

St Catherine of Siena School Council Meeting Minutes
November 3rd 2022 – 6:30pm

Mr. Scicluna

Opening Prayers
Land Acknowledgement

Mr. Scicluna & Diana

Welcome

Mr. Scicluna

Principals report

Re-Organization:

- We had to re-organize classes in Gr 1-4, which effected about 50 students.
- Kept the same number of classrooms, just they were redistributed to keep with board mandated caps. For example, we had 2 straight grade 1 classrooms, that became a one gr. 1 and 1 gr. 1/2
- Student population 440 students

Secretary:

- We had 1.5 secretaries, and then we lost our .5, thus were at 1.0 in secretaries September. On September 19 our head secretary of over 31 years informed us of her intent to retire on Sept. 30. We had been with a temp secretary up until this past Monday, and we welcome Mrs. Cantore back.

Faith:

- Opening of the Year school Mass (Sept. 26)
- 1st Communion/Confirmation – email sent to Gr. 2 and 7 parents from the school/church.
- Orange Shirt Day (Outdoor assembly and new school Land Acknowledgement)
- Virtue Assemblies – monthly with the entire school
- Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations

Wellness Pieces:

- Start 2 Finish
- Conversation Club
- Breakfast Club
- In-School Mentoring

- Silent Mentoring
- Conflict Resolution (WITS, I Messages, 4 Part Apology, and THINK)
- Signage Around the School – done in the summer
- Siena Awards
- New Recess schedule – splitting the school in half (top floor/bottom floor)

Morning Entry:

- Staggered entry at 8:45am allows a quicker start to the day
- Asking the students to line up and ensuring the first-floor students enter the school before the older kids has allowed a smoother entrance.

Emergency Procedures:

- We had three Fire Drills and one Lockdown drill. We also had a ‘real’ fire alarm that happen during lunch one day (someone doing work in the building set-off) which allowed us to uncover potential concerns.

Communication:

- Continue with Newsletter via Sway and more use of School Messenger (call, email and TEXT)

Open House

- Ice Cream Truck was a success and kids and parents were excited to visit teachers and the classrooms

Thanksgiving Food Drive:

- Very successful
- Some parents did not receive communication about the drive happening, dates etc. so the school will ensure these drives are announced over the school messenger or email as well
- We hope to continue doing these food drives throughout the year not just during special times.

Halloween Dance / Terry Fox Walk:

- All students were excited to have the Halloween party to dress up and spend time with friends that are in other classes
- Students were able to purchase snacks (Chips) which was a hit

Athletics:

- Cross Country, Volleyball and Soccer
- Pods over regular season games

Clothing giveaway

- Will take place sometime in April/May
- Winter Coat Giveaway will also happen next month

School Photography

- September 27th
- Re-Take December 5th at 9am

Progress Report Card:

- Tuesday, November 15 - Progress reports will be sent home (hard copy)
- Thursday, November 17 – Parent teacher interviews in the evening
- Email with a link will be sent out for parents to schedule an interview with a teacher and a letter will be sent home from the teacher in the event they would like to request an interview with the parents of a student

CCAT Testing

- Oct. 27 – Gr. 4

In School and After School Tutoring

- In school gr. K-2, and after is 3-8

Staff PD Focus

- Descriptive Feedback, Equity, Heggerty Phonemic Language Lessons

Literacy:

- primary using Hagerty resource
- reading recovery
- an additional teacher trained on empower
- continuing with Lexia
- SERTs will be pulling reading groups

Scientists in the School

- A workshop will take place in every class/ all grades

Christmas Baskets

- Last year we asked Siena families to donate gift cards (For Walmart, Grocery stores etc.) that would be gifted to families in need. We will be doing this again this holiday season.

Diana & Council Open Discussion

Fundraising/ Community Gatherings and Holiday week ideas:

- Holiday craft night (Gingerbread house building/ Crafts etc.)
- Holiday spirit week December 12th-16th
- Candy cane and cookie sales
- Parent engagement night
- Movie night (at the school)
- Pizza days will also start soon throughout the year

Parking Lot Pick up and drop off

- It has been brought to our attention that there are safety concerns with students and parents walking on the south side of the school/church parking lot. As well as parents double parking in areas.
- We are working together with our church to come up with a possible solution and will be sending out more info accordingly.

Diana

OAPCE meeting notes

- Parents 4 Parents Press newsletter is sent out monthly and is full of valuable information the newest copy can be viewed [HERE](#) or add yourself to the mailing list by clicking on the following link <http://eepurl.com/qiQz0P>
- Recently prior to municipal elections reminders were provided to ensure guardians are registered as English Separate School Supporters on municipal property tax designations. Discussion ensued about election. Some parents discovered they were not showing as English Separate. Some changed at voting day, some had issues. Topic is tabled for OAPCE Regional directors to bring up at the next OAPCE provincial meeting. This is an ongoing issue, and we will also seek additional information from trustees. For now, it is important to review the handout from the school board and their information page and share with parents and family members that wish to show support for Catholic Education in Ontario.
DPCDSB - Direction of School Support Are You Ticked? brochure
<https://www3.dpcdsb.org/schools/direction-of-school-support>
- Review of September 30th OAPCE board presentations. Great information available on the OAPCE Website as well as in the meeting notes (also on the site)

Mr. Scicluna

Closing prayers

