



IONA CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL
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Minutes of Iona Catholic Secondary School Council Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2023, at 7:00 pm
Iona Learning Commons

In Attendance: Justyna Czerepak (Chair), Nelen Visconti-Avila, Oswald Emmanuel, Vita Emmanuel, Kirsten Madsen, Lois Keating, Herman Viloría (Trustee), Nelia Toste (Teacher Rep), Carl Cini (P).

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda
 - Approved – K. Madsen, O. Emmanuel
4. Review and Approval of Minutes from September 28, 2023 Meeting
 - Approved – O. Emmanuel, N. Visconti-Avila
5. Trustee Report - Herman Viloría, Catholic School Trustee
 - Referred to Trustee Newsletter
 - Board Meeting business includes aligning GAP procedures, Board by laws and Strategic Plans
 - The Board has hired a new Chief Information Officer (CIO) from the Waterloo Catholic School Board. She is a Dufferin Peel graduate.
 - The Next Board Meeting will include the election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees
 - Our Boards EQAO results are on par with the rest of the province. EQAO provided comparative results for school, board and province.
 - Declining enrollment is a continued reality throughout the Dufferin Peel boundaries. This impact board and school budgets as we are funded on a per pupil ratio
 - Asked how the school was doing in the collection of our student activity fees. Explained that changes to activity fees is coming. Beginning in September 2023, the student activity will be \$45. Students will have to pay for their yearbooks separately. Students that are not paying their activity fees has an impact on the programs and

activities schools can provide. Participation in activities will have user fees attached if they are going to continue.

- Fundraising will be needed in secondary to support the school. Council members discussed options such as Krispy Kreme donuts, Crumble Cookie, Pictures with Santa, Cultural Day Foods, Easter pretzels, Bundt cake or other activities related to holiday.

6. Chairs Report

- Catholic School Council Chairs' meeting was held at St. Francis Xavier CSS on October 19 (flyer attached). It was a great opportunity to meet fellow Council Chairs from our Mississauga South DPCDSB family of schools and to hear updates and welcome messages from the members of the Board and Trustees.
- The evening was preceded by light dinner reception prepared by the SHSM Hospitality and Tourism students from St. Francis, who did an outstanding job coordinating the event. Set up, service and food were all a true testament to the talents of those participating in this program as well as contributions teachers and instructors make.
- Light reception was followed by a liturgy and opening remarks by the members of the board, including Marianne Mazzorato (Director of Education) and Luz del Rosario (Trustee and Chair) to name a few, who stressed the importance of parent engagement and recognized contributions parents make in support of their children's education journey with DPCDSB. Awards recognizing members of the School Councils who contributed to that success during 2022/2023 school year followed.
- Family of schools breakout meetings were the last item on the agenda, with the primary objective of electing representatives for the Catholic School Council Executive Committee which will be meeting regularly (attached schedule) throughout the school year. Representatives for the Executive Council were elected and are expected to share updates with Council Chair's following CCCSC meetings. The first meeting for the Executive Committee is scheduled for November 16. Update from this meeting should be available to share with the Iona School Council at the next meeting.

7. Treasurer's Report

- Current balance – 935.73

8. Teacher Report

CLUBS:

- Engineering and robotics club started; they are currently working on set for Frozen
- Student council hosting Semi-formal on Nov. 23; it's a sold out event
- Learning commons has games, puzzles, and colouring before and after school and during all lunches
- Halloween Spirit week was a success; karaoke in the cafeteria, pumpkin carving and scary portable were some of the events
- Wellness club hosts wellness Wednesdays on the P.A. in the mornings; start off with a meditation exercise and then a reflection

- Eco club starting GOOS bins: good on one side
- BSA had students participate in a STEM workshop on Nov. 13

SPORTS:

- Student qualify for OFSAA Cross Country
- Student qualify for OFSAA Golf
- Junior Girls Basketball are in the semi finals
- Winter Sports Teams are up and running:
 - Swimming
 - Senior Girls Volleyball
 - Junior Girls Volleyball
 - Varsity Boys Basketball
 - Varsity Boys Hockey
 - Junior Boys Hockey
 - Badminton (30 plus participants) and Weight Room Clubs (70 plus participants) ongoing

OTHER:

- October food drive was success ... ended on Nov. 10 ... raised over 1100 canned items
- Salesian retreat was held from October 18 – 20; Iona sent three students and two leaders
- Planning for Independence students hosting various cupcake sales ... funds raised going toward helping to pay for trips and activities they participate in
- College fair held on October 17; Iona went with a bus full of students
- Career Cruising event being held on Nov. 23; police officer, paramedics, army, various trades, genetic counselor, etc.
- University application success virtual session being held on Nov. 22
- Academic awards breakfast Dec. 5
- Matthew “Testament” Jones, spoken word artist and motivational speaker, presented to the entire student body yesterday; theme was anti-bullying

9. Principal’s Report

- Mid Term Report Cards will be distributed electronically on Friday, November 17. Digital report cards have a 7-day shelf life. Hard copies can be requested through the office.
- Course Evaluations - 70% Term work and 30% Final Evaluations. 30% is divided between a Culminating Performance Task and Final Evaluation during the Exam Period. This is different depending on the course, grade and destination pathway. Students have already been made aware of this breakdown on their course outlines provided on the first day of their classes.
- Final Exams for Semester 1 will be from January 24 – January 31. One exam per day from Periods 1 – 4 respectively. Parents and students are reminded that students must be present for exams.

- Course selection for next year will begin in the coming months.
- Nov 2 – successful Open House, 200 students volunteered to participate, good feedback, ask parent to talk us up
- November 19 – Peel Public Health Vaccination Clinic at Iona
- November 23 – Semi Formal
- November 24 – PD Day – No classes for students
- November 27 – December 1 – Grad Photos. Sessions can be booked at bookmygrad.ca using the school code IONAS.
- Nov 29 – Iona Dance presents *There is a Time*. Grade 12 Dancers perform their choreography with the help of the entire program.
- Dec 6 – Advent Liturgy
- December 11-15 – Iona Drama presents *Frozen*. Musical performance runs for 9 shows. Each feeder school will have a performance and a night performance for family and friends.
- December 18 – Iona Snowflake Dance for Planning for Independence programs in the family of schools.
- December 23 – January 7 – Christmas Break
- Winter weather has an impact on schools. The Boards Community Information Bulletin titled Weather Related Bus Cancellation System Closures Protocol is an important resource.
 - For bus cancellations, Iona is in Zone 1. If busses are cancelled, school is open with teachers supporting students who do come to school. If students are unable to attend there will be no remote access to the classroom.
 - For school closure, consolidation and review work will be available and teachers accessible for students.
- Students are asked to pay a \$65 student activity fee. The fee goes to retreats, yearbook and student activities. We are at about 64%. This limits what we can sustainably provide students in terms of co-curricular activities, events, speakers and student initiatives.
- School Generated Funds plan was presented to council. Fees collected from students and parents go to fund student activities and school renewal. SGF funds have been set aside to paint our gym, update our Learning Commons, supplement our Media Arts program, purchase technology, for an OFSAA contingency fund for teams that qualify for provincial championships, performances, productions and Eco Schools. These go along with our usual events such as Graduation, Prom, Semi Formal, Athletic Banquet and Nutrition Programs.
- Please follow us on Twitter @IonaCatholic, on Instagram @ionacatholicmississauga and on YouTube at Iona CSS

Meeting Dates

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

Adjournment

The meeting of the Iona Catholic Secondary Council was adjourned.