



# St. Dominic Catholic School Council Minutes November 15, 2023



<b>Voting Council Members (2023-2024)</b>					
Name	Attend	Regrets	Name	Attend	Regrets
Natasha Kovar, Chair	X		Cam Hyginus, Community Representative	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	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>					
Name	Attend	Regrets	Name	Attend	Regrets
L. Mundy, Principal	X		Mario Pascucci, Trustee	X	
D. Frigo, Teacher Rep	X (online)		J. Kalynowsky, Non-teacher Rep		X
D. Paterson, Teacher Rep	X (online)				
<b>Non-Voting Members and Guests</b>					
Name	Attend	Regrets	Name	Attend	Regrets
M. Dalisay	X (online)		A. Caruso	X (online)	
Chantalee Dunkley (Peel Public Health)	X		Sonia Preanno	X	
Brittany Janco	X		Marlene Black	X (online)	
<b>Agenda Items</b>			<b>Action Item</b>		
<b>6:30 p.m. Opening Prayer, Land Acknowledgement &amp; Welcome</b>					
<b>1. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion of approval of Oct 11 Minutes by Alicia K.</li> <li>• Seconded by Michelle P.</li> <li>• Minutes approved</li> </ul>					
<b>2. Approval of Agenda</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion of approval of Nov 15 Agenda by Anastasia L.</li> <li>• Seconded by Michelle P.</li> <li>• Agenda approved</li> </ul>					
<b>3. Trustee's Report - M. Pascucci</b>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Pascucci commented on the importance of using a formal/structured approach to the meeting and minutes and commended the Council for its rigor</li> </ul>					
<i>Enrollment Levels and Government/Board Planning</i>					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Pascucci reviewed data regarding enrollment levels across the region; noted student numbers for Mississauga East are quite stable although enrollment across the board is down; St. Dominic's is near capacity (288 students)</li> <li>• The opening of IB programs at St. Paul's and St. James has helped to increase student enrolment numbers significantly</li> <li>• Natasha K. noted that the Board was considering the possibility of opening enrollment to various orthodox Christian communities as a means of bolstering enrollment (this idea was raised at an OAPCE meeting last year); parents expressed concern about the implications for catholic education (in particular, sacrament preparations)</li> <li>• Mr. Pascucci confirmed that the trustees have <i>not</i> tabled this strategy locally</li> <li>• Parents want to ensure there is full transparency if this proposal gets tabled and are requesting an opportunity to provide input</li> <li>• A survey was sent to parents in October to obtain input for the Board's multi-year strategic plan; Natasha K. noted that parents didn't have an ample opportunity to</li> </ul>					
				<p>Mr. Pascucci will table the question/concern at the November 28 board meeting</p> <p>Natasha K to send Mr. Pascucci an email with the concern/request which he will forward to the relevant Board Director</p>	

complete the survey and that response rates were very low; Natasha K. requested an extension

*Placement of students from Ukraine*

- The Board has placed a significant number of Ukrainian students in schools; A cap was placed on number of Ukrainian students per school causing some siblings to be split across schools; St. Dom's has placed approx. 20 students; The Board is following up to ensure the needs of the kids are being met

**4. Guest Speaker: Peel Public Health School Nurse – Chantalee Dunkley**

- Ms. Dunkley is an RN Public Health Nurse assigned to all feeder schools of Philip Pocock and St. Paul Secondary Schools
- Ms. Dunkley's role is to support student education and help to establish programs within schools related to: Healthy eating, oral health, mental health, physical activity, etc.
- Ms. Dunkley works with the school's leadership to assess needs and tailor programming accordingly
- Ms. Dunkley also acts as the school's liaison to other public health teams (e.g. oral health – Health Smiles Ontario, routine vaccinations teams)
- There are many programs available through Public Health; one example that has been recently implemented at St. Dominic's is PALS (Playground Activity Leaders in Schools)
- The PALS program trains a select group of student leaders (grades 4-6) on how to engage other children in the school yard to improve physical activity and social engagement; training focuses on leadership, communication and conflict resolution skills
- PALS motto is "there's always room for one more"
- Public Health has a monthly newsletter covering a variety of topics; each school principal determines what is most relevant to pass onto parents

**5. Principal's Report – L. Mundy**

- Junior and intermediate students participated in the family level cross country meet on October 13. Our students showed great sportsmanship and did very well. A small group of our students went on to our Board Cross Country Meet and had great results as well. Thank you to our teachers Ms. Somers, Ms. Frigo, Ms. Seseri and Ms. Melaragno and to our parent volunteers who not only helped to supervise but to cheer on our students.
- Our Jr Boys and Girls volleyball teams participated in our pod tournament at St. James – finishing in third place. Thank you to our coaches Mr. Guadagnolo and Ms. Seseri.
- Our Health Clinic for Immunizations (round one) took place on October 16th for our Grade 7/8 students.
- Dental Screening took place on October 17th and 18th for JK, SK, 2, 4, 6, 8 students.
- Our Superintendent Dulcie Belchior visited us on October 17th and had a chance to visit some of the classes.
- Our Grade 4 students wrote CCAT beginning on October 19th
- Bus Training was completed for all students on October 23rd. Students were able to practice an emergency evacuation.
- Picture day – October 25th, Re-take Day – November 21st
- Lockdown practice – whole school on October 27th
- Halloween Dance – students had a lot of fun -thank you to our council and volunteers for the fun day

- Region of Peel Waste Presentations were on November 3rd. Presentations were made in the classrooms, teaching the students mindful ways of conserving / protecting our resources.  
**PARENT QUESTION:** Children have been bringing home organic waste. Parent inquired if this was school policy/direction.  
**ANSWER:** This is not school policy, but efforts to minimize inappropriate waste may have led to some kids deciding to bring organic waste home. St. Dominic's does not have organic waste bins (not an option in Region of Peel)  
**PARENT SUGGESTION:** Trip to Peel waste facilities would be highly educational  
**RESPONSE:** Agreed however children must be in secondary school to participate in tours at Region of Peel facilities.
- Movie Trip was a lot of fun for our primary students. Thank you to Ms. Paterson for organizing and to our parents and teachers for helping to supervise.
- PALS Training Program – beginning soon. Thank you to Chantalee and Mr. Y for organizing.
- Highschool presentations were held on November 8th for our grade 7 and 8 students thinking about high school options.
- Progress reports were sent home Nov 14. Interviews are being held this week and on Thursday evening for some students.
- EQAO scores were published; Low math scores may be due to students' unfamiliarity with digital test formats; St. Dominic's is looking into the possibility of completing the test on paper in future; Due to new digital format schools are unable to see 5 year trend in marks; Algorithm incorporated into test software which tailors questions based on the student's response to select questions; Use of algorithm is meant to reduce anxiety for students and help them complete the test 'successfully'
- Communication was sent home yesterday regarding our drop off times in the AM. Thank you to the many parents that have dropped off and picked up their children respecting the policies that schools have in place. However, we have now had incidences that have led us to communicate our procedures again and with more clarity. We have supervision on property from 8:15 – 8:30 am. Parents are welcome to use the different drop off areas and walk through areas. Any questions or concerns can certainly be brought to the attention of the principal.

**PARENT COMMENT:** Some small kids want parents to stay until they go inside when bell rings.  
**RESPONSE:** Parents are just asked to stay in designated areas away from where the majority of kids play so as to ensure the safety of the ensure school community. Another option is to arrive closer to bell time.

#### What's Coming Up?

- Our mental health team (intermediate students) have prepared a spirit week next week. Information emailed out.
- Intermediate volleyball on November 21
- Silver creek (3/4 and gr 4) classes – November 23
- PA day – November 24
- Nov 30 – CCCSC training for council
- December 4th – Movie Night
- Advent Mass December 6th – with Queen of Heaven 9:15
- See Hear Clinic – December 13/14
- Christmas Concert afternoon performances – Tuesday December 19th and Wednesday December 20
- Santa Visit – Thursday December 21 – 9 am -11:45
- A second weekly pizza day will be offered beginning in January; 1 cheese day, one pepperoni day; Likely Tuesdays and Fridays

**PARENT QUESTION:** How often does Mr. Y (CYW) go into classes?

<p><b>RESPONSE:</b> Mr. Y connects with individuals and groups based on needs; He is at St. Dominic's on Tuesdays and Wednesdays</p>	
<p><b>6. Treasurer Report – A. Kowalczyk</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September revenue: \$500 received for parent engagement grant</li> <li>• October revenue: \$310 raised from Halloween Dance (still awaiting an additional \$404 to be deposited)</li> <li>• Committed funds from 2022/23 are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sports equipment \$ 600.00</li> <li>○ Tech for school - makers station \$ 900.00</li> <li>○ Parent engagement (use grant rec'd) \$ 1,000.00</li> <li>○ 2023-2024 activities \$ 600.00</li> </ul> </li> <li>• At the end of October, total funds available for use (after committed funds) is \$995.58</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7. OAPCE Update – T. Parkes</b></p> <p>No Report</p>	
<p><b>8. Chair Report - N. Kovar</b></p> <p><i>Halloween Dance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Money raised at Halloween dance will cover the cost for the DJ next year</li> </ul> <p><b><u>MOTION:</u></b>  Motion to use the same DJ for the 2024/25 Halloween Dance  MOVED: Sonia Prianno  SECOND: Anastasia Lata</p> <p><i>FlipGive</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flipgive serves as one way to raise funds for the school</li> <li>• A flyer promoting its use will be sent out to families</li> <li>• Last year about \$400 raised</li> </ul> <p><i>Family Christmas Movie Night</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcommittee has been established to organize the family movie night</li> <li>• The event will take place on Dec 4</li> <li>• Movie selected from Board approved list: Grinch movie</li> </ul> <p><i>Annual Fundraiser</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal to conduct Laura Secord Chocolate campaign again this year since it was so successful last year (raised approx. \$7K last year)</li> <li>• This year the chocolate bars are bigger (\$5 each instead of \$3)</li> <li>• More flavours included this year</li> <li>• Case = \$150 per box, profit to school is \$60 per case</li> <li>• Proposed timeline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Feb 6 – cases delivered to school</li> <li>○ Feb 8/9 – cases go home</li> <li>○ March 22 – last day to return boxes</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>MOTION:</u></b>  To run fundraising campaign using Laura Secord chocolates  MOVED: Anastasia Lata  SECOND: Sonia Prianno</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subcommittee volunteers: Danielle, Natasha, Vicky, Gia, Anastasia, Michelle</li> </ul>	
<p><b>9. Parish Update - A. Lata</b></p> <p><i>Altar Server Schedule</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Altar server schedule has been amended to include all individual class and school masses. Alter servers from both St. Dominic and Queen of Heaven can view</li> </ul>	

their class and school masses and sign up for the appropriate mass time. This is a wonderful opportunity for our students to not only serve the church and assist Father during mass, but to demonstrate to the school community the importance of taking on an active role in our parish

*Sacramental Gifts*

- We have previously had Beading Buds come to the school to facilitate a workshop for Rosary bracelet making for the First Communion candidates. This year, Beading Buds was unable to accommodate us close to the date of the First Communion.
- Alicia K and Anastasia L. have volunteered to facilitate a rosary bracelet workshop. They will also add a catechism component in to discuss the importance of Mother Mary and the power the rosary can have in our lives.
- We will ask Parish Council to use the allocated funding simply to cover the cost of the basic materials of which we will purchase and organize. The workshop will run sometime in April, in the weeks leading up to the First Communion and will be open to all students regardless of where they are receiving their first communion.
- Volunteers would be appreciated to help facilitate the workshop and will be organized closer to the date.
- A similar workshop would be organized for the Confirmation Candidates in the spring, in lieu of the keychains purchased last year. We could facilitate a keychain making or bookmark making workshop.
- A subcommittee would be organized to oversee workshops for both first reconciliation/communion and confirmation

**MOTION:**

To repurpose funds previously allocated to Beading Buds to run workshop in-house

MOVED: Gia D'souza

SECOND: Vicki Lefkaditis-Said

*Rosary Apostolate*

- Idea of initiating a Rosary apostolate was briefly raised; Ms. Mundy was open to the idea and will follow up to discuss

*Upcoming Church Events:*

- First Reconciliation lessons are underway at the church. The sacrament of First Reconciliation will take place at St. Dominic's on Saturday, November 25  
**PARENT COMMENT/QUESTION:** Classes do not seem to provide much training on catholic doctrine and catechesis. Parent expressed concern that there child will not be sufficiently prepared for the sacrament. Parent inquired about the school's role in sacramental preparations.  
**RESPONSE:** Sacramental preparations are the prerogative of the parish and vary significantly across the archdiocese. The sacraments are embedded in school curriculum but may not necessarily align with the timing of when students receive the sacrament. Parents are encouraged to provide feedback to the parish.
- There will be a bake sale on the weekend of November 25/26. It is a pre-Christmas bake sale. Bakers are still welcome and sign-up sheets are located at all entrances.
- December 2 Knights of Columbus are hosting an Evening with Santa after the 5:00 mass. There will be hotdogs and hot chocolate for the children and tea and coffee for adults.

Ms. Mundy will be in touch with Anastasia L.

Contact Gloria for flyer

**10. Other Business**

*Proposal for Parent Engagement Event – Cam H.*

- \$1000 available for parent engagement event (funding from this year and last year combined)
- Speaker: Paul Davis
- Topic: Social networking and online safety

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive presentation experience; cyber professional</li> <li>• Proposed speaker is board approved</li> <li>• Fee includes 3 sessions: grades 4/5/6, grades 7/8, evening presentation for parents</li> <li>• Cost is \$1600 +HST</li> <li>• Subcommittee will work with Mrs. Mundy to decide how best to source remaining funds</li> </ul> <p><b><u>MOTION:</u></b>  Approval of Paul Davis as selected speaker for educational presentations to students/parents.  MOVED: Sonia Prianno  SECOND: Anastasia Lata</p>	
<p><b>2023/2024 Upcoming Meeting Dates at 6:30 pm</b></p>	<p>Wednesday January 17<sup>th</sup>  Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup>  Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup></p>

**Meeting Adjourned At:** 9:37pm