



# St. Marcellinus Secondary School

730 Courtneypark Drive West  
Mississauga, Ontario  
L5W 1L9  
Phone: (905) 564-6614  
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## St. Marcellinus Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes of Monday, May 8, 2023 Room 216 and via Zoom

**In Attendance:** Jennifer Cazabon, *Co-Chair*; Keacha Dixon-Ellis, *Co-Chair*; Tara Merritt, *Secretary*; Airene Cunanan, *Parish Representative*; Tara Ryan-Gaube, *OAPCE Representative*; Susan Laughton, *Parent Member*; Teresa La Neve-Hughes, *Parent Member*; Eric Dorman, *Parent Member*; Annibale Iarossi, *Principal*; Sheena Agius, *Vice Principal*; Maria Bueno, *Vice Principal*; Domenica DiCapua, *Teacher Representative*; Christian Cepeda, *Science Department Head*; Anoushka Saha, *Student Council*; Tricia Dorman.

**Regrets:** Lori Gencarelli, *Vice Principal*; Carnisa Vincent, *Treasurer*; Katherine Lima, *Parent Member*; Dr. Mudasir Jamali, *Parent Member*; Luz del Rosario, *Catholic School Board Trustee*.

### A. Routine Matters

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

C. Cepeda 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

S. Agius called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 4. Review and Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2023

Moved by Keacha Dixon-Ellis and seconded by Tara Ryan-Gaube

**THAT THE MINUTES BE APPROVED**

**CARRIED**

#### 5. Business arising from the Minutes

- None



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## 6. Review and Approval of Meeting Agenda

- Proposed amendment: Move the student report ahead of the presentation.

Moved by Susan Laughton and seconded by Airene Cunanan

**THAT THE AGENDA AS AMENDED BE APPROVED**

**CARRIED**

## B. Presentation – Learnings and perspective on de-streaming of curriculum – Christian Cepeda (Science Department Head)

- Science and Math curricula are being de-streamed:
  - Why? Primarily for equity - current streaming disproportionately negatively affects BIPOC and low-income people. Current curriculum is Eurocentric.
  - What? Curriculum will be entirely new
  - Long-term goal? Entire Grade 9 and 10 curricula will be de-streamed
- Pedagogy is new, which entails:
  - Task-based, active learning
  - Inquiry and research-based learning
  - Student centered
  - Differentiated assessments (more entry points for students)
  - Collaborative team approach
  - Higher order thinking
- Other features:
  - Culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy
  - Connection to career pathways
  - Emerging technology
  - Societal and worldviews
  - Economic and social context
  - Science literacy in a local and global context
- Class size is critical to success – smaller class sizes help the teacher be agile and students to take advantage of new pedagogy
- Q&A/discussion ensued
  - Jenn Cazabon offered to take remaining questions to CCAC meeting later this week – Council members to email Jenn with any additional questions not discussed during meeting



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## Reports

### 1. Student Report – Mikhail Rahman, Student Council

- Recent events:
  - Multi-cultural week
  - X awards – event was successful but it was noted that attendance was lower than normal as the event conflicted with a Track & Field meet. Request made to see if event could be scheduled on a different date or later in the day to accommodate multiple events
- Coming up:
  - Council elections for executives
    - Campaign week is May 23-26 – elections thereafter
    - Grade rep elections will be held in September
  - More Spirit Weeks potentially (still being planned),
  - End of year activities (still being planned).

### 2. Teacher Report – Domenica DiCapua

- Handout summarizing highlights
- May 1-5 – SMSS celebrated Multicultural Week
- May 4-5 – SMSS hosted 14<sup>th</sup> annual Spirit Classic track and field event
- May 10 – SPIRIT Way Student of the Month Breakfast
- May 11 – Arts Night and Alumni vs. Student Volleyball game
- May 17-18 – ROPSAA Special Needs Track & Field Event
- May 18 – Grade 10 Night In
- May 19 – SMSS hosting Drumline Championships
- June 1 – End of year Mass (St. Marcellinus Feast Day)
- June 2 – Track & Field Regionals
- June 7-8 – OFSAA Track & Field
- June 12-13 – EQAO for Grade 9s
- June 15 – Athletic Banquet
- June 20-23 – Exams
- SMSS students won many awards in the DPCDSB Skills Competition in March including medals in hairstyling, automotive service and small engine repair.
- SMSS Grade 11 student won bronze in aesthetics at Skills Ontario.



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- Spirit Robotics team competed in the Skills Ontario competition last week.
- Sports update:
  - Spring sports are underway including softball and soccer
  - Senior Girls' badminton doubles team earned first place in ROPSAA Championships and are competing in OFSAA next week
  - ARD Bowling Team won gold in ROPSAA Championships.
  - Congratulations to the varsity boys' hockey team for representing SMSS well in the OFSAA Championship. (Note: The team was eliminated in the quarter finals.)
- Grad Update and Key Dates:
  - June 26 - Prom (at Universal Event Space - tickets required)
  - June 28 - Grad Mass at St. Francis Xavier (10am)
  - June 29 - Graduation Ceremony (at Universal Event Space - 4pm)
- 3. Treasurer Report - J. Cazabon on behalf of Carnisa Vincent
  - Balance of funds unchanged (\$1,111.65)
  - Council agreed to discuss how funds will be expended next year at start of next year
  - QUESTION: Has there ever been a scholarship for grads?
    - ANSWER: Council has contributed to grad expenses but not an award for select students.
- 4. Parish Report - Airene Cunanan
  - Report to be loaded in Council's Google drive for ease of access.
  - St. Francis Xavier:
    - May 3 - Mass to welcome new Archbishop His Grace Francis Leo
      - Dedication of alter happened in morning
    - May 4-7 - Retreat for women
    - May 11 - 26th National March for Life - need to reserve seat on bus (some SMSS students are attending)
    - May 13-14 - Mother's Day Flower Sale after all masses
    - May 13 - 25th Annual Celebration Flores de Mayo (Philippine tradition)
    - May 25-26 - Retreat for men



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- St. Joseph:
  - LifeTeen - Two Saturdays a month for students in Grade 9-12 to gather in faith
  - Divien Mercy Prayer Group - Wednesdays
  - May 13 - Our lady of Fatima Procession
  - July 30-Aug 4 - Totus Tuus Camp (Grades 1-6)
  - May 24 - Holy mass with inner healing service
  - Other key dates - bottle drive, clothing, root beer sale
- 5. OAPCE Report - Tara Ryan-Gaube
  - Provincial Conference was held in April - nobody from Council attended but Jenn will share update from convention on Google Drive
  - Next meeting is May 25
- 6. Chair Report - Jennifer Cazabon
  - Parents will be seeing emails from Diversity, Equity and Inclusion department re: dress code at the end of May. This will have a bigger impact to elementary schools as they do not wear uniforms but also looking for input on wording for dress code (e.g., civies days) to ensure students make appropriate choices.
  - Saturday, May 15 Cancelled - CCAC "Market place" was supposed to be at St. Joseph SS - now cancelled
  - QUESTION: Any info on update of tenders with respect to cafeteria service?
    - ANSWER: Currently in 30-day RFQ period - Bidding process is ongoing this semester, including touring schools to see facilities, then bids will be submitted. Companies deal directly with the Board. School will be updated once selection is made. Current provider is not renewing their contract.



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## 7. Principal's Report – Annibale Iarossi

- Final projections set at 1741 – very similar staff complement as 2022-23, no surplus or redundancy of any staff, one retirement (Resource teacher Ms. Bojarska) so far
- Using new student info system for scheduling – first draft of timetable was issued last week, now teachers and department heads provide input on which courses they would like to teach
- Admin team is intact
- May 24 – Resources Fair (for parents) and Movie Night (for students) for the families in the Special Needs program for Family of School
- June 1 – Employment Resources Fair hosted by Spec Ed Learning Resources Dept (Board event held at SMSS)
- SMSS is hosting Elementary Track & Field Competition the week of June 19 (during exam week)

## C. Other Business

- Concerns raised to council:
  - QUESTION: How will Pride month be recognized by school and Board? Will glad be flown?
    - ANSWER: Within school, GSA has put together a plan of activities they want to run. (e.g., buttons supporting allyship to be sold). The flag is flown by the city on the flagpole (at the library) – School Admin isn't consulted.
  - QUESTION: How are students being addressed related to incidents at other Boards? Are they given any information on what to do if not feeling safe? (Question came after what happened at York Catholic Board Meeting)
    - ANSWER: LGBTQ community needs to feel safe. SMSS prides themselves in providing students a safe space. Support Services, Admin and Teachers are all dedicated to this cause – if you see/hear something, please bring to the attention of the School Administrators and it will be addressed right away. Reporting of homophobic/harmful language is essential for school to address. Online Safe Schools site provides a vehicle for anonymous reporting. Key is details to enable action.



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- QUESTION: How is the board/school going to ensure catholic values are honoured? (from parents who do not want recognition of pride month and want a limit to GSA activities at the school)
  - ANSWER: School Admin consults to ensure initiatives align with faith and doctrine. We are a welcoming environment. Board has been helpful to increase School Admin learning – trying to ensure all students see themselves in this building. Do not want this to be a place of fear. Believe in student voice. Parents are encouraged to reach out to the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion department at the Board.
- QUESTION: Arts and Culture SHSM were not able to bring in Stage as they are not on approved vendor list at Board. What can be done?
  - ANSWER from A. Iarossi: Reason for vendor not being approved are unknown – we need to trust that Board has worked through their criteria.
  - ANSWER from J. Cazabon: One option is to reach out to Superintendents to ensure there are sufficient reasons for the vendor to be removed from the approved vendor list. Jenn to raise at CCAC.

## D. Agenda items for next meeting

- Plan to spend Council funds to be discussed at start of year

## E. Closing Prayer

S. Agius led everyone in the closing prayer.

## F. Adjournment

The meeting of the St. Marcellinus Secondary School Council was adjourned at 8:50pm

## G. Future Meetings – in-person unless request made for virtual link

TBD – will be within first 30 days of 2023/2024 school year