



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

**MINUTES OF THE
SAINT MICHAEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CATHOLIC
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**

**November 29, 2023
SAINT MICHAEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Saint Michael Catholic School Council, held on November 28th at 6:00pm. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mary Karagiannis and Nancy Gauthier.

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was sent in by Dahlia Brannigan

2. Roll Call

CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP		Present	Excused	Absent
Principal/Vice-Principal	Lou Stranges (P) Monique Mastroianni (VP)	*		
Secretary/Treasurer	Gabriella Griffiths (Secretary)			
Chair	Mary Karagiannis	*		
Co-Chair	Nancy Gauthier	*		
Teacher Representative	Mark Casburn		*	
Non-Teaching Representative	Dahlia Brannigan		*	
Student Representatives	Paulina Labarta	*		
	Francesca Cavezza	*		
Parish Representative	Anna Racine	*		
Community Representative				
OAPCE Representative	Stephanie Wybrew	*		
PARENT/GUARDIAN MEMBERS				
	Lidia Romeo	*		
	Joanna Perri	*		
	Isabell Camillo	*		
	Zahara Begum Tamiz		*	
	Amie Malvaso		*	
	Laura Thomas		*	
	Julia Alarcon			*

Charles Gammerl		*
Abdul Tamil		*

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by Anna Racine

Seconded by Lidia Romeo

THAT the Saint Michael Catholic High School Catholic School Council approve the Agenda of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Catholic School Council Meeting of Wednesday, November 29, 2023.

CARRIED

4. Disclosure of Conflict Interest

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

5. Approval of Minutes of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Catholic School Council Meeting of Thursday, September 28, 2023

Moved by Isabell Camillo

Seconded by Nancy Gauthier

THAT Saint Michael Catholic High School Catholic School Council approve the Minutes of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Catholic School Council Meeting of Thursday, September 28, 2023 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS

Parish Rep Report (Anna Racine)

DONATION OF COATS, MITTS, GLOVES, HATS AND SCARVES

Bring new or gently used items to the foyer of the Church Hall to be donated to those in need. There are bins and hangers in the closet area.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

Pick an angel from the tree in the front foyer. Bring your unwrapped gift and place it under the tree. Gifts will be collected from now until December 18, 2023. They will then be delivered to Project Share. Any questions, please call Rosemary Gizzie at 905-380-8040

**Anna will inquire about wrapping opportunities for students.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Vocal instruction and rehearsals are being held on Mondays from 5-6 pm in the choir loft. Contact Maureen Chamberlain (Parish Director of Music) at Musicstthomas@cogeco.net for more information.

ST.VINCENT de PAUL NEEDS HELP

If every family could donate a loonie or toonie every Sunday in the SSVP boxes (one is located in the front foyer of the church and another at the side door), we are sure we will be able to continue helping people in need of an "emergency" food voucher.

COFFEE SOCIAL

First Sunday of the month is coffee social in the Hall after 9:00 and 11:00 masses.

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PLAY

Being performed again on December 24th, prior to the 5:00 Mass. Open to children ages 4 and up. Practices will begin on November 19th, 2023. Flyers are in the front foyer of the church with practice dates. If interested, contact Anna Racine at 905-358-3412; rracine37@cogeco.ca. **Volunteer opportunity for students to help supervise.

ADVENT

Begins this Sunday

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Christmas Eve 5:00 and midnight

Christmas Day 8:00, 10:00 and 12:00

New Year's Eve 5:00

New Year's Day 9:00 and 11:00

Discussed how we can get more families to church. Possibly having students do readings and other parts of mass to get them involved. Anna will share volunteer opportunities with Lou to increase involvement as well.

C. POLICIES FOR VETTING-FEEDBACK

D. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

1. Student Report (Francesca Cavezza, Paulina Labarta)

Hello everyone, it's great to see you all again! In case you forgot, I am Francesca Cavezza and alongside me is Paulina Labarta, representing our student body as the president and vice-president of STM student council!

We'd like to begin by recapping last month's events and the student's response. Our MRC sales were successful, and we've had many events and giveaways for card holders since. This includes our random cookie and chips giveaway and the gaming truck prize, which all seemed to go over well with the students!

We also had an incredible turnout at the Halloween Dance with over 200 students attending. With the help of our three newly elected grade 9 representatives, we saw an increase in junior involvement within the school, creating lifelong memories in the process.

The new Mustang Range has received nothing but positive feedback from students as well! Just to reiterate, our Mustang Range is available to the "Mustang of the Month" for the first two weeks of each month and a randomly drawn MRC winner for the last two weeks.

As you may have seen when coming in today, we have been changing gears and preparing for the upcoming season! Student council has adorned the atrium with a real Christmas tree, hoping to set the comforting holiday ambiance.

I will now pass it on to Paulina to cover all the upcoming events our council has thoroughly prepared!

Throughout December we are hosting our annual Christmas countdown of MRC giveaways. Each day, one MRC member will be drawn from a raffle to receive a hand-picked gift! These can vary from squishmallows, holiday games, bath and body works products and more! Alongside, our council diligently put together three "burr" baskets as larger prizes, which include all essential basket items: treats, a candle, blanket hoodie and more!

Apart from this, we are hosting student's favourite lunch activities on each Thursday of the month. This includes our beloved musical chairs, Christmas karaoke and a hot chocolate bar sale. In the last week of the month we've planned a Spirit Week comprising various dress-themed days: ugly Christmas sweater, dress as a Christmas movie character and more.

We also brought back our annual door decorating contest and introduced our first ornament making contest. Anyone is encouraged and welcome to form a team with friends and purchase an ornament making kit on school cash online to hand in by next Monday. All ornaments will also be put on display on our tree in the atrium.

Student council is also in the process of planning a Christmas assembly on the last day before the winter break. This will allow various clubs, such as our band, dance, trivia, film club and more, to come together and execute a Christmas-themed and fun-filled event for students to participate in and enjoy.

As you can see we have a busy month ahead of us and we are excited to present our various events to our student body to enjoy the joyful season!

We'd like to thank everyone for your time and attention. If anyone has any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Francesca and I are more than happy to provide answers!

Winter semi formal - February 8, venue location is yet to be determined

2. Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (NCPIC) Report (Laura Thomas)

- Laura was absent but Lidia Romeo shared a summary of the meeting she, Mary and Laura attended on November 2, 2023 at the Board Office. Parent Council Chairs, NCPIC members, Principals and Trustees were in attendance. Presentations included Principal Reports (Elementary and Secondary), Trustee Reports, EQAO Math scores for elementary students. Mary forwarded the slideshow presentation from that night for anyone who is interested. Meetings are every 2 months.

3. Staff Report (Mark Casburn, presented by Monique Mastroianni)

- Fall sports have wrapped up. These include Boys Volleyball, Tennis, Golf, Boys Football, Cross Country, Rowing, and girls Basketball. Some highlights include:
- Senior Boys Volleyball won NCAA zone AAA and went to SOSSA
- Junior Boys Volleyball won NCAA zone AAA and went to SOSSA
- Junior Girls Basketball won NCAA zone AAA and went to SOSSA
- Varsity Boys Football went to Semi Final in SOSSA
- Curling, Swimming, Junior Girls Volleyball, Senior Girls Volleyball, Boys Varsity Hockey, Girls Varsity Hockey, Senior Boys Basketball and Junior Boys Basketball are well underway.
- The Drama program is continuing working on an "Alice" play which will be performed in the Spring.
- Key club, Art club, Book club, Chaplain's crew, Eco Club, Indigenous Education club, SHSM activities, Film club, Music House band, Music Choir, Tech club are going well and are continuing on throughout the year.
- Mathletes, Reach for the Top, Dance Team, Dance Club, Film Club and Wellness Club have started their seasons.

- Our Christmas Music Travelling Road Show will be visiting our four Family of Schools on December 12th and December 13th. A special night time performance at Saint Michael will be happening the night of December 13th. Tickets will be \$5.

4. Principal Report (Lou Stranges)

We have passed the Midterm point of Semester 1. It has been an action packed start to the school year with so many activities and events that bring so much energy and life to the school. So many memories have already been created over the last few months.

On Wednesday, October 25th our annual Pilgrimage campaign culminated with our Pilgrimage Mass and Walk. Our school community raised over \$14000 to support our brothers and sisters in Rwanda. Over 350 students participated in Pilgrimage 2023 – with the walk starting at Saint Michael and having mass at St. Thomas More Church and making the walk back to the school. Special thanks to the many donors, staff, parents, volunteers and Father Sojan and Father Matthew who supported our mission.

Midterm reports were made available on the Parent Portal on November 16th. Parent – Teacher Interviews were held on Wed. Nov. 22nd from 3:30 – 6:30 pm. The Parent-Teacher Interview night was certainly well attended, however, parents and guardians are encouraged to stay connected to their child’s teacher for the remainder of the semester.

Gr. 8 Day was held on Nov. 17th. Gr. 8 students from our 4 feeder schools visited Saint Michael. Staff and students were able to showcase the elective courses as well as demonstrate some science based experiments. After cycling through some classrooms, the Gr. 8s gathered in the gymnasium for some interactive games and activities led by Athletic Council. We are looking forward to welcoming our future Mustangs and families back to Saint Michael on January 17th, 2024 for our Gr. 8 Open House.

As we approach the Advent season, we are gearing up for Christmas Basket Campaign. It is our school’s opportunity to make a difference in our local community. Our Advent Masses are scheduled for Dec. 7th. Our talented musicians led by Mr. Mancuso and Mr. De Angelis will be traveling to our feeder schools for a Christmas Roadshow in a couple weeks. The traveling Roadshow will be at 2 schools on the 12th and 2 shows on the 13th. There will be an evening performance in the evening on Dec. 13th. On Saturday, Nov. 18th, Saint Michael was well represented at the annual Santa Claus Parade. Our float included a Charlie Brown Christmas Display created by our Art and Construction students, as well as the STM House Band rocking to some Christmas favourites. Our entry was led by Piper Nolan Flynn, followed by cast and crew of STM’s performance of Alice, while our energetic cheerleaders followed our float. Special thank you to Stephenson Rental for their donation of 2 generators and Walker Industries for the donation of the flatbed truck!

Over the last couple months, representatives from Universities and colleges have been visiting the school making presentations to interested graduating students. Some students (depending on the program entrance requirements) have received early acceptance. The application deadline to Ontario University application center is January 15 and the deadline for OCAS is February 1.

The Graduation Ceremony is scheduled for June 26th @ 6pm at Central Community Center on York Road in Niagara on the Lake. The Graduation Prom has been set for June 6th @ John Michael’s Banquet Hall. Pegasus has set up appointment times for Grad

Photos from Dec. 11th – Dec 22nd. Grads have been encouraged to book appointment times asap via the online booking. These photos will make up the 2024 Grad Composite.

We are finalizing the exam schedule for semester 1. The final exam schedule will be made available to families before the Christmas Break. There will be some classes that do not have a final exam. Students that do not have an exam will not need to attend school on that day. There will not be cafeteria service during the exam period. There will be regular bus transportation during the exam period. Exams will be pushed forward 1 day if schools are closed or transportation is cancelled due to the weather.

Discussed using the Parent Engagement Fund (\$500 plus applied for an additional \$1000) to host guest speaker, Jon Hansen. He spoke to grade 9 and 10 students and had a unique way of engaging students. He also does a parent presentation. He speaks about the impacts of social media and how we need to embrace it since it's here to stay. Will invite feeder schools as well through social media and email. Hoping to get many parents to attend. Having it in the theatre, which holds 200. Having a registration will allow us to have an approximate idea of attendance numbers. More info about Jon can be found on his website.

E. OAPCE REPORTS (Stephanie Wybrew)

- Meeting has been postponed until December 7, 2023

F. AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Grad luncheon details
- Feedback from Grade 8 Open House

G. NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday, March 6, 2024 @ 6:00

H. CLOSING PRAYER was led by Monique Mastrianni

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Stephanie Wybrew

Seconded by: Lidia Romeo

THAT the November 29, 2023 meeting of the Saint Michael Catholic School Council be adjourned.

CARRIED

This meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm