



# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

January 18, 2023

6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.

Microsoft Teams

**Attendees:** Adriano Bomben, Tania Altieri, Kevin Sylvestre, Amy Castellano, Olivia Novak, Suzanne Chiarot, Maricielo Laviola, Monique Napier, Kelly Joseph, Nancy Skerlan, Marisol Avila, Nesha Ramdeen, Celia Oliveira, Paola Calderon, Alexandra Lima, Christine Ross, Tina Moniz, Neveen Khouzam, Ananda Myers-Clarke, Vonda Williams

**Regrets:** Karen Recinos, Carol McKnight, Bianca Mancini

Item	Highlights	Decision/Action Items	Assigned to
1.	Opening prayer and land acknowledgement delivered by Ms. Novak.		
2.	Mr. Bomben welcomed all to the meeting and introduced new Vice Principal, Tania Altieri. Provided update on Vice Principals.		
3.	Attendance taken.		
4.	November minutes were approved by Nesha Ramdeen and seconded by Nancy Skerlan. Agreement to post agenda on School Council webpage with the minutes. Agenda was approved by Vonda Williams.		
5.	<p>School Reports</p> <p>Student Council report, presented by Amy Castellano</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student council conducted successful Christmas activities</li><li>• Dress down day for supported families where students could bring a toonie or non-perishable food item</li><li>• Student senate elections process starting in February for September 2023</li></ul> <p>Staff Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Christmas Rouge event on December 17 was successful, with a play, singing, dancing, music, the alumni basketball game, and vendors selling crafts and baked goods.</li><li>• Successful Christmas concert on December 19.</li><li>• Night of the Stars scheduled for January 19 at the Meadowvale Theatre for Grade 10-12 dancers.</li></ul>		



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- EQAO scheduled for January 19 and 20
- Exams scheduled next Wednesday-Monday
- Semester 2 starting on February 3
- Grad photos are ongoing in January
- Black History Month in February – Black Student Alliance (BSA) is working on activities for students
- Grad and prom committees started – dates, etc. will be posted – Google classroom started and all Grade 12 students were added.
- March break – March 13-17, 2023
- Student Council is planning Valentine’s day activities to bring up school spirit, and possibly St.Patrick’s day, as well.
- Plan for Black History Month is to have posters, guest speakers, and continue past the month of February. Black Student Alliance and teachers collaborate to put it together.
- Suggestion to continue Black Professionals Network event as it was a success last year. This is being discussed with many other initiatives with the BSA, teachers, and staff from all departments. Through Chaplaincy, Ms. Novak is working with staff and the BSA with a book by Michael Heinlein called, “Black Catholics on the Road to Sainthood”. Requests from Nesha and Kevin to obtain copy of book.

## Chaplaincy Report

- Video of Chaplaincy events and initiatives.
- Students participated in games, activities, and meals to celebrate the Advent season.
- Students participated in cooking meals for the homeless and made a meal for over 250 guests.
- Advent Mass was held with Father Joseph Pham.
- A Bereavement group retreat was held with Ms. Novak and Mr. Rosseau.
- Students decorated a Christmas tree for display with many faith messages.
- Rouge was a big success. Through the activities, it raised money for Christmas baskets and families in need.
- BSA enjoyed a Christmas party with Ms. Paraboo.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chaplaincy group is discussing the current issues that are happening in Pakistan, Haiti, and sub-Saharan Africa and the various social justice issues and how students can get involved to make a difference.</li> <li>• Chaplaincy has been doing mindfulness and guided meditations in the chapel to help students with the stress of exams and CPTs.</li> </ul> <p>Principal Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New hoodie will be available for purchase as part of the uniform in early Spring.</li> <li>• Impromptu assembly was held for students to see the Grey Cup with CFL player and previous student, Robbie Smith.</li> <li>• Exam prep to help students is ongoing.</li> <li>• Night of the Stars performance scheduled close to exams due to availability of theatre.</li> <li>• Communication regarding exam schedule was sent out. Discussion of exams times, busses, and contingency date.</li> </ul> <p>Vice Principals Report</p> <p>Ms. Altieri</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment and evaluation committee – looking at best practices</li> <li>• New teacher orientation starting</li> <li>• Grade 12 graduation and prom committee starting</li> <li>• Prom will be held on June 16 and graduation will be on June 29.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Sylvestre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yes4MH planning an event to help students with stress for exams.</li> <li>• EQAO starting this week for Grade 9 math students</li> </ul> <p>Presentation by Child and Youth Worker – Ms. Suzanne Chiarot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of support services staff             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 3 Child and Youth Workers – 1 is at the school 5 days a week; 2 others are there part time</li> <li>○ 2 Social Workers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Bomben will send out link to chaplaincy video.</p>	<p>Mr. Bomben</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support includes: transitional support, conflict resolution, individual counselling, mental health needs, help with anxiety of exams, consultation and planning with other staff members, referrals to community agencies</li> <li>• Group programming includes Yes4MH, STA Women’s group, SAGA (Sexuality and Gender Alliance) group, BSA club, graduation coach – Ms. Paraboo</li> <li>• Referral process for support services goes through administration and parents. Student can consent for service at 12 years of age, with VP and Principal awareness.</li> <li>• Office located in the Guidance Department.</li> <li>• Discussion of provision of services to students. Students can access <a href="http://wheretostart.ca">wheretostart.ca</a> to locate help outside of school. Student can scan QR code to request service inside school. Students are made aware of services through Grade 9 Connections night, assemblies, and retreats.</li> <li>• Will look at putting information in other places.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p>School Council Reports</p> <p>Treasurer Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Bomben advised that there is a Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant worth \$500 for parent engagement activities.</li> <li>• Will discuss ideas on how to use money.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ministry of Education Pro grant website has information about past projects for ideas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>OAPCE Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing to report</li> </ul> <p>RAP Subcommittee Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rouge was successful. There were approximately 700 guests, 150 students involved, and 15 vendors.</li> <li>• Art from the Visual Arts students was presented during the event.</li> <li>• Participation survey sent to RAP parents – 27 expressed interest in supporting subcommittee. Will have a meeting in February to determine how they can best support the program.</li> </ul>		<p>Mr. Bomben</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survey also sent to RAP teachers. Waiting for them to provide input on their needs to determine the fundraising strategies.</li> </ul>		
7.	<p>New business</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December CCCSC - Training for CSC Members 2022-2023           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council must have by-laws, which have been completed.</li> <li>Council members must complete a vulnerable sector check, which can be done <a href="#">online</a>.</li> <li>CCCSC conducting parent engagement survey requesting input from parents.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Profanity in School Texts           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Question about profanity and suitability of some books and texts used in classes. Question about process for flagging books and updating books used for classes.</li> <li>Mr. Bomben advised that this is a board decision. There is a form, Request for Reconsideration of Resources, that can be submitted to the board to review resources.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Lunch and Learn           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Question about opportunities and space for students to study during lunch.</li> <li>Mr. Bomben advised that there is no eating outside of the cafeteria, except for the breakfast program. The library is open during lunch.</li> </ul> </li> <li>EDI (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) Events and Event Planning: Incorporating EDI when planning school events           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EDI lens applied to all events and try to be as inclusive as possible. There's no crossover of significant events, as all are given their importance.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Safe Space for Student Advocacy: school point person(s) that students can consult re. ideas, Equity and Inclusion, misconduct, discrimination, etc.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School has mental health champions and Yes4MH group</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	Mr. Bomben will send link to parent survey	Mr. Bomben
8.	Any Other Business/Questions		



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	<p>1. Question about school security and proactive measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Bomben advised that if students see something suspicious, they should say something</li><li>• The uniform is a visible way to see who should be in the school</li><li>• The Vice Principals are monitoring the hallways and the doors are locked after the announcements.</li><li>• Ms. Novak advised of preventative measures including faith talks with Grade 9 students and discussions on how to deal with stress and self-control</li></ul>		
9.	Closing prayer by Ms. Novak.		
	Adjournment 8:42 p.m.		

Future Meetings		
Date	Time	Location
April 12, 2023	6:30 p.m.	MS Teams
June 7, 2023	6:30 p.m.	MS Teams