



St. Michael Catholic School Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 8, 2023
School Library
6:30 - 8:30 pm

In Attendance:

School Staff – Josie Lorenzon, Catherine Lindsay, Sandy Sicoli, Natasha Abate (via Zoom)

Student Voice – Luca Quatela

Parents – Mike Brunetto, Debbie Famele, Diane Borrelli, Gabriella DiPietrantonio, Mary D’Adderio, Francisco De Vacas, Maurizio Famele, Laura Bizzarro

Via Zoom – Maria Moran

Opening Prayer – Mary D’Adderio

Land Acknowledgment – Gabriella Di Pietrantonio

Approval of Minutes – Motioned Mike Brunetto, seconded Diane Borrelli - Motion Passed

Student Report - Luca Quatela

- Thanksgiving food drive – goal was 1000 pieces – reached 900 by closing date; one student generously arranged for Uber to deliver the balance of 100 pieces; student now have a Dress Down in November
- Halloween – this year had a Spirit Week and Costume Day Contest on October 31st; Student Council built a Haunted House in Drama Room; door decorating contest had 32 classes who participated with Cosmetology Room winning; costume contest voting held on both lunches, with finalists moving on to the Finals via Broadcast and an online vote was held and Teletubbies ended up as winners
- Terra Cotta Cookie Drive – held during Halloween Spirit Week (sold at \$2 each) was a fundraiser for Student Council, with a total of \$250.00 raised
- Colour Wars: will be held on November 29th, 2023, with donations collected going to SickKids; possible idea of decorating the school (ie: streamers around the matrix columns (pending approval by Admin team))
- To generate school spirit among the students, Instagram accounts are going to be used to promote and generate hype as a countdown to Color Wars begins and quick interviews of students in hallway will happen; M. Brunetto raised how students at St Michael, who actually use and visit SickKids, can also be included in the interviews); stMiCtv will have information on what Colour Wars and have students on to share their stories; Sandy Sicoli suggested Parent Council members be interviewed with any personal stories, or ties to SickKids
- L. Quatela attended first Student Senate meeting where he brought up the concern of cafeteria prices and now awaits for feedback from board and trustee members who were present
- Christmas Spirit Week ideas (with nothing firmly approved by Administration) include comfy clothes day, sweater day, and other theme days to be decided; Catherine Lindsay mentioned how maybe social workers in school (working with community) can help with Toy Drive (or other needs)

- Christmas Toy Drive will take place, and C. Lindsay recommended current social workers who help in the school, can provide information on where direction of what is collected should go
- Student Council met with Grade 8 students and had an info session sharing all the things which make St. Michael great; Grade 9 participated in Take your Kid to Work Day

Teacher Report - Sandy Sicoli

- **Chaplain: Ivan Skoko** was absent as he was with students on Street Patrol; the theme for retreats is "Service".
 - Grade 9 had their retreat;
 - Grade 10 will be going to Holy Family (November 27 and December 10)
 - Grade 11 will visit the Exchange on November 28
 - Grade 12 visited Grace United Church on November 9 and helped with the soup kitchen and elderly program theme = "Service"
- Pastoral Plan is soon to be uploaded to website
- Remembrance Day is being acknowledged on November 10 with an assembly including Sicoli's class and Chaplaincy
- PIP class going on retreat in 2nd semester
- Mr. Skoko held a "Communication without Tech" class and was well received and found to be absolutely amazing
- Wings of Faith – meet on Thursdays for 1 hour after school discussing issues that matter to teens and tying back to the idea of what would Jesus do in the same situation
- **Sports: Mr. Ceccarelli**
Exciting Note: Varsity Girls Flag Football (at Cardinal Leger) saw game called due to weather; ROPSSAA allowed game to be finished from point where it was called, and the ladies ended up losing by 1 point
- JR & SR Volleyball, Basketball to start; Golf and Cross Country is done; Girls Hockey offered but not enough interest to run
- **ECO Team: J. Moreira**
- Grade 5 classes from St John Paul II Catholic Elementary School, along with Eco Caledon came in to look at how St. Michael is green; 'Jeans Drive' coming up and request was made if Parent Council could help promote the drive outside of the school; additional information would be shared once details are finalized
- Used uniforms – J. Lorenzon looking at timing of when to organize a drive for any incoming students (idea to setup a donation box during Grad prep and activities; presently, there are a lot of donated uniforms which are offered to students who might have forgotten or be missing a piece
- **Pathway: N. Galvao**
- Along with overseeing the Credit Recovery program, Nicole Galvao offers support and resources for St. Michael's student body regarding mental well-being and balance; Anti Bully event scheduled for week of November 13
- Virtue Awards – ongoing (with a t-shirt and award handed out)
- Pathway Pals – credit recovery students + PIP classes are connecting and building beautiful relationships
- Seeking an Outreach Social Program to help credit recovery students to complete volunteer hours; no criteria for the program but it is not a 'labour for free idea' but more of a Nonprofit program (suggestions provided by D'Adderio and Borrelli = Santa Parade December 2 and Christmas Market December 8)
- Grade 11 Semi Formal is on November 23 and will be held at Caesar's Centre in Bolton
- **PIP: N Abate** (via Zoom)
- Monthly Classroom Notes (newsletter) highlighting focus on learning through community involvement not just in classroom (not just in school community but outside community as well)

- Activities class is participating in include Bocce Tournament, Murphy's Farms (Eco Team), Pathway Pals, Breakfast Club (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday), Thunder Café
- goal of accomplishing 1-2 trips a month (enforcing the learning through active engagement);
- Thursdays in the cafeteria, Baldini's Class started playing BINGO but now, everyone on that lunch is participating; Lindsay mentioned how the successful integration is just amazing
- Awards Night had a successful student, Annabella receive the Planning for Independence Award
- M Brunetto asked Abate to connect with D Borrelli to confirm amount of funds set aside, by Parent Council, for Caledon Centre Programs and book some dates as schedule fills up quickly
- Information on upcoming events at CAFFI will be shared by M Brunetto to both N Abate and J Lorenzon

Principal Report - Josie Lorenzon

- Grade 8 Open House will be held on November 9 all are welcome including Grade 7, families looking to become part of the PIP program, and anyone who may wish to transfer from Public to Catholic
- Post Secondary Fair will be held on November 16 in Matrix – both University and College representatives will be present
- Grade 11 Semi Formal will be on November 23, at Caesar's Centre, 8841 George Bolton Pky, Bolton
- SHSM's certification in progress for all grades (focus on being anti-oppressive); J Lorenzon looking at what themed certification programs to run in coming year, perhaps running them as mini conferences
- Emphasis on anti-oppression in order to highlight, as some may not notice, that some jokes are not funny and may cause division
- Progress reports will be distributed on November 17
- Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) has had a major influx of applications submitted, largest number of applications Lorenzon has noticed in a long time; focus on working to ramp up the Cosmetology Program at St. Michael
- After School Numeracy – starting in 2 weeks (specific for Gr 9s as supplementary because of destreaming) this is another way to get students ready for EQAO because of how low results have been; OSSLT results increased by 7% last year;
Note of concern: supplementary programs offered last year to those writing OSSLT had only 3 students sign up so program could not run; parents should encourage and emphasize the importance in participating in this program
- Grade 9 EQAO and Grade 10 OSSLT, including any unsuccessful Grade 11, will be writing late spring 2024
- J Lorenzon has a new newsletter going out now; all information to share with parents need will be available there (last newsletter sent out was November 1st)

CHAIR/Cochair – M Brunetto

- Training for Council Members (new and returning) will be held on November 30 (via Zoom)
- December 6 Meet/Social - signup sheet for anyone who wants to bring in anything 6.30-8 (setup at 6.15)

TREASURER – D Borrelli

- Requested an updated donation letter for members to use in the community when/if any fundraising donations are needed
- Council will have a table set up on December 14, during the Christmas Arts in Lights Night
- J Lorenzon agreed to share via St. Michael social media any fundraiser flyers for any initiatives by Council
- Agreement to include as part of December 6 Meeting Agenda, item of Annual BBQ – moved to December to facilitate more time to discuss with Student Council and work together to organize
- Fundraiser ideas submitted by Council – to avoid duplication with anything Student Council may be planning – included Krispy Kreme, Sport Tickets, FlipCard,

- Reminder that any teachers or groups, with possible requests for any assistance from Parent Council, are to advise I at minimum a month prior to their event date
- Applications for grants have been submitted by Administration, with funds earmarked for a Community Garden and possibly an outdoor basketball court; Admin hopes that Parent Council may be able to help with any shortfall to complete these projects, should grants be awarded
- J Lorenzon might consider donated game tables – ie: foosball, table tennis, etc; Sicoli will investigate what St. Michael may have in a storage room (if any)

PARISH REP – M D’Adderio

- M D’Adderio meeting Skoko on Friday, November 10 to discuss/review the Pastoral Plan, which is completed but not yet approved/stamped
- Noted that Holy Family Church link on St Michael’s website not working, J Lindsay will look into.
- Feast of St. Nicholas on December 3 needs volunteers to come out and help prepare on December 2; any volunteers are to reach out to M D’Adderio)
- Holy Family Church has Saturday evening masses needing band members – please contact the Church office if interested

OAPCE – F De Vacas

- F De Vacas attended the October 30th meeting; shared that new website (revamped) for parents and students is up and ready (<https://oapce.org/>)
- Currently, out of 151 schools in Dufferin Peel, there are 148 schools with an OAPCE rep
- Co Exec Director, Joe Perri presented at the meeting, theme of “Home, School and Beyond” highlighting the challenges faced by students in the present times
- OAPCE Commissioning Ceremony was held on October 30th
- 85th Conference will be held on April 12th and 13th 2024 – more details to follow
- OAPCE newsletters – archived and current – can be found at <https://oapce.org/parents-4-parents/>
- Ministry of Education is gathering feedback on models for accelerated apprenticeship pathways – will greatly impact Grades 11 and 12 – find more information at peopleforeducation.ca

QUESTIONS

- Rodents/Reptiles in the school – J Lorenzon and C Lindsay confirmed have had the issues as a result of doors not closing properly (gaps at bottom frames) and is natural as a result of the fields surrounding the building
- Long grass patch in the parking lot cannot be touched as it is deemed environmentally safe housing and can only be handled by Ministry of Environment
- Planters in the middle of Kiss ‘N Ride were removed by Board after St. Michael asked for repairs to the crumbling ones

Closing Prayer – Famele

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Future Meeting Dates

- Wednesday evenings, with the following dates confirmed:
 - Wednesday, December 6, 2023 (Christmas Social)
 - Wednesday, February 7, 2024
 - Wednesday, March 6, 2024
 - Wednesday, April 10, 2024
 - Wednesday, June 5, 2024