



2023-24 St. Helen Catholic School Council

Chair – Mrs. S. Tomaino &
Co-Chair – Mrs. M. Scott
Treasurer – Mrs. G. Tota
Secretary – Mrs. T Landriault
OAPCE Rep – Mrs. P. Tryfanow
Parish Rep – Mrs. P. Tryfanow
Principal – Mr. Furtado
Teacher Rep – Mrs. Kotic
Non Teacher Rep – Mrs. Webster
Member at Large – Mr. C. Adamiec, Mrs. J. Da Silva

Meeting Date: February 1, 2024

Attendees: Mrs. S. Tomaino, Mrs. M. Scott, Mrs. T Landriault, Mr. Furtado, Mr. C. Adamiec, Mrs. P. Tryfanow, Mr. H. Viloría (Trustee)

Regrets: Mrs. G. Tota, Mrs. J. Da Silva, Mrs. Webster, Mrs. Kotic

Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer & Land Acknowledgement
2. Approval of Minutes & Agenda
3. Business from the Board
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Parish Report
6. OAPCE Report
7. Teacher's Report
8. Chair's Report
9. Principal's Report
10. New Business
11. Closing Prayer

Opening Prayer & Land Acknowledgement:

- Mrs. Scott completed

Approval of Minutes & Agenda:

- Approval of December 7, 2023 minutes seconded by Mrs. Tryfanow
- Approval of February 1, 2024 agenda seconded by Mrs. Tomaino

Business from the Board:

- An overview of topics from a recent Board meeting was provided by Mr. Viloría:

- Board policy for raising the pride flag was discussed. In June, schools can display the rainbow flag only.
- Seminar for Catholic Trustees sponsored by the Provincial Association for Catholic Trustees was held.
 - There was a presentation on Board observances. Should be no meetings during religious holidays.
 - Minister of Education spoke at the seminar about two current issues facing provincial schools:
 - 1) Use of cell phones in schools, particularly secondary schools. It is a cause of distraction. To be confirmed if province will release a policy. Some other school Boards considering cell phone bans.
 - 2) Vaping issue in secondary schools. Canada is one of the top users in the world and many students are addicted. Often smoke in the washrooms, and smoke alarms are not activated. To be confirmed if province will release a policy.
 - Province recently released curriculum changes. The curriculum had not been reviewed for 12-14 years. Will now be reviewed every 5 years. There is a new gr. 9/10 technology course requirement.
 - There is a teacher shortage, especially french and technology teachers. Options to accelerate training or consider industry experience are being considered.
 - Declining enrolment in separate school boards in the GTA, including Dufferin Peel, was discussed. The decline is due to changing demographics (migration out of the GTA, immigration, increased work from home and living in smaller towns). Dufferin Peel predicts 20,000 empty student spaces by 2030. Many schools are at 50% capacity.
- DPCDSB debt was discussed. The Ministry can take control over managing the Board. Province allowed the Board to sell 2 properties.
- There is a challenge with recruiting administrators/principals.

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer received reports from the School, which will be compared to Councils' records

Parish Report:

- Parish events:

Every Saturday & Sunday	8:30AM, 10AM & 12PM	Sunday eucharist
Every Tuesday to Saturday	9AM	Weekday Mass
Every Saturday	10AM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Every Sunday	10AM	Children's Liturgy
3rd Wednesday /month	7:30PM	Mother's Group
Every Friday	7PM	Holy Hour

- Youth Ministry – contact Levy Anne for dates and times
- Special events:

Saturday, February 10	6PM	Mardi Gras Dinner & Dance
Sunday February 11	5-10PM	Super Bowl Party

- For contact information and more please access the Latest bulletin [2024_01_28.pdf](#) (archtoronto.org)

OAPCE Report:

- [OAPCE-Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education](#)
- Next meeting February 13, 2024
- OAPCE will be celebrating it's 85 year anniversary this April 12-13, for more information check their website.
- Recruiting members of the school community to join the Board of Directors to represent Dufferin Peel at the OAPCE provincial table. If interested reach out to OAPCE Rep for more information.
- OAPCE Parent Survey 2023 [OAPCE Parent Survey 2023 \(google.com\)](#) is available, please provide your feedback.

Teacher's Report:

- Teachers have started spending the \$100/classroom teacher allocation
- A few have exceeded the \$100, but the school will fund the excess

Chair's Report:

- Breakfast with Santa
 - Cost \$267.87
 - Raised \$596.49 (after 2% school cash online fee)
- January Dough Raiser
 - Raised \$335 to go towards basketball net for intermediate yard
- Kindergarten graduation
 - School to confirm dates, number of students, teacher contact and if a cake is needed
- Gr. 8 graduation
 - Church only has a limited number of chairs. School to confirm how many students and parents will be attending.
 - Council to confirm how many attendees the Church can accommodate. To work with Mrs. Wickham.
 - Need volunteers on graduation evening to help with set-up, serving cake, etc
- Teacher \$100 allocation
 - Council agreed that teachers have until Mar 1 to spend the funds
- June Play Day
 - Need to start planning and buying supplies
- Pro Grant
 - School to confirm if we have \$1,000 or \$500
 - School to confirm what activities can be done for parent engagement
- Fundraising Plans
 - Council approved to book Krispy Kreme for 2024 (possibly around Valentine's Day)
 - Council approved doing a Terra Cotta cookie fundraiser
 - Frozen cookies, so will need to pick-up the day of delivery
 - Earn between \$4/box and \$6/box

- Council to send an email to Council members to review additional options
 - Muskoka Coffee – can earn maximum \$5.85/bag
 - Cinnabon – Council looking into this
 - Woodward Meats – buy on their website, similar to FlipGive
- Future committee members
 - Need to establish committee to help recruit new members

Principal's Report:

- Black history month started February 1
- Staffing changes at the school were discussed
- Challenges recruiting lunch monitors were discussed
 - Need criminal reference check
 - Principal fills in when there is no lunch monitor available
- Kindergarten registration started
- Sports teams were discussed
 - Junior boys/girls basketball and dance teams started
 - Will be baseball in the spring
- Mississauga South Speech Competition will take place on Apr 10
 - St. Helen classroom speeches taking place Feb 28 - Mar 4 and school finals taking place on Mar 6
- May 17 PA day changed to Apr 8 due to solar eclipse
- School facility renewals and initiatives were discussed
 - Basketball net installed in intermediate yard
 - Fence upgraded to include new supports and new gate installed since previous gate did not have enough radius for snowplow
 - Receiving new large, mobile soccer nets and only need to pay for installation
 - Painting and repairing vinyl walls
 - Awards wall installation
- Grade 8 overnight trip to Camp Muskoka
 - 100% students attending
- Math surveys were completed by teachers, gr. 1-8 students and school administration
- Teachers, staff and administrators participating in MS math professional learning communities
- Catholic Education week will be May 5 - 10
- Report cards go home on Feb 13
- New CSC agenda format for future meetings using a standardized template
- CSC hybrid meetings – next meeting May 16 @ 7pm
- Book fair will be held from Feb 12 - 16
- Hamburger Wednesdays starting Feb 7
- Parents are welcome to attend upcoming Ash Wednesday liturgy
- Black history month will include virtual presentations
- Gr. 4 - 8 went to Iona to watch Frozen play
- School Christmas concert was a success
- Pie the Principal fundraiser raised over \$800
- Mental Health Committee celebrated world mental health day on Oct 12

- Easter Mass will be on Apr 8
- Play on field due to weather was discussed

New Business:

- No items to discuss
- Council will send questions to the principal

Closing Prayer:

- Mrs. Scott completed