



St. Dominic Catholic School Council Minutes

January 24, 2024



Voting Council Members (2023-2024)					
<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	Online	
Alicia Kowalczyk, Treasurer	X		Vicki Lefkaditis-Said, Parent Member	X	
Gia D'souza, Secretary	X		Lauren Muszynski, Parent Member	Online	
Tamara Parkes, OAPCE Rep	X		Danielle Crnkovic, Parent Member	X	
Anastasia Lata, Parish Rep	X		Michelle Pellicori, Parent Member	X	
Principal, Teacher Reps, Non-Teacher Reps and Trustee					
<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	Online	
D. Frigo, Teacher Rep	X		J. Kalynowsky, Non-teacher Rep	Online	
D. Paterson, Teacher Rep	Online				
Non-Voting Members and Guests					
<i>Name</i>			<i>Name</i>		
Dave Collia Sandro Tersigni Gianluca Preiano Amir Morgan Frank Scoleri Brittany Janco			Sonia Preiano (online) Marco Screnci (online) Angie Caruso (online) Victoria Harbins (online) Chantelle Tersigni (online) Michelle Dalisay (online)		
Agenda Items				Action Item	
6:30 p.m. Opening Prayer, Land Acknowledgement & Welcome					
Approval of Last Meeting Minutes					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion of approval of Nov 15 Minutes by Alicia K • Second by Michelle P • Minutes approved 					
Approval of Agenda					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion of approval of Jan 24 Agenda by Gia D • Second by Anastasia L • Agenda approved 					
Trustee's Report - M. Pascucci					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to M. Pascucci's remarks Natasha K. highlighted three items that required follow-up and thanked Mr. Pascucci for bringing the council's viewpoints to the Board: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential enrolment of Christian Orthodox (non-Catholic) students within DPCDSB schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Board voted to keep the enrolment process as is ▪ Mr. Pascucci noted that the vote was almost unanimous and reminded Trustees that many of them were elected on the premise that they would uphold Catholic values 2. Board Multi-Year Strategic Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The parent survey was reopened to allow for increased participation ▪ Mr. Pascucci will be chairing a focus group to further inform the development of the strategic plan 3. Enrolment Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The availability of accurate enrolment data is limited; this impacts decision making re: future funding and viability of schools across the region 					
				M. Pascucci to report back on student population data at April meeting	

- The council supports efforts to obtain updated/accurate statistics to better understand the student population being served by the Board
- Mr. Pascucci noted that he would request updated data at the Board meeting (Jan 30)
- Mr. Pascucci also noted that the Board is trying to quantify the number of kids in transient homes as this affects the statistics
- Mr. Pascucci will report back to Council at the April meeting

Parent Questions

Question 1:

- Tamara P. questioned why the Board is not allowing non-Catholic Christians to enroll in schools and referenced scripture, Matthew Chapter 19: Jesus said, "Let the children come to me..."
- Mr. Pascucci responded to the question, clarifying that the Board requires enrolled families to acknowledge the authority of the Vatican and the Holy See of Rome
- It will be difficult to maintain the school's *Catholic* values if enrolment is opened to other denominations, who will justifiably demand representation at decision making tables
- Experiences in other regions of Canada (eg. Alberta) demonstrate how difficult it is to differentiate between Catholic and public education once enrolment requirements are relaxed

Question 2:

- Tamara P. requested a follow-up on the previous discussion re: student tutoring, given that many students in the school are weak in areas such as math as a result of COVID set-backs
- Mrs. Mundy noted that there was some funding received to try and close the gap post COVID, but that funding is no longer available
- The Ministry has not given the school board any additional funds to increase tutoring programs

Question 3:

- Tamara P. requested information regarding processes to identify and approve additional support resources for kids with special needs
- Mrs. Mundy offered to provide information directly to Tamara P. and to discuss any related questions or concerns at the next meeting

Guest Speakers: School Uniforms/Sports – Mr. Preiano, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Tersigni, Mr. Collia, Mr. Screnci & Mr. Scoleri

- The guests represented several families in the school

Topic 1: Sports Uniforms and Logos

- The parents were keen to help students participating in sports teams build a stronger identity and greater unity in terms of their uniforms
- It was noted that at some sporting events, the students from St. Dominic's are not easily identifiable (e.g. some kids at the cross country meet were wearing pinnies without logos)
- Mrs. Mundy noted that new pinnies were purchased in the last 5 years, however, for sports with large teams the school may not have enough logoed pinnies for all participants
- The parents questioned if there could be an opportunity for parents to buy a sports uniform for their kids. It was acknowledged that some families may not be able to afford this solution.
- Parents requested for the school logo to be added to the tent that is brought to events
- Parents were interested in purchasing logoed spirit wear for their students

- Mrs. Mundy to review quantities of logoed pinnies and to explore the idea of logoed t-shirts and tent
- Solutions will be discussed at April meeting
- Natasha K. to seek clarity on process for getting additional

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The principal and Council Chair highlighted that access to vendors is a major limitation to solutions. Some approved vendors are not even willing to do business with St. Dominic’s since volumes are small. • Currently, only one company has access to the logo vector file required for printing • Parents suggested the school hire a graphic designer to develop a new vector file of the logo. This would enable more options re: school apparel. • Natasha supported the ideas put forward by parents and indicated that she would continue to work under Mrs. Mundy’s direction to engage a vendor for sports uniforms and spirit wear <p>Topic 2: Transportation to Sports Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The parents highlighted issues with respect to transportation to events via taxis (e.g. students are sometimes late for events, taxis drivers do not always know where to drop off students) • The parents asked if there is an option to use St. Paul’s bus. Mrs. Mundy indicated that the bus was used as a one-off solution. • Mrs. Mundy indicated that buses are only affordable for larger groups • It was noted that our school area currently uses one vendor (Blue and White) which can make it very difficult to schedule rides in a timely manner. • Mrs. Mundy is looking into the issue and Natasha K. is also tabling the issue at the CCCSC • Future events that will require transportation: Track and field meet, chess tournament <p>Topic 3 – Access to Basketball Equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents noted that the students are practicing with the wrong size balls • Mrs. Mundy clarified that the school does have some the right size, but only a limited number 	<p>vendors on approved list</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natasha K. and Mrs. Mundy will continue to escalate this issue to the Board • Natasha K. will seek clarity on process for getting additional taxi companies on the approved list • Mrs. Mundy will follow-up with the coach to determine if more basketballs are needed
<p>Principal’s Report – L. Mundy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board is trying to increase consistency of how council meetings are run; new template for agenda has been established; agenda will be circulated to all parents; all agenda requests will need to be circulated 2 weeks; new email address is being created for council communications to parents (to be monitored by Mrs. Mundy and Mrs. K) <p>Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress Report & Interview Evening was on Nov 16, 2023 • Bullying Awareness Spirit Week was Nov 20-23, 2023 • Intermediate boys and girls teams participated in volleyball tournament • PA Day was on Nov 24 • Movie Night was on Dec 4; great turnout • Season of Advent was celebrated with a liturgy and virtue assembly on Dec 12 • Vision/Hearing clinic was held Dec 13 • Grade 7/8s went to St. Paul’s on Dec 14 for a performance • Confessions were held within the school on Dec 14; Thank you to Fr. Terry, Fr. Russel, Fr. Emmanuel and Fr. Ravi • Santa visit with milk and cookies was held on Dec 21; Thank you to volunteers and Santa • Congratulations to Ms. Fong on her retirement. We welcome Ms. Sy to our Grade 5/6 class. • Course selection for grade 8 students began Jan 16 • PA Day – Jan 22 • Mississauga School Traffic Safety Action Committee has awarded St. Dom’s Elementary School with the Wilde Wood School Zone Safety Award for 2023 <p>Things to Come:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alectra Utilities Presentation (re: energy conservation) Jan 24 • Virtue assembly Jan 30 • Term 2 begins Feb 1 • Book Fair will be held during the week of Feb 12 • Report Cards will be sent home Feb 13 • Ash Wednesday / Valentine’s Day on Feb 14; Students will receive ashes at our morning liturgy • Interview Evening Feb 15 • PA Day / Interviews AM Feb 16 • Family Day holiday Feb 19 • Chocolate Fundraiser – chocolates go home Feb 8 	
<p>Treasurer Report – A. Kowalczyk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue in November and December included Halloween Dance donations and profits from the December movie night snack sales (Total = \$1034.05) • Expenses in November and December included costs associated with the Halloween Dance and the December movie night as well as bank fees (Total = \$882.70) • Funds available as of December 31, 2023, after those committed to specific items, is \$1718.53 	
<p>OAPCE Update – T. Parkes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamara P. shared a copy of the printed OAPCE flyer, which highlighted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The 85th anniversary of OAPCE ○ The updated OAPCE website: www.oapce.org ○ The latest edition of the parent4parents newsletter 	
<p>Chair Report - N. Kovar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A WhatsApp chat group has been established to facilitate council communication. Please contact Natasha if you would like to be added to the group. • Thank you to those who attended the online virtual training session that was held virtually on November 30, 2023 for the various council executive roles • Parent and Student feedback around the P.A.L.S program/initiative that was rolled out in November has been extremely positive based on student and parent feedback • Halloween Dance was a success in October. Thank you to the parents that donated decorations and gift cards for prizes as well as those that help to organize and chaperone. A \$200 deposit has been placed for the same DJ for next year’s dance, which will be on Oct 31, 2024. The final balance owing next year is \$449.40. • On Monday, December 4, 2024 council hosted a Christmas Movie night. We played the Grinch (2018 Animated version). Thank you to the council sub-committee and Tamara P for donating the Grinch décor. The total amount raised from the event was \$173.83 <p><u>MOTION:</u> To use funds raised from movie night (\$173.83) towards parent engagement event (see below) MOVED: Anastasia L. SECOND: Danielle C.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next event is Pancake Tuesday (Feb 13). A flyer has been created and permission forms will be circulated to families. Additional outlets being installed in gym to ensure adequate power supply. Several volunteers have come forward to help. • Parent engagement event, featuring Paul Davis, will take place June 7, 2024. The total cost of the speaker is \$1600. A \$1000 grant has been secured. Council needs to fund the remaining \$600 shortfall. • Flipgive account for St. Dominic’s is active. A flyer was sent out to all families. To date \$43 has been raised. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chocolate Fundraiser begins Tues Feb 6 and runs until March 22 (final day for boxes to be returned) • This year the bars are 100g @ \$5.00 each x 30 per box = \$150 per box (school profit \$60 a box) • 200 boxes have been ordered to start (only being billed for 192) <p>MOTION: The proposed list of items to be supported by fundraiser profits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pancake Tuesday • Appreciation BBQ • Sports & school spirit items • Sacrament gifts for next year • Shortfall for parent engagement • Technology & classroom items <p>MOVED: Michelle P. SECOND: Vicki L.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to those who participated in the online virtual parent engagement session hosted by C.C.C.S.C on the topic of anti-human trafficking. The guest presenter was Matt Richardson on the topic of Technology, Social Media and Online Safety. Well over 300 parents joined. • Multi-year strategic plan is being developed by the Board. A focus group is being created in March and will include: students, parents and C.C.C.S.C representatives (2 high school and 1 elementary) to review the findings and provide feedback for the new plan. Natasha K. has been selected to be the representative for elementary schools and will work to communicate with fellow council members and parents of the school for input. The next CSAC meeting is Feb 5. 	
<p>Parish Update - A. Lata <i>Sacraments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation registration is now open. Meeting for candidates and parents is soon to be announced. • First Communion preparations are underway. Father encouraged all families to attend Sunday mass in preparation for this sacrament. <p><i>Other Updates:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s liturgy will be starting during the 11:30am mass (ages 4-9). Additional volunteers are requested to support this ministry. • Bible study program has been initiated at St. Dominic’s Church. All parents are welcome to participate. • The Church is holding a Dinner Dance Fundraiser on Jan 27. The event is sold out. If anyone has a donation for the sweets or raffle table they can drop the items off at the church. 	<p>Mrs. Mundy to add note in next St. Dom’s newsletter to increase awareness of Children’s Liturgy</p>
<p>Other Business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
<p>2023/2024 Upcoming Meeting Dates at 6:30 pm</p>	<p>Wednesday April 17th Wednesday June 5th</p>

Meeting Adjourned At: 8:25pm
Motion to adjourn
Moved: Anastasia L.
Second: Michelle P.