

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Secondary School Council Meeting

Date: Oct 3, 2024 Time: 06:30 p.m. to 07:30 p.m.

Location: Our Lady of Mount Carmel CSS 3700 Trelawny Circle MISS ON L5N 5J7
Library

Attendees:

Brea Corbett- School Trustee

Michelle Cholette – Teacher Rep

Jim McLevey – Non-teaching Employee Rep/Chaplain

Mary Ambrogi- Vice Principal

Denis Radetic- Vice Principal

Jennifer Varnam- Principal

Neisma Predo

Cavell Lopez

Vanessa Colettas

Tricia Simon

Belinda Russo (Virtual attendee)

Shazia Soorma

M. Georgena Skariah

Lindsay LeDrew

Katiana Panza

Christina Rodriques

Natalia Lobo

Raveen Lobo

Michelle Flemint

Nina Graham

Josie Licursi-Reece

Cynthia Sudeyko (Virtual attendee)

A. Routine Matters

1. Call to Order by Neisma Predo (outgoing Chair) and Attendance

2. Opening Prayer- Mr McLeevy- Chaplain

3. Land Acknowledgement - Ms Jennifer Varnam- Principal

4. Approval of Agenda - Approved by Neisma and seconded by Tricia

5. Approval of Catholic School Council Minutes, May 15, 2024 a. Business Arising from the Minutes – Nil- Meeting minutes from May- approved by Neisma after requesting input. Seconded by Christina

B. Trustee Update - Brea Corbett:

Brea thanked everyone for being there. She explained the role of the Council as an advisory body. She is one of 11 elected trustees and is in her second elected term. There are 16 schools in her purview. Her role operates at a system level for multi year planning.etc. Engagement by parents and students is important.

She also helped secure the Air Conditioning for the gym after 6 years. It was installed in the summer of 2024 and started in September.

C. Standing Items

1. Chair/Treasurer’s Report from Tricia Simon-

Tricia provided an update from Daniela Kobialko, Head Secretary, OLMC.

“I hope this finds you well. I am attaching the School Council last reporting that is on file. We are in the process of year end so any payments done after August 31, 2024 do not show on this report. Please note that the fridge for the YMCA Breakfast Club was purchased and paid for from the generous donation through school council and that amounted to \$1,607.00. Also, the \$200.00 Grad Award donated by council is reflected on the reporting. Once year end is completed, the next reporting should bring everything up to date. The balance on the account should be approximately \$23.57.”

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel SS Royal Bank of Canada School Generated Fund		Detailed Category Summary - All Transactions To Date					Report #2 09/01/2023 08/31/2024 Date ... Range 2023-2024	
Summary for: School Council General Cat. #: 7000		Contact Person: J. Varnam Balance Forward: \$35.43						
Date	Transaction	Description	Debit	Credit	Tax Paid	Tax Rebate	Cleared	Balance
10/26/2023	Deposit 1815	proceeds from used uniform sale Oct. 19/23 school council initiative		\$1,695.00			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1,730.43
01/17/2024	Check 17092	Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board Reimbursement for Spanish Books/class rousurces for 360 classroom DP-1-23-320-4-423-000 P.O.#st286719 Inv# 918914682	\$95.95				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1,634.48
03/06/2024	Check 17137	Neisma Peredo Reimbursement for Christmas Baskets for community donations outreach from School Council Inv#	\$303.91		\$18.46	\$15.39	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1,330.57
05/03/2024	Deposit 1822	Used Uniform Sale Proceeds-School Council r		\$500.00			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1,830.57
05/28/2024	Check 26	Mia Di Folco Grad Special Award to Mia Di Folco for School Council Award (Grad 2024) Inv#	\$200.00				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$1,630.57
			\$599.86	\$2,195.00	\$18.46	\$15.39		\$1,630.57
Opening Balance: \$35.43			599.86	2,195.00	18.46	\$15.39		\$1,630.57

2. Principal Report- from Jennifer Varnam:

Jennifer thanked everyone for coming and good energy. Good start-up to the school year. Only changes to school rules (Ministry) - cell phone policy and vaping and (Board) dress code policy which only affects highschools on dress down days and non-uniform events. (students have to be covered torso to mid-thigh)

Jennifer confirmed that the gym air conditioning was put in and thanked Brea for her support. She asked everyone to stop by and check out the new gym mural that was painted in July - people love it. The gym was painted white a few years ago to remove the Crusaders and become the Carmel Courage.

She talked about the 23 Oct Parent teacher meeting with an online booking system. The office is available for help if needed. There was a question from Belinda as to how the Parent Teacher meeting is communicated. This was answered: Hard copy sent home with students and information also sent via School Messenger

Dates for year end include June 23rd for Grad and Prom is June 24th

Lastly Kiss and Ride- a safety analysis was done from the Board. Their decision was that the Kiss and Ride remains one-way kiss and ride around the back. Gate is now closed to prevent parents from avoiding the kiss and ride and a stop sign was added so that people have to stop where students cross to the portables. Parking is very clear. In August, a letter and map were sent to families to outline changes.

Question from Cavell- What happens in an emergency? The gates are easy to open. EMS can also use the other side of the drive thru in front of the school (the one marked for parents to exit).

In regards to Spirit day- student council- will post social media

3. Chaplaincy Report:

School mass showed great energy-Grateful to Fr. Joyson

Finished Grade 10 retreats for this year.

Food drive has started - Eden Food, St. Vincent

Hoodies for Homeless starting soon- given to Peel shelters and brought downtown Toronto - last year over 600 items

In need of hygiene donations.

Serve last year was the largest ever.

Seniors outreach- meets every Tuesday in the Chapel.

Day of Hope - 160 students last year. This year's date: Thursday Nov 28th - open to all students.

In Memoriam

Julie Skjold-Pettersen (English Teacher) - championed vulnerable students.

Kevaughn Ashman - (student - 2024 Graduate)

4. Parish Report - Adoration chapel is new.

Call for Confirmation- Sacrament of Confirmation - information available through Jim McLevey, School Chaplain.

D. Information/Updates:

1. Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) Reports - no report, did not meet over summer.

2. Teaching Staff updates from Michelle Colette:

School Council- Teacher Rep Notes

Thursday October 3, 2024

From Guidance

College University Fair: Wednesday October 9 th from 11-1

Grade 8 Night: Thursday November 7th from 6-8 pm

From our Indigenous Studies Class:

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day took place on Monday, September 30th. OLMC also hosted an Indigenous guest speaker - Tim McGregor on that day as well. Participation in Orange Shirt Day is very important as we acknowledge and honour the survivors of residential schools.

From our Student Success Teacher Mrs Do Rego:

Euro Trip for this year is trying to join Gonzaga;s trip. Re-approval from the board is necessary. Trip planned for March Break of 2025.

Get Ready:

The board has sent a draw-string bag, water bottle and locker mirror for every student in grade 9. Students who haven't picked one up yet can see Mrs. Do Rego in room 118.

ESL:

ESL trip going out to Little Canada (in Toronto) where students will get to see many iconic and famous monuments, cityscapes, etc. in miniature form and get acquainted with where they are in the world now. Trip is October 29th.

Sports:

Senior Tennis team - both mix doubles teams qualified for the ROPSSAA Championship

Junior Tennis team - tournament is on October 9th.

Boys Volleyball has a tournament Oct 24 at Joan of Arc

Literacy:

Literacy testing is scheduled for Nov 19 and 20 and Nov 26 and 27.

Morning literacy activities are starting at the end of October to prepare students.

There will be morning announcements for all grade 10 classes in the lead up to the two testing windows.

The results of these two testing windows will come out in January 2025.

Any student who is not successful will be invited to remedial after school classes and will be able to try again in the Spring.

E. Action Items

1. Call for members – nominations.

OLMC's 2024-2025 School Council:

Cavell Lopez – Chair

Vanessa Colettas – Secretary/Parish Rep

Tricia Simon – Treasurer

Belinda Russo – OAPCE Rep

Shazia Soorma

M. Georgena Skariah

Lindsay LeDrew

Katiana Panza

Christina Rodriques

Michelle Cholette – Teacher Rep

Jim McLevey – Non-teaching Employee Rep

VPs – Mary Ambrogi/Denis Radetic

Principal – Jennifer Varnam

2. Call for positions:- see above

3. Board trips to rallies.

Any trip going from this school would require parental approval. No such trip planned at this time.

4. Parent Teacher Interview: Oct 23rd - Used uniform sales will be done by School Council members.

New uniform items will begin to be available Jan 2025 but old items (white golf shirt) will be grandfathered out.

Schools can do fundraisers for specific things as long as this is defined and communicated to school community.

School Council Funds have been used in the past for: 360 classroom + books by Latino/a authors for school library + Breakfast Club Fridge + Awards and Christmas basket

5. Allocation of School Council Funding from last school year – breakfast club fridge - \$200 went to two grad award @ \$100 each.

6. SGF – Gym Mural was done last year. At next meeting we will discuss this year's priorities. Members of the School Council are asked for their input.

Computer labs were provided with all new computers over the last two years.

Classroom/teacher workroom computers are at end of life in December. This might be a priority to discuss.

7. Set dates for meeting for 2024-2025 School Year :

Meeting 1- Nov 20th 6:30

Meeting 2- Feb 5th 6:30

Meeting 3- April + May TBD

F. Future Meetings TBD (see above)

G. Adjournment