



# St. Dominic Catholic School Council Minutes

## June 5, 2024



<b>Voting Council Members (2023-2024)</b>					
<i>Name</i>	<i>Attend</i>	<i>Regrets</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Attend</i>	<i>Regrets</i>
Natasha Kovar, Chair	X		Cam Hyginus, Community Rep	X	
Alicia Kowalczyk, Treasurer	X		Vicki Lefkaditis-Said, Parent Member	X	
Gia D'souza, Secretary	X		Lauren Muszynski, Parent Member	X	
Tamara Parkes, OAPCE Rep	X (online)		Danielle Crnkovic, Parent Member	X	
Anastasia Lata, Parish Rep		X	Michelle Pellicori, Parent Member	X	
<b>Principal, Teacher Reps, Non-Teacher Reps and Trustee</b>					
<i>Name</i>	<i>Attend</i>	<i>Regrets</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Attend</i>	<i>Regrets</i>
L. Mundy, Principal	X		Mario Pascucci, Trustee	X	
D. Frigo, Teacher Rep	X (Online)		J. Kalynowsky, Non-teacher Rep	X (Online)	
D. Paterson, Teacher Rep	X (Online)				
<b>Non-Voting Members and Guests</b>					
<i>Name</i>			<i>Name (Online)</i>		
Diana O'Dvidio-Carlesimo, Director, OAPCE Brittany Janco Stephanie Pinto-Martins Monika Sybidlo Jessica Penim Pariuse Sajda Oleksandr Rhyzhuyak Keterayne Stoklosa E. Farmen			Angie Caruso Michelle Dalisay Marlene Black		
<b>Agenda Items</b>				<b>Action Item</b>	
<b>1. Call to Order and Attendance – Gia D'souza</b>				None	
<b>2. Opening Prayer – Anastasia Lata</b>				None	
<b>3. Land Acknowledgement – Natasha Kovar</b>				None	
<b>4. Approval of Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion of approval of June 5 Agenda by Danielle C.</li> <li>• Second by Michelle P.</li> <li>• Agenda approved</li> </ul>				None	
<b>5. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion of approval of April 17 Minutes by Vicki L.</li> <li>• Second by Stephanie P.</li> <li>• Minutes approved</li> </ul>				None	
<b>6. Trustee's Report - Mario Pascucci</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Pascucci acknowledged the vibrancy of the school community, especially given its small size</li> <li>• <b>PARENT QUESTION:</b> Parents representing the Polish community, whose children attend St. Dominic School, asked Mr. Pascucci about the future of the International Languages Program at St. Pio and John Cabot schools.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Context: International Languages Program was introduced years ago. Required to operate on a cost recovery basis. There has been a reduction in the number of students. Board is consolidating schools that operate the program as a cost-</li> </ul> </li> </ul>					

<p>saving strategy. (Note: parents indicated that the system does not accurately capture all registrants in the program).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parents cover costs of all resources. Only receive \$2 per student from the Board. Current locations are far more convenient for families (St. Pio &amp; John Cabot). Consolidation creates a challenge for families dropping off children at two sites. Issue is significant in this community since 7% of elementary students from grades 4-8 are Polish. Natasha will raise the issue at OAPCE meeting.</li> <li>○ Mario suggested parents contact Executive Super Intendant of Equity, Policy, Strategy &amp; Global Learning (Max Vecchiarino).</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>PARENT QUESTION:</b> PLASP – Who is responsible for running the before/after school program at St. Dominic’s? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ These programs are run by private organizations (E.g. YMCA, PLASP, Family Day Care)</li> <li>○ Organizations rent school space from the Board, but Board has no control over the programming within the services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Natasha K. will raise the issue regarding the International Languages Program at the upcoming OAPCE meeting.</p>
<p><b>7. Parish Report – Anastasia Lata</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Over the course of 3 different masses our grade 2 students celebrated their First Holy Communion at the end of April. It was a beautiful day and a joy to witness. Thank you to St. Dominic student Isabella Kovar for alter serving during the dedicated Communion mass.</li> <li>● Alicia and Anastasia facilitated a workshop for the grade 7 confirmation candidates on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. During the workshop the students made religious bookmarks consisting of 7 beads representing the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit. This initiative was completely paid for by parent council from our pre-approved fund for sacramental gifts, meaning there is no cost to the students. A big thank you to Gia D’Souza for volunteering her time to assist the students with the bookmark making.</li> <li>● The grade 7s went on to celebrate their Sacrament of Confirmation between two different masses on May 14 and May 16. Congratulations to all the students who received their sacrament and to their families for providing them the support and preparation necessary. This time we had 4 altar servers from St. Dominic Elementary School serving between the two masses. Thank you to Isabella Kovar, George Lata and Sofia and Max Schmid for volunteering to assist Father during the masses.</li> <li>● The Mother’s Day rose campaign was another huge success. Headed by Gia D’Souza and facilitated by The St. Dominic Altar servers and their parents, the church sold 44 dozen roses bringing in a profit of approximately \$1500. This money will be put towards to payment of the new alter server gowns and the capital campaign. Thank you to everyone who supported this campaign.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8. Treasurer’s Report – Alicia Kowalczyk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Balance at the end of April was \$29,287.96</li> <li>● Less uncleared transactions, the funds available for allocation is \$4,851.70</li> </ul>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>9. Principal’s Report – Laurie Mundy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● April 19 – Free pizza day as a thank you for support of Choc fundraiser</li> <li>● First Communion – June 12 event with Grade 2’s</li> <li>● Father Michael Gates –</li> <li>● New tradition for gr. 8 grad ceremony – parents council chair to give out award for Catholic Leadership Award – bible</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New communication boards in school yard; part of speech and language services; helps to support children that are non-verbal</li> <li>• Funds raised by the school (e.g. popcorn and cookie sales) used for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Special events (Santa visit, scientist in the school)</li> <li>○ Athletics (e.g. buses, athletic fees, tournament fees, referee fees)</li> <li>○ Donation for ShareLife</li> <li>○ Health &amp; Wellness – girls club (food supplies), apples</li> <li>○ WWF adoption kits</li> <li>○ The big crunch</li> <li>○ Confession</li> <li>○ Emergency fund – funds pooled across schools for families in need</li> <li>○ Graduation celebrations/awards</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>10. Community Report – Cam Hyginus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upcoming Parent Engagement Event on June 7</li> <li>• Cam proposed a speaker for next year: Miguel Martinez <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Speaker at previous OAPCE events; focuses on character building, mental/physical health, life-long learning</li> <li>○ Highly engaging and motivating</li> <li>○ Mrs. Patterson indicated that he was a speaker at St. Dom’s in the past (years ago)</li> <li>○ Half the cost of Paul Davis (approx. \$800)</li> <li>○ Ministry gives us \$500/year for parent engagement</li> <li>○ Approach includes sessions with students prior to parent session</li> <li>○ Suggestion to set date for speaker in 2024/25 school year</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mrs. Mundy noted that the event details will be the prerogative of next year’s council; suggestion to inquire about speaker’s availability for late Fall and to book him tentatively</li> </ul>	<p>Cam H. to reach out to Miguel Martinez re: tentative event booking in late Fall 2024.</p>
<p><b>11. Chair Report – Natasha Kovar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pizza Party was held as a thank you to all students/families that supported the Chocolate Fundraiser. Kids received a free slice of pizza and a token gift, paid for by the Parent’s Council.</li> <li>• Student/Staff BBQ was held on June 5 and ran very smoothly. Food was pre-cooked to facilitate distribution of food in a more timely manner. There were more volunteers to assist compared to last year, which helped significantly. Students received tickets to help facilitate the distribution of food. Thank you to all the volunteers and organizers.</li> <li>• If parents are interested in demographics of our school community (cultural backgrounds, etc.) Natasha has data that can be shared. Parents can get in touch with Natasha directly.</li> <li>• Natasha K thanked all the parents and teachers for showing up for Council meetings and volunteering their time and efforts over the past year.</li> <li>• Council acknowledged and thanked Natasha for her efforts as the Chair over the past year.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>12. Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC) Report – Natasha Kovar</b></p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The last CCCSC meeting of the year is on Thursday June 20. This meeting will include the award for Volunteer of the Year. Meetings are open and everyone is welcome to attend.</li> <li>• The Board has hired a new position: Superintendent for Mathematics</li> <li>• The protocol for flagpoles was shared at the last meeting. The two flags that may be raised at schools are the Ontario and Canadian flags.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>13. OAPCE Update – Tamara Parkes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tarmara did not have any OAPCE updates to share.</li> <li>• Tamara thanked Council for its efforts over the past year.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>14. GUEST Presenter, Director of OAPCE – Diana O’Dvidio-Carlesimo</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diana noted how valuable it is to have an active Council full of parents, such as St. Dominic’s</li> <li>• Diana spoke to the role and function of OAPCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ OAPCE is not a part of the School Board; all members are volunteers</li> <li>○ Every council has an OAPCE rep</li> <li>○ OAPCE Director has a seat at the Board level</li> <li>○ OAPCE is recognized by the Ministry of Education</li> <li>○ Works closely with organizations such as Institute of Catholic Education and Assembly of Catholic Bishops</li> <li>○ Helps to give Councils advice on how to table concerns and ideas</li> <li>○ Everything is done through the lens of Catholic education</li> <li>○ Monthly newsletter for parents is published</li> <li>○ OAPCE meetings happen every couple of months</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>COMMENT FROM PARENT:</b> OAPCE meetings seem to be very focused on issues related to secondary school children. It would be helpful to have more focus on elementary students.</li> <li>• <b>RESPONSE:</b> Director recognized this issue and agreed that there should be more focus on the entire student spectrum.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>15. Action Items Follow-up</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up on specific changes to the Family Life Curriculum – Mrs. Mundy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mrs. Mundy distributed a summary of the new Family Life curriculum which included FAQs and a chart outlining topics per grade. She also included excerpts from the old curriculum as a comparison.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Follow up on St. Dominic’s School “Swag” aka “Spirit” wear – Natasha Kovar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Vendor (Talbot) is able to create an online store for us</li> <li>○ Next year’s council will be able to make a decision to go forward</li> <li>○ Aiming to have budget friendly clothing options: T-shirts (\$11.50), hoodies (\$35), crewneck sweaters (\$25)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Follow up on Student School Uniforms – Natasha Kovar &amp; Mrs. Mundy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ At last meeting Natasha communicated change to bi-law lowering percentage of parent support required to institute uniforms</li> <li>○ Mrs. Mundy confirmed bi-law change; we can table this next year</li> <li>○ Process involves us working with the Board to issue a standardized survey to all families in our school; one vote per family</li> <li>○ Survey assesses if families are in support of school uniforms</li> <li>○ Requires 60% positive response; non-responses count as ‘no’</li> <li>○ If survey receives a positive response, a subsequent survey is issued to determine crested vs. non-crested uniforms</li> <li>○ If we have a desire to issue survey, it can only be issued once every 5 years</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Next year’s council to decide on when/if to issue survey and to work with Board and Mrs. Mundy accordingly</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parents need to be notified at least 6 months in advance of the institution of a uniform (i.e. by March 1, 2025 in order to implement uniforms in Sept 2025</li> <li>○ Next year’s council should look into issuing survey as soon as possible next year</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vote on Allocation of Funds from Chocolate Fundraiser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A significant proportion of the funds previously allocated was geared towards older students</li> <li>○ Council is now looking into options for Kinder students (e.g. Schoolyard infrastructure, charging stations)</li> <li>○ Council discussed various ideas/options for the use of Council funds. The Council wanted to ensure that funds were used for things that would directly impact the students.</li> <li>○ <b>PARENT QUESTION:</b> What is the current student-tech ratio?</li> <li>○ <b>ANSWER:</b> Mrs. Mundy indicated that it is difficult to calculate a specific ratio. She further explained that the school purchased 15 new Chromebooks this year with Board funding. The EDWIN program is continuing for grades 7/8 (each student gets a device). She also acknowledged that we have a community of parents that are sensitive to how much tech their kids are using. The use of tech is also dependent on the specific teachers.</li> <li>○ Mississauga South uses UFLY for literacy program; Mrs. Mundy is waiting until next year to make a decision re: program for St. Dominic’s.</li> <li>○ <b>PARENT QUESTION:</b> Can we create a cart of resources for primary students?</li> <li>○ <b>ANSWER:</b> Yes, this is a possibility.</li> <li>○ Natasha K. summarized the proposed allocation of remaining funds.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Motion:</b> The remaining Council funds are to be allocated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ \$1000 – Technology, under the discretion of the principal</li> <li>▪ \$1700 – Kinder teacher resources</li> <li>▪ \$1000 – Outdoor recess equipment for students grades 1-8</li> <li>▪ \$300 – buffer for next year’s council</li> <li>▪ \$300 – expenses for events completed</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Unanimous vote</li> <li>○ Brittany Janco &amp; Gia D’souza to make purchases</li> </ul>	<p>Brittany Janco and Gia D’souza to purchase outdoor recess toys for students.</p>
<p><b>16. Future Meeting Dates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2024/25 meeting dates TBC</li> </ul>	

**Meeting Adjourned At:** 10:05pm  
Motion to adjourn: Danielle C.  
Moved: Gia D.  
Second: Michelle P.