas – listening and learning from one another to the benefit of all our children

Collaboration – working together with the school community – pooling resources, knowledge and experiences; creating a stronger impact for we are stronger together

Action – volunteering in school, attending parent-teacher meetings/working with teachers, participating in school council meetings; extending advocacy beyond individual children to the collective well-being of the Catholic Community

Courage for Catholic Education – Be the spiritual superhero and source of hope for your children and those around you – lead by faith not by sight – addressing concerns with school officials, speaking at school meetings, advocating for changes that might be unpopular

Yes, we can – you all have the power to make a change towards Catholic Education; inspiring others to get involved, working collectively – we all have a common goal: for our children to succeed

OAPCE can be followed on social media – Instagram @OAPCE85, on X @OAPCEONTARIO and Facebook oapce85!

Parent 2 Parent Press - [Parents 4 Parents – OAPCE-Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education](#)

OAPCE Updates

- Met with new minister of education – Jill Dunlop
- On Task force for Cellphone ban and Vaping – they will be launching a new survey this year
- Conference in April 2025 in Dufferin Peel
- Advent Retreat occurred in December Via Zoom with Teresa Harnett
- It's the year of the Jubilee – www.jubilaem2025.va/en.html (Jubilee of the World of Education: 31 October, 2025 to 2 November 2025)

F. STAFF REPORT: E. Farkas

Course Selections:

We completed course selections for Grade 8 students coming to Denis Morris next year in December. Students were given registration packages to complete and verify course selection as well as indicate that they will be coming to Denis Morris for September 2025.

Grade 9 Course selections opened the week of January 13th. Members of Student Services went to all of the grade 9 first period classes and showed the students how to use MyBlueprint to enter their course selections as well as presented graduation and post-secondary requirements.

Course selections for students in grades 10 and 11 will be taking place the second week of February. All course selections will be due February 27th and students will give their sign off form to their first period teacher.

The Graduation (June 24th at Central Niagara) fee of \$110 has now been posted on SchoolCashOnline. There is access to pay the fee as well as choose a gown size.

University Applications need to be submitted and paid by tomorrow (January 15th, 2025).

College Applications need to be submitted and paid before the end of January.

Grad Photo Retakes will take place February 24th – 26th. Once we receive the link from Pegasus it will be posted for students who still need to take a photo or would like a retake.

G. STUDENT REPORT: D. Rapone

- Early November senior semi-formal took place
- Students participated in a Kleenex/food drive
- 12 Days of Christmas activities including door decorations, "Who stole Buddy", hot chocolate and food truck took place
- Christmas assembly
- Junior semi-formal "The Look of Love" is taking place on February 13, 2025

H. OLD BUSINESS: K. Timmins

- Krispy Kreme Donut Fundraiser set for February 19, 2025
- Cobb's Bread Fundraiser has been organized and will take place in March 2025. These funds are separate from the CSC fund and money raised will go towards Breakfast Program and DM Cares.

I. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

J. AGENDA ITEMS – DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETING: K. Timmins

K. Next Meeting:

- Tuesday March 18, 2025

L. CLOSING PRAYER: A. Natale

M. ADJOURNMENT : K. Timmins

- Meeting concluded.
- Grad photos can be ordered all year - so there isn't a deadline during the year to order.