



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MINUTES OF THE SAINT MICHAEL CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

November 27, 2024
SAINT MICHAEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Saint Michael Catholic School Council, held on November 27, 2024 at

6:00 pm. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Mary Karagiannis and Nancy Gauthier.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer and Land Acknowledgement

Led by Mr. Stranges and Immanuel Emaryeo

2. Roll Call

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP		Present	Excused	Absent
Principal/Vice-Principal	Lou Stranges (P) Monique Mastroianni (VP)	*	*	
Secretary	Gabriella Griffiths	*		
Chair	Mary Karagiannis	*		
Co-Chair(s)	Nancy Gauthier	*		
Teacher Representative	Mark Casburn	*		
Non-Teaching Representative	Dahlia Brannigan		*	
Student Representative	Paulina Labarta Immanuel Emaryeo	*	*	
Parish Representative	Anna Racine	*		
OAPCE Representative	Stephanie Wybrew		*	
PARENT/GUARDIAN MEMBERS				
Donna Lucisano			*	
Aaron Dobbie			*	
Rebekah Donovan			*	
Peter Plaschka		*		
Nicole Jones		*		
Laura Thomas		*		
Antoinette Bordin		*		
Feng Shi				*
Miya Huang				*
Judy Wambulwa				*
Charles Wambulwa				*

Veronica Lambarta		*	
Pedro Lambarta		*	
Dr. Ese Oriaifo			*
Denise Porter			*
Jeremy Porter			*

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Gabriella Griffiths

Seconded by Anna Racine

THAT the Saint Michael Catholic School Council approve the Agenda of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Catholic School Council Meeting of November 27, 2024.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Conflict Interest

No disclosures of conflict of interest were declared with any items on the agenda.

5. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Laura Thomas

Seconded by Antoinette Bordin

THAT Saint Michael Catholic High School Catholic School Council approve the Minutes of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Catholic School Council Meeting of Wednesday, September 25, 2024 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS There were no presentations.

C. POLICIES FOR VETTING-FEEDBACK None to report.

D. REPORTS

Student Report (Immanuel Emaryeo)

Recap of recent events: Thursday October 17th marked our first MRC out of uniform day. We also invited many food trucks to come during the lunches such as Johnny Rocco's, Korean Food Truck, Cool Licks, and Cool Jim's. It was a great way to get into the fall spirit, relax out of uniform for students and enjoy their time at school. We also had some outdoor games for students to enjoy and music provided by house band members. Overall this event was a great success, and I'm excited for it in the future. October also marked the Halloween season here at Saint Michael's. Our Halloweek festivities were a fun way to kick off the Halloween season. Some of the best highlights from the week were the Hot Chocolate Bar where we sold hot chocolate with different toppings and Halloween cookies; and the Costume Contests where each grade level was judged for best solo and group costumes. It's always a really fun time of year and it was nice to put our spin on things! More recently, Student Council collaborated with the Rec and Leadership class to bring our first ever Retro Doubles' Ping Pong Tournament! Teams of 2 competed during each of their lunches in an elimination tournament where each team competed for their chance of victory! The winning team received a Door Dash lunch. This event went extremely well and we had some more student involvement and friendly competition with this fun tournament

Moving on onto what we have planned next, let's get into the Christmas season! As some of you may have already seen, the atrium is decked out with Christmas decorations and our amazing (and might I add real) Christmas tree. Yesterday, Student Council helped set up for the Christmas season here at Saint Mike's. We stayed to help decorate the school as well as wrap all of our Christmas gifts for our MRC Christmas Countdown, which we are happy to have again this year. Each day of December leading up to the Christmas Break, Student Council will be giving away Christmas gifts to our MRC members! One lucky winner will be

selected each day for their chance to win some holiday goodies such as a hot chocolate set and mug, gift baskets, a free Tim's run, or a pizza party for 5 friends! It is always a big success and I'm sure it will be once again! This brings us towards the end of December where we have many things planned for the last week before Christmas Break! Not only do we have a spirit week planned with themed days for each day, we have fun activities planned as well! Monday, December 16th, the spirit wear is Christmas accessories (hats, antlers, headbands, socks), and our lunch activity is a Christmas Kahoot. Tuesday, the 17th, is Ugly Christmas Sweater day with "Pass the Parcel" as the activity planned! Wednesday, December 18th is Red, Green, & White shirt day (with face paint by Student Council) as well as a classic game of Musical Chairs. Thursday, the 19th, is Pyjama pants day, with the lunch activity being a Hot Chocolate Bar! Friday, December 20th, is our out of uniform day! Students are encouraged to dress up in festive clothing or characters. Our 'Mustangs Got Talent' show will be taking place, along with other fun activities planned in our Christmas Assembly!

Mr. Stranges informed the group that Paulina was absent because she was receiving an award from the City of Niagara Falls for Volunteer of the Year!

NCPIC Report (Laura Thomas)

- Catholic School Council Chairs were invited to the meeting on November 7th so Mary and Gabriella attended
- Presentation about mental health initiatives and resources within the Board
- Presentation from Public Health regarding vaccines and other preventative measures to reduce the spread of illnesses
- Mary provided a copy of the entire meeting to the Council through an email

Parish Report (Anna Racine)

- Socials continue taking place in the church hall the first Sunday of each month; gathering of parishioners; Anna commented on the increase number of newcomers to Niagara taking part
- Father Phil continues to assist Father Matthew
- Children's Liturgy will be performing at the Christmas Eve mass
- Youth Night at the end of September; about 25 participants; faith discussion and games; Christmas movie night coming up; targeting students in grades 7-12
- Advent begins this weekend
- Angel Tree in foyer; donations go to Project Share

Staff Report (Mark Casburn)

Athletics

- Golf season wrapped up. They had a great season where a number of golfers went on to SOSSA.
- Senior Boys Basketball has just started. In the opening tournament, they won first their two games but lost in the Tip Off Semi-finals. Season continues
- Junior Boys Basketball season has started.
- Varsity Girls hockey tryouts have happened and the first tournament is this week. It is our very own Saint Michael Invitational tournament.
- Junior Boys Volleyball had a good season and won the NCAA championship
- Senior Boys Volleyball lost a heartbreaker in the finals of the NCAA zone championship.
- Curling season has started. They are looking to defend their Zone Championship and SOSSA Finalist.
- Junior Girls Basketball season has ended. Good things are to come for next year.
- Senior Girls Basketball season ended in the Zone Semi Finals.
- Senior and Junior Girls Volleyball seasons have started.
- Swim team season has started. First meet has occurred.
- Varsity Boys Hockey tryouts and season has started. They are participating in the D.M. Mayler tournament.
- Junior and Senior Girls Flag football teams season ended in the Niagara Regional Tournament. Juniors lost in the quarter-finals to our own Seniors team who then lost to a strong Hamilton team in the finals. The Senior Girls team went to the semi-finals of NCAA.

Clubs/Activities/Special Events

- Special Education class and families will be taking a bus and seeing our Festival of Lights on December 19th.
- STM Italy trip meeting taking place tomorrow night.
- School Reach tryouts are starting as they will be competing against our sister schools in trivia.

- Project Plaid Day initiatives have started and will culminate on Thursday Nov 28th. These activities have been organized by Ms. Starks and the Wellness Club, which continues to offer a variety of initiatives.
- Technovation Girls Coding Program organized at lunch by Ms. Starks.
- Mustang Music is getting ready for our annual Christmas Roadshow and Concert as well as having regular band and choir practices.
- University/College Presentations are continuing for grade 12s.
- Grad photo bookings have started.
- Key Club initiatives are going strong including holding an art exhibit at school.
- Table Tennis tournament was organized by Mr. Antonelli's Leadership Class.
- STM Dance team continuing to practice.
- Grade 8 Day was held on Friday November 15th to welcome our future Mustangs from our Family of Schools.
- Fall sessions for the Literacy Test have taken place.
- Santa Clause Parade took place on Saturday Nov 16th. Fantastic involvement by the Arts and Tech department as well as all of our students.
- Math Mavericks has continued and Mathletes club has started.
- Grade 11 French Class and Grade 10 Culinary Class participated in a trip to Toronto's St. Lawrence Market.
- Remembrance Day ceremony was organized by Mrs. Chmiel and Mme. Lambert and their committee of students.
- Proficiency Awards took place on Thursday November 7th. Congratulations to all of the recipients who were rewarded with a breakfast cooked by our culinary class.
- SHSM tour of Niagara Parks Power Station took place on November 7th. A Niagara College culinary trip will be occurring soon.
- Chess club and board games clubs have started
- Art Club continuing their events. Last one was Pumpkin painting and the next one is black light art.

Principal's Report (Mr. Stranges)

We are now well into the 2nd half of Semester One classes! Midterm reports have been available on the Parent Portal since November 14th and we held our Parent – Teacher interviews on Nov. 21st. The interview night was very well attended which shows the parent community is well connected to their children's education here at Saint Michael.

****Mr. Stranges asked for feedback. All was positive.**

During the week of November 18th, STM recognized Bullying Awareness Week. We had several activities, announcements and Social Media posts throughout the week. Some activities included:

-Period 1 Art classes created positive sidewalk chalk messages (outside main entrance).

-Our Wellness Club created "Be The "I" in KIND" activity; Students and staff were able to pose for pictures in front of the BE KIND banner.

-On Wed., Nov. 20th, Staff and students wore pink shirts to raise awareness in respecting differences, inclusion and kindness.

- Saint Michael had a first visit from our Therapy Tails furry visitors on the 21st. Hoping to have them in once a month to help with anxiety issues.

Preparations have begun for the end of semester final exams and culminating final assignments. The January final exam schedule will be provided to students and families during the week of December 16th. Of note, the Gr. 9 Math exams will be written during class time to accommodate the writing of the Gr. 9 EQAO Math assessment. Our Gr. 10 English classes and Gr. 11/12 re-writers will be finishing up the fall session of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test at the end of this week. Participating students complete sections over 2 days. Results from the 2023/2024 EQAO and Literacy Test have been revealed. St. Michael has performed above Board and Provincial averages.

Our Christmas Basket campaign will begin next week with the start of the Advent season. Plans are in place to support many families in our school community. Father Philip from St. Thomas More will be here on Dec. 5th to celebrate our Advent Mass. Father Philip will be visiting Gr. 9 classes in preparation for Reconciliation on Dec. 12th.

Over the last several months, many college and university representatives have been at the school meeting with prospective students about post-secondary options. The deadline for college application is on Feb. 1, 2025 and the deadline for university applications is on January 15, 2025.

Saint Michael will be starting an Advanced Placement (AP) Program in the 2025-26 school year. AP is an exciting initiative that promises to enhance the academic rigor and opportunities available to students. This program will allow students to engage in college/university coursework and earn post secondary credits while still in high school, providing them with a competitive edge in post admissions. Starting in September 2025, STM will be offering AP Prep courses in English, Geography, Science and Mathematics. An AP parent information night for Gr. 8 families will be held on Thursday, Dec. 5th @ 6:30pm. Schools that have established AP programs have proven to support students in developing critical thinking, problem-solving, and time management skills, which are essential for success beyond high school. AP training sessions for staff will begin in the spring of 2025.

The enrolment of the school continues to increase; the student enrolment is now just over 1200 students. We expect the enrolment to increase over the next several years. 2 more portables are expected to arrive on site in February. As well, the school board will be submitting a request to the Ministry for a capital expansion in the spring. Once the Ministry gives approval, board will work on a design with selected engineers.

****Special Presentation (Laura Thomas)**

- Laura participated in an Accessibility Committee which included a presentation on Cyber Bullying
- Copies of the information provided to parents was distributed to Council members
- Mr. Stranges noted that Paul Davis will be at St. Michael on December 4th to talk to Grade 9s and 10s about the same subject (online safety and cyber bullying)

E. OAPCE REPORTS (Stephanie Wybrew)

- Stephanie was absent so no report was presented.

F. AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Parent Engagement Funds/Speaker Update: Laura is still trying to get information from Darcy Patrick. She also said she would reach out to Dan Giancola to determine if he had any talks geared towards teen age group. Need to apply to get the extra \$1000.
- Graduation Information: Ceremony will be June 25th. Will be announced in the new year. Grad luncheon will be June 12th. Grad retreats in May.
- SHSM Information: 8 Specific Sectors; courses, co-ops, experiences and certification. Experiences could include field trip, certification, guest speaker, and/or workshop. Arts and Culture Sector going to art galleries and university. Hospitality and Tourism Sector going to Eataly Workshop in Toronto. Health and Wellness Sector going to Brock. Outdoor learning space created by Horticulture and Construction SHSM students. Representative from Techobloc gave a workshop on how to lay pavement stones. Student Services Department will be interviewing Grade 11 students to try to get them into one of the SHSM sectors if it will fit their schedules. Co Op is the hurdle for most. That can be worked into hours outside of the school day. Councillors will help accommodate students so that they can get the benefits associated with the program (red seal on diploma, good to put on resume when applying for scholarships, Brock University and Niagara College offer bursaries).

G. NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday, February 26, 2025 @ 6:00 pm

H. CLOSING PRAYER (Mr. Stranges)

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Gabriella Griffiths

Seconded by Anna Racine

THAT the November 27, 2024 meeting of the Saint Michael Catholic School Council be adjourned.

CARRIED

