



MEETING MINUTES

Robert F. Hall Catholic School Council
 Monday, November 6, 2023
 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER 2024		COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR TERM: 2023 –					
CSC VOTING MEMBERS	ROLE	OCT 2 2023	NOV 6 2023	JAN 8 2024	FEB 5 2024	APR 8 2024	MAY 27 2024
Karrie Daponte	Co-Chair	P	P				
Marina Glinski	Co-Chair	n/a	P				
Silvana Cordoba	Secretary	P	P				
Andrew Patterson	Treasurer	P	P				
Edith Pencil	OAPCE Rep	n/a	P				
Andrew Patterson	Parish Rep (St. Leonard)	P	P				
Laura Prestia	Parish Rep (St. John)	R	P				
Jennifer Selvaggi	Parish Rep (St. Timothy)	P	P				
STAFF MEMBERS	ROLE						
Diana Speranza	Principal	P	P				
Filomena Littlejohn	Vice Principal	R	P				
Antonio De Franco	Vice Principal	A	A				
Patrick Marcolla	Chaplain	A	P				
Kryisia Ratulowski	Teacher Representative	R	P				
Laura Fodaro	Non-Teacher Representative	P	P				
Victoria F.	Student Representative	P	P				
Malena C.	Student Representative	P	A				
GUESTS							
Joanna Godino, Sabrina Merola, Ida Lara, Cindy Aristizábal,							
LEGEND		P = Present		R = Regrets		A = Absent	

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Robert F. Hall Catholic School Council met in person on Monday, November 6, 2023. The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:37pm. The Co-Chairs welcomed returning, and new parents, staff, and student.

2.0 OPENING PRAYER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Co-chairs led An opening prayer and land acknowledgment.

3.0 CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL BUSINESS

3.1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

To facilitate a seamless meeting transition, we will now incorporate allotted minutes alongside each agenda item.



Motion: Moved by Andrew Patterson, seconded by Laura Prestia, “That the Robert F. Hall Catholic School Council approve the Agenda.” CARRIED.

3.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on October 2, 2023, were amended with an adjustment, specifying that the dates originally stated as "May 30, 2023" should be rectified to accurately reflect the meeting's actual date, which was "May 29, 2023."

Furthermore, it was collectively decided that the current designations "Chair and Co-Chair" will now be unified under the title "Co-Chair."

Motion: Moved by Andrew Patterson, seconded by Laura Prestia, “That the Robert F. Hall Catholic School Council approve the School Council October 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes.” CARRIED.

4.0 REPORTS

4.1 STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The pep rally was a resounding success. For Halloween, students engaged in activities like pumpkin decorating, class competitions, and candy prizes. Additionally, a costume contest was held, offering enticing rewards in the form of gift cards and sweets.

In the upcoming Christmas Market scheduled for Wednesday, December 20, 2023, we aim to foster student engagement by involving various school clubs.

The promotion of walking shorts was effectively carried out through multiple social media platforms. During the committee meeting, survey results were presented, showing that a significant majority, 73% of students, and 60% of staff members, voted in favor. We received a total of 469 responses, with 72.9% from students and 59.9% from staff members supporting the initiative.

A message from the Co-Chairs: In the Parent Community Facebook Group, we conducted a survey among parents, revealing that the majority of them voted in favor of allowing walking shorts as part of the school uniform; 153 parents engaged, 80 voted in favour. Furthermore, we are pleased to report that 153 parents have already joined the recently established Parent Facebook Group called “RFH Community Connect” designed to engage parents.

4.2 CHAIRPERSON REPORT

No presentation or information was provided for the item on the meeting agenda.

TREASURER REPORT *ADDED ITEM

- Our parent engagement fund now holds a total of \$2,617.96, including the recent addition of \$1,000. This gives us a balance of \$1,617.96 to allocate as we see fit.

4.3 TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- Grade 9's "Take Kids to Work Day" occurred on November 1st, 2023.
- Grade 8 feeder schools visited RFH for rotating school activities on November 1st, 2023.
- On Remembrance Day, Friday November 10th Mass will be held, and a townhall walk is planned, weather permitting.
- The senior home football game is scheduled for this Friday, November 10th, 2023.
- Mark your calendars for the Open House event on November 16th, 2023 from 6 pm to 8 pm.
- The Ontario Literacy Test will be administered between November 21st -22nd, 2023.
- Awards Night will take place on November 30th, 2023. Council Co-Chairs are unable to attend, Jennifer Selvaggi - Council Voting-Member will represent the RFH School Council at this event.

4.4 VICE-PRINCIPAL REPORT

Our Open House is currently undergoing changes in response to the Elementary Parent-Teacher Night on the same date; November 16th, 2023. The evening will kick off with a student-led presentation, followed by a self-guided tour throughout the school. Numerous clubs and students will actively participate during this event to make it engaging and informative.

Furthermore, there is an upcoming College/University Fair scheduled for November 14th, 2023, taking place from 1 pm to 4 pm, primarily for our students. After 2:30 pm, this event will be open to parents and community members. We will provide a list of community schools attending in advance, and the Ministry is subsidizing the cost of one bus for a separate, offsite college fair date for students that are interested in this opportunity.

For information about colleges and university links, you can reach out to the Guidance Department directly, or visit the RFH website under Guidance; links, including slideshows, are available. Log into your child's [MyBluePrint](#) account for helpful information and resources for guidance on your children's career exploration. Mrs. Filomena is exploring the possibility of sending a message to all students to ensure that parents are aware of [MyBluePrint](#) as a valuable tool for career planning.

Additionally, please note that November 20th, 2023 is designated as the photo retake day for students who were absent or whose names were misspelled.

4.5 PRINCIPAL REPORT

We've recently welcomed four permanent teachers, a topic we discussed at our last meeting. These educators are fully engaged, and our recruitment efforts will extend into the coming year due to the ongoing expansion of our student community. Classes have already been divided, and parents had the opportunity to meet these new teachers during the previous parent-teacher interviews. We're actively exploring options to repurpose existing space within our school before considering external construction to accommodate our growth.

The research department of the school board has been contacted to provide projections beyond a one-year horizon. This foresight will allow us to make informed preparations for the continued development of this area.

Please note that the deadline for mid-term marks is November 13th, 2023, and report cards will be distributed during the week of November 24th, 2023.

In a special arrangement, students will be able to attend the final football game on Friday, November 10th, 2023; lunch schedules have been adjusted to accommodate this event.

4.6 CHAPLAINCY REPORT

- Feast day included an Opening Mass, where all our students actively participated by joining a community walk, and we shared these moments on Instagram.
- A special Legion retreat was held at the St. Francis Centre, focusing on Catholic leadership. Several students were chosen to partake in this enlightening three-day retreat.
- We organized a successful food drive, with all donations going to the Orangeville Food Bank, which serves various areas in Dufferin and Caledon, including Caledon East cupboard.
- Grade 12 retreats are currently underway and will continue into the next semester. Additionally, in the upcoming semester, some Grade 11 and 10 classes will have the opportunity to participate.
- Our Homeroom Masses will be held in our chapel soon, taking place every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 8:30 am. Father Bob will be joining us at RFH to celebrate Mass in the chapel until the last week before the Christmas holidays.
- We are organizing a Christmas program for our community, which includes Caledon residents, the Family Transition Place, and social workers. The primary focus is on collecting essential items such as shampoo, soap, and feminine hygiene products to assist families in need.
- The Virtues T-shirt program is now in full swing. Students who exemplify specific virtues will be recognized with virtue of the month printed T-shirts. Teachers are actively participating by nominating students, and the top 10 students will receive these special T-shirts.
- We'd like to acknowledge Mrs. Cordeiro for her contribution to a new idea, where senior students were involved in running activities at St. Cornelius for Halloween festivities.

4.8 PARISH REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

4.8.1 ST. LEONARD'S PARISH – BRAMPTON

- Confessions: Saturdays at 5 pm.

- Good Shepherd Saturday Drop-Off: Mark your calendar for December 2nd, 2023 to January 6th, 2024, when we welcome pre-made meal donations.
- Catechism Classes: Our catechism classes began on October 21st, 2023, offering valuable spiritual education.
- Catholic Leadership Bazaar: Join us for the Catholic Leadership Bazaar, a special event that promises an enriching experience, contact the Parish for more information.

4.8.2 ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH – CALEDON EAST

- The deadline for children's communion applications is November 15th, 2023. Please note that applications will not be accepted until 2025.
- Night of Columbus Christmas Dance: Join us on November 25th, 2023 for a festive night of celebration at the Royal Ambassador venue. Tickets are priced at \$110 per person or \$1000 for a table of ten. The proceeds from this event will contribute to the creation of a new sign at St. John's Church.
- Catholic Women's League Bake Sale: Save the dates of December 2nd and 3rd, 2023 for our upcoming bake sale. If you'd like to donate baked goods, please drop them off on November 26th, 2023.
- Bereavement Team: Join us for a candlelight service, and for more information or to contact this team, please inquire directly with the Parish for the email address.
- Good Shepherd Initiative: You can pick up meal recipes and drop off frozen meals as part of the Good Shepherd program.

4.8.3 ST. TIMOTHY PARISH – ORANGEVILLE

- Throughout the month of November, we invite you to participate in our Book of Remembrance. You can inscribe the names of your departed loved ones; envelopes are readily available.
- Exciting News: Father Louis is embarking on a pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey. If you're interested in joining this spiritual journey, please be aware that a meeting was held yesterday, on Sunday, November 5th, 2023. Contact the Parish directly for more information.
- Mark your calendars for a delightful "Breakfast with Santa" on December 9th, 2023, at the parish.
- Don't miss the Knights of Columbus Card Sale on November 11th and November 18th, 2023. This special "Keep Christ in Christmas" card sale is sure to spread joy.

- For those with a sweet tooth and a generous spirit, we're organizing a loaf sale and bake sale on Saturday, November 25th, 2023, from 11 am to 2 pm.
- New Missals are now available, so be sure to pick up yours.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 SEMI FORMAL

Teachers who were tasked with finding venues for the second semester have made progress and are currently exploring options for Thursday, May 16th, 2024. They initially considered dates after Easter, but the costs were above the preferred budget. Presently, we are in the process of reviewing contracts, and it is likely that the Royal Ambassador will be the chosen venue. It's important to note that this event will be exclusively for RFH students.

In the context of donations, parents who wish to contribute should be aware that there is a specific procedure in place. The Principal is required to submit financial details and any gifted items to the board for approval. To gain more insight into this process, Mrs. Speranza will provide further information at our upcoming meeting on January 8th, 2024.

5.2 BREAKFAST PROGRAM AND SNACK PROGRAM

We are delighted to provide our students with a complimentary snack program that is accessible in the office at any time during the day. Additionally, our Breakfast Club serves hot food on specific days of the week from 7:30 am to 8 am. We actively promote these offerings on our social media platforms. It's important to note that these programs are made possible through YMCA funding, which we apply for annually. The Hospitality Department plays a key role in organizing and running the breakfast program. Any surplus items are made available for students to pick up from our leftover cart at the hospitality entrance. We have snack stations located in various areas of the school, including the main office and the Science department.

5.3 LUNCH COUPON

Every year, our cafeteria provider generously provides us with coupons that we can share with our students. These coupons are distributed to teachers, who, in turn, offer them to students in need. As part of our contractual agreement, the cafeteria is required to offer two discounted meals at various times throughout the day. It's worth noting that these meal deals do not include beverages.

5.4 SCHOOL UNIFORM

Only students in grades 9 through 11 were included in a survey that was shared through the Student School Council. The data was finalized on November 6th, 2023, with a total of 469 responses received from the 1,080 students who had access to the Google Classroom. Among these, grade 9 to grade 11 students, 72.9% voted "yes," while 27% voted "no".

We have ensured that all students have received a Google Classroom invitation in their student emails. Moving forward, it's essential to involve both students and parents in the decision-making process regarding uniform changes.

Mrs. Speranza will engage in discussions with the administration to collaboratively determine the appropriate dates for allowing the wearing of walking shorts, taking into account weather conditions and specific class requirements (e.g., hospitality, shop class). If the administration decides to implement this change, they will communicate it to School Council and parents.

Mrs. Speranza has also requested School Council to help spread the word that we are in need of gently used uniform items. This information will be shared on the RFH Community Connect Facebook page to ensure that parents are aware of the request.

5.5 CASHONLINE VS. "ONLY CASH"
DEFERRED

5.6 SPECIAL OLYMPICS
DEFERRED

5.7 PARENT ENGAGEMENT NIGHT

A subcommittee has been formed with the following members: Laura Prestia, Joanna Godino, Sabrina Merola, and Ida Lara.

The subcommittee is considering the following ideas for an upcoming event:

- A presentation on "My Blueprint."
- Inviting a guest speaker to address the topic of Human Trafficking and engage in community outreach. (An email on this matter will be distributed to all members by Karrie Daponte – Co-Chair.)
- The proposal is to schedule this event during Catholic Education Week in May 2024.
- Information will be brought back to School Council on January 8, 2024.

5.8 VIRTUAL MEETING

If parents wish to participate in the School Council meetings via a TEAMS conference line, a meeting link can be provided. Mrs. Speranza will be happy to facilitate this when requested by School Council.

5.9 PROPOSE NEW MEETING TIME FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETINGS

We proposed a new meeting time for School Council meetings, which will now be scheduled from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

6.1 CLOSING PRAYER

Co-chairs led the closing prayer.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46pm

MEETING MINUTES

Robert F. Hall Catholic School Council

Monday, November 6, 2023

6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

In December 2023, conversations occurred with Co-Chairs and Edith Pencil, to officially endorse the OAPCE Rep position. The Co-Chairs supported her interests in this position.

Attendance:

Karrie Daponte	Co-Chair
Marina Glinski	Co-Chair
Edith Pencil	Newly Appointed OAPCE Rep