



# St. Marcellinus Secondary School

730 Courtneypark Drive West  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L5W 1L9  
Phone: (905) 564-6614  
Fax: (905) 564-3202

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## St. Marcellinus Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 15, 2022 via Zoom

**In Attendance:** Jennifer Cazabon, *Chair*; Colleen-Tracie Mexner, *Vice Chair*; Tara Merritt, *Secretary*; Carnisa Vincent, *Treasurer*; Airene Cunanan, *Parish Representative*; Tara Ryan-Gaube, *OAPCE Representative*; Dahlia Solomon-Smith, *Parent Member*; Tina Rizzuto Willan, *Parent Member*; Chris Ferrao, *Parent Member*; Tan Singh, *Parent Member*; Keachea Dixon, *Parent Member*; Aku Numekevor-Otoo, *Parent Member*; Annibale Iarossi, *Acting Principal*; Sheena Agius, *Vice Principal*; Maria Bueno, *Vice Principal*; Lori Gencarelli, *Vice Principal*; Jessica Turi, *Teacher Representative*; Karan Puri, *Student Representative*; Anna Morgado; Stefano Castrucci; Susan Laughton, Cecile Morris, Deepak Puri, Matthew Francis, Hemali.

**Regrets:** Luz del Rosario, *Catholic School Board Trustee*.

### A. Routine Matters

#### 1. Acknowledgement of First Nations Sacred Territory

S. Agius showed a video that acknowledged and thanked the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation for being stewards of the sacred territory within which St. Marcellinus SS exists.

#### 2. Opening Prayer

S. Agius led everyone in the opening prayer.

#### 3. Welcome and Introductions

J. Cazabon called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting, including Karan Puri, Student Representative.

#### 4. Review and Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2021

Moved by Tina Rizzuto Willan and seconded by Airene Cunanan

**THAT THE MINUTES BE APPROVED**

**CARRIED**



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5. Business arising from the Minutes

Nil

6. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda

Moved by Colleen-Tracie Mexner and seconded by Airene Cunanan

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED**

**CARRIED**

**B. Business Matters**

Nil

**C. Presentation**

Nil

**D. Reports**

1. Student Report – Karan Puri, Student Council Member, Minister of Arts

- Student Council has run many successful events so far this year, including:
  - Virtual Pumpkin Carving contest in October
  - Anything but a backpack (Tik Tok challenge)
  - Scavenger Hunt
  - Gingerbread houses
  - Valentine's baggies
- Student Council is planning more events such as:
  - Minecraft/Gaming Night – 2 hours on a Friday
  - Gaming tournament – Student Council is challenging other schools, waiting for a keen opponent
  - Chess tournament – coordinating with chess club to ensure they are abiding by current COVID rules, hoping to do online and in-person
- All students, whether online or in-person, including special education students, are invited and encouraged to participate in Student Council activities
- QUESTION: Which events are most successful?
  - ANSWER: Events run during Spirit Weeks



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- QUESTION: Does Student Council need help or support from Council?
  - ANSWER: Please ensure your students are informed by following Student Council on Instagram (@marciescouncil) where all events are publicized, winners are celebrated, and school spirit is strong. Encourage your students to join in.
  - Jenn reiterated support is available if anything comes to mind.
- 2. Teacher Report – J. Turi
  - February is Black History Month – school is doing a great job of recognizing it. MADE (Marcy Alliance for Diversity and Equity) is involved including planning the reflections for each morning. Mr. Byrne is doing a series to showcase former SMSS students of colour.
  - Grad Committee is starting back up – see Principal’s report for more details
  - Weight room is back open – School Admin soliciting staff to start a weight room club
  - Sports are back up and running
    - Trying to salvage winter season for applicable sports
    - Spring season will proceed as usual (pre-COVID)
    - Each sport is being notified separately by ROPSSA regarding how to get their season up and running (e.g., hockey will be tournament style as the season has been shortened).
  - New Club are also starting up.
  - As always, students are encouraged to watch for announcements on the school’s Twitter feed (@StMarcellinusSS)
  - Jenn noted that if any clubs or teams need community coaches, please ask Mr. Iarossi to advise Council.
- 3. Treasurer Report - Carnisa Vincent
  - Current balance is \$616.65 (no change from last report).



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## 4. Parish Report – Airene Cunanan

- Updates from St. Francis Xavier parish:
  - Please drop off old palms on the weekend of February 19-20, 2022
  - The parish is accepting used holy images and statues in good condition
  - Catholic Women’s League Council 3067 is doing a membership drive. If you are interested in joining, please contact Olivia De Souza ([oliviadesouzacwl@gmail.com](mailto:oliviadesouzacwl@gmail.com) or 416-559-1392)
  - The parish has the parish office has tentatively booked the dates for children to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Families must register via the parish Eventbrite page (link available on parish website).
  - Similarly, the parish is hoping to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation in May 2022 (from May 5-7). Families must register via the parish Eventbrite page (link available on parish website).

## 5. OAPCE Report – T. Ryan-Gaube

- DRAPCE (Dufferin-Peel level) update:
  - Join the website to get all the updates ([www.dufferinpeel@oapce.org](http://www.dufferinpeel@oapce.org))
  - Past webinar recordings are posted on the website too for those unable to join the live presentation (e.g., nutrition webinar, Zentangle)
  - Recently a Board member (Michelle Coutinho) did an excellent diversity presentation. Parents are strongly recommended to review the summary on the website. Council may also want to consider inviting Michelle to do this presentation to SMSS parents.
  - Reminder that everyone is welcome to attend meetings (schedule is on the website – meetings are on Wednesdays at 7pm)
  - Youth Hack is coming up for students between 10-18 years of age. If interested, please register on the website.
  - Looking for input on topics parents would like to hear about. Parents are encouraged to provide input on the website.
  - DRAPCE’s Facebook page is also very active if you are on Facebook.
- OAPCE (provincial level) update:
  - Ministry of Education Learning Recovery Play Consultation Survey –all parents are encouraged to complete survey (link on website landing page: [www.oapce.org](http://www.oapce.org)). This is your chance to have a voice. The survey results will be presented to Minister of Education.



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## 6. Chair Report – J. Cazabon

- Central Comm of Catholic School Council Chairs meeting highlights:
  - Students in Grades 9 and 10 may have missed vaccines done at the school in Grades 7 and 8. CCAC and the Board are working with Peel Health to have clinics set-up in the high school. Watch for details which will likely be provided after March Break.
  - New Ministry of Education to have two online credits to earn your high school diploma (only affects this year's Grade 9s) – Wayne Brunton working on properly defining this requirement. School Admin will be getting more details on how this requirement will be operationalized.
  - Two additional rapid antigen tests were distributed to SMSS students who wanted them. Board encouraging parents to use them and keep monitoring.
  - Board is taking a very conservative view of how to proceed with extra curriculars.
    - Board prefers not to proceed without the blessing of Peel Health, however when the Provincial government announced high-contact sports could start, our Board announced the start-up without approval from Peel Health.
    - Graduation – the Board has not provided schools with clear direction, information or approval on how to proceed as they are waiting for Peel Health's approval. Some trustees feel the Board should default to virtual event only for inclusivity reasons so students who are not comfortable attending in person are not excluded. Parents at CCCAC conveyed it was not fair to take a "wait and see" approach as these events need time to plan. With every passing week, the ability of schools to plan an in-person event, if that is approved, diminishes.
  - A lengthy discussion was held as Council feels strongly this year's graduation events (graduation ceremony and prom) should be in-person events. The students deserve it.

Moved by Tina Rizzuto Willan and seconded by Colleen-Tracie Mexner

**THAT COUNCIL WRITE AND SEND A LETTER TO PEEL HEALTH (CC: SUPERINTENDENT AND TRUSTEES) TO EXPRESS OUR VIEW THAT AN IN-PERSON GRAD SHOULD PROCEED**

**CARRIED**



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- Jenn agreed to draft the proposed letter and circulate to Council for review and approval. At that time, Council members are asked to reply (personally) to Jenn to confirm their approval of their name being included in the letter. If any Council members are not in agreement or not comfortable, they can opt out, no questions asked.
- Jenn also agreed to connect with the Grade 12 representative and/or the Prime Minister on Student Council to discuss encouraging the student body and their parents to voice their preferences.
- Parents are encouraged to email their trustee and Dr Lawrence Loh (Peel Health) to voice their views regarding graduation events:
  - Thomas Thomas, Trustee Mississauga Ward 5 ([thomas.thomas@dpcdsb.org](mailto:thomas.thomas@dpcdsb.org))
  - Luz del Rosario, Vice Chair/Trustee Mississauga Ward 6 & 11 ([luz.delrosario@dpcdsb.org](mailto:luz.delrosario@dpcdsb.org))
  - Sharon Hobin, Chair/Trustee Mississauga Ward 2 & 8 ([sharon.hobin@dpcdsb.org](mailto:sharon.hobin@dpcdsb.org))
  - Dr. Lawrence Loh (LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/lawrence-loh-70b5001](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lawrence-loh-70b5001))  
[info@peelregion.ca](mailto:info@peelregion.ca); 905-791-7800
- Every Council was supposed to receive \$500, separate from the PRO grant. We received our funds but some councils have not received them so Board is looking into why.
- In April, there will be a Spring Family of School meeting hosted by CCCAC. Councils are requested to submit the topics parents are interested in for the key-note speaker and other presentations. Suggestions include:
  - Faith, Religious Education, Pastoral Planning Program & Curriculum Special Education & Learning Services Technology Equity, Inclusivity, Anti-Black Systemic Racism Safe Schools Catholic School Councils Indigenous Education Health & Safety Board Policy and Procedures, Human Resources, Plant and Maintenance, Finance.
  - Please email your preferences to Jenn by Monday, February 28.



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## 7. Principal's Report - A. Iarossi

- Graduation and Prom: Grad Committee is starting to plan, regardless of what type of grad we are having.
  - Grad cap and gown orders are being gathered - students must complete the Google form by February 18.
  - Grad quotes are due February 28.
  - Grad photos are organized - students must book their appointment. Photos will run from March 1-9.
  - Other events for are being planned such as the Senior Sunset, to compliment the Senior Sunrise at start of year. There will be refreshments and games.
  - The venue has been tentatively booked in case a in-person ceremony is approved.
  - School Admin is conveying to the Board that graduation events need time to plan so they are advocate for a swift decision.
- Semester 3 is in full swing, with the traditional four-period day. Approximately 1500 of 1800 students are attending class in person. Morale is going up with staff. Students settling into routine. The school is busy, but it is a good busy.
- Extra-curricular activities are also starting back up which is great! School Admin believes strongly that extra-curricular activities contribute to student success. Being involved keeps students engaged and out of trouble.
- Student Council is getting portion of the Activity Fee to support their events. Student Council is a group of enthusiastic students, with great ideas and the School Admin is fully supportive.
- 2022-2023 scheduling will be starting shortly - projected at 1750 students initially, similar to this year. That is a conservative estimate in the School Admin's opinion.
- 2022-2023 Course Selections - Guidance is presenting to classes this week - please confirm with your student their submission date. Submission dates are defined by grade (Mr. Iarossi to send dates to Jenn to circulate to Council via email). Some courses have limited spaces so please make sure you submit when the portal opens for your grade. The school has contacted myBluePrint to ensure system will not crash on our submission dates.
  - A few new courses will be offered next year such as a vocals course (music), new social sciences courses, black voices in literature (in Grade 11). New courses are added base on student interests. For example, Spanish and Mindfulness classes were introduced this year.



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- QUESTION: Why are course selections so early, especially for Grade 9s who are overwhelmed?
  - ANSWER: The school needs time to schedule and ensure they are staffed correctly. If they are in a position to hire, they can purposely hire based on course demand.
  - A new scheduling platform is being launched this year which could increase the time required to complete the schedule.
- QUESTION: Are instructions regarding course selection only provided to students or do parents get something too?
  - ANSWER: Instructions are only provided to students but parents have to sign their printout of the myBluePrint course selection form to confirm they agree with the course selections.
- QUESTION: Is it too early in Grade 9, planning for Grade 10, to start talking to Guidance to ensure my student is on the right track to meet their end goal?
  - ANSWER: It is never too early to engage with Guidance. Students are encouraged to make an appointment with their guidance counsellor to start their pathway planning.

## E. Other Business

### 1. Concerns Raised to Council:

- QUESTION: How do parents who are not actively engage know if their student is struggling (before it is too late)?
  - ANSWER: Teachers provide feedback to the student and parents, when necessary, to resolve issues early. Teachers are expected to contact parents if there observe consistent and continued struggles.
- QUESTION: How can we communicate with parents who are not on Council? Can the School Admin make an announcement via School Messenger when minutes are posted (with link) and highlight when feedback is requested, when applicable?
  - ANSWER: YES. Council to provide contact information (e.g., email address) to use if feedback is requested.
  - It was noted that some Council minutes were missing from the School website. Jenn committed to sending the finalized minutes to the School Admin to load before sending the announcement via School Messenger.





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- QUESTION: There were “rogue” social media sites bullying students which were directed to the School Admin who have handled it. Can the list of authorized sites be published again?
  - ANSWER: Yes - School Admin will publish the list again
- QUESTION: How is it going with the cafeteria?
  - ANSWER: Pretty good. Service provider was short-handed for the first couple of weeks, but this has been resolved. The system is not working perfectly, and at times the waiting time is long but the School Admin is actively managing and doing the best they can.
- QUESTION: The parking lot was difficult to navigate during the last snow fall. Did the school actively manage snow removal?
  - ANSWER: Yes - The school tried to get snow cleaned up as quickly as possible, considering the volume that fell in the last snowfall.
- QUESTION: Would it be possible to make some fun swag available, especially for those students who are not part of a team or club but want something fun to wear on Fridays?
  - ANSWER: The School Admin will determine if there is an appetite for students to purchase more swag. Going to discuss with Student Council. A suggestion was made that the Comm Tech classes might have options from a recent logo assignment.
- QUESTION: If contact tracing is no longer performed, why are we receiving presumed positive emails?
  - ANSWER: The School is obliged to follow the process set out by Peel Health. Recent letters are labelled “presumed positive” because PCR testing is currently at a minimum.
- QUESTION: How much time do students have to travel between classes?
  - ANSWER: Five (5) minutes.
- QUESTION: Portable #2 is very cold as the heater breaks continuously. How is this managed?
  - ANSWER: The teachers are responsible for advising the School Admin. Once advised, the class is brought inside, and a work order is placed immediately.
- QUESTION: Are we going to have ashes at the school on Ash Wednesday?
  - ANSWER: Mr. Byrne is working on plan to distribute ashes. The distribution cannot be done with all students together so they are coming up with an alternate plan to distribute ashes safely.



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- **QUESTION:** What is the timing for the Quad 2 report cards?
  - **ANSWER:** Grades will be posted on myBlueprint by the end of this week and report cards will be emailed next week.

**F. Agenda items for next meeting**

- None

**G. Closing Prayer**

S. Agius led everyone in the closing prayer.

**H. Adjournment**

The meeting of the St. Marcellinus Secondary School Council was adjourned at 8:32pm

**I. Future Meetings - via Zoom until further notice**

Monday, May 9, 2022

DRAFT