



St. Dominic Catholic School Council Minutes October 9, 2024



Voting Council Members (2023-2024)					
Name	Attend	Regrets	Name	Attend	Regrets
Natasha Kovar, Co-Chair	X		Marlene Black, Parent Member	X	
Michelle Pellicori, Co-Chair	X		Tamara Parkes, Parent Member	X	
Brittany Janco, Treasurer	X		Vicki Lefkaditis-Said, Parent Member	X	
Gia D'souza, Secretary	X		Jennifer Downard, Parent Member	X	
Cam Hyginus, OAPCE Rep	X		Danielle Crnkovic, Parent Member	X	
Anastasia Lata, Parish Rep	X		Stephanie Pinto-Martins, Parent Member	X	
Jessica Penim, Community Rep	X		Kasia Stoklosa, Parent Member	X	
			Hasdhy Maciel, Parent Member	X	
			Shadia Bascom, Parent Member	X	
Principal, Teacher Reps, Non-Teacher Reps and Trustee					
Name	Attend	Regrets	Name	Attend	Regrets
L. Mundy, Principal	X		Mario Pascucci, Trustee		X
D. Frigo, Teacher Rep		X	J. Kalynowsky, Non-teacher Rep		X
D. Paterson, Teacher Rep		X			
A. Hewitt, Teacher Rep	X				
Non-Voting Members and Guests					
Name (In-Person)			Name (Online)		
Kerralee Fietta Monika Sybidlo Jennifer Downard Eve Furmen Lauren Muszynski					
Agenda Items				Action Item	
1. Call to Order and Attendance – Gia D'souza				None	
2. Opening Prayer – Anastasia Lata				None	
3. Land Acknowledgement – Natasha Kovar				None	
4. Opening Comments – Laurie Mundy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting is in-person only because of the elections for some positions • The formal election process is set by the Board and governed by bi-laws • Council plays an important role. It allows for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sharing of ideas ○ Coming together in a way to support students ○ Building community • What does it mean to be a council member: (as outlined in bi-laws) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promote values of the catholic board ○ Elected members represent what is best for all students ○ Guided by Gospel values ○ Familiar with school's policies ○ Highest level integrity ○ Treat everyone with respect; allow for diverse perspectives to be shared ○ Follow a democratic process ○ Don't disclose personal private information ○ Table matters that relate to the school as a whole 					

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Members include: Co-chairs, Secretary, Treasurer, OAPCE rep, Parish rep, Community rep Additional members at large also have voting rights 	
<p>5. Approval of minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion of approval of June 3 Minutes by Vicki L. Second by Anastasia L. Minutes approved 	
<p>6. Approval of Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion of approval of Oct 9 Agenda by Vick L. Second by Jessica P. Agenda approved 	None
<p>7. 2024/2025 Catholic School Council Acclamation of Roles & Voting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cochairs – Michelle Pellicori and Natasha Kovar, declared elected by acclamation Secretary – Gia D’souza, declared elected by acclamation Treasurer – Brittany Janko, declared elected by acclamation Parish Rep – Anastasia Lata, declared elected by acclamation Community Rep – Jessica Penim, declared elected by acclamation OAPCE Rep – 3 nominees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cam Hyginus – addressed the attendees for 2 minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voice of fathers is underrepresented at council 3 children across the three elementary divisions On council last year as the community rep Supports parents as first educators and promotes Catholic values Wants to help ensure we provide best education possible for all students Helped to plan the parent engagement event last year – Paul Davis Eager to continue with more events this year Shadia Bascom - addressed the attendees for 2 minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passion for supporting kids; originally consider career in teaching Education in teaching and working experience in Human Resources Wants to be an advocate for our kids Interested in being involved and adding value Tamara Parkes – addressed the attendees for 2 minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Professional background in Human Resources Currently works as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion lead for MLSE Passionate about ensuring transparency and equity in processes and making sure there is a voice for BIPOC community Comfortable being a bit of an activist and voicing concerns if necessary Following vote, Cam Hyginus declared OAPCE rep; other two candidates will become members at large with voting rights 3 staff members appointed to Council – Ms. Hewitt, Ms. Frigo, Ms. Paterson Mrs. Kalynowsky (school secretary) appointed to non-teacher rep 	
<p>8. Trustee’s Report - Mario Pascucci</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unable to attend the meeting 	
<p>9. Parish Report – Anastasia Lata</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Catholic Moms Group is starting at the church; open to moms with children of all ages. Meetings will be held monthly at the church with the first meeting to take place on 	

<p>Tuesday, October 22. For further information please contact Hasdhy at hmac474@gmail.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible Study takes place every Friday from 7:30-8:30. Individuals, youth & families are all encouraged to attend. All are welcome! • Calling new altar servers! No experience is required. Altar serving is open to all children who have completed their First Holy Communion. There is a training session on October 24 for all new and existing servers. Contact the parish office if you are interested or have any questions. • First communion and First reconciliation. Registration is currently open until October 16. The registration information and link to the sign-up form can be found on the parish website. • RCIA commenced on October 8. If you or someone you know are interesting in becoming Catholic or wish to complete your sacrament, please contact the St. Dominic's church office and leave your name and telephone number. • The knights of Columbus are hosting a pancake breakfast after both the 9:30 and 11:30 mass on Sunday, October 20. • October 11: 6:30pm – blessing of the pets in the parish parking lot. 	
<p>10. Treasurer's Report – Brittany</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report 	None
<p>11. Principal's Report – Laurie Mundy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's been a busy start to school year; the mid-September reorganization led by the Board was quite significant for St. Dominic's this year • Currently there are 13 classes (many of which are split classes) with 297 students total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 2 x SK/JK classes, Grade 1, Grade 1/2 split, Grade 2, Grade 2/3 split, Grade 3, 2 x Grade 4/5 split, Grade 5/6 split, Grade 6/7 split, Grade 7/8 split, Grade 8 • It is not uncommon to have split classes • JK/SK class sizes monitored monthly; our 2 classes have 29 and 30 kids <p>PARENT QUESTION: Is there anything parents can do to support the JK/SK classes getting split further to reduce class size? Or to get more resources from the Board?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Mrs. Mundy reached out to the Board to make the superintendent aware of our large class sizes following the reorganization. JK/SK class sizes are monitored monthly. The addition of one more student would make a difference and may result in classes getting split.</p> <p>PARENT QUESTION: Does the Board take into consideration the square footage size of the classrooms when determining class sizes?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Yes. Physical size of classrooms was measured 2 years ago. Our third kindergarten room is currently being used as a flex planning space.</p> <p>PARENT QUESTION: How are split classes determined? How does this get operationalized in the classrooms? Does this mean students get half as much instructional time?</p> <p>RESPONSE: Primary classes are capped at 20 and a certain percentage allowed to go over the cap. The overflow from one class creates a trickle effect the causes other classes to split as well. Teachers teach to multiple grade levels within every class depending on student capabilities. They address class as a whole for some lessons and subdivide when content is different.</p> <p>PARENT QUESTION: Next year, for the re-org could the school give consideration to the demographic/backgrounds of students in the classes? Sometimes results in visual minority kids being isolated.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Yes. Mrs. Mundy will raise this next year.</p>	

PARENT QUESTION: Did parents know before kids when the reorg occurred? It seemed that some students knew that they were changing classes before parents were aware.

RESPONSE: The school called and left messages for all children that moved teachers prior to the reorganization (this was over 100 students this year). The school didn't notify parents students if the teacher stayed the same but the class became a split.

PARENT QUESTION: The Board communication implied split classes have been shown to be effective. Does Mrs. Mundy know of any research studies that supports the effectiveness of split class?

RESPONSE: Mrs. Mundy doesn't know what research the Board was referencing and encouraged parents to reach out to the Board directly to obtain this information.

PARENT QUESTION: How can parents help to build the case for additional resources at a school? Does the Board factor in learning outcomes of students when deciding class sizes?

RESPONSE: The reorganization is largely a 'numbers exercise' to help the Board maximize the use of teaching resources. This process has very little to do with learning needs of students.

- Four of our intermediate students attended leadership conference
- Truth and reconciliation week + orange shirt day was held
- Sept 26 – First fire drill was organized; there will be 3 drills over the fall and spring
- Ms. Hewitt and Ms. Magliaro organized the Terry Fox run
- St. Dom's first reconciliation and communion info night held. Father is trying to arrange for a separate ceremony day for each school
- Oct 3 – Our Open House event was held, giving parents insight into classrooms
- Oct 5 – World Teacher Day
- Oct 7 – Vaccine clinic for grade 7 students
- 2 day – Walk and Roll events organized by Eco Team to encourage students to walk or ride to school
- Region of Peel will be sending out a survey to all families to determine street routes used to get school; Region of Peel is creating walking routes with signs to promote safety; 2 presentations on safety will be organized for students
- Junior girls and boys volleyball teams both won their pods; teams wore the new jerseys; Mrs. Mundy indicated that approximately 20 additional jerseys which include adult sizes are required.
- Oct 11 - PD day
- EQAO test scores were distributed to students from last year; Mrs. Mundy indicated that she would share the aggregated results at the next Council meeting

UPCOMING:

- Cross country next Wednesday Oct 16; found a bus company to take kids
- Board is starting to allow spectators at sport events; parents need to sign a document to agree to be respectful; any siblings present need to be there with a parent
- Nov 5 – Picture day; retakes Dec 2
- Nov 12 – Progress reports Nov 12
- Nov 13 – Safety Audit walk
- Nov 13 – St. Paul's Open House
- Nov 14 – Parent Teacher Interviews

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental screening for JK/SK, grade 2, grade 4, grade 7; students have option to opt out <p>PARENT QUESTION: Do other grades get screened?</p> <p>RESPONSE: No, only these grades every year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov 22 – PA Day Nov 22 Nov 29 – Special Christmas visitor in the school (Santa) <p>PARENT QUESTION: When will PALs program start?</p> <p>RESPONSE: We have a new Child & Youth worker in the school C&Y (Kayla Medeiros). Once she gets to know the school and students better she will be inviting students to participate in the PALs program.</p>	
<p>12. Community Report – Jessica Penim</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Report 	
<p>13. Chair Report – Natasha Kovar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you would like an item on the agenda for future meetings, please send your request to Natasha 1-2 weeks before the meeting Will be talking about Fundraising at the next meeting. If you have any ideas or suggestions, send an email to co-chairs in advance. 	
<p>14. Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC) Report – Natasha Kovar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No report as June meeting was just an appreciation event This year St. Dominic’s will be part of the Mississauga South ward. During the first CCCSC meeting (Oct 24) the chairs will elect representatives for the board level. 	
<p>15. OAPCE Update – Cam Hyginus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Report 	
<p>16. Action Items Follow-up</p> <p>1. Update on School Uniforms – Mrs. Mundy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There has been a lot of parent interest in the past few years (non-crested uniform) Board changed the policy last year lowering the percentage of families required to express support to institute uniforms (lowered to 60%) The 18-month process was also reduced to 6 months. If sufficient support was expressed, uniforms at St. Dominic’s would be implemented next September Currently only one school within our Board has uniforms (St. Sophia’s) Many families at St. Dominic’s have 2+ kids, making uniforms more economical Mrs. Mundy has done research regarding process the school would need to go through Survey to assess family support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct 11 – Newsletters notice informing families of upcoming survey Oct 16 - Email distributed to let parents know a survey is coming Survey open from Friday Oct 18 – Nov 4 at 9am Each link is personalized to the family; links cannot be shared Survey results will be shared at Nov council meeting Incomplete surveys default to a ‘No’ response 	

- Oct 23 – a paper notice will be distributed to notify families of survey
- Oct 30 – a final email will be distributed to remind families of survey
- Council asked for a printed copy of the survey questions; Mrs. Mundy read the survey aloud to council members

PARENT QUESTION: Do we need 60% of respondents to say yes, or 60% of all families?

RESPONSE: 60% of all families (we have approx. 150 families)

PARENT QUESTION: Can we please send the survey notice home on coloured paper?

RESPONSE: Yes.

PARENT QUESTION: Can the council review the notice for parents prior to it being disseminated?

RESPONSE: Mrs. Mundy agreed to share the notice with the Council Co-Chairs in advance.

PARENT QUESTION: Can we post a notice on GoogleClassroom to raise awareness of the survey?

RESPONSE: No, not all classes use Google Classroom.

PARENT QUESTION: Can the survey be changed to support families that are ESL?

RESPONSE: Mrs. Mundy acknowledged that some of the questions may be difficult for people to understand if their English is not strong. Ms. Hewitt highlighted the 'translation' function on most web browsers that may be helpful. Mrs. Mundy also suggested engaging the social worker at the school to help families that may have challenges reading English.

PARENT SUGGESTION: Clarify the difference between the crested and non-crested uniform options by adding pictures to the survey.

RESPONSE: We do not have the ability to add photos to the survey.

PARENT QUESTION: If uniforms were implemented, what is the minimum amount of time they would be in place before the school could opt-out again?

RESPONSE: A 'yes' response by 60%+ of families would mean uniforms for at least 5 years. After 5 years the school could decide to survey families again to gauge support for uniforms. If less than 60% of families expressed support the uniforms would be eliminated.

2. Mental Health Parent Engagement Event

- The Board gives each school a grant of \$500 annually to put towards Parent Engagement Events
- The Council votes on how the money is used
- A Parent Engagement event was proposed by Cam Hyginus at the June meeting
 - Miguel Martinez – Cam saw the speaker at a high-school event; impressed by the caliber of speaker; felt empowered to support his children
 - Speaker would conduct 2 sessions – one for school (split into 3 age groups); another event for parents a week later
 - Cost is \$850 for the 2 sessions

PARENT QUESTION: What was the Return on Investment from the last event organized?

RESPONSE: Paul Davis commented on high turnout (44 parents). Unfortunately, there was no feedback survey conducted to assess parent feedback. Council agreed that an electronic survey will be organized for the next event (Lauren + Gia volunteered to help with this).

PARENT SUGGESTION: The council should find ways to get input from parents on topics they would be interested in for future events.

RESPONSE: Council was in agreement with this suggestion. Mrs. Mundy will look into including a survey in the next newsletter to ask parents about topics they like to learn about.

- Motion: moving forward with MH events Nov 12/19
- Vote: Majority voted in favour

<p>3. Halloween Dance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents asked for \$3 contribution to cover cost of DJ • Remaining balance owing (less deposit) • 3 Prizes given for each rotation of kids in the gym (\$5 gift cards) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Volunteers to purchase cards: Kasia, Kerralee, Brittany, Jen, Tamara, Shadia, Danielle, Jess, Marlene, Gia, Natasha • Students will have an opportunity to request songs in advance; request list will be provided to DJ • Tamara P. offered to set up the balloon arch and backdrop again this year • Volunteers to help decorate and chaperone: Vicki, Marlene, Danielle, Anastasia, Natasha, Tamara, Shadia, Michelle, Brittany, Jessica • Parents were informed by Ms. Mundy that non-school aged kids are not permitted to attend for insurance reasons 	
<p>17. Future Meeting Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday, November 6, 2024 @ 6:30pm • Wednesday, January 8, 2025 @ 6:30pm • Wednesday, March 5, 2025 @ 6:30pm • Wednesday, May 7, 2025 @ 6:30pm 	

Meeting Adjourned At: 8:35 pm
Motion to adjourn the meeting: Jessica P.
Second: Marlene B.