



IONA CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL
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Minutes of Iona Catholic Secondary School Council Meeting
Wednesday, September 28, 2022, at 7:00 pm
Iona Learning Commons

In Attendance: Liz-Ann Gurowka (Co-Chair), Candita Visentin, Nelen Visconti-Avila, Oswaldo Emmanuel, Vita Emmanuel, Lorna French-Jabala, August Jabala, Sharon Hobin (Trustee), Andrew Selvam (Chaplaincy Leader), Emidio Santroni (Teacher Rep), Maria Pallotta (VP), Carl Cini (P).
Regrets: Nelly Morgado (Co-Chair)

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda
 - Approved – C. Visentin, O. Emmanuel
4. Review and Approval of Minutes from April 28, 2022 Meeting
 - Approved – C. Visentin, L. Gurowka
5. Co-Chairs Report
 - Encourage parents to get involved. Rewarding experience.
 - No experience needed. School and Board staff will support learning new roles.
 - Highlighted the Catholic Culture of the school and the role of Chaplaincy. Specifically mentioned the Graduation Ceremony as a Catholic celebration of our students.
 - Encourage parents to bring 2 friends to the next meeting.
6. Treasurer's Report
 - Current balance – 935.73
 - Do not know about status of PRO grants
7. Trustee Report – Sharon Hobin
 - Parent Engagement Sessions will continue this year in the virtual format. Sessions on a variety of topics were well attended. Parent feedback was positive.

- Central Committee for Catholic School Councils (CCCSC) will have their annual meeting with Catholic School Council Chairs on Thursday, October 20.
- Trustee Hobin is retiring and will not be running in this year's election. There are 8 candidates running in Wards 2 & 8. Encouraged parents to inform themselves and choose the candidate that will champion Catholic Education and our students.
- The Ministry has required high school students to take 2 mandatory e-learning courses. There is an opt out form for this requirement through our Guidance Office. Courses were developed through TVO however they were not based on our Catholic Curriculum. The Catholic Trustees Association (OCSTSA) secured funding to develop Catholic eLearning courses. 35 were developed over the summer and launched this year. There are more to come.
- For the last few years, enrollment has declined as people move out of the GTA. This results in a reduction of our budget. However, this year we have seen an increase in overall enrollment.
- The Board is working through a deficit. 2 years ago, there was a 1.2% surplus now we are in a 42 million dollar deficit. The deficit is attached to Long Term Disability payments made by the Board on behalf of employees. Adding to that is the number of leaves taken during the pandemic. If not for LTD, the Board would have a balanced budget. Discussion with the Ministry of Education are underway to find a solution.
- Classroom and Special Education are not affected by the Board deficit. Special Education funding must be supplemented with other funds as it is underfunded by the government to meet our student's needs.
- We are in need of Education Resource Workers to work with our student with the highest needs. They are not graduating many at this time due to pay and challenges of the position.
- Class sizes have increased due to the funding model. The government are funding eLearning courses at a 30-1 while in person classes are at 23-1. The government designated 15% of all secondary courses as eLearning even though the student requests were far lower than that. Also there has not been a per pupil funding increase in many years.
- The Ministry has provided funding for tutoring programs. We have implemented an elementary and secondary tutoring program. The secondary program is online in the evening. Registration is underway.
- There will be a continued focus on Mental Health Programs as we all continue to face challenges as we transition out of Covid.

8. Elections/Assignments of Positions

- a. Chair – Candita Visentin
- b. Vice Chair
- c. Treasurer – Oswaldo Emmauel
- d. OAPCE Rep –
- e. Secretary
- f. Parish Representative – St. Christopher
- g. Parish Representative – St. Francis of Assisi

8. Chaplaincy Report

- Began this year with 120 students enrolled in the Google Classroom for Chaplaincy
- Began chaplaincy council as a way for students to take on more leadership that includes roles like social rep, social outreach rep, hospitality rep, tech rep, faith formation rep
- We brought back the minister of faith as a student council position
- Retreats are back - Grade 9 retreat was a great time and took place at St. Kateri on September 21, activities in the morning with a liturgy and in the afternoon, guest speaker Sam Demma
- Grade 10 retreats will take place at Dr. Simone's Canadian Food for Children Warehouse, Grade 11 as Temple Tours, and Grade 12s serving the homeless in Downtown Toronto on a Street Patrol
- School Mass happened on Tuesday, September 27 as a wonderful way for us to gather in the gym as a Catholic faith and worshipping community, celebrated by Fr. Francis, a visiting priest
- Beginning on September 27, we will have the blessed sacrament in our chapel present
- Morning mass celebrated by Fr. Joseph will happen once a month at Iona. It will start on Friday, October 14 and for each other month, it will occur on the first Friday morning of every month at 7:30 am
- Orange Shirt Day will be conducted through a shoe activity having students and teachers outline their feelings about residential school as well as practical ways to commit to truth and reconciliation; there will also be a shoe display
- October Food Drive begins next month - last year we raised 3200 non-perishable food items
- We have a few social outreach trups planned
- We are planning to work with the Wellness trip to do an all Grade 9s Boys and Girls night in
- Renovations have been done in the chapel - floors, soundproof panels and walls, still a few things to do
- Iona Chaplaincy can be found on Instagram (@ionachaplaincy), Twitter (@ionachap), TikTok (@ionachaplaincy)

9. Teacher Report

- Full complement of sports are running this fall - Cross Country, Girls Basketball, Junior and Senior Boys Volleyball, Tennis, and PIP Bocce
- Terry Fox Walk and Run will be Friday, October 7, 2022
- Auditions just finished for the annual School Christmas Play directed by Ms. Swift
- 1st Mosaic Meeting happened - Umbrella organization for all the cultural and diverse groups at Iona. Created in order to ensure every student has a voice in a safe, loving and caring environment. Next meeting will be Oct 6, 2022. This group will have a representative from each club/group at Iona to ensure representation.

- Sam Deema - School Presentation Youth Motivational Speaker - Spoke about Small Consistent Actions (personal transformation through service) and about "unpacking your backpack" to students. Extremely well received by both students and staff.

10. Principal's Report

- Enrollment – 630 students.
- Grade assemblies at the beginning of the year focused on building community. Grounded school environment on Catholic Social Teaching – All have inherent dignity; We work for the common good; Act justly and Preferential Treatment for the Poor. School policies and procedures based on ensuring that a safe, caring and inclusive environment is sustained.
- Students encouraged to keep their classwork and academics as their focus. Courses evaluated on 70% term work and 30% final evaluation divided between a culminating project and/or an exam. Maximizing the 70% term mark by handing in all assignments and keeping up with daily work will reduce anxiety regarding the higher stake final assessments.
- We are preparing to write exams for the first time in 2 ½ years. Exam preparation will be a school focus in the second half of the semester.
- Progress Reports will be distributed the week of October 10. Students will receive an updated mark and parents of students at risk of not getting their credit will be notified.
- Parent Interviews are on Wednesday, October 19 beginning with a Meet and Greet at 6:30 and interviews from 7 – 8.
- Mid Term Reports cards will be distributed the week of November 21.
- Board is implementing a new student information system. There have been glitches and delays during this process. Please be patient.
- Parents are reminded that our area to drop students off and pick them up is through the student parking lot on the west end of the school. As parents come down the driveway, the first right will lead them to the drop off area. Signs and arrows are visible. Coming to the front circle makes it difficult for our busses and create congestion.
- Friday afternoons creates challenges coming in and out of the school. ISNA has Friday prayers that can occur during our dismissal time, increasing the traffic at the top of our driveway. ISNA has placed an person to direct traffic and prevent cars from parking in our lot. We have a positive working relationship with the ISNA board to continue to work on traffic issues. Together we have been trying to get the city to improve the infrastructure in this area.
- Students are asked to pay a \$65 student activity fee. The fee goes to retreats, yearbook and student activities. Parents are reminded to pay the fee through School Cash Online if they have not already done so.
- Please follow us on Twitter @IonaCatholic, on Instagram @ionacatholicmississauga and on YouTube at Iona CSS

Meeting Dates

Thursday, November 25, 2021

Adjournment

The meeting of the Iona Catholic Secondary Council was adjourned.