

**PARENT SCHOOL COUNCIL 2023/2024
MEETING MINUTES FROM February 7, 2024**

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2023-2024 ACCLAIMED MEMBERS:

- Co-Chairs - A. Patola & N. Popova
- Secretary - A. Pronski & K. Zeljkovic
- Treasurer - H. Jagiello
- Community Rep - vacant
- Parish Rep - vacant
- OAPCE - T. Morris
- Voting members – V. Arulsundaram, J. Bird, E. Mayen, I. Ozurigbo, N. Sarin
- Staff: Teaching Rep. - S. Kelenc & J. Roy; Non-Teaching Rep - R. Johnson

Attendance:

- **St. James Staff:** M. McCann (Principal), A. Litster (Secretary), S. Kelenc (Teacher Rep), R. Johnson (Non-Teacher Rep)
- **Council:** N. Popova (Co-Chair), A. Patola (Co-Chair), A. Pronski (Co-Secretary), K. Zeljkovic (Co-Secretary), H. Jagiello (Treasurer), N. Sarin (Parent Rep), V. Arulsundaram (Parent Rep),
- **Parents:** T. Chan, J. Young, E. Kozakiewicz, Amanda Bujdos, A. Strzalkowska
- **Regrets:** T. Cesario (OAPCE), J. Roy (Teacher Rep), J. Bird (Parent Rep), E. Mayen (Parent Rep)

AGENDA ITEMS

- WELCOME – M. CLOUTIER MCCANN
- OPENING PRAYER – A. Patola
- LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – A. Patola
- APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 15, 2023 MEETING MINUTES
 - Approved – A. Patola moved for approval & K. Zeljkovic seconded motion
- APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY AGENDA
 - Approved – A. Patola moved for approval & N. Sarin seconded motion
- FINANCIAL REPORT – H. Jagiello

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|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Balance Reported Oct 31, 2023 Meeting | \$4018.22 |
| Cheques | |
| - Advent community social | |
| - Agenda (2023-2024) | - \$146.44 |
| - Bank Fees - Nov, Dec, Jan | - \$750.00 |

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| | - \$14.85 |
| Donations Current amount reflects 49% participation | +\$7046.20 |
| Bank Balance (January 31) | \$10,153.13 |
| Deposit since January bank statement: | |
| • Mabels Labels | + \$53.17 |
| • Donation | + \$245.00 |
| Sensory Pathway (from 2022 – 2023) – Still on hold | - \$999.98 |
| Available Funds | \$9451.32 |

- Board is looking into bank accounts that do not charge any banking fees
- REPORTS
 - **OAPCE** – T. Morris
 - This year marks the 85th Anniversary of the Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE)
 - OAPCE is committed to uniting parents, educators and students in the shared goal of preserving and enhancing Catholic Education in Ontario
 - Parents are encouraged to fill out the OAPCE survey to ensure the focus of OAPCE continues to be aligned with the needs of parents and students across the province. Results of the survey provide the Ministry of education with important data to help preserve Catholic education and guide advocacy efforts accordingly. <https://forms.gle/nUqxkpmAL6AWhfAg8>
 - OAPCE is hosting a conference to Mark the occasion of its 85th anniversary, celebrating the past of Catholic Education as well as set the stage for the future.
 - Date: Saturday April 13, 2024
 - All day Conference: Toronto Msgr. Percy Johnson Catholic Secondary School
 - Gala Dinner and Awards: Sandman Signature Toronto Airport Hotel
 - Holy Mass Led by His Grace Archbishop Leo
 - Special Guest Keynote Speaker: Karl Subban
 - For more information on the conference and for many valuable resources, including the OAPCE Newsletter: Parents4Parents Press, please visit the NEW OAPCE WEBSITE <https://oapce.org>
- PREVIOUS BUSINESS
 - Compost Pilot Project
 - R. Johnson meeting with Councillor Dasko to discuss moving the project forward

- NEW BUSINESS

- Lunch Programs
 - Students are losing interest in Lunch Lady due to appearance, taste and less healthy options.
 - ACTION** - Ms. McCann has asked for an approved list from the board of other lunch options, will also reach out to other schools to see what they are offering.
- Catholic School Council procedure update & email account
 - Central committee has put in place for all schools to be set up with a school council email account, direction managed at school level, all council communication will through the school account.
- Allocation of funds and list of items from survey

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| Budget | \$9451.00 |
| Standing Items (<i>Agendas, Grad tree, Awards</i>) | \$1655.00 |
| Speakers | \$3187.00 |
| Playground (FDK wood chips and buddy bench) | |
| Community Spring Event | \$700.00 |
| Sports Equipment | |
| Music (group/equipment) | |
| Mental Health (fidget toys, sensory toys) | |
| Library | \$500 |
| | |
| Craft items (teach students how to sew/knit) | |
| Journey Into Learning bags | \$425.00** |

- Standing Items (*Student agendas, awards, grad tree*)
 - ACTION** – Moved for approval to use council funds to cover standing items by A. Pronski, seconded by H. Jagiello
- Journey into Learning bags
 - ACTION** - Moved for approval to use council funds to Journey into Learning bags by A. Patola, seconded by N. Sarin
 - **We will apply the balance leftover from the Parent Engagement grant. Total amount was \$500.00, we used \$75.00 towards snacks/coffee for Advent mass, total amount to be applied \$425.00
- Curriculum (Library)
 - \$500 is usually put towards the library
- Facilities (Speakers, etc.)
 - After proper assessment it is recommended for the speakers to be replaced, portable speakers on stands will work best
 - ACTION** - Moved for approval to use council funds to coverspeaker replacement by A. Pronski, seconded by H. Jagiello
- Mental Health App “Headspace”
 - Free for educators in the classroom, has to be ministry approved

- Offers discounts for students
 - **ACTION** – Ms. McCann to email the ministry and seek approval
 - Handy craft items was suggested to teach students how to sew ad/or knit
 - Would require a teacher to oversee and teach
 - Community Spring Event
 - Event to be held for families of St. James and siblings.
 - **ACTION** - Moved for approval to use council funds to cover Spring event by A. Patola, seconded by A. Pronski
 - If Spring event does not work out, funds will be re-allocated for next meeting
 - Graduation tree and bench
 - Every other tree receives a bench, installed bench last year so no need to purchase a bench this year.
 - Pathway from Metro
 - Walkway between Metro and kiss and ride has become extremely muddy and a potential hazard for falling.
 - This does not need to be funded from the council funds
 - **ACTION** – Ms. McCann will put in a work order tomorrow to have this remedied.
 - FDK yard wood chips and Buddy bench
 - Wood chips were provided by the city a few years ago
 - **ACTION** – A. Pronski to reach out to Councillor Dasko to see if they can be donated once again
 - Buddy Bench could use a refresh
 - **ACTION** – Ms. McCann will reach out to family who rebuilt the buddy bench by the peace garden to see if they will build another for the FDK yard
- SCHOOL REPORT
 - Catholicity
 - Family Advent Mass success
 - Samantha - Youth Minister - monthly visits
 - Adriene Adona - Lay Pastoral Associate (supports grade 2's for upcoming reconciliation)
 - Rosary Apostolate (once a month comes)
 - Ash Wednesday - Feb 14
 - Grade 7 Retreat Mar 22 join st lukes grade 7
 - Curriculum
 - Black History Month
 - Carnival Spirit Week
 - FDK A
 - Ending their space inquiry, have been using coding, art, drama, also created space station above cubby area
 - FDK B

- Utilizing fine motor work, collaboration, cooperation, making own space station, writing and reading skills, making rockets to build sight words, focusing on 2d/3d shapes in math building various space themed items
- PYP Exhibition
 - April 25, students are preparing and connecting ATL skills, students started working with Ms. Maier in library finding resources to help with their research
- MYP Experiential Learning opportunities (Grade 7 students)
 - Partnership with Humber College to explore skilled trades (TLIA)
 - Students engage in experiential learning tasks (Humber and St. James)
 - Gain a deeper understanding of pathway opportunities

Students were able to participate in the following:

- Coding Lab using spheros to get them to move around, beat the robotic arm in terms of speed and accuracy, old school operation game utilizing copper wire connecting 2 different sensors
 - 3d Printing Technology – opportunity to learn and create with playdoh by sculpting chess pieces that 3d printer would print, learned how it used in the outside world
 - Exploring Mechatronics STEAM – Coded an assembly line, using fluids and hydraulics, saw it in action using stops, sensors, starts
 - Cross-Curricular planning - Developing Opportunities at School
 - Co-Planning and Co-Teaching opportunities with EGELTs
 - Science
 - Design
 - Language
- CO-CURRICULUM
 - Chess – 3 times a week during lunch
 - ECO TEAM – taken over by Ms. Johnson
 - Choir – Ms. Marchesan will be offering choir to younger students
 - PALS – Encourage kids to play cooperative games on Wed and Fri during recess
 - FACILITIES
 - Teacher Candidates – Term 2 – 1 allocated to grade 5 classroom, 2 first yr students allocated to grade 1 and FDK
 - Sheridan College – ECE here as well
 - Smartboard – up to 3 replaced this year, most SMARTboards were installed when school opened so are starting to wear down, budget taking a hit to replace them
 - REGISTRATION
 - Jan 16-19

- 155 + 2 applications came in after deadline which will not be added into random selection but added to bottom of list
 - Random Selection - Feb 14
- OTHER
 - Student Led Conferences – teachers will help prepare parents on questions they can ask student during conference
 - ShareLife Estimation Event – will be happening during Lent
 - Staffing – MYP has 3 LTO's because Ms. Roy and Ms. Hughes have gone to the program department for remainder of the yr
 - IB Professional Development – 2 staff in MYP upgrading and training in evenings
- UPCOMING EVENTS
 - Term 1 Report Cards - February 13
 - Shrove Tuesday - February 13
 - Book Fair - Feb. 12-15
 - Ash Wednesday - Feb 14
 - Student Led Conferences Feb 15, 16
 - Family Day - Feb 19
 - March 1, April 5 - hot /veggie dog days
 - March 01 may be rescheduled due to those observing Lent may not be able to participate
 - March Break - March 11-15
 - March 22 - Gr 7 Retreat & ME Chess Tournament, school will try to arrange students to attend both if interested in Chess tournament
 - Psalm Sunday - March 24 + Right of Enrolment mass for Confirmandis
 - Good Friday - March 29 Easter Sunday - March 31 Easter Monday- April 1
 - PA Day - April 8th (changed from May 17) due to solar eclipse
- MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING
 - Approved – A. Patola moved for approval & N. Sarin seconded motion

Future meetings (St. James School Library & Virtually via Zoom):

- *Wednesday April 10th, 2024*