



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

**May 29, 2024
SAINT MICHAEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Saint Michael Catholic School Council, held on March 6th at 6:00pm.

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

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Opening Prayer

The opening prayer was led by Mr.Stranges.

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(s)	Nancy Gauthier	*		
Teacher Representative	Mark Casburn	*		
Non-Teaching Representative	Dahlia Brannigan		*	
Student Representative	Francesca Cavezza, Paulina Labarta	*		
Parish Representative	Anna Racine	*		
Community Representative				
OAPCE Representative	Stehanie Wybrew	*		
PARENT/GUARDIAN MEMBERS				
Lidia Romeo			*	
Joanna Perri			*	
Isabell Camillo			*	
Zahara Begum Tamiz		*		
Amie Malvaso		*		
Laura Thomas			*	
Julia Alcaron				*
Rose Amer		*		

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Gabriella Griffiths
Seconded by Amie Malvaso

THAT the Saint Michael Catholic School Council approve the Agenda of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Catholic School Council Meeting of Wednesday, May 29, 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 of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Catholic School Council Meeting of Wednesday, March 6, 2023.**

Moved by Anna Racine
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 Wednesday, November 29, 2023 as presented.

CARRIED

6. **Saint Michael CSC Bylaws 2023/24**

Sent by Mary to all members to review and provide feedback before our last meeting. Approved and posted on Saint Michael Catholic High School's website.

B. PRESENTATIONS

Welcome to feeder school parents!

C. POLICIES FOR VETTING-FEEDBACK

No new ones to discuss.

Transportation policy has been emailed to parents of Niagara Catholic along with the Transportation Eligibility Finder with instructions on how to use it.

D. REPORTS

Student Report (Francesca Cavezza, Paulina Labarta)

- St Patrick's Day give-away to classes: chocolate coins
- Student Council Elections took place in April. Over 20 candidates for various positions. Paulina elected as President; Immanuel Emerayo elected as Vice President.
- Colour Wars: great participation from students and staff. New and recurring events run by grade representatives. Positive feedback from fellow students.
- STM Stampede: Friday, May 31st; Food trucks, inflatables and photo booth. Lawn activities for small groups.
- Building an outdoor seating. Pavers being installed soon and project will continue next year, with horticulture and construction students leading.

NCPIC Report (Laura Thomas, delivered by Mary Karagiannis)

- Last meeting was cancelled so nothing was shared.

Parish Report (Anna Racine)

- Sacraments of First Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation for Our Lady Of Mount Carmel and Loretto students completed
- Volunteer Appreciation scheduled for June (BBQ outside)
- Gardening team working hard on landscaping around the church
- Vacation Bible School scheduled for July 22-24; Anna will send information to Dahlia about student volunteers needed
- Fr. Matthew celebrated his 35th anniversary of ordination in April with an invitation only special mass and dinner celebration

- Fr. Sojan will be leaving for another parish; no replacement announced

Staff Report (Mark Casburn)

Clubs and Activities

- MYAC Youth Art Showcase May 25 to June 1
- Grad Prom: Cosmetology offering discounted hair and makeup
- March Break 2025 trip to Rome, Florence and Venice
- Band and Choir practices continue; STM Music participated in Niagara Catholic Music Festival and are playing at Canada's Wonderland this June
- Education Week activities included the Math-Science Olympics, a Wellness Fair for all students, as well as Catholic Trivia Week competitions
- STM participating in OSAID events
- SHSM CPR/First Aid training taking place
- Dance Team is ongoing
- Key Club activities and events to benefit local community
- Senior and Junior mock trial teams have competed in a number of events
- Skills Ontario Competition took place; Congratulations to all participants!
- Math Mavericks Club continues to meet
- Indigenous Red Dress Day held at Saint Michael to raise awareness
- Quebec Trip/French Contest occurred this past month
- OSAP presentation held for grads
- Mustang Jamboree at Heartland Forest: Hosted Special Education students from all 8 high schools; photo booth, banjo player and play stations (supported by Leadership class)
- Annual Art and Film festival May 30th

Athletics

- Athletic Banquet to be held on June 3rd
- Track and Field SOSSA occurred May 22nd; moving to OFSAA; One para ambulatory athlete in 100m and shot put, junior girls 100m, senior boys javelin, junior girls discus, junior girls 4x100m, junior girls shot put, senior boys discus, senior boys shot put, junior girls javelin
- Badminton: one student moved on to OFSAA; competed in junior B semi finals
- STM Baseball: went to semi final of Zone
- Flag Football: last tournament had 3 girls teams, 2 Jr. boys and 1 Sr. boys; another tournament this week
- Girls Slo Pitch: won Zone; have SOSSA this week
- Junior Boys Soccer: season finishing this week
- Senior Boys Soccer: won NCAA regular season
- Varsity Girls Soccer: went to semi finals in Zone
- Rowing: Mother's Day Regatta, 1st and two 3rds for girls; more to come

Principal's Report

We are now officially on the downward slope to the end of the school year. Parents and students have access to Midterm Reports through the Maplewood Parent Portal since April 24th, 2024. Parents can request hard copies of Reports by calling the main office of the school. The June Final Exam schedule is being finalized and will be distributed to families at the end of May. Families are encouraged to plan vacations after the formal exam period. Students will have an opportunity to look over their final exams on...

Students have made their course selections for the 2024-25 school year. Our student services department will be busy creating student schedules over the next several weeks. Summer school course options have been available and are now closed for registration. The Niagara Falls site will be at Saint Michael. Student timetables for will be available on the Parent Portal during the last week in August.

Catholic Education Week started on May 5th and ended on May 10th. Again this year, the board connected Mental Health Awareness Week with CEW. On Monday, May 6th our Gr. 11 Religion classes traveled to different worship places throughout the Niagara Region. Visits included a Buddhist Temple in NF, the Sikh Society of NF, an Israeli

Synagogue in St. Catharines and a Mosque in St. Catharines. On Thursday, May 9th – Father Paul McNeil led us in a school wide Mass to celebrate our theme of “We are called to Love”. On Friday, May 10th, through the leadership of our Mrs. Starks, Nurse Dana and our Wellness Committee, we held our 1st Annual Wellness Fair. There were 15 community support agencies that were represented. This was an outstanding event that was well received by our students. We will make this an annual event during Mental Health Awareness Week.

On May 8th, Niagara Catholic held its “Celebrating Excellence” Awards at Brock University. This year’s recipient of the Saint Michael Catch the Spirit Award is graduating student Francesca Cavezza. Throughout her 4 years at STM, Francesca has been a voice for the students at STM – This year she was the student council president. Francesca is very deserving of this award and congratulate her on this recognition.

Graduation Activities are well under way starting with our Graduation retreats at Heartland Forest on May 21st and May 22nd. It was an interactive, reflective day for our graduates as they participated in many activities throughout the day. Our Graduation Prom was held at John Michaels on May 23rd, special thank you to Mrs. Caruso-Leitch and Mrs. Calvert for their dedication and commitment in making this a memorable evening for our graduating Mustangs. We are certainly looking forward to our Graduation Ceremony and Luncheon on June 12th capped off by our Graduation Ceremony on June 26th @ Central Community Center!

E. OAPCE REPORTS (Stephanie Wybrew)

- There hasn’t been a meeting since the last one, so nothing to report
- Just released a paper based on a survey from 2023 parents: Empowering Parents and Preserving Catholic Education; dealing with the importance of funding Catholic education in Ontario (can be found on their website)
- Next meeting is on June 10th

F. AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Grad vs. Grad Lunch
Parents have asked for information about whether they’re invited, are awards being handed out-not getting information from their children. Mr. Stranges stated that there just isn’t room to accommodate parents but a final decision hasn’t been made regarding the Mass.
Graduation Mass will include: Mass, Salutatorian and Valedictorian announced, presentation for staff members leaving, photo.
Luncheon will include: Lunch, Academic Award presentations. (Awards will also be presented at Grad Ceremony)
- Volunteers if needed for Grad Ceremony
Mary spoke to Mrs. Lennox and everything is taken care of but will ask if needed.
Mary and Gabby have taken care of floral rentals for Lunch and Ceremony

G. NEXT MEETING

- **To be determined in September 2024**
- **All meetings @ 6pm at STM**

H. CLOSING PRAYER was led by Mr. Stranges

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Gabriella Griffiths

Seconded by Anna Racine

THAT the May 29, 2024 meeting of the Saint Michael Catholic School Council be adjourned.

CARRIED