



IONA CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL
2170 SOUTH SHERIDAN WAY
MISSISSAUGA, ON
L5J 2M4
TEL: (905) 823-0136
FAX: (905) 823-0248

Minutes of Iona Catholic Secondary School Council Meeting
Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 7:00 pm
Iona Learning Commons

In Attendance: Justyna Czerepak (Chair), Nelen Visconti-Avila, Oswald Emmanuel, Vita Emmanuel, Kirsten Madsen, Lois Keating, Joseph Farias, Regina Majkut, Michelle Foster, Connie Kim, Nelia Toste (Teacher Rep), Carl Cini (P).

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda
 - Approved – O. Emmanuel, M. Foster
4. Review and Approval of Minutes from June 1, 2023 Meeting
 - Approved – J. Farias, J. Czerepak
5. Chairs Report
 - No Report
6. Treasurer's Report
 - Current balance – 935.73
 - Last year provided \$500 in graduation awards.
 - Parent Reaching Out Grant of \$500 received.
7. Teacher Report
 - Clubs:
 - Yearbook; meet every Tuesday
 - Yoga club
 - Eco team
 - Legacy project; grade 12s voted on this year's focus yesterday
 - Badminton club - Fridays
 - Chaplaincy council
 - BSA; visited Silver Creek on Monday
 - Horizons book club

- Wellness committee
- Sports:
 - Senior boys volleyball
 - Varsity golf
 - Flag football
 - Cross country
 - Hockey sign up
 - Swim team sign up
- Other:
 - Peer tutoring program has started; sign up using QR code found on posters around the school, in classrooms and outside of guidance
 - Grade nine retreat today with all grade nines at St. Kateri
 - Extra help for math available through peer tutoring, TVO Mathify (grades 7 – 12)
 - Terry fox walk and pep rally tomorrow during periods 1 & 2
 - Orange shirt day on Monday
 - Grade nine Night in; Beach theme
 - Business SHSM and Co-op are hosting a Career Cruising Event; various individuals from the workplace will be here to answer students' questions about their educational journey, and whatever other questions they may have.

8. Principal's Report

- Enrollment – 617 students.
- New Year. New Changes. This year we begin with a new Vice Principal, new Chaplaincy Leader and 8 new teachers. Iona staff are also taking on new leadership positions in the school.
- Grade assemblies at the beginning of the year focused on building community and being kind to each other. School policies and procedures are based on ensuring that a safe, caring and inclusive environment is sustained.
- Bathroom use is being addressed with students, their parents and public health regarding vaping. Students are encouraged to report issues in the bathroom either in person or through the Safe Schools Reporting Tool. Safe Schools Reporting is an anonymous way for students to report incidents in the school. It is located on our school website on the left side. Details must be provided to allow us to effectively follow up.
- There will no longer be Civvies days scheduled for the last Thursday of every month. Last year we had visitors in our school on those days. Civvies days will continue however they will be advertised separately and be connected to a theme.

- Students are encouraged to keep their classwork and academics as their focus. Courses evaluated on 70% term work and 30% final evaluation divided between a culminating project and/or an exam. Maximizing the 70% term mark by handing in all assignments and keeping up with daily work will reduce anxiety regarding the higher stake final assessments.
- Students are asked to pay a \$65 student activity fee. The fee goes to retreats, yearbooks and student activities. Parents are reminded to pay the fee through School Cash Online if they have not already done so. This year we will be following up with families as last year there were less than 50% of students who paid the fee.
- Progress Reports will be distributed the week of October 9. Students will receive an updated mark and parents of students at risk of not getting their credit will be notified.
- Parent Interviews are on Thursday, October 26 beginning with a Meet and Greet at 6:30 in the gym and interviews from 7 – 8:30.
- Our Grade 8 Open House is on November 2 beginning at 6:30. All grade 8 students in Mississauga are invited to attend as we have a regional program. We encourage parents and students to share their Iona experiences with their friends and family.
- Parents were asked what we could do to raise awareness of our school. Ideas included using alumni to help promote us, more sports for boys such as football or lacrosse, stressing the timely communication that our teachers have with parents and provide more information for parents about the school.
- Our Guidance department is available to students daily to discuss their academics, future career and program interests and post-secondary options. Presentations are beginning this week for students wanting to apply for post-secondary.
- Course selection will be in January. Guidance will have class visits to help students choose. All students are encouraged to use My Blueprint to get started.
- There is a PD Day on October 6.
- Mid-Term Reports cards will be distributed on November 17.
- For Grade 10 parents, the term change date is Nov 7 for students in Civic or Careers. These courses are half courses that end mid semester.
- For Grade 10 parents, the OSSLT will be happening this year. More details to come.
- Parents are reminded that our area to drop students off and pick them up is through the student parking lot on the west end of the school. As parents come down the driveway, the first right will lead them to the drop off area. Signs and arrows are visible. Coming to the front circle makes it difficult for our busses and create congestion.
- Please follow us on Twitter @IonaCatholic, on Instagram @ionacatholicmississauga and on YouTube at Iona CSS

9. Elections/Assignments of Positions
 - Co-Chairs – Justyna Czerepak, Vita Emmanuel
 - Treasurer – Oswald Emmauel
 - OAPCE Rep – Joseph Farias
 - Secretary – Nelen Visconti-Avila
 - Parish Representative – St. Christopher
 - Parish Representative – St. Francis of Assisi

Meeting Dates

November 16, January 11, 2024, April 18, 2024, May 23, 2024

Adjournment

The meeting of the Iona Catholic Secondary Council was adjourned.