



**IONA CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
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**Minutes of Iona Catholic Secondary School Council Meeting**  
**Monday October 25, 2021, at 7:00 pm**  
**Virtual Meeting - Zoom**

In Attendance: Liz-Ann Gurowka (Co-Chair), Nelly Morgado (Co-Chair), Sharon Hobin (Trustee), Andrew Selvam (Chaplaincy Leader), Emidio Santroni (Teacher Rep), Maria Pallotta (VP), Carl Cini (P).

1. Opening Prayer
2. Welcome and Introductions
3. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda
  - Unapproved due to insufficient parent attendance.
4. Review and Approval of Minutes from September 27, 2021 Meeting
  - Unapproved due to insufficient parent attendance.
5. Trustee Report
  - Sharon Hobin shared the following information:
  - The Board has been working hard to implement the directions and Covid Protocols given by the Ministry of Education, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Peel Public Health including Vaccine Disclosure from staff, upgrading of HVAC systems, installation of Air Filters, monthly testing of HVAC and distribution of PPE.
  - Reliance on Technology particularly evident in these times. Maintaining our systems and devices has been a focus however we are also dependent upon internet providers to do the same. When the providers go down, so do the workings of schools.
  - The Board is still waiting for another installment of Covid funding from the Province.
  - The Board has been advocating to the province to return to a semester schedule for semester 2.
  - Sharon has been advocating for a return of cafeteria service to our schools. The provider is working to hire and train staff.
6. Elections/Assignments of Positions
  - a. Treasurer –
  - b. OAPCE Rep –

- c. Secretary
- d. Parish Representative – St. Christopher
- e. Parish Representative – St. Francis of Assisi
  - No one to fill these positions.

#### 7. Treasurer's Report

- Current balance – 1435. 73
- Will discuss use of School Council funds at a later date.

#### 8. Chaplaincy Report

- Grade 12 Retreats beginning this week. Working with Development and Peace on the Catholic Social Teaching theme of Solidarity. Students will be writing letters and Christmas cards for people in Honduras.
- October Food Drive – Goal was to collect 2500 food items. We have exceeded this goal going into our last week.
- Clothing Drive – Staff at Iona, Loyola and St. Francis of Assisi have been collecting clothing to support families that lost everything in the flooding at the Roche Crt apartment buildings. Between the schools and St. Christopher Parish we have 21/2 portables of clothing. Families will be able to come to the school to pick out the clothes they need including winter jackets. Left over clothing can be donated or used to create a Thrift Shop with proceeds going to support these families further.
- Iona has also been supporting our students effected by the flooding by providing bus passes, chromebooks and have been working on getting a hotspot.
- November 2<sup>nd</sup> is All Souls Day. There will be a staff liturgy to pray for the departed.
- Chaplaincy Team is preparing a display where our students and staff can place paper lanterns with intentions for their departed. There will also be a memory book set up in the Chapel.
- Advent is approaching. Our Advent preparations include Christmas baskets and an Advent Liturgy that coincides with the 1500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Columba.
- There are currently about 115 students associated with the Chaplaincy Team.

#### 9. Teacher Report

- A Black Student Alliance has been initiated to create a safe space for students to share their experiences and inform us to create a more inclusive environment at Iona.
- Our Diversity Initiative is an umbrella to allow all students an opportunity to elevate their voices. BIPOC, LGBTQ2A+, Indigenous students and Differently Abled students are represented. This group will also coordinate initiatives to give all an equal voice.
- In the Fall season, Iona has offered Golf, Cross Country and Flag Football in Region of Peel Athletics. Our Golf Team won an individual and team ROPSSAA championship and competed at OFSSAA. Our Cross Country Team featured 14 runners of which 7 finished in the top 25. One of our Grade 9 students will be competing in OFSSAA in

Peterborough in 2 weeks. Flag Football is currently playing their regular season schedule.

- Intramurals are being offered to allow a greater participation in Athletics. A variety of sports are being offered. Students have input in what they wish to play and the format of competition.
- This year Student Voice is being elevated in all areas. Coming back from Covid students are enthusiastic about being agents of change.

## 10. Principal's Report

- Quadmester 2 begins on November 15, 2021. Students who wish to change their learning mode (in person to virtual or vice versa) are able to do so until November 4, 2021. Contact your child's Guidance Counselor to make the change.
- Student Activity Fees – The Fee is essential to provide co curricular and student activities. The \$65 fee goes towards the Yearbook, Agenda book and student activities. Currently 1/6 of students have paid their fee. Parents are encouraged to pay theirs. Messaging will be going home this week.
- Thursday, October 28 is our Virtual Open House for Grade 8 students. A video highlighting life at Iona will premiere on our YouTube channel (IonaCSS) at 6 pm. A live session with information and an opportunity to ask question will begin at 7 pm. Links and QR Codes are available on our website under the Guidance Tab and on social media. All Grade 8 families from around the Board are welcome.
- Grade 10 and 11 students are required to fulfill their literacy requirement to graduate. Grade 11 students will attempt the OSSLT on November 24. Preparation has begun with resources on a dedicated Google classroom, weekly sessions and an after-school literacy program. Grade 10s will begin preparing in semester 2 and attempt in May.
- Graduation Photos will take place the week of November 28
- Retake Day and Cohort C Photos will be on November 22
- Lockers will be distributed at the beginning of Quad 2
- School Generated Funds – Funds generated by payments from students and parents. These funds are used for student activities and school experiences. Current surplus is \$258, 949. This was accumulated over the school's 27 year life. It has been decreasing over the past 4 years. Funds will be used to ensure that students' experiences will be enhanced for years to come. Surplus funds have been earmarked for the following:
  - Computer Engineering Program
  - Film Program
  - Broadcast system
  - Chapel Update
  - OFSSAA Contingency Fund
  - Evolution of Library to Learning Commons
  - Weight Room Equipment and Maintenance
  - School Improvement – Paint Gym, locker repairs, Signage (indoor and outdoor), Awards
  - Continued development of Marian garden
  - Families requiring financial support
  - Shortfall for Activity Fees not collected

- Chairs were asked for advice regarding how to attract more parents to our meetings. Parents are informed by email and social media a number of times before the meeting. Agendas and links are posted on the website at least a week in advance. Suggestion was to try a voice message. Also review whether parents are opted in or out of emails.

### **Meeting Dates**

Thursday, November 25, 2021

### **Adjournment**

The meeting of the Iona Catholic Secondary Council was adjourned.