



NIAGARA CATHOLIC
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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

**September 25, 2024
SAINT MICHAEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Saint Michael Catholic School Council, held on September 25, 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 Mrs. Brannigan

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 Stephanie Wybrew

Seconded by Gabriella Griffiths

THAT the Saint Michael Catholic School Council approve the Agenda of the Saint Michael Catholic High School Catholic School Council Meeting of September 25, 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 Mary Karagiannis

Seconded by Stephanie Wybrew

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, May 29, 2024 as presented.

CARRIED

B. PRESENTATIONS/ELECTIONS/NOMINATIONS

Mary and Nancy were acclaimed as Chair and Co-Chair. There were no other nominations.

C. POLICIES FOR VETTING-FEEDBACK

Trustee Code of Conduct Policy (100.12) – Feedback is due by November 4, 2024 (see NCDSB website)

D. REPORTS

Student Report (Paulina Labarta, Immanuel Emaryeo)

Grade 9 Orientation: Competitions during assembly, tours of the school, finding lockers and pizza and snacks.

MRC (Mustang Reward Card): Available on School Cash Online for \$25; provides many perks throughout the school year (i.e. discounts to school events, out of dress code days, giveaways); posted on Instagram; main fundraiser for special student events; each month one student gets 2 weeks in the Mustang Range; money is also used to support the Christmas Toy Drive.

Grade 9 Curriculum Night: Parents were able to go to their child’s classroom and get an idea of what they will be learning.

Grade 9 Student Council Elections: Intention and vetting forms to show their interest; invited to join the next 2 Student Council meetings to get an idea of what’s involved; elections will be held on Thursday, October 10; only Grade 9s will vote; top 2 candidates will be selected.

MRC Out of Uniform Day: October 17th; \$5 for non-MRC holders; Food trucks during lunch too.

“Halloweek”: Giveaways, festive snacks, competitions, candy bag sales and costume contest on Halloween.

Mr.Stranges stressed the importance of following the school on Instagram.

NCPIC Report (Laura Thomas, delivered by Mary Karagiannis)

- Meet 4 times per year.
- Last meeting entailed going over the new website for Niagara Catholic District School Board
- Update from secondary and elementary principals
- Much discussion about new bussing requirements
- Next meeting is November 7th

Parish Report (Anna Racine, delivered by Mr.Stranges)

- Father Phil has joined to assist Father Matthew (at church and at the school)
- Youth Meet and Greet this Friday for grades 7-12; hoping to start a Youth Ministry
- Pro Life Chain being held on October 6th, details found on the website
- Fall Harvest Homemade Craft Show and Bake Sale being held on Saturday, October 5th from 10:00 – 4:00
- Rosary Rally at the church on Saturday, October 12th at noon

Staff Report (Mark Casburn)

Athletics:

- Junior and Senior Boys Volleyball
- Junior and Senior Girls Basketball
- Tennis (4 singles/doubles moving to SOSSA)
- Junior and Senior Boys Football
- Golf
- Cross Country
- Rowing
- Cheerleading
- Weight Room Club: Tuesday and Thursday after school
- Girls Flag Football League

Clubs and Activities:

- Book Club
- Peer Tutoring Homework Club (library open Monday to Thursday)
- Mustang Music: House Band and Choir
- NYC Spring Trip (May)
- March Break Trip to Italy
- College/University Presentations
- Special Education Class trip to Safari Niagara
- Pilgrimage Committee
- Orange Shirt Day (September 30th)
- Art Club (last Tuesday of the month)
- Key Club (Kiwanis)
- STM Wellness Club (School Nurse Dana in every Thursday)
- Theatre Performance this year will be “Lord of the Flies”
- STM Math Mavericks Club
- Grab and Go breakfast (Niagara Nutrition Partners)
- Grade 9 Retreat
- Chaplain’s Crew (masses and activities throughout the year)

Principal’s Report (Mr. Stranges)

The 2024-25 school year is off to a fantastic start. Myself, Monique Mastroianni and David Welsh make up the Administration for this school year. Along with Mr. Welsh, we have several new staff members joining the staff this year – in total, we have 11 new staff members this school year. Our school enrolment is at 1185 students as of today. We continue to register new students each day. Our student services department have been busy balancing classes, making class changes for our students. Students should now be settled in classrooms and parents should be seeing mark updates in the Parent Portal over the next couple weeks.

Just about every classroom, during every period is in use. Teachers are in a good groove in delivering curriculum during the school day. Our SAA (Student Academic Assistance) program is well under way running 4 days per week – Mondays- Thursdays from 2:30pm – 4pm. Along with peer tutoring support, subject specific teachers are available each night.

This week has been Truth and Reconciliation Week in appreciation of the hardships faced by the Indigenous peoples of Canada with residential schools. On Monday, Sept. 30th students and staff are encouraged to wear Orange Shirts to

symbolize the collective commitment that Every Child Matters. Also, on September 30th, our Gr. 11 English classes will be joining other high schools and the Fort Erie Native Friendship Center in Fort Erie for a Unity Walk.

We will kick off our annual Pilgrimage campaign in support of our brothers and sisters in Rwanda with our Gr. Level assemblies on October 8th. Under the leadership of our Pilgrimage committee made up of students and staff, our Pilgrimage will be held on October 24th. The theme of this year's Pilgrimage is "Walk in Love, Walk in Hope." We are encouraging all students to participate. Pilgrimage Shirts are available for purchase on School Cash online. Students will be given 5 hours of community service for raising funds, attending the mass and participating in the pilgrimage walk.

The construction of the STM Outdoor Sitting Area has begun. It is a combined effort of our Student Council, SHSM Construction and Horticulture students and teacher leads that have designed and will install this outdoor area that students can use before/after school, during lunches. This will also give teachers opportunities for outdoor learning classrooms. We hope to have the pavers and gazebos installed by the end of the fall. Pictures were provided.

Parents/Guardians are continued to be reminded that student achievement can be accessed throughout the school year on the Parent Portal. It's important to stay connected to your child's high school experience. Please reach out to classroom teachers with any questions. Parent-Teacher interviews will be held on November 21st. Stay tuned for more details.

Mr. Stranges stressed how important it is to check the school's website for information.

Mrs. Brannigan asked council to let her know if there are any volunteer opportunities for students that we may hear about. She's always looking for ways to get students involved within their community.

Parent Engagement Fund: Every school year, Parent Council is given \$500 to spend on a Parent Engagement initiative. Top up of \$1000 is also possible. Examples could include: Addressing inclusion, anti-racism, providing a safe and welcoming environment; Ontario Curriculum Expectations and resources; Workshops for inspiring learning, mental health, internet safety, cyber bullying and healthy living; Projects to support Indigenous students and their families; Programs for newcomers. Paul Davis is coming in for grade 9s and 10s. Mental Health is a big issue. Possible get a guest speaker. Laura suggested Darcy Patrick. He is a local guest speaker who is affiliated with Pathstones. Wrote books on journaling, coping skills and living with mental health. Laura will reach out to him and let us know.

E. OAPCE REPORTS (Stephanie Wybrew)

- Meetings haven't resumed for the year yet.

F. AGENDA ITEMS-DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Nothing presented

G. NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday, November 27, 2024 @ 6:00 pm

H. CLOSING PRAYER (Mrs. Brannigan)

I. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Gabriella Griffiths

Seconded by Stephanie Wybrew

THAT the September 25, 2024 meeting of the Saint Michael Catholic School Council be adjourned.

CARRIED

