



ST. MARY Catholic Secondary School PARENT COUNCIL

TUESDAY October 3rd, 2023

Executive Members	Name	
Principal	John Di Vizio	Present
Chair	Adele Sartor	Present
Co-Chair	Sabrina Pallotta	Present
Secretary	Tonia Edwards Kelegan	Present
Financial Secretary	Emily Povolo	Present
Teacher Representative	Melissa Wilson-Clark	Present
Chaplain	Mariana Bosetti	Regrets
Parish Representative (St. Isaac Jogues)	Danilo Simonelli	Regrets
Parent Representatives		
Parent Representative	Cordelia Clarke Julien	Present
Parent Representative	Danielle Boyle	Regrets
Parent Representative	Jennifer Millar	Present
Parent Representative	Jason Boyle	Regrets
Parent Representative	June Lee	Present
Parent Representative	Zhora Adatia-McGlashen	Regrets
Parent Representative	Lilani Kulathungam	Present
Parent Representative	Claudia Nichols	Regrets
Parent Representative	Melodie McLymont	Present
Parent Representative	Roslyn D'Souza	Present
Parent Representative	Barb Perrott	Present
Parent Representative	Denise Rainford	Present
Parent Representative	Erica Edwards	Present
Parent Representative	Reg Sadler	Absent
Parent Representative	Nicola Sutton-Leslie	Present
Parent Representative	Paul Dalton	Present
Parent Representative	Nancy Barry	Present
Parent Representative	Shivaun McLymont	Present
Other Attendees		
	Arianna D'urso	Present
	Nindu Kumar	Present
	Tara King	Present
Parish Representative (Holy Redeemer)	Rachel Vigliatore	Present

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 pm

Welcome: Adele Sartor

Formal Parent Council Introductions

Opening Prayer: John Di Vizio

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

Approval of Minutes: June 13, 2023 – no changes

Motion to Approve by: Jennifer Millar

Seconded by: Cordelia Clarke Julien

Approval of Minutes: September 19, 2023 – no changes

Motion to Approve by: Jennifer Millar

Seconded by: Roslyn D'Souza

Principal's Report: John Di Vizio

- Anticipation of school population increase:
 - New, large subdivision developing north of the school (north of Taunton), and new condos coming to Pickering
 - Expect large increase to school population in next 5-10 years
 - St Mary is the only catholic high school in Pickering
- School Technology is being revamped:
 - John to ensure there is 1 Chromebook cart per class
 - Math & Sciences need more than Chromebook cart – either interactive video projector or projector with Apple TV for teachers to have cutting edge teaching technology
 - Funds spent for two new Mac Mini Labs and two iPad carts
- Safe Schools Week & training:
 - This week was Safe Schools Week & training for our staff
 - There was a lockdown drill today (Oct 3). It is mandated to have 3 fire drills per semester
 - There will be a hold and secure drill next semester – external threat (similar to “hold in place”), this includes people in portables to come inside
 - There will be various drills throughout the semester
 - There is a benchmark for students at higher risk – look at behaviour to see if elevated potential issue. The school has a partnership with police and organizations to make sure students get the help that they need
 - There is assist training for students who have thoughts of self-harm, including students with need for positive mental health assistance. The school has multiple key people trained to reach out to parents

- *Question:* Where is the safe meet space to pick up kids if for example nuclear issue
 - *Response:* It will be Paul Dwyer in Oshawa (*secretary added note: Monsignor Paul Dwyer Catholic High School – 700 Stevenson Rd N, Oshawa*)
- “Report It” Icon:
 - St Mary website has “Report It” icon that enables anyone to report event anonymously – reports go to John directly at any time. This is for community, students, parents, anyone
 - This allows school to work with police at a moment’s notice. Principal, superintendent & directors are all very connected.
 - Report It icon is on home page of St. Mary website, on the bottom labelled “**Report It**”
 - *Question:* Are students made aware of icon?
 - *Response:* Went through it with grade level assemblies and through regular announcements
 - John wants to note that it’s important students feel they are being heard. Parents should mention Report It icon to anyone.
- Staff Update:
 - We are now fully staffed
 - There is a major province-wide shortage of certified teachers
 - We hired 2 full-time permanent teachers
 - *Question:* With new teachers being hired, have you had classroom shifts?
 - *Response:* We may need to balance out some more, but majority of students impacted have been contacted. Mostly affected Grade 9 religion and math classes. Majority of changes have been completed.
- Post-Secondary Fair:
 - Fair is this Thursday, October 5th. St Mary is known for its amazing post-secondary fair
 - It’s meant mostly for grades 11 & 12 (open to all grades 9 – 12)
 - Students should know a general pathway – grade 12 have to apply to College & University by December/January, so post-secondary schools are basing early admissions on grade 11 and grade 12 mid-term marks
 - Fair is from 6:30pm to 9pm. Three 30-minute sessions. Parents and students able to have 1-on-1 with the school representatives. Information available on Edsby & on school website
- Thanksgiving Mass:
 - Tomorrow (October 4th) is the Thanksgiving Mass, first mass of the year. Will be having 2 masses. St. Isaac Jogues’ associate pastor will attend.

Chaplain Update: Adele Sartor (for Mariana Bosetti)

- Every year graduating class used to receive a small graduation gift (i.e. pen, keychain). Few years ago, grad class decided to pool funds together and purchase gift to donate to the school instead of receiving individual gift. Past examples include wall mural, glass cabinet for statue of St Mary, 3D printer
- Chaplain works with the grads to come up with ideas
- Last year the grads decided to buy objects for the chapel. Bought linens, cruet set (the glasses for water and wine), small crucifix, and the ciborium and patten set. Total cost for all items was approx. \$1000

- Grad gift budget set aside is typically \$2000. Because only \$1000 has been spent so far, John asked council to support cost of purchasing picnic tables to place outside for the students to use, on behalf of 2023 grad class. John is having our wood shop construct sturdy picnic tables. Council donated \$1000 from grad budget to go towards the picnic tables, which will cover the cost of 3 picnic tables. Tables will be labelled with a little plaque, class of 2023. Lumber has been purchased. Will have 10 tables in total, John will pay for the remaining 7 tables.

Parish Update (St. Isaac Jogues): Adele Sartor (for Danilo Simonelli)

- No update at this time
- Will check in with Father Marc & will report back at next meeting
- Friday afternoon (PA Day) – grade 9-12 are invited to St Isaac Parish to play board games
- Adele asked for a volunteer for Parish Representative from Holy Redeemer church, as we only have a Parish rep from St. Isaac Jogues at this time. Rep to report on anything from Holy Redeemer parish that is relevant to or affects our families and community. Rachel Vigliatore volunteered to do this.

Financial Report: Emily Povolo

- Balance of \$13,305.23 in account right now
- Balance at end of school year last year was \$1998.10.
- Held uniform sale in July which generated \$10,765. Very successful sale. Had huge selection of donated uniforms to sell, especially white shirts.
- Expenditures: \$2000 to grad gift; plus expense for Jade DeCastro's Memorial gift (student who passed away, would have been be part of 2023 graduation class). Jade's family received framed diploma with inscription plaque – framing and inscription paid for by Council
- Expenditure of \$100 raffle - incentive for donations of used uniform
- Expenditure of \$1600 to provide scholarships & bursaries
- Expenditure of \$1000 to support Christmas outreach
- Discussion to have used uniform sale at grade 8 info night in January. Did this last year, and it was successful. Agreed to plan for this.
- Will discuss further at our next meeting on November 7, afterwards John will put out a call for donations for used uniforms.
- *Question:* Does the school keep any used donations/uniforms?
 - *Response:* Yes – in the Mission Room. They are organized by size and style. We do have some current stock.
- Raise the Dough – is on Tuesday Oct 24th, 5% of sales returned to St. Mary. Have 4 of these throughout year

School Guidance Update: Melissa Wilson-Clark

- Copies of Community Service log sheet passed around table (these are also available to download from St. Mary website)
- Guidance offers peer tutoring – it is subject specific. We currently have tutors, need more students to sign up to be tutored. Forms passed around table.
- Update regarding St. Isaac Jogues Curriculum Night – 15 St. Mary students volunteered to assist with pizza, chips & drink distribution. Feedback: students were amazing, a pleasure to have.

OTHER BUSINESS

Open Question Period: No additional questions

Closing Prayer: John Di Vizio

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40pm

Next St. Mary CSS Council Meeting

Tuesday November 7th @ 7:00 pm – St. Mary's Learning Commons

St. Mary CSS Parent Council meetings usually take place on the first Tuesday of the month, from 7:00pm – 8:00pm in the school library. All parents are welcome to attend the monthly Parent Council meetings and bring agenda items forward for discussion.