



## **OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL SECONDARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**

*“Our mission, based on the values of Christ, through the guidance of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, is to involve family, parish, community, and members of the school community. In fostering a positive, caring, and Catholic environment by providing input, advice and support.”*

### **MONDAY, Dec 4, 2023 – UNAPPROVED MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting called to order:** 6:30 PM – at Mount Carmel.

Welcome offered by Neisma Peredo.

#### **Members in Attendance:**

Jennifer Varnam – Principal  
Nancy Tsiobanas – Vice Principal  
Michelle Cholette – Teaching staff  
J McLevey – Non teaching staff  
Neisma Peredo  
Brenda Kennedy  
Georgena Skariah  
Tricia Simon  
Cavell Lopez  
Christina Rodriguez

**Regrets:** Katiana Cisneros Panza, Shazia Soorma, Vanessa Colettas

**Absent:** Nil

**Opening Prayer:** McCleavey opened the meeting with a deeply touching prayer.

#### **Address from Lisgar Residents Association – Mirella Canavan (Secretary):**

- Mirella informed that the Lisgar Residents Association is a volunteer association that has a fully fledged committee that oversee all its activities.
- She briefed us on the various events, and it was impressive to know that they played a crucial role to save 8 hectares of mature forest area, and the improvements at the Osprey Marsh area.
- 300 flood victims were catered for under the leadership of the Lisgar Residents Association.
- They have an active Facebook page where events are regularly posted.
- Currently, they have events planned on June 22, 2024 and the spring clean up on May 11, 2024.
- For students looking for volunteering opportunities, please contact the Association through their Facebook account or through OLMC guidance counsellor, Michelle Chloette.

**Approval of the Oct 02, 2023 Minutes:** Motion made by Neisma, seconded by Cavell.

**Approval of the Dec 04, 2023 Agenda:** Motion made by Neisma, seconded by Georgena.

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 PM.

**DPCDSB Trustee – Brea Corbet:**

- Brea explained in detail that the Board along with the City are implementing speed calming measures in residential and school areas.
- Brea encouraged everyone to view the board approved School Generated Fund plan, that is published on the school website.
- Brea highlighted that all important events and contacts are on her monthly newsletter that is sent out by the school.

**Treasurer’s Report: Tricia Simon**

- The opening balance was \$35.43.
- Our used uniform sales was a tremendous success and we collected \$1,695.
- The closing balance is \$1,730.43

**Parish Report:**

*a. General Parish events:*

- St. Vincent de Paul Society Gift Card Drive – Bring card and receipt to the box in the parish
- Sunday Missal is now available in Church office.
- Nov. 30: Peel Police Fraud and Scam Presentation @ 7PM
- Dec. 4-6: Parish Advent Mission @ 7PM
- Dec. 13: St. John of the Cross Feast Day Celebration.
- Dec. 15: Archdiocesan Consultation Planning – share your ideas for future planning @ <https://www.archtoronto.org/consultation>
- Jan. 8: Bereavement Grief Sessions begin on Mon. @ 10am to noon for 6 consecutive weeks.
- Jan. 16: Parish Bible Study – 8 week study- Tuesdays, 7PM– Gospel of St. John

*b. Catholic Women’s League*

- Zumba/ Bollywood Dance on Thursdays 7PM @ St. Teresa of Avila Gym.
- Dec. 2: Christmas Bazaar is planned.
- Dec. 31: New Year’s Eve Charity Dinner & Dance @Versailles Convention Centre.

*c. SJOC Parish Women’s Group*

- Dec. 2: Women’s Christmas Cheers Potluck event @ 7PM
- Dec. 17 due date: Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest – pick up a form for the Parish office.

OLMC is requested to identify a Parish representative to work in coordination with School and Parish. A Parish representative may be a Priest, Deacon, a parent, a member of the Parish, a community representative or Chaplain.

For any details of the church, please visit the Church Website:  
<https://stjohnofthecrossmi.archtoronto.org/>

### **OAPCE Report: Georgena Skariah**

- There are 148 OAPCE representatives, out of the 151 DPCDSB schools.
- All meeting highlights are posted on the OAPCE Dufferin Peel webpage <https://oapce.org/dufferin-peel/>
- Please take a few moments to explore the new OAPCE webpage [www.oapce.org](http://www.oapce.org)
- The OAPCE Parents4Parents Newsletter is published and can be found on [www.oapce.org/parents-4-parents](http://www.oapce.org/parents-4-parents)
- We also have the OAPCE Blog: [www.oapce.org/blog](http://www.oapce.org/blog)
- The OAPCE 85th Conference will be held on April 12 and 13, 2024. More details to follow.

### **Teaching Staff Report: Michelle Chloette**

- Academic Awards Night was on Nov 23, and it was a great day to celebrate the academic accomplishments of our students.
- Student Council put on a beautiful Teacher Appreciation Day on Friday December 1st.
- Students continue to be involved in sports. Volleyball and Basketball are well underway.
- Our Black Students Associations from Mt. Carmel, under the leadership of our SW Mr. Addison, along with students from Joan of Arc and Gonzaga will have “BSA Connection” event at Joan of Arc on Dec 14, from 3-5pm. The goal is for the clubs to learn from one another about the positive things happening at the various schools, and how to improve academic success for black students. There will be activities for students to build friendship/connection.
- Course Selection for our students will take place in the new year. Students will complete their selections on ‘myBlueprint’. Students will receive more information on the morning announcements about dates, times and how to complete the process.

### **Non-Teaching Staff Report: James McLevey**

- The Day of Hope was a successful one. 150 students and 16 staff participated in a day of work in 14 places in the GTA.
- Advent Liturgies went well - setting the tone for the Season of Advent
- the SERVE Group continues commit themselves to outreach and school activities.
- Hoodies for Homeless was a Great success - 500 Hoodies were collected and distributed.
- We are supporting 22 local families for our Christmas Basket Drive.

### **Principal’s Report: Jennifer Varnam**

- The Principal informed that the Graduation will be held at Sixteen Mile Creek In Oakville on Jun 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7.30pm. The Prom will be held at Oasis in Mississauga (same venue as last year) on Jun 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- The activity fee for 2024-2025 will be \$45. This is a standard cost implemented by the board for all DPCDSB schools.

- The Principal informed that purchase of the Yearbook would be an option available to students when they pay the activity fee.
- A request to study regarding a change in the uniform colour for the white golf shirts, as white wears out fast. Preference was given to a darker colour. The Principal will begin the initial groundwork and consult with student council.
- It was brought to the attention of the Parent Council that available funds would be utilized to upgrade depleted computer assets (for example, some laptops take 20 minutes to start).

### **Chairperson's Report: Neisma Peredo**

The Chairperson expressed her sincere thanks to Tricia and the team for leading a successful uniform sale. Neisma also requested to think about school facility improvements that can be recommended.

### **Christmas Basket:**

Mr. McLevey, will provide details of the Christmas Basket family It was unanimously agreed to raise a basket worth \$300. The basket will be ready on December 18<sup>th</sup> and delivered on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Adjournment: 7:50 PM.

Motion made by Neisma, seconded by Tricia.

Closing Prayer: Neisma Peredo: Oh Lord

**Next Meeting: Monday, March 4, 2024. All are welcome wholeheartedly.**

### **Future Tentative Meeting dates:**

Monday, May 13th, 2024 @6:30pm in school library