

**PARENT SCHOOL COUNCIL 2023/2024
MEETING MINUTES FROM Oct 5, 2023**

In attendance:

- **St. James Staff:** M. McCann (Principal), A. Litster (Secretary), J. Roy (teacher rep), S. Kelenc (teacher rep), R. Johnson (non-teacher rep)
- **2022/2023 Council:** A. Cunanan (Co-Chair), A. Pronski (Secretary), K. Zeljkovic (Treasurer), T. Morris (OAPCE), N. Sarin (Parent Rep), H. Jagiello (Parent Rep)
- **2023/2024 Council:** N. Popova (Co-Chair), A. Pronski (Co-Secretary), K. Zeljkovic (Co-Secretary), H. Jagiello (Treasurer), T. Morris (OAPCE), N. Sarin (Parent Rep), J. Bird (Parent Rep), V. Arulsundaram (Parent Rep)
- **Parents:** Amanda Bujdos, Lyda Ramero, Maria Mercurio, Ephaim DelRosario, Naven Nano, Chris S, Tracy Chan, Effie Raposo
- **Regrets:** A. Patola (Co-Chair), E. Mayen (Parent Rep)

AGENDA ITEMS

1. WELCOME – M. CLOUTIER MCCANN
2. OPENING PRAYER – A.CUNANAN
3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – RECORDING
4. APPROVAL OF APRIL 13 MEETING MINUTES
 - Approved – A. Pronski moved for approval & K. Zeljkovic seconded motion
5. PREVIOUS BUSINESS
 - Mabel’s Labels – reminder was in the October newsletter and will remain in each newsletter going forward, raises a modest amount for Council Fundraising.
 - Lunch Lady – continued to offer this as a lunch time option this school year; good percentage of students ordering.
 - Sensory Pathway – council supported funding a sensory pathway at the final April meeting last year. It has been on hold due to a fire regulation certificate the company is waiting for. It will happen, just delayed.
6. REPORTS
 - FINANCIAL REPORT – K. Zeljkovic

Balance Reported Apr 13, 2023	\$8,362.59 (March bank statement)
Deposits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lunch Lady • Mabel Labels • School Donation 	+ \$522.04
Withdrawals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First communion celebration • Chromebooks, Eco Team • Tree hugger bench, Palm Sunday crosses, library, grad tree 	-\$353.60 -\$1,454.00 -\$3,123.94

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awards • Bank Fees 	-\$400.02 -\$29.70
Commitments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensory Pathway (\$1,000) on hold • Student Agendas (\$749.98) 	
Available Funds	\$ 1,773.19

- OAPCE
 - 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/>

7. 2022-2023 COUNCIL DISSOLVED

8. INTRODUCTION OF 2023-2024 ACCLAIMED MEMBERS

- Vishnuka Arulsundaram
 - Tina Morris
 - Erick Mayen
 - Nina Popova
 - Kristin Zeljkovic
 - Jason Bird
 - Heather Jagiello
 - Adam Patola
 - Neil Sarin
 - Amber Pronski
- Appointment of Member Roles:
 - Chair/ Co-chair – **Adam Patola and Nina Popova**
 - Overall leadership of the council & coordination with school leadership
 - Secretary – **Kristin Zeljkovic and Amber Pronski**
 - Takes minutes of the meeting, shares them with council & school to be posted to the school website. They are approved at the following meeting
 - Treasurer – **Heather Jagiello**
 - Ms. Lister prepares statements, treasurer reviews & signs off
 - Community Representative – **To be filled**
 - Brings community information to Council meetings
 - Parish Representative – **To be filled**
 - Attends St. Mary's Star of the Sea and keeps Council abreast of any relevant information
 - Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education Representative (OAPCE) – **Tina Morris**
 - Brings information to Council meetings for OAPCE

9. AGENDA PROPOSAL & APPROVAL

- Approved – A. Pronski moved for approval & K. Zeljkovic seconded motion

10. MEETING DATES

- Thursday October 5th, 2023
- Wednesday November 15th, 2023
- Wednesday February 7th, 2024
- Wednesday April 10th, 2024

11. COUNCIL PRIORITIES

- Grant
 - Every year, \$500 is granted to the school council by the board. These funds are to be used for community engagement (parents or parents & students)
 - Ideas from last year to consider:
 - Speaker to help parents address racism with their children
 - Family skating night, ideally during the week of Carnival (Feb. 5th – 9th)
 - **Action:** Adam & Amber to look into the possibility of renting a skating arena, last year this proved to be very difficult with construction at several local arenas.
- Annual fundraiser
 - For several years St. James has had the practice of doing a one-time donation fundraiser at the beginning of the school year
 - Participation is optional, \$50/ child is recommended, donating individual gets a tax receipt for their charitable donation, email to parents must list the types of “items” the school council will look to fund with the proceeds raised.
 - Decision to leverage last years letter, plus add a few open ended items (e.g., technology, speaker system, outdoor learning/ play structure/ chalk board, etc.)
 - **Action:** Ms. McCann will circulate letter from last year so we can review and add any necessary language. It then will be shared with the Board for their approval before being distributed to parents
 - **Action:** Ms. McCann will email all School Council members asking for their permission to share their cell phone number with other Council members for communication purposes (such as this letter)
 - We will try to send fundraising request to parents in October this year. Last year it went out in November which may have contributed to the lower participation
 - **VOTE:** majority in favour, no parents against. Support from: Heather, Nina, Amber, MDR, Tina, Amanda, Kristin, Neil, and Vishnuka

12. NEW BUSINESS

- October 19th – Central committee of catholic school councils meeting (chairs attend)
- Dec 5th (7pm) – St. Mary Star of the Sea Family Advent Mass & Social
 - St. James & St. Luke Councils worked together to host this... Father Michael is doing the family advent mass – there will be a blessing outside, mass inside and then a social in the basement (hosted by the two Parent Councils).
 - Councils from the two school to connect & coordinate coffee, juice, snacks, etc.
- Transition to Secondary School meetings

- Oct 19– St. Francis Xavier SS
- Nov 8 – St. Paul & St. Martin

13. CATHOLICITY

- Rosary Apostolate
- Sacraments
 - Sep 30 – First Communion Parent Meeting
 - Oct 4 – Confirmation Parent Meeting
- Oct 4 – School Liturgy of the Word
- Dec 5 – Family Advent Mass
- Pastoral Plan

14. CURRICULUM

- FDK (JK/SK) – who I am, name feelings and tools to help kids with their feelings. Co-constructed classroom agreement (e.g., kindness)
- MYP (Gr 6-8) – classroom agreement (e.g., how everyone wants to feel included and how we should be treating each other). Truth & reconciliation literature. Students are in charge of the Faith assembly, they wanted to pull in all of the virtues and how we should be treating indigenous people through the lens of the virtues (poster visuals shared)

15. CO-CURRICULUM

- Book Drive – 12 boxes of books, more than last year!
- Food Drive – 15-20 boxes of food, outpouring of support is amazing to see!
- Athletics
 - Cross Country (Oct 13 – Mississauga East meet; top 2-3 athletes will go onto Board meet the following week)
 - Junior volleyball (Gr. 4,5,6)
 - Instead of after school play, one night per week for several weeks. It is 'pod play' which is during 1 day, round robin style. If we win, then we go onto a family tournament. This approach is easier for staff, students & family scheduling
- Student Council – started
- ECO team – started
- Choir – will get started in the next few weeks
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16. FACILITIES

- Fire Drills
- Lockdown drill
- No dog on school property signs – now posted
- Vandalism – still several windows boarded up. This occurred at many school prior to the school year commencing
 - Someone came to review school premises, fence & access points to the school property. They said everything looked good and there were no further preventions they suggested. perspective to , fences, etc. to help try to reduce the vandalism.

17. OTHER

- Picture Day – Oct 17

- Teacher candidates – lucky to have 7 teacher candidates at St. James in FDK to Grade 5
- Secondary school info

18. QUESTIONS

- Do we ever ask local businesses to do donations for the school?
 - Yes. Metro, Loblaws, Starbucks, Tim's etc., for items for the
 - The school has a letter template we can leverage on school letterhead

19. MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING (@ 7:35pm)

- Approved – A. Pronski moved for approval & K. Zeljkovic seconded motion

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

- Wednesday November 15th, 2023
- Wednesday February 7th, 2024
- Wednesday April 10th, 2024