



**Holy Name of Mary CSS  
School Council Agenda/Minutes  
School Library**

**Date: October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.**

<b>Attendees:</b> Bijikumnar Benjamin, Claudia Lehecka, Genya Woloshyn, Ginette Valente Anthony Scanga, Michelle Onyschuk, Sarah Muscat, Jackie Lalonde, Almas Shaikh, Maria-Olivia Larado, Anmar Ahmad, Saima Anmar <b>Student Rep:</b> Anna Lanado		<b>Regrets:</b>
Topic	Notes/Response	
<b>Welcome/Prayer</b>	Introduction of New Administration: Principal Claudia Lehecka & Vice Principal Genya Woloshyn There was an opportunity for all attendees to introduce themselves and the grade level of their student Opening Liturgy & Prayer – Members of Council Land acknowledgement - Genya Woloshyn Attendees asked to sign the attendance sheet	
<b>Approval of Agenda/Previous Meeting Minutes</b>	Minutes were distributed. Review, Amendments & Approval of the minutes from May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2024 Motion to Approve the Minutes – Michelle Onyschuk      Seconded by Biji Benjamin Motion to Approve the Agenda – Michelle Onyschuk      Seconded by Biji Benjamin	
<b>Chairs Report Bijikumnar Benjamin</b>	For the past four years he has served on the HNM School Council, two years as the Treasurer and the last two years as Chair. He expressed his gratitude for the service and contributions of the members of the School Council. He has been impressed by the variety of extracurricular activities available for the students and his daughter who graduated in spring of 2024 is now attending the University of Windsor. He expressed his appreciation to the teachers and the members of the administration as he has worked side by side with four principals. He urged the parents to continue to support the School Council by sharing and focusing on the needs of their students.	
<b>Student Representative Report Anna Lanado</b>	Her report highlighted the many extracurricular activities taking place at HNM. She outlined that there are 13 HNM clubs that are currently running this academic year with many more that have not yet started. Students can access the library Google Classroom to find information on when club members meet, who the teacher advisor is and the location of the meeting. It is apparent that there is ample opportunity for all students to participate in a variety of extracurricular events.	

		<p>She highlighted the upcoming events of Spirit Week with <i>Pumped in Pink</i>, which is the school's fundraiser to support Breast Cancer, on October 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be upcoming elections for our Grade 9 students in the Student Cabinet. There will also be elections for students to be on the Visual Performing Arts Council</p> <p>Mr. Scanga congratulated the students for their continual support of the Run for Breast Cancer. He informed the parents that in the past 16 years the HNM students have raised over \$100,000 in support of the Pumped in Pink event.</p>
<p><b>Parish Report</b> <b>Anthony Scanga</b></p>		<p>Mr. Scanga has been reappointed by Father Joy to be the Parish Rep on the HNM School Council 2024-2025 academic year. He highlighted the new pastoral team of Father Jibin Joy and Father Samoj Sunny at St. Anthony of Padua Parish. Father Sunny has been assigned to serve the sacramental life of HNM school community. He offered Father Joy's request for our school community to pray the daily Rosary during the month of October. He highlighted the new office hours. He reviewed the Activities of the Knights of Columbus serving the needs of the HNM students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Archbishop Memorial Scholarship of \$200 was awarded in June to Zkiya Ahid. (He read her essay that was selected)</li> <li>b) The Grand Knight will contact Jessica Belanger, our ERW to determine the need of winter coats for students in need to be delivered in November.</li> <li>c) The Grand Knight will also provide gift certificates and food hampers for HNM families in need at Christmas time.</li> </ul> <p>He encouraged the school community to continue its financial support of SHARE LIFE and to use the Digital Resources by the St Augustine Institute that the Parish provides for the schools and its families.</p>
<p><b>Teacher's Report</b> <b>Ginette Valente</b></p>		<p>Mrs. Valente highlighted the many activities and events sponsored by the following departments: Business, Academic Resource, English &amp; Arts, Moderns, Mathematics &amp; Computer Science, Physical Education, Science and the Chaplain. Many departments offer extra help opportunities for students after school.</p> <p><b>Significant Upcoming Events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Parent Teacher Interview Night is October 23<sup>rd</sup></li> <li>b) Open House is November 7<sup>th</sup></li> <li>c) Early Warning letters and/or phone calls will occur Oct 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup></li> <li>d) The <i>Father Fogarty Banquet</i> which celebrates the Catholic Student Award will take place on October 26<sup>th</sup>. This award goes to student, Kirti Athithan.</li> <li>e) Collection of Halloween Candy for Canadian Food for Children, will be on November 1<sup>st</sup></li> <li>f) Think Fast is March 21<sup>st</sup></li> <li>g) October is Women's History Month</li> <li>h) Diwali Celebrations start October 31<sup>st</sup></li> </ul>

<b>Non- Teaching Report</b>		NO REPORT
<b>Treasurers' Report</b>		The HNM School Council Bank Account Balance is \$891.50 with no outstanding expenses.
<b>OAPCE Report</b>		NO REPORT
<b>PRINCIPAL'S REPORT</b> <b>Claudia Lehecka</b>		<p>The principal offered an overview of the concerns of enrollment at HNM. In the spring the school lost 7 teachers because of declining enrollment. Our September projected enrollment was 475. The school met this projection with our September 30<sup>th</sup> report of 476. She highlighted that the major barrier for our low enrollment is the parental expense of busing &amp; transportation. She is currently in conversation with her Superintendent do determine if there are ways to receive some financial support from the Board to help with increased bussing opportunities. She welcomed parents to express their concerns to our local trustee, Shawn Xavier.</p> <p>New programming ideas such as AP, and a new SHSM is being considered to continuously meet the needs and interests of our current students. The Ministry has changed graduation requirements with all students required to take a mandatory Gr. 9 or 10 tech course. This will create an increased need for certified teachers who are qualified in these areas. Next year we hope to offer a new Grade 10 Health Care Technology course as it aligns with the popularity among our HNM students who are interested in pursuing health care studies in their future post-secondary plans.</p> <p>She outlined the School Generated Fund is currently at \$184,000. These are funds that go directly towards students and providing them with enriching experiences both in and out of school. However, the school board has rolled back our Student Activity fee of \$65.00 to \$45.00. As a result, our students will need to pay for some things that were once covered. For example, the yearbook will now have to be paid separately and our retreat funding has also been reduced. A second concern is that the activity fee for the 2024-25 school year was not collected before the end of the last school year, and we are now trying to get families to pay this. Currently, we have collected fees from 178 students. As a result, we have approximately \$13 000 that must still come in. Without these funds, there is a concern that many things that have been provided to students in the past, may not be available this year.</p>

We are preparing for the fall writing of the Grade 10 Literacy tests in November. The school will provide additional after school programs in preparation for this mandatory test for graduation.  
We are also starting preparation for our Awards Ceremony to be held later this semester.

Our school Instagram highlight the exciting and varied things that are taking place every day as well as to announce upcoming events. Parents and students are asked to follow our Instagram in order to stay apprised of what is going on.

**RESPONSE:**

The Chair, Biji Benjamin expressed that this school council is in support of her efforts to promote the school.

**Other Parents' Comments:**

Over the past four years we have had four different principals, might these changes in administrations have caused our low enrollment? Also, with a low enrollment and decreased course options, our students are going to other schools that have a broader course selection.

For the past six years the School Council has invited our local trustee to attend our meetings. He has declined our invitation. We requested last year for our superintendent to attend our last meeting to address our concerns about the future of HNM. We were advised to forward our concerns to the principal who would forward them directly to him.

It was commented that HNM is a special school as it was a gift of the Felician Sisters to Dufferin Peel. This is the only all women fully funded secondary school in the Region of Peel. The School Board does not seem to appreciate the uniqueness of this school and its special needs especially its transportation needs.

Principal Lehecka expressed her goal to address these parental questions and comments. She assured the parents that she plans to be here for an extended time as the school principal.

<p><b>Community Report</b></p>		<p><b>NO REPORT</b></p>
<p><b>Other Business</b></p>		<p><b>Closure of the 2023-2024 School Council</b>  Principal Lehecka assumed the role of Chair of the meeting to conduct the elections of a new HNM School Council. No written nominations had been received for consideration of any executive position. Nominations were open for self -nomination or nominations from members present.</p> <p><b><u>Position of Chair:</u></b></p> <p>Self-nomination JACKIE LALONDE. Seconded by Biji Benjamin  Self-nomination ALMAS SHAIKH. Seconded by Biji Benjamin</p> <p>It was decided &amp; agreed upon that both nominees would Co-Chair the position.</p> <p>Both candidates were acclaimed to Co-Chair the HNM SCHOOL COUNCIL 2024-2025</p> <p><b><u>Position of Treasurer</u></b></p> <p>Michelle Onyschuk nominated by Olivia Larodu. Seconded by Almas Shaikh</p> <p>Michelle Onyschuk was acclaimed to the position of Treasurer for HNM SCHOOL COUNCIL 2024-2025</p> <p><b><u>Position of Community Representative</u></b></p> <p>Self-Nomination Biji Benjamin. Seconded by Michelle Onyschuk</p> <p>Biji Benjamin was acclaimed to the position of COMMUNITY REP for HNM SCHOOL COUNCIL 2024-2025</p> <p><b><u>Position of Secretary</u></b></p> <p>Michelle Onyschuk nominated Oliva Lanado for the position of Secretary. Seconded by Biji Benjamin</p> <p>Olivia Larodu was acclaimed to the position of Secretary for the HNM SCHOOL COUNCIL 2024-2025</p> <p><b><u>Position of OAPCE Representative</u></b></p>

		<p>More additional information about this position was requested. Principal Lehecka will research the duties and meeting times. The position will be filled at the next School Council meeting.</p> <p><b>Congratulations to the new members of our Executive.</b></p> <p><b>FUTURE DATES were selected:</b></p> <p>Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.  Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.  May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>It was suggested to use the funds to engage more parents to attend the next meeting by having a guest speaker with a light dinner for our parents. Executive will discuss and finalize a decision.</p>
<p><b>Closing Prayer</b>  <b>Anthony Scanga</b></p> <p><b>Adjournment</b></p>		<p>Closing prayer &amp; blessing: the School Council Members &amp; Mr. Scanga</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm</p>
<p><b>Next Meeting Date</b></p>		<p>Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm</p>