

**PARENT SCHOOL COUNCIL 2024/2025
MEETING MINUTES FROM February 06, 2025**

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2024-2025 ACCLAIMED MEMBERS:

- Co-Chairs - A. Patola & N. Popova
- Secretary - K. Zeljkovic
- Treasurer – N. Sarin
- Community Rep - J. Bird
- Parish Rep – S. Bhola
- OAPCE - T. Morris
- Voting members – A. Pronski, H. Jagiello, E. Mayen, K. Pasia
- Staff: Teaching Rep. - K. Maier, Non-Teaching Rep - R. Johnson

In Attendance:

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

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

1. Welcome/Opening Remarks – M. Cloutier McCann
2. Opening Prayer – N. Popova
3. Land Acknowledgement – A. Patola
4. Approval of Agenda
 - New add: Parent has requested Paul Davis to come and speak re: internet safety
 - Mrs. McCann advised we have hired him in the past but he is hard to schedule. Will try to schedule him to come in the following school year.
 - **MOTION:** A. Patola motioned for approval, H. Jagiello seconded
5. Approval of Catholic School Council Minutes (November 07, 2024)
 - Business arising from the Minutes
 - update re: U of W contest – Beaver Computing Challenge
 - Completed in November, Grade 5, 6, 7, 8 competed, St. James has 62 students participate (highest number thus far)
 - Thousands of kids participate overall
 - Comprised of online activity multiple choice, 45 mins
 - **MOTION:** A. Patola motioned to approve the minutes, N. Popova seconded

B. TRUSTEE UPDATE

- Nothing to add

C. UPDATES

a. Fundraiser – One Time Donation update \$7898.80
b. Parish Rep - Thank you to S. Bhola for organizing Advent mass and all families who attended, event went well, kids enjoyed themselves.

St. Mary's is hosting Pancake Sunday on Mar 02, will be fundraising for St. Mary Star of the Sea camp

c. Community Event

- Carnaval – Was originally on Feb. 27 (same date as provincial election)
 - N. Sarin and J. Bird looked into several options for the event with the budget we had in place. It was a challenge to book a permit at the skating loop as the parks are not maintained during the winter and a permit would only allow 50 people, which could limit our numbers. Were looking into alternative options where we provide light refreshments and a place for our community to gather.
 - Members asked if we could still invite community to come and skate at the Port Credit loop and we will provide light refreshments
 - New date to be decided
 - **MOTION:** Discussed new date of Feb 25 to avoid election
 - A. Patola motioned to approve, N. Popova seconded it
 - **ACTION:** J. Bird to put together information on date, time and important information for those attending the event
 - J. Bird has asked if we could send out a link to a survey asking who will attend
 - We previously allocated \$1500.00 for this event but will most likely not use as much for the light refreshments.

d. OAPCE – K. Zeljkovic (received from T. Morris)

- Regional meeting is next week
- Ramez Takawy has been appointed the new OAPCE director for the Dufferin-Peel Region
- Link to January Parents 4 Parents Newsletter
<https://oapce.org/wp-content/uploads/January-2025-Newsletter-download.pdf>

D. REPORTS

1. Financial Report – N. Sarin

Bank Balance (October 31)	\$4672.15
Deposit - Parent Engagement	+ \$ 500.00
Cheques issued: Eco	- 73.39
Student Agendas, Palms	- 937.07
Bank Service Charge	- 4.95
Bank Balance (November 30)	\$4156.74

Deposits: One time donation	+ \$ 3366.30
Mabel Label	+ 58.55
Staff meal - Open House	+ 228.00
Bank Service Charge	- 4.95
Bank Balance (December 31)	\$7804.64
Deposit - One time donation	+ \$ 4532.50
Cheques issued: Grad Tree (2023/24)	- 500.00
Sewing Studio (whole school presentation)	- 700.00
Bank service charge	- 4.95
Commitments: Sensory Pathway	- (\$1000.00)
ECO (\$250 - \$ 73.39)	- (176.61)
Carnaval event	- (1500.00)
BBQ (Sept. 2025)	- (1000.00)
Available Funds	\$7455.58

2. Allocation of funds

Standing items

- a. Tree, graduation, First communion celebration, student agenda
- b. Student event – Sewing studio \$700

- Similar to previous years council would like Ms. McCann to ask the students and teachers what they would like us to fund
 - N. Sarin suggested (as per another school) having each class put together a formal proposal on their wish list of items at the beginning of the school year, kids will learn how to budget and can make it a contest
- Ms McCann will bring student and teacher requests to next meeting, will start with student council
- N. Sarin to propose cutting 1500.00 in half for carnaval
- S. Bhola – asked about a primary basketball hoop, chess board for classrooms
- Question raised: do we have enough laptop/ipads – board sends out email about technology plan, approximately every 4 yrs things are to be replaced
 - Currently grades 7 - 12 have one device per student, grades 3 - 6 have one device per 2 students
 - Ipads are given to Kinders and grade 1's, Grade 2 and up receive chromebooks
 - Council can choose to support with future purchases, right now school has 1 to 1 laptops but many Ipads are approaching end of life
 - Question raised: can we purchased used technology, all technology will be purchased new
- For parent engagement we can only use 15% for food = 75.00, we can take some of the parent engagement funds and use 425.00 for the skating event

E. INFORMATION

- 1. SEA**
- 2. CCCSC**

F. STANDING ITEMS

- **School Report**
 - Staffing update welcome 2 new staff members – Mr. Kelenc has accepted ICT consultant position with the school board, in which Ms. Thibault has become the MYP coordinator. Ms. Marzilano is now teaching grade 5. Ms. Roy has been promoted to VP at another school, Mr. Cunanan is now teaching grade 6, 7, 8 language classes
 - Registration Update – Received 158 registrations, 43 for JK. Additional 11 applications came through after the deadline which will be added to bottom of the wait list
 - IB Programme Evaluation
 - What is the purpose of programme evaluation?
 - - Is a requirement and a service provided by the IB to IB World Schools
 - - Is a reflective process that involves the entire school community
 - - Assesses whether a school continues to meet the requirements in the IB Programme standards and practices publication and will remain an authorized IB World School
 - IB evaluation cycle has 2 purposes: (multi-Programme evaluation)
 - Provides opportunity for school community to reflect on current practices and set goals
 - IB reviews that we are in alignment with the official standards and practices
 - S. Bhola asked if all teachers have IB qualifications. Ms. McCann advised all teachers hired on will go through the proper training within the first year. There is a budget in place for these courses. MYP teachers require training in the specific subjects that they teach. They can also receive mentorship from senior staff, have opportunities for networking at other community IB schools
 - Parent Literacy Night FDK to grade 2, 21 parents attended, talked about foundational skills of reading, went into breakout sessions, demonstrated games to help students at home and in class
 - H. Jagiello - Are there any online resources that can be shared to those parents who couldn't make it – Ms. McCann advised they will make copies of the resources that were given out and/or have helpful links emailed out to parents.
 - Term 2 Report Cards – sent home virtually on Tuesday, instructions to be sent out on how to access report cards through student email
 - Student Led Conferences take place this Thursday evening and Friday afternoon.

Curriculum

- FDK – Both classes are working on their inquiry in animal adaptation in seasonal change. Focusing on how animals thrive and stay warm in the winter. Doing many hands on experiments.

G. ADJOURNMENT

- MOTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING
 - A. Patola motioned to approve, N. Popova seconded it

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

- Thursday, April 03, 2025
- Thursday, April 24, 2025
- Council may add another meeting in early May.