

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2024

1. Call to Order - Rob Weatherbee – Introduction of representatives to the School Councils both in person and online. Rob mentioned that the meeting was also being held on Zoom for those parents who are interested, and therefore will be recorded.
2. Introduction and Attendance
 - Rob Weatherbee—Principal
 - Seerat Mann—Deputy Prime Minister (SC)
 - Samuel Hebrado—Mental Health Champion
 - Portia Branford—Parent
 - Beverly Kerat—Parent
 - Gurnoor Samra—Minister of Public Events (SC)
 - Melissa Panetta—Parent
 - Jia Sharma—Student Trustee (North)
 - Glacia Stewart—Parent
 - Sunny Kanabe—Parent
 - Nicole Bailey—Parent
 - Bridgette Parke—Parent
 - Matthias Ramirez—Vice Principal
 - Evan Valencia—Parent (Online)
 - Andrienne---Parent (Online)
 - Andrew Selvam—Chaplin—Teaching Rep
 - Terri Caroleo –Non-teaching Rep
 - Samantha Francis—Parent
 - Nancy Tsiobanos—Vice Principal
3. Opening Prayer – Andrew Selvam
4. Land Acknowledgement – Mattias Ramirez
5. Student Reports – Student Council and Mental Health Champions
 - Senior Sunrise – to start at 7 am next Friday, October 18
 - Civvies Day – Next Thursday
 - Halloween Spirit Week – Haunted House, Guess Candies in a jar.
 - Poppy Distribution
 - Want to increase awareness of mental health in the school and make themselves more known as well as other supports available.
 - Want to help students with mental health concerns and remind them that *They are not alone* – focus on Grade 9s
 - Next Week Theme – Socks, Crocks, and Slides

6. Student Trustee/Voice

- Clubs Fair – Tomorrow, October 10, 2024 – representatives from clubs, organized by Grade 12 Phys Ed Leadership, will be set up in the matrix.
- Great way for students to see the many activities available for them to participate in and encourage involvement.
- Topic of AI was brought up at Student Senate – Chat GPT not always used for best purposes, looking for ways to incorporate AI into teaching and learning.
 - i. Want to help parents understand what AI is and how it can be used effectively – question posed whether school council understands AI?
 - ii. Answer: students have learned faster than parents in this technological age
 - iii. Some parents use ChatGPT – especially to help in academics (example, Math)
 - iv. Principal spoke of the board policy re: AI, including best practices for the use of AI; we are still trying to figure out its place in education for both student and staff usage.

7. Formation and Nominations for School Council

- Sunny Kanabe was acclaimed as School Council Chair
- Nomination received from Beverly Kerat for the position of Treasurer.
 - Unopposed – Beverly Kerat – Treasurer
- Nomination received from Samantha Francis for a position of OAPCE Rep
 - Unopposed – Samantha Francis – OAPCE Rep
- Nomination received from Portia Branford for a position of Secretary.
 - Unopposed – Portia Branford – Secretary
- Principal read roles and responsibilities of Catholic School Council and their respective positions to help assist parents with selecting appropriate positions.

Trustee Update

- Shawn Xavier was unable to join us

Non-Teaching Rep

- Many things going on in the school.
- New activities happening this year.
 - Ms. Vaiopoulos starting a hair club – 76 students enrolled.
 - Ms. Scarpelli – Flag Football coach – has been a great opportunity for the girls – 3 wins and 1 loss and going into the final games of the season, the boy's team has the same standings.
 - Prom season planning has begun.
 - Nutrition program began on September 30
 - Ms. Bailey co-advises Girls Club and BSA
 - Working on projects to help our students find more validation and awareness.

Teaching Rep – Chaplaincy Update—A. Selvam

- Chaplaincy has begun for the 2024-2025 School Year
- We have a chaplaincy group this year of approx. 195 students who have registered this year

- We have introduced a chaplaincy council this year, each pair with specific roles like social outreach, social, communications, etc. and grade reps as well – they will be responsible for planning, and we have our chaplaincy team for executing.
- Bible Study began the second week of school and is going strong – a group for Catholic and non-Catholic Christians to discuss the impact of Scripture on their lives – student run.
 - Currently every other Wednesday after school in the Chapel
 - Alternative Mondays at 3A lunch with staff supervision
 - Bible Study will also be holding a Prayer Night, like last June for students to engage in personal and group prayer and praise and worship music.
- Grade 9 Retreat – Save Max Sports Centre – Students participated in liturgy, team building activities, guest speaker and letter writing activity.
- Week of Truth and Reconciliation
 - Homerooms invited to decorate Orange Shirts
 - Orange Shirt Activity in the Cafeteria with Positive Messages
 - Truth and Reconciliation Display
 - Availability of Orange Shirts and Orange Ribbons (for those who do not have orange)
 - Guest Speaker spoke on Truth and Reconciliation and Anishanabe culture.
 - Sports and Reconciliation Drive – ran during the month of September, collecting used sports equipment all to be donated to Anishnabeg Outreach (Kitchener) that provides amongst other things, sports opportunities to Indigenous Youth – will be dropping off items next Wednesday.
- October Food Drive – Ongoing – last year we raised 2100 items, we are looking to exceed that this year.
 - Offering an incentive for the winning homeroom
 - Collecting every end of the week
- Thanksgiving Potluck will be taking place tomorrow.
- Feast Day and Opening Mass – Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at the start of Period 2

Principal Report—R. Weatherbee

- Rob introduced himself with a short history, was appointed in January 2023 as Principal
- Rob’s vision for d’Y- to have a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment – necessary for a student to reach their full potential.
- We have a new security system, and the doors are locked all day – secretaries let students in; one door remains open but is monitored by administration throughout the day.
- Assemblies indicated the importance of student safety and not letting trespassers in the building. There are consequences if this happens (i.e. loss of dress down days)
- We have poster displayed throughout the school to indicate the many supports personal a student can go to
- Online Reporting Tool is used to report concerns that parents and students have – principals and vice-principals receive that and respond accordingly.
- Rob mentioned the importance of programs at the school – mentioned the creation of the Regional STEM program that was approved last year.
 - Enhancements will be coming along with it to help support our school.
 - STEM lab created on the third floor.
 - STEM club on Wednesdays to meet.

- SHSM in Health Care for 120 students (teacher is a nurse), also Hospitality.
- D'Y will apply for SHSM in ICT at the Board level.
- Distinguished Alumni Poster – we have our first St. Marguerite d'Youville distinguished alumni – Omar was a high-level soccer player, an entrepreneur, and activist.
- Rob mentioned that our Phys Ed Hallway was repainted and had murals put in by a DPCDSB Alumni.
- Superintendent came for a visit day – Adrian Scigliano
- The school is 30 years old – ongoing maintenance to be done, we will be starting a committee for 30th Anniversary.
- School was once over 2000 students, now approximately 1200 students.
- Would like student population to be higher – hopefully the creation of STEM programs will help increase our student population and the number of staff.
- Student Generated Fund Use – discussion with school council about enhances to technology and agreement to purchase more chromebooks for the school (approx. 100); refresh computer science lab in room 326; getting our the St. Thomas Aquinas bus rewrapped with STEM and d'Y logo.
- We have 13 staff members with busette license.
- Last year, we had Grade 12 students donate uniforms that were sorted and are for use for those students and their families that might be in need.
- We are asking school council to assist with the collection of old uniforms.
- Uniform has readily improved, especially with the new crewneck sweatshirt
- We gave 1000 dollars to students and families in need of vouchers for McCarthys for Uniforms
- Principal calling for an Student Advisory Committee of students that consist of different leaders – to get an idea of student voice as well.
- Students will be doing EQAO Math in Grade 9 and will now encompass 10% of their final grade.
- Population at DY was higher than anticipated – we were able to hire two new teachers – there will be a new additional Grade 9 science, Grade 10 science and Grade 9 math class that will be split.
- A new additional teacher will be added as well.
- New classes will begin after Thanksgiving.

Vice Principal Report – N. Tsiobanos

- Nancy introduced herself with a short history, was appointed in January 2024 as Vice Principal
- Wednesday, November 6 – Grade 9 Take Our Kids to Work Day
 - Information will go through School Messenger about the event – students can go to work with parents or relative so they can experience a day in the life of being in the workforce.
 - No formal programming will take place on that day.
 - On this day, Ms. Brum and Mr. Schiavello will be organizing for Grade 8s a Day in the Life event.
 - An audit was done by the Brampton Safety Council on school property and Dixie Rd. – April 10
 - Kiss and Ride is located on the South Side – coming in through Fr. Tobin
 - Traffic gets backed up when parents are stopping on Dixie Road and Father Tobin, preventing them from getting into the school property and enhances traffic.
 - Considering sending a map for parents to indicate where they can drop off and pick up their students.
 - Posted speed limit reduced when lights flashed on Dixie Road – 60 km/h

- There are “NO STOPPING” Signs on Dixie Road and Fr. Tobin Road, which many parents ignore causing traffic chaos.
- Report will be sent to parents in school council via e-mail.

Vice Principal Report – M. Ramirez

- Matthias introduced himself with a short history—was appointed January 2024 as Vice Principal.
- November 21, 2024 – Parent Teacher Interview Night – School Board has purchased an online booking platform – we used in Semester 1 and 2 of last year.
 - In the coming weeks, there will be information sent out about making bookings.
 - Report cards are going out on November 19 (email)
 - One or multiple teachers can be requested to be seen, each interview to be approx. 10 minutes.
- Will be starting an Assessment and Evaluation Committee – great representation of teachers and departments.
 - Will be looking at exams and culminating tasks (CPTs)
 - We want to make sure as a learning community to look at new trends and improvements we can make.
 - We will also be looking at Artificial Intelligence (AI) – we want to promote ethical use of AI for our students – intention is not to ban it, but to instruct teachers and students on its use as a tool for learning.
 - Committee to consider creating a survey for assessment and evaluation.

Chair Report—Sunny Kanabe

- Domino’s Fundraising – first date is October 18, followed by February 14, and May 10

Parish Report

- St, Marguerite d’Youville Novena—begun on October 7th for nine days to end and celebrate her feast day on October 16th
- Small Group Faith Ministry—learning about Scripture, teachings and practical personal reflection question Wednesdays and Saturday. For more information email: Olivea Saqui at Screeningcommittee.smdy@gmail.com
- RCIA program for those interested in becoming catholic will be starting soon, please contact the parish office for more information.
- Lifeteen (teenagers Grades 9-12) starts Oct. 11 from 7-9 PM. Adoration and Potluck

Future Meetings

- On Wednesdays
- Next Meeting – November 27, 2024
- Following Meetings – January 15, 2025; March 19, 2025; May 14, 2025;