

**PARENT SCHOOL COUNCIL 2023/2024
MEETING MINUTES FROM Nov 15, 2023**

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), T. Morris (OAPCE), E. Mayen (Parent Rep)
- **Parents:** Amanda Bujdos, Stacy Bholá, Sasha Ferkul, Bibin Sebastin
- **Regrets:** J. Roy (Teacher Rep), J. Bird (Parent Rep)

AGENDA ITEMS

- WELCOME – M. CLOUTIER MCCANN
- OPENING PRAYER – M. CLOUTIER MCCANN
- LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – M. CLOUTIER MCCANN
- APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 5, 2023 MEETING MINUTES
 - Approved – A. Pronski moved for approval & H. Jagiello seconded motion
- APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER AGENDA
 - Approved – A. Pronski moved for approval & K. Zeljkovic seconded motion
- FINANCIAL REPORT – H. Jagiello

Balance Reported Oct 4, 2023 Meeting	\$1773.19
Commitment On Hold: Sensory Pathway + Student agendas	\$1749.98
Parent Engagement grant	\$ + 500.00
Bank service charge	- 4.95
Available Funds (Oct 31)	\$ 4,018.22
Note - Fundraising Donations: \$2,665.60 (represents 19% of families)	

- **ACTION** – H. Jagiello to share email reminder draft from last year to Ms. McCann
 - **ACTION** – St. James staff to distribute reminder email, put stickers in FDK to Grade 7 agenda's and ask Student Council to make a visual thermometer again this year to distribute in the for kiss & ride area
- **PREVIOUS BUSINESS**
 - **OAPCE** – T. Morris
 - Volunteers across the country represent the voice of parents & guardians; advocating for the protection & advocacy of Catholic Education
 - Provides resources for learning & networking via their monthly newsletter and social media
 - This year is OAPCE's 85th anniversary – launched a refreshed website and annual parent conference is April 12-13
 - Parents can visit the website <https://www.oapce.org/> for helpful resources
 - Including tips for a successful school year <https://www.oapce.org/back-to-school/>
 - As well as links to articles regarding upholding parental rights and values in Catholic education <https://www.oapce.org/upholding-parental-rights-and-values-in-canadian-education/>
 - **ACTION** – T. Morris to send a summary to Ms. McCann to distribute in a school newsletter
 - **Parish Representative** – no volunteers
 - **Family Skate Night** – last council meeting we discussed looking into ice time during Carnival (Feb 5 – Feb 9). Summary of council research:
 - Council looked into ice time at local Community Centres, Private rinks (e.g. Canlan Oakville & Etobicoke) and outdoor rinks
 - Locations available: Huron Park, Tomken, Canlan Oakville & Etobicoke
 - Dates/ Times available: Mon – Thur during carnival from 4pm to 6:15pm (most days only had 4-5pm)
 - Best option: Tues. Feb. 6th at Canlan Okaville at 4:15, 5:15 or 6:15
 - \$250+tax for 4:15pm time slot and \$450+tax from 5:15pm or later
 - We discussed having on & off-ice activities to ensure the event is inclusive for non-skaters
 - We did not successfully locate anywhere that would rent skates locally (inquired at arenas, Play it Again Sports, Berts, etc.)
 - Only options for skate rentals are the outdoor rinks at Humber and Celebration Square, but these rinks are open to the public
 - Council member concerns:
 - Ice time is very limited in Mississauga due to community centre renovations
 - 4pm might be too early for some families to attend
 - Students not having skates available
 - Council Decision – parked until Carmen Corbasson community centre re-opens and we validate if they still have skate rentals
 - **Advent Mass & Social update** – December 5th at 7pm
 - Chair of St. Luke's has reached out... social will be in the parish hall again
 - **ACTION** – Council/ parents can request donations from local businesses (e.g., Tim Hortons, Starbucks, Metro, etc.). Once a local business is identified, please

contact the school office with the name of the contact person at the local business. The school office will prepare a formal request on school letterhead for you to provide the business

- We should have juice box and pre-packaged peanut free food items as an option for children with peanut allergies
- **VOTE** – \$200 to be set aside to cover treats, if we do not obtain donations
 - **Approved.** In Favour: A. Patola, N. Popova, A. Pronski, K. Zeljkovic, H. Jagiello, N. Sarin. Against: n/a

- **Playground Structures**

- Ms. McCann asked the Board and they confirmed they are firmly against installing new playground structures. Board has been removing playground structures once they deteriorate
- No new structures have been done that the Board is aware of

- **Gym Speaker Systems**

- Cost for an assessment of our speaker system is very high, so a friend of the school community whom is a musician will come by to take a look at it
- Star of the Sea had their whole sound system re-done in ~2018.
- **ACTION** – Ms. McCann will ask Father if someone can come take a look

- **School Survey/ Input** – a survey was completed by staff & students on what they would like the council funds to be used for. Summary:

- **Faith** – more days with Rosary Apostolate (3 different classes asked for this); musical things related to Faith
- **Learning** – more music, more music lessons; seating, tables & desks (different variety for learning); compost bins (last year there was a pilot project in Mississauga, St. James put their name forward but did not get picked)
 - **ACTION** – A. Pronski will email Councilor Dasko RE: compost pilot
 - **ACTION** – A. Patola will look into a music class idea
 - **ACTION** – a teacher is also looking into a drumming option
- **Technology** – headphones, etc.; more Edwins (Chrome Books are provided to Grade 7's & 8's; younger grades would like access to this program)
- **Playground** – more sports nets (e.g., basketball nets); balls to play with outside because indoor equipment can't go outside (e.g., soccer balls, bouncy balls, etc.); new logs for over by the sand pit and in the peace garden; asphalt painting re-done after the winter because the salt is very hard on it
 - Note – soccer net replacement is already underway (no funding required)
 - **ACTION** – Council to consider a natural playground (e.g., climbing board across tree stumps)
 - **ACTION** – E. Mayen will inquire about replacement tree stumps from a friend with a tree removal business
- **Common Areas** – more books for the library (voted by many classes); speakers for the gym; different types of seating
- **Mental Health** – fidget baskets in classrooms, study hall, more buddy benches, board games & puzzles, clubs for Yoga or strategies to help with mental health
 - **ACTION** – does anyone know a parent in the community that teaches Yoga and would be willing to come into the school?
- **Other** – more fun/spirit days, school musicals, school trips

- **OTHER BUSINESS**

- **Parent Engagement Event** – to use \$500 Board grant for youth/ parent engagement
 - **X Movement** is scheduled to come to the school from Nov 27-29th this year's program is called Becoming a Global Citizen, will see the kids once a day for 3 days in a row. Could also do a family engagement event like last year
 - School has 178 families, 245 kids that attend the school. Last year, ~50 people participated in our X Movement parent engagement event in Nov.
 - Past years had a good turnout in the Spring – we can maybe even host it outdoors or in the gym if needed
 - Ideas/ Options:
 - 1) **X Movement event**: evening with students & families
 - 2) **Anti-bullying Martial Arts event** (e.g. Red Bamboo). In 2018 we did an anti-bullying session with a program like this. Next week is Bullying prevention and there is another awareness week in the Spring
 - 3) **Yoga event** with students & parents
 - 4) **Family Fun Fair**
 - St. James has never done anything like this before
 - This would be a massive undertaking
 - In the past we did an Art show, we could get a catering truck or ice cream truck (Board would not allow a bouncy castle)
 - 5) **Movie Night**
 - **ACTION** – Council to discuss offline & put together a Google Survey to solicit feedback from the school community
 - **ACTION** – solicit school community volunteers for future events (e.g. school BBQ, Christmas concert, School Community events , etc.)
- **School Vandalism**
 - Students were upset about their art being destroyed, so wrote letters to the local neighbours asking them to 'keep an eye out for our school when we are not there'
 - Cameras were suggested, high schools are the only school in the Board that have them, no elementary schools do
 - **Question**: Could we get a visual deterrent (looks like a camera)
 - **ACTION** - Ms. McCann to ask the Board to ask if it is possible to purchase and install a deterrent
 - Unsure if council money could be put towards this as money raised is for the students
- **Christmas Concert & Marketplace** – Dec 19
 - **ACTION** - Are there any parents interested in helping to decorate the gym? - 3 volunteers so far, decorating will be done 1 to 2 days prior the event.
- **CSC Annual Report – Council activities, goals**
 - Summary of Achievements &/or activities being planned
 - Future goals
 - Needs to be submitted by end of November - needs input from council
- **Central Committee of Catholic School Councils**
 - St Francis Xavier SS - October 19 - Thank you to N. Popova for representing St James
 - School Council Training - virtual November 30, 7 pm
- **Teacher Appreciation Events**

- **Question:** Each yr some parents have organized a lunch for the teachers in December and June. They have always received many donations whether it be money to purchase food items or dishes made for pot luck lunch. Parent has asked if school council could help facilitate a bit and see if we could be a parent rep for the class our kids are attending to connect with parents on who can donate and when. They would like to control how many donations they receive, who helps, and ensure everyone has an opportunity to help as well. Parents will be allowed to choose which event they would like to help with, if available
 - **ACTION** - Council to discuss which grades we have covered between us and then reach out to see if the other grades have someone that can help coordinate with their class.

- **SCHOOL REPORT**
 - **Catholicity**
 - Pastoral Plan - posted to website
 - Rosary Apostolate - Oct. 18, Nov. 22, Dec. 13
 - Samantha - Youth Ministry - Nov. 1, Nov 29, Dec 14
 - Advent begins Dec. 3rd
 - Family Advent Mass - December 5
 - **Curriculum**
 - FDK
 - Both classes are working on their 2nd inquiry - Families and Traditions.
 - Exploring student's cultures, country flags, and what traditions and holidays they celebrate.
 - Also working on changes in the classroom and how to make things better and what they would like to create (classroom campsite was built and students are loving it).
 - Inquiry to finish off at the end of the year when then talk about Advent and Christmas.
 - MYP
 - In Design...
 - Year 1: Dream Bedroom. SOI: Designers can change form in order to adapt environments to their needs.
 - Year 2: My Board Game Design. SOI: Products can be analysed, improved, and developed in order to have a positive impact on human activity.
 - Year 3: Designing the Next Kool Shoe. SOI: Products can be developed and analyzed for their function and quality to improve effectiveness.
 - Year 3 - affirmation project scoping strategies with mental health, focusing on positive affirmations (religion and health) creating art pieces,
 - **Co-curriculum**
 - Cross Country - 3 athletes went to board meet
 - Student Council - meets weekly
 - Volleyball - Juniors are finished, attended pod tournament and boys lost final game, Intermediate mini tournament next week that St. James is hosting
 - ECO team meets weekly
 - Choir (Jr/Int) meets weekly

- Waterloo Math Contest 60 students participated today, results will be out in couple of yrs
- Camp Muskoka - Grade 6s were able to raise many funds from the hot dog and cookie days for their trip to Muskoka
- Yearbook has met and are already in design and create mode
- Facilities
 - Air Filters - continue to use
 - Fire Plan - approved and been approved, box located at front of school
 - Fire & Lockdown drills - have been completed
 - ShareLife Campaign - Staff have dress down days and in turn donate to Sharelife
- Other (***missed info on this, something about candidates teachers will be in daily, not sure if 5 week placement just finished or will be starting***)
 - Teacher candidates
 - 5 week placement
 - Parent/Teacher Conferences tomorrow
- Curriculum Cont'd
 - Progress Reports have gone out this week
 - Veteran's Week, Treaty Recognition Week was this week
 - Bullying Awareness & Prevention Nov. 21-25
 - Excursions - Playtown, Albion Orchards, Ontario Legislature
 - EQAO results - have been posted, available to the public
 - Primary - All results are above provincial average
 - Junior -Math results are down when compared to the Board, we outscored board and province in all 5 strands - not sure if this is correct*
 - 90% scored level 3 or 4 in financial literacy strand, 74% scored level 3 or 4 in algebra strand

Primary			Junior		
Percentage of participating students at or above the provincial standard (level 3 & 4)			Percentage of participating students at or above the provincial standard (level 3 & 4)		
Mathematics	Reading	Writing	Mathematics	Reading	Writing
86.4%	100%	86.4%	60%	96%	96%

- UPCOMING EVENTS
 - December 5 - Advent Mass - 7pm
 - December 19 - Christmas Concert - day and evening option
 - Santa visits - will include Santa having milk and cookies with students
 - Christmas break begins on December 25 - January 5
 - Last day of classes December 22nd, return back to school on January 8th, 2024
- MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING
 - Approved – A. Patola moved for approval & K. Zeljkovic seconded motion

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

- Wednesday February 7th, 2024
- Wednesday April 10th, 2024