

**ST. MARY C.S.S. PARENT COUNCIL**

**TUESDAY, May 7th, 2024**

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| **Executive Members** | **Name** | **Sign In** |
| 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 | Present |
| Parish Representative (St. Isaac Jogues) | Danilo Simonelli | Regrets |
| **Parent Representatives** |  |  |
| Parent Representative | Cordelia Clarke Julien | Absent |
| Parent Representative | Danielle Boyle | Regrets |
| Parent Representative | Jennifer Millar | Present |
| Parent Representative | Jason Boyle | Regrets |
| Parent Representative | June Lee | Regrets |
| Parent Representative | Zhora Adatia-McGlashen | Present |
| Parent Representative | Lilani Kulathungam | Present |
| Parent Representative | Claudia Nichols | Regrets |
| Parent Representative | Melodie McLymont | Present |
| 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 | Absent |
| Parent Representative | Paul Dalton | Absent |
| Parent Representative | Nancy Barry | Present |
| Parent Representative | Shivaun McLymont | Absent |
| **Other Attendees** |  |  |
| Parish Representative (Holy Redeemer) | Rachel Vigliatore (HR) | Present |
|  | Nindu Kumar | Regrets |
|  | Tara King | Present |
|  | Arianna D’urso | Absent |
|  | L. Chamgoo | Present |

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**Meeting Called to Order: 7:05p.m.**

**Welcome:** Adele Sartor and Sabrina Pallotta

**Opening Prayer:** John DiVizio

- and special intentions

**B. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN**

**Approval of Minutes:** April 2, 2024 – no changes

Motion to Approve by: Zhora A-M Seconded by: Rachel V.

**C. REPORTS / INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Grad Awards (selection process and criteria):** Adele Sartor

* Parent Council will sponsor the same awards / bursaries as last year, which total $1200. St. Mary selection committee provided Council with information concerning selection process and criteria for awards, which was presented by Adele:
  + Amare et Servire Bursaries (6 bursaries @ $200 each): given to a graduating student in recognition of their outstanding service to the school community and their contribution to faith development within St. Mary. The recipient will be an exemplary representation of the school's motto, "to love and to serve".
  + St. Mary Allyship Award (1 award @ total of $200): given to a graduating student who exemplifies the following qualities: a witness to Catholic social teachings by promoting equality, democracy, and solidarity for a just, peaceful, and compassionate society; respectful and affirms the diversity and interdependence of the world’s peoples and cultures; an advocate in supporting awareness of Indigenous, anti-Black racism, or 2SLGBTQIA+ issues
  + The Jade De Castro Memorial Award (1 scholarship @ total of $200): given to a graduating student who exemplifies the following values as defined by Jade’s life: the recipient will be a student who excels in academics, fitness/athletics, and leadership, and demonstrates character traits such as kindness, perseverance in times of adversity, compassion, and love of life

The selection process:

* + 2 grad award meetings held in May & June attended by each department’s curriculum chairs, head of guidance (Mrs. Stanesic); chair of Program Support, Chaplain, and administration.
  + Grade 12 students are encouraged to complete online profile to provide information about themselves, their community involvement, etc. This is a voluntary submission. Information about this is available on the grad Edsby group.
  + Valedictorian is selected by the students

**Principal’s Report:** John DiVizio

* Discussion regarding the Student Demographic Survey results
* Discussion regarding COMPASS survey results
* New York band trip was a great success
* The music numbers are healthy
* OSSLT (Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test) took place on April 23rd; currently awaiting results (this year 1 test was issued in the fall for re-writers & another in the spring for first time writers)
* The Eco-Exhibit was on April 23rd
* CABS will be bringing students to Durham College and to McMaster University – specifically for students who may be at risk
* Track & Field is taking place right now
* Human Trafficking Presentation took place on April 29th – this was headed by Ms. Simon
* There will be a presentation on May 27th at 7pm (“Out of the Ashes”) at St Isaac Jogues Catholic Church at the end of May. It will include discussions with victims of human trafficking, how to stop it and how it happens in our communities. The presentation is recommended for people 14 years and older. An email will be sent to Parent Council by Adele.
* There was a film festival at Landmark Cinemas headed by Mr. Pisani. Two reps from Apple Education Canada also attended. St. Mary is on our way to becoming an Apple Distinguished School.
* The White Pine Reading Competition took place on April 30th. There is a selection of 6 books. Reading club gets together to read and quiz each other. On May 8th our students are facing All Saints Catholic Secondary School.
* There will be lock down drills: lock down and hold & secure drills are needed / 6 fire drills and a bomb threat drill are needed every year/ currently almost all drills are completed
* The Wrestling team went to Ottawa
* The Dance team had a competition on April 30th in Hamilton – they did really well and came in 4th. A Parent suggested that the school provide some funding to offset some of the costs for dance competitions, as they are quite costly.
* This is Catholic Education Week
* Discussion regarding the need for donations of toiletry for families in need
* The Skills Ontario Competition is happening at the Toronto Congress Centre, headed by Mr. Pisani and Mr. O’Connor.
* Wellness Café: a space for discussion about where and how to seek support for mental health, created to help decrease misconceptions about mental health.
* Lacrosse is happening right now
* STEM: headed by the head of math, Ms. Chang – will be bringing female students to Parkwood Estates / promoting increase in female involvement in science, technology and math
* The Regional Chess Tournament is on May 9th
* The Golf team is going out on May 9th
* Girls Soccer taking place
* May 19th: Outdoor education planting – St. Mary received a bursary from the City of Pickering
* Miller Discovery Day on May 21st: headed by Ms. Wilson-Clark, held on at Miller Plant in Pickering. Students get a chance to learn about skill trades. This is the 3rd year St. Mary attends this event.
* St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic School team will be coming for track & field on May 22nd
* Durham Catholic Children’s Gala will be held on May 16th
* College presentations for grade 11 students on May 16th
* University presentations to be held on May 23rd
* Spring Band Concert is on May 16th
* Date for Movie Night will be announced shortly
* Drama Show taking place on May 24th
* Student Senators meeting taking place on May 27th
* Grade 12 Canada Wonderland trip is upcoming
* The Vocal Music Concert is on May 28th
* The history trip to France is canceled due to lack of interest. Needed at least 18 students to register and submit deposit by the deadline to secure the trip, and this did not happen. The lead teachers were Mr. Zimmer and Mr. Stanesic. A suggestion was made to promote event better next time.
* The Student Survey was supposed to conclude at the end of April but extended to May. Mr. DiVizio incentivizing students:
  + If participation reaches 75%: free non-uniform day
  + If participation reaches 90%: free pizza lunch for the entire school. Parent Council offered to pay for half of the $2600 cost for the pizza lunch.
  + The elementary school stats were 17.9 to 29.7% participation
  + The St. Mary survey completion rate was 76.2% - the highest high school completion rate within the DCDSB!
  + 301 students did not complete the survey. 963 students did complete the survey
  + It was decided that the students will still get the pizza lunch because we reached the highest completion rate within the Board. The VP’s will announce it to the students tomorrow.
  + The cheese & pepperoni pizzas will be provided by Gino’s Pizza (will look into gluten & dairy free options).
  + Volunteer help for the pizza distribution would be appreciated
  + Info regarding the Student Demographic Survey will be compiled and released to the public; will be available online on Board website.

**Discussion re: Vape Detectors:**  Adele Sartor

* Parent Council was planning to send letter to MPPs regarding funding for vape detectors, but in the midst of preparing this, Minister Lecce made public announcement stating Ontario government will put $30 million funding towards vape issues in schools
* Question: if we should nonetheless ask politicians for vape detectors at this time; be proactive
* Noted: Quebec recently banned flavoured vapes. Noted that data shows that ban does not necessarily get rid of the problem; there is growth in the illicit market. Flavour ban not proving to be effective & youth vaping is still trending in the wrong direction, in part due to non-compliance by vape shops.
* Noted: education & awareness seems to be best approach
* It was mentioned that a Government Bill will be likely be announced in early to mid-April regarding banning of flavour vaping in Canada
* Discussion: we would be in favour of sending letters to the provincial / federal government. It is important to use our collective voice.
* Vaping discussions are part of the curriculum. The grade 9 phys-ed department does a great job discussing the negative effects of vaping.
* Suggestion to not have vaping shops near the school.
* There will be a review of our policy and procedure by September – this is part of our 3-year plan
* Proactive management has included keeping the school hallways as empty as possible.
* The VPs will have a conversation with students who are caught vaping. It will be dealt with from an educational stance. The school will work with the parents. There is no blanket response. Every situation is looked at individually.
* Parent Council expressed interest in an info session regarding vaping (including an invitation to senior students in the elementary schools). We would like to host an event in the fall (Oct/Nov in the evening). The principal expressed that he would pay for the cost for this. Suggestion was made to have a guest speaker and to potentially have parents attend the event with their students.
* Adele will draft something and send the draft to everyone for input. Adele will work towards something in the fall.

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

* In early June, St. Isaac parish will be starting their capital campaign for the hall expansion. The Parent Council will ask Father Marc to attend our meeting in June to speak to us about the campaign. This will also allow us to ask Father Marc any other questions we may have and have an open discussion with him

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

* No updates at this time

**Financial Update:** Emily Povolo

* Current balance is: $9614.12
* Last year’s grad gift amount was $2000 and $2000 has been set aside for this year as well.
* Bursaries and awards have already been taken out from our balance.
* Regarding the grad gift: every year for the past 8 years, $2000 has been donated by Parent Council for the grad gift on behalf of the Grade 12 class. Gifts used to include pens and key chains, and then the gifts started to include things like the picnic tables, the 3D printer, indigenous garden creation, etc. Last year, the gift included the items for the chapel and portion of the Picnic Tables. Staff will ask graduating students for suggestions for this year’s grad gift.
* Suggestion: approximately $15,000 needed for the replacement of the stage curtains (currently in disarray). Currently in process of getting a quote
* Suggestion: updating of our sound system. A quote will be obtained
* For the next meeting in June, there will be a discussion with Mariana about the grade 12 grad gift survey

**Used Uniform Sale:** Adele Sartor

* we plan to have another used uniform sale in early July
  + Last year it was July 5th
  + Suggestion that 1st week of July may be difficult because a lot of families are away because of the long weekend - we should consider doing it the following week
  + The sale starts around 4pm or 5pm
  + During the exam period is the time frame when the used uniforms are donated (mostly from the grade 12’s)
  + We will discuss volunteerism at the June meeting (sorting etc.)
  + Students will be done school and can volunteer (normally the ambassadors assist)
  + Will ask Mr. Stanesic to survey his ambassadors and see which date would be more desirable (July 3rd or 10th)
  + A lot of volunteers are needed and would be appreciated
  + The preparation time for the sale is usually around 12 or 1pm
  + The sale promotion will start in June
  + Suggestion: A free non-uniform day for the grade 12’s if they donate (incentive)
  + Further discussion will take place at the June meeting
  + DECIDED: The sale will be July 4th from 4 to 7pm

**D. OTHER BUSINESS**

No updates at this time

**E. CLOSING PRAYER: John DiVizio**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned: 8:35pm**

**Next St. Mary CSS Council Meeting**

**Tuesday June 4th, 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.**