

PARENT SCHOOL COUNCIL 2024/2025
MEETING MINUTES FROM November 07, 2024

In Attendance:

- **St. James Staff:** M. McCann (Principal), J. Roy (Teaching Rep), R. Johnson (Non-Teacher Rep)
- **Council:** N. Popova (Co-Chair), T. Morris (OAPCE), S. Bhola (Parish Rep), N. Sarin (Treasurer), A. Pronski (Parent Rep), H. Jagiello (Parent Rep),
- **Parents:** Allison Quintero, Tracy Chan, Dave A
- **Regrets:** K. Zeljkovic (Secretary), A. Litster (Secretary), A. Patola (Co-Chair), J. Bird (Community Rep), E. Mayen (Parent Rep), S. Kelenc (Teacher Rep)

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Welcome/Opening Remarks – M. Cloutier McCann
2. Opening Prayer – M. Cloutier McCann
 - M. McCann discussed the importance of the Jubilee 2025 and utilizing the logo
3. Land Acknowledgement - M. Cloutier McCann
4. Approval of Agenda
 - nothing added to agenda
 - **MOTION:** H. Jagiello motioned for approval, T. Morris seconded
5. Approval of October 03, 2024 Meeting Minutes
 - Correction to the minutes – amend the amount 27 cents
 - Update the minutes to include updated survey results
 - Basketball nets – M. Cloutier McCann said that the board does not recommend putting lower because people hang on the nets in the evening and they break
 - Pastoral Plan
 - **ACTION** - Nina and Adam to take a look at this and then let Ms. McCann know
 - **MOTION:** A. Pronski motioned approving the minutes as amended, T. Morris seconded

B. TRUSTEE UPDATE

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C. UPDATES

1. Community Survey
 - There is still interest for council to do a community event like BINGO, a movie night, Kinder night, middle years night, etc.
 - Less interest on doing a coffee in the AM but might be able to do an afternoon at pickup time
 - **ACTION:** Nina to reach out to the volunteer folks from the survey to see if they are able to help decorate for the Christmas concert on Dec. 18 (night before)
 - There was a discussion about spirit wear. For example, consider school mascot (Jay Hawks) not school name for spirit wear as opposed to school name and logo. Can have some clothes with both options. Security concerns. Some may still want school logo because it is a spirit thing.
2. Fundraiser – One Time Donation
 - Thanks to H. Jagiello for updating the donation request, email has been sent out

- It was noted that we have to include the list of what we plan to spend on. The subject line was catchy and useful ("Action Required").

3. Parish Rep – S. Bhola

- Family Advent Mass & Social – more info forthcoming, planning is underway
- Advent Mass December 10
- It was good to see kids and families from the community participating in the previous event

4. Community Rep – J. Bird

- Carnaval / Skating Event
 - N. Sarin and J. Bird have discussed some options, 3 spend items will likely be:
 - Food/Beverage
 - Park Rental (may not apply)
 - Game / Activity Rental
 - **MOTION:** A. Pronski moved to allocate the remaining parent engagement grant to this event, N. Sarin seconded
 - **ACTION:** A. Pronski to connect with Cllr. Dasko regarding park rental
 - **VOTE:** A. Pronski proposed to allocate up to \$1,500 for the Carnival event (split between food and entertainment), Council attendees unanimously agree.
- Other Events

5. OAPCE – T. Morris

- Inviting trustees to parent Councils
- Follow on social media
- Parent to Parent newsletter
- Link – get kids involved in reading, book suggestions, themed re: faith, time of year. T. Morris will send links to M. Cloutier Mcann to include in newsletter

6. EQAO 2023-24 Results

Our school had great results for this school compared to the board and province.

- Goes from Mid-May to Mid-June. We push for later so we can get through as much curriculum as possible.

Grade 3 students achieving level 3 & 4

	School	Board	Province
Reading	100%	76%	71.3%
Writing	95%	68%	63.7%
Math	95%	62%	61.3%

Grade 6 students achieving level 3 & 4

	School	Board	Province
Reading	88%	85%	82%
Writing	92%	85%	80%
Math	73%	47%	50%

D. REPORTS

1. Financial Report – N. Sarin

Bank Balance (October 31, 2024)	\$4672.15
Commitment -palms, graduation tree, student agenda, ECO, whole school presentation	-\$3,388.97
Deposit - staff meal BBQ	\$ + 228.00
Available funds	\$1,511.18

Council funds cannot be used for staff meals

E. INFORMATION

1. Central Committee of Catholic School Council – chairs meeting – October 24, 5:00-8:00 pm
Cardinal Leger Secondary School – Brampton - N. Popova represented St James

2. CCCSC Parent Engagement Night on November 21, 2024 (virtual)
Topic is 'Children's Aid Society – Duty to Report.'

F. STANDING ITEMS

School Report

- **Catholicity**
 - Rosary Apostolate - Next visit in December
 - Samantha - Youth Ministry - November 8th - Grade 4-8
 - Advent begins Dec 01
 - Family Advent Mass - December 10th, 7pm
 - Pastoral Plan – will post to website once it has been reviewed by Father

Curriculum

- PYP – FDK Human Body

- Coding introduced, B Bot, Hospital, How to keep body healthy, growth mindset, how do our abilities change over time, student action lead experiments, bring in book re: DNA, art projects
- MYP – Yr 1 – Animal Adaptations - Environmental diversity requires balanced relationships to promote globalization and sustainability, animal adaptations to live in a certain environment, environmental diversity
- MYP – Yr 2 – Invasive Species - Change through human or natural impact causes environmental consequences to balance
- MYP – Yr 3 – Cell model and Cell analogy - Innovation in technology provide opportunities to explore functions in relationships. Model, play dough, poster, car engine,
- MYP – **Religion**
 - Year 1:** Personalized prayers that focus on the four types of prayers:
 - Praise, Petition, Forgiveness, Thanksgiving
 - Hope to read them on morning announcements
 - Year 2:** Exploring the Beatitudes
 - Year 3:** Interview with a Saint and Saint Trading Cards

Language

- Year 1:** Focus on media literacy through morning announcements
- Year 2:** Examining the structure of a story in their writing
- Year 3:** Concentrating the genre of their story writing

- **UofW Math Contest - Math Club and Beaver Computing Challenge**
 - Problem solving contest with a focus on computational and logical thinking
 - Grade 5: 16
 - Grade 6: 18
 - Grade 7: 15
 - Grade 8: 21 70 total participants
- **Community Project**
 - Earliest approvals for grade 8s
 - Thanksgiving food drive (Canadian Food for Children)
 - Cyber bullying awareness (morning announcements)
- **Co-Curriculum**
 - Cross country is done – biggest group competed
 - Student council meets weekly and will blow up sports balls for recess (balls purchased from council funds)
 - Volleyball started – Junior and Intermediate
 - Eco team with Ms. Roy
 - Choir meets 1-2 times per week
 - Camp Muskoka grade 6 – hot dog lunch helping to raise funds
 - PALS
- **Facilities**
 - Fire plan completed and posted with fire department

- Tomorrow - lock down drill
- ShareLife Campaign - dress down days
- **Other**
 - Year 1-2 teacher candidates – 5 classrooms
 - Progress Reports – digital delivery
 - Online Booking for parent/teacher conferences
 - Video shared from students for the ECO Club – composting
 - Veteran's week and treaty recognition week – same time
 - Remembrance day ceremony on Monday Nov 11
 - Bullying awareness and prevention Nov 17-22
 - Excursions – Ontario Legislature grade 5 & Botanical Gardens JKs
- **Christmas concert and market place**
 - Any parents interested in helping to decorate the gym?
 - The school has: Stained glass decor, painted xmas tree
 - Theme will be “in the north pole, winter wonderland” in front of stage and to the sides.
 - Large collection of stuff, Ms. J to see what is available

IB Evaluation

- 5 years cycle – combined programme review
- We have two programs, but we decided to combine them
- Will reach out to parents through council or via survey to get info from them

Upcoming Events:

- Secondary School Open Houses:
 - St Martin - November 6
 - Holy Name of Mary - November 7
 - St Paul - November 13
- Picture Retake Day / Sibling photos - November 12
- Progress Reports - November 12
- Progress Report Conferences - November 14
- Vaccination Clinic (Gr 7 & 8) - November 15
- PA Day - November 22
- Trades Expo - parents invited in the evening - November 26
- Advent Mass - December 10
- St Paul CSS - A Christmas Carol - Grade 6-8 - December 12
- Christmas Concert - December 18
- Christmas break begins on December 23 - January 3
- Last day of classes December 21st - Classes resume January 6

Central Committee of Catholic School Councils

- Cardinal Leger CSS - October 24 - Thank you to N. Popova for representing St James
- November 21 - virtual - topic Children's Aid Society - Duty to Report

Additional Items

- A. Pronski brought up some of the action items from the previous meeting.
 - Need to get food vendor on approved vendor list, M. Cloutier McCann noted that the vendor needs to go on the board website and fill out their information
 - **ACTION:** A. Pronski to share website with food vendor.
- Council meeting scheduled on April 03 has been moved to April 24 to coincide with the Board's Financial presentation, as last year council continued with meeting after the presentation the meeting was extremely long so council will meet again in early may (date TBD).

G. ADJOURNMENT

- MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING
 - A. Pronski motioned to approve, H. Jagiello seconded it

Future meetings (St. James School Library & Virtually via Zoom)

- Thursday, February 06, 2025
- Thursday, April 24, 2025 *** Moved from April 03 due to Board Budget meeting***
- Council will add another meeting in early May.