



## ST. MARY C.S.S. PARENT COUNCIL

TUESDAY, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

<b>Executive Members</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Sign In</b>
Principal	John DiVizio	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	Present
Parish Representative (St. Isaac Jogues)	Danilo Simonelli	Present
<b>Parent Representatives</b>		
Parent Representative	Cordelia Clarke Julien	Absent
Parent Representative	Danielle Boyle	Present
Parent Representative	Jennifer Millar	Present
Parent Representative	Jason Boyle	Present
Parent Representative	June Lee	Present
Parent Representative	Zhora Adatia-McGlashen	Present
Parent Representative	Lilani Kulathungam	Present
Parent Representative	Claudia Nichols	Regrets
Parent Representative	Melodie McLymont	Absent
Parent Representative	Roslyn D'Souza	Absent
Parent Representative	Barb Perrott	Present
Parent Representative	Denise Rainford	Absent
Parent Representative	Erica Edwards	Absent
Parent Representative	Reg Sadler	Present
Parent Representative	Nicola Sutton-Leslie	Present
Parent Representative	Paul Dalton	Regrets
Parent Representative	Nancy Barry	Absent
Parent Representative	Shivaun McLymont	Absent
<b>Other Attendees</b>		
Parish Representative (Holy Redeemer)	Rachel Vigliatore (HR)	Present
	Nindu Kumar	Present
	Tara King	Present

	Arianna D'urso	Present
	Josie DiMarco	Present
	Lisa Sadler	Present
Vice-Principal	Catia Minardi	Present
Vice-Principal	Melissa Morrison	Present

## A. CALL TO ORDER

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:00 p.m.

**Welcome:** Adele Sartor

**Opening Prayer:** Mariana Bosetti

## B. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

**Approval of Minutes:** February 6, 2024 – no changes

Motion to Approve by: Emily Povolo    Seconded by: Zhora Adatia-McGlashen

## C. REPORTS / INFORMATION ITEMS

**Principal's Report:** John DiVizio

- Introduction of Vice-Principal Catia Manardi (whom was formerly the Curriculum Chair of Religious Education and Life) & Vice-Principal Melissa Morrison (whom is formerly the Department Head of the TCDSB Special Education Department)
- Introduction to new course available at St. Mary: **Interdisciplinary Studies: Deconstructing Anti-Black Racism** – St. Mary is one of the pilot schools offering the course along with Notre Dame. It is a senior level course. There is interest to make the course available to grade 12 and grade 11 students.
- Introduction to upcoming guest speaker for today's meeting: Kayode Akomolafe – DCDSB Human Rights and Equity Advisor (HREA)
- Today is World Autism Awareness Day
- The St. Mary's band will be leaving for their trip to New York. Last year the band went to Orlando
- The COMPASS survey: will be overseen by Ms. Minardi
  - The survey is issued by the University of Waterloo. It helps to create awareness of student's interest, time used on social media, diet, mental health, vaping use, etc.). The survey will most likely be conducted during first period.
  - Mr. DiVizio will share the survey with the Parent Council
    - **QUESTIONS:** Who has access to survey results? Is it anonymous? Do students get mental health support based on survey results if they are in distress?
    - RESPONSE:** Teachers make a point to help students in distress in general. We encourage students and staff to go to someone to seek help. There have been support

solutions to aid with this (CABS worker, child & youth workers, guidance counselors). There is a tiered approach with students. Students & staff are encouraged to look out for symptoms of distress (students acting differently than their baseline behavior). The assistance process includes training to gate keepers, asking relevant questions & discerning levels of crisis. It is also important for students to self advocate. Breaking the culture of silence is of great importance. St Mary is blessed with a lot of support. There are interventions that many school boards have in place. The director of education & the senior administration have decided to put resources in mental health wellness & education. There is a nutrition program that is present at both major entrances (grab & go basis) for everyone. Through our many resources, we have saved lives.

- Student Demographic Survey: This survey will be overseen by Kayode Akomolafe.
  - It will be given directly after the COMPASS survey
  - There will be a free non-uniform day for students if there is over 75% participation
  - The survey includes parent participation as well
  - The info compiled from the survey aids with direction of the community budgetary process
  - The survey helps the school board align resources and supports with student needs
  - The survey will likely be issued to students during period 2 - back to back with the COMPASS survey
- Re-introduction of Micheal Mayers: CABS representative (Coach/Advocate for Black Students) whom joined the DCDSB in January 2024. Michael will work within St. Mary every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday to support the implementation of programs, services and other supports to meet the needs of students. Micheal offers a friendly approach to students to help start conversation at an administration & guidance level.
- The Europe trip to Normandy is next April 18, 2025 (headed by Mr. Zimmer & Mr. Stanesic)
- April is Earth Month
- Special recognition to Ms. Morrison and her work with Giselle Sicchia with regards to the student vaccination updates. We are now down to one student that was suspended due to lack of timely vaccination completion. This is down from 500 possible suspensions.
- There is a PA day on April 8<sup>th</sup> (rescheduled from April 3<sup>rd</sup> - due to the total solar eclipse taking place on Monday, April 8, 2024). Staff will have half day for professional development
- Announcement regarding the retirement of the current Director of Education (Tracy Barill) at the end of August 2024. A thought exchange was sent out to parents from Monique Forster. Mr. DiVizio will make sure to get information email to parents requesting input on what parents/community would like to see in a new director of education.
- Successful presentation to students has been completed by Ms. Minardi on anti-vaping. We will be doing this on a regular bases, possibly several times a year
  - Parent Council discussion regarding vaping in the school washrooms. The ministry might finance some detectors for washrooms. This is still to be determined. Staff conduct multiple supervision rounds which include going into the student bathrooms.
  - Comment that students are not using the washrooms during the day due to vaping
  - Vaping issues are not unique to our school as the product is easily hidden
  - NOTED: parents, community members & educators please forward any ideals & suggestions to Mr. DiVizio for solutions.
  - The school will give levels of consequences. There will be 1 warning which will be followed by a suspension for further infraction

- QUESTION: How much funding is needed for detectors?  
RESPONSE: There are several factors, including electrical & vendor approval. The process is expensive. Parents can advocate to the school board and to trustees. Mr. DiVizio will advocate as well. It will help if parents send a letter on behalf of parent council. A good place to start is communication to Katharine Stevenson, the Superintendent of Education. As well as to Jim McCafferty, the City of Pickering Trustee. As many letters as possible. Adele will start a discussion with parent council and will start of with our letter. Parent council is encouraged to call MPP's to initiate accountability for sales and marketing targets towards our children. There are no restrictions for the purchase of vapes. As parents & guardians, we need to use our voice, lobby for ourselves. Every little bit helps. Parent council can continue with discussions next month.
- Discussion regarding both the COMPASS & School Climate Survey
  - Mr. Akomolafe will be discussing the school climate survey and is will be resource to parents & staff
  - The school climate Survey helps to reduce barriers via policy decisions. The information obtained is confidential & is not anonymous. The director of education does not have access to the information provided on the survey.
  - COMPASS: stands for Cannabis use, Obesity, Mental Health, Physical activity, Alcohol use, Smoking, Sedentary Behaviour
  - For more information about the profile, additional resources or the COMPASS project in general, visit: [www.uwaterloo.ca/compass-system/about](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/compass-system/about)
  - Specific details about the COMPASS data will be given in the next meeting
- The use of Zoom/Conference calls for Parent Council Meetings: There is no guarantee that there will be no recordings created. A need to discuss contentious issues may arise that & we need to be able to discuss with discretion.
- Course selection: There will be a discussion with curriculum chairs to see what courses can run with low numbers
  - Tech credit piece: Trying to make sure in-coming grade 9 students can take tech credit in grade 9 or in grade 10. There are a fixed # of spots for construction design & transportation technology classes. There will be a plan in place for re-allocation
- Graduation: The venue will be at The Embassy Church (416 Taunton Road West, Oshawa)
  - There is up to \$11 000 budget. The price needs to be reviewed. The major cost is the location. Not looking to increase the student cost. Subsidy is available (Prom cost: \$110 / Grad cost \$85)
- Summer School Courses: Students are able to register right now. They are available online.
- Lakeridge Health has recognized Cordelia Clarke Julien (PMP, ICD.D, Chair of the Board of Trustees) among the 100 Accomplished Black Canadian Women.
  - Cordelia Clarke Julien has made valuable contributions to Canadian Society. Including being instrumental in the Lakeridge Health organization's inclusion, diversity, equity, accessibility, and anti-racism efforts.
  - Ms. Morrison was present at the award ceremony
- Archbishop Anthony Meagher Catholic Continuing Education Centre:
  - Summer school programs include grade 9-12 recovery courses, summer school co-op, grade 8 Reach Ahead Program and accelerated courses
  - Grade 11 or 12 summer courses are recognized for college/university. However, the course grade will not be part of the student's average if course is taken in the summer after grade 12

completion. That summer course will also not be used to calculate the Ontario Scholar. (this includes night school). All grades will count for the Ontario Secondary School Certificate (OSSC)

### **Grad Awards(sponsorship of bursaries): Adele Sartor**

- Need to determine what parent council is would like to sponsor for the 2023-2024 school awards
  - Last year (2022-2023) there were Amare et Servire Bursaries (6 bursaries @ total of \$200 each); Jade DeCastro Scholarship from Parent Council (1 scholarship @ total of \$200); Indigenous award (\$200): with a total of \$1600 in total for awards (total not including the DeCastro family gracious donation as that was the year of Jade's graduation)
  - The year before (2021-2022) there was a Jade DeCastro award (\$200); Amare et Servire awards (\$800); indigenous award (\$200)
  - The suggestion for the total award/bursary amount from parent council this year (2023-2024) is \$1600 total
  - To be noted, according to school policy, we are unfortunately not permitted to memorialize awards. We will honor the commitment made to the family representing the Jade DeCastro Award. There will need to be further discussion
  - For this year, included are: the Indigenous Allyship Indigenous award (1 award @ total of \$200) & the Amare et Servire parent council award (6 bursaries @ total of \$200 each) & the Jade DeCastro Scholarship (1 scholarship @ total of \$200)
  - Mr. DiVizio will provide the qualifiers for the awards

### **Graduation Gift: Mariana Bosetti**

- Showing of the Chalice to parent council

### **Guest Speaker: Kayode Akomolafe**

- Formal Introduction of Mr. Akomolafe: DCDSB Human Rights and Equity Advisor (HREA)
- Viewing of a slide presentation regarding 2023-2024 Student Demographic Survey at the Durham Catholic District School Board will be conducting
- This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> iteration of the survey
- The responsibility of conducting the survey: The premise is a mandated by The Ministry of Education – pursuant of the Ontario Human Rights Code, the Anti Racism Act, and the Ministry of Educations Equity Action Plan
- The survey is voluntarily offered to students to share their identity, culture, race, ethnicity, gender, abilities & country of origin. The survey will be dis aggregated to better understand the student experience & systemic barriers based on these identified markers
- The survey will take place April 22 to 26, 2024
- Participation will be from students in kindergarten to grade 12.
- The survey for kindergarten to grade 8 students will to be done by the parents/guardians. The students in grades 9 to 12 will be completed by the students in class. They will be given 15-20 minutes during school time.
- The survey will help to better understand, support, identify & eliminate barriers, improve achievement, enrich learning, ensure school safety, improve quality of service delivery & programs
- Regarding the DCDSB feedback from the Ministry of Education: – our school board has been proactive in addressing systemic discrimination without realizing it. We have been pioneering the use of student feedback to improve support even before the first iteration of the Demographic Survey (for example: through the use of student identification forms; Implementation of the role of a coach advocate for black students – which was developed by

government whom provided funding for only 1 coach. The board sussed for funds to source another coach – this happened before the board review and approval of funding for an additional coach; Graduation coaches were hired before the first survey was conducted)

- The first iteration had a 39% completion rate. This is too low for statistical purposes. For grades 4-8, with 15000 students possibility, only 6320 completed the survey. There is an even lower completion rate in the higher grades
- Grades 9-12 students will receive a unique confidential link in their DCDSB student email address during the week of April 22-26. These students will complete the survey themselves. Letters will be sent to parents of these students to accept a link to be sent, or to opt out of participating in the survey. Forms are requested to be returned by the 12<sup>th</sup> of April – If the parent opts out, the students will then not receive that link to their personal email
- This survey is voluntary
- Mr. Akomolafe met with the student leaders from various high schools to sensitize that the data from those higher grades are needed. The students were informed of the benefits. Meetings with the leadership of student bodies are still underway
- It was noted that there were 3 social economic questions from the first iteration, that had no value for the objective of this survey. These 3 questions have since been removed since there were no data value in the response to these questions (occupation info, highest level of education & income info)
- For more information & to see the result of the first survey: Go to the board website – in the search, type “student demographic survey”.
- Noted that the survey is not anonymous but it is confidential – limited individuals have access to info
- Mr. DiVizio requested to get a report half way to 3/4 of the way thru. Mr. Akomolafe advised that there is a dashboard that can identify how students are doing via the DCDSB.ca landing page

**Parish Updates (St. Isaac Jogues): Danilo Simonelli**

- Father Marc wishes everyone a happy Easter

**Parish Updates (Holy Redeemer): Rachel Vigliatore**

- Father Colin is celebrating 70<sup>th</sup> birthday

**Financial Update: Emily Povolo**

- Current balance: \$11,164.12
- Last years grad gift amount: \$2000
- Parent Council approved \$125 for Ms. Bosetti to buy the Missal Book

**D. OTHER BUSINESS – open question period**

No updates at this time

**E. CLOSING PRAYER: John DiVizio**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned: 9:25pm**

**Next St. Mary CSS Council Meeting**

**Tuesday May 7th 2024 @ 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.**