

St. Catherine of Siena School Council
Meeting Minutes – February 2nd, 2023, 6:30 p.m.

6:30 pm – Meeting Start

Ms. Pompili Bosco - Opening Prayer

Ms. Pompili Bosco - Land Acknowledgement

Diana (Chair)/ Ms. Pompili Bosco - Welcome

- Ms. Pompili Bosco and Diana welcome the parents in attendance and Trustee Bruno Iannicca to the meeting and review the meeting agenda.

Diana (Chair)/ Council - Meeting Minutes Approval from November

- Approved by Diana and Second by Ms. DeSouza

Ms. Pompili Bosco - Principals Report

- **Welcome New Vice Principal:**
 - **Allana Smith-Foster**
 - Brings with her a wealth of experience, including a commitment to student well-being, inclusion, diversity, and achievement. Ms. Smith Foster was most recently a teacher in the Needs Moderate/ Needs Severe Family Level Special Education Class @ St. David of Wales
- **Staffing Updates:**
 - Ms. Tourn retired at the end of December/ New Gr. 6/7 Teacher Wajnaa Jajou started January 9, 2023
 - LTO's 1A Sitas (Alonzo), 4A Duncan (Sy), 7A Sgro (Carnovale), 8A Bagin-Koutk (Hicks-TBD), Library Leo (Pereira)
- **Christmas Preparation and Celebrations Update:**
 - Advent Mass took place December 6, 2023 @ the Church
 - Primary Christmas Concert December 19, 2022, due to cancellation (weather)
 - School wide Sing-along/ Goodbye Mr. Scicluna Assembly December 15, 2023
 - Share Life Spirit Week raised \$180.00
 - Christmas Food Drive
 - Gift Card Donations supported families in the community (27 Families)
- **School Photography:**
 - Class Photo Day February 10, 2023
 - Graduation Photos March 28, 2023
- **Pizza Day:**
 - Thursdays- Organized by Ms. English's 7/8 class and Mrs. Cose
 - Orders through cash online (monthly)
 - During Lent no Peperoni

- **St. Valentine's Day:**
 - Cookies on sale at lunch grab and go, office organizing \$2.00 per cookie.
 - Starting February 9th until they run out.

- **Athletics:**
 - Junior Girls/ Boys Volleyball took place in the fall.
 - Intermediate Girls/ Boys Volleyball took place in the fall.
 - Junior Girls/ Boys Basketball currently practicing.
 - POD Tournament Feb. 15th @ St. Catherine of Siena/ FOS Tournament Feb. 23rd @ St. Martin's SS.
 - Pods over regular season games
 - Intermediate Girls/ Boys Basketball will begin next.
 - Co-ed Soccer Team (practicing after school on Tuesdays)

- **First Term Report Card:**
 - Reports sent home February 14, 2023
 - Interviews (February 16th- evening/ February 17th- day)
 - Email with link will be sent home re: setting up interviews.

- **Faith:**
 - Grade 2 First Reconciliation May 1, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m. (revised date)
 - Grade 2 First Holy Communion May 13th @ 10:00 a.m.
 - Grade 7 Confirmation June 27th @ 7:00 p.m.
 - Upcoming Virtues Assembly RESPECT February 3, 2023/ KINDNESS March 2, 2023/ LOVE April 17, 2023/ ACCEPTANCE May 4, 2023/ FAIRNESS Play Day June 28, 2023
 - Ash Wednesday Distribution of Ashes
 - Shrove Tuesday: Pancakes for all with parent consent (looking into it)
 - School Wide Retreat: Focus Faith and Equity Date TBD
 - New Alter and Cross ordered for the School (Foyer)

- **Wellness:**
 - Dental Screening took place December 8,9,12, 2022
 - Winter Wear Clothing Giveaway took place January 16-17, 2023
 - April Clothing Giveaway TBD
 - School Wide Focus Conflict Resolution/ Problem Solving Strategies (ongoing)
 - Conversation Club to support newcomers continues after school (Wednesdays)
 - START TO FINISH after school reading/ running Program Continues (Thursdays after school)
 - MHSW & SW (family/ individual/ group support) Wellness Group
 - Bell Let's Talk Day
 - School Wide Mindfulness Christian Meditation with colouring activity (Mandala's)
 - Staff and students asked to wear blue to help increase awareness and show support.
 - Announcements

- **Black History Month and Beyond:**

- *Theme: We are Many, We are One- Connected Through Stories* (Celebrating Black Excellence)
 - Saidat- 20 modules, 2 Presentations in May (Presentation: Primary/ Junior Intermediate)
 - Trailblazers-Focus on Canadian Excellence
 - U of T Black History Month Luncheon 12:00 -1:30 p.m. February 28, 2023
 - Announcements Focus on awareness of Black Excellence in other countries (i.e. Africa and the Caribbean)
 - Use of Identify Affirming Literature and resources.
 - Catholic Education Week- School Wide Presentation
- **Equity:**
 - Focus on staff professional development and use of identify affirmation resources.
 - Student Voice- Student Group
- **Literacy:**
 - Focus on Heggerty, Sound Walls, and Phonemic Awareness in Primary
 - 3 Primary teachers and Ms. Pompili Bosco attended a session in MS on Heggerty and Sound Walls on November 28, 2022
 - Have ordered decodable books for K- 3/4 classes to support focus.
 - Literacy Lead teacher will begin supporting Primary Classes February 6th
 - Junior- exploring Corrective Reading as a Tool to Support Struggling Readers in the Junior Grades, 2 resource teachers and the principal attended a session in MS on January 31, 2023
 - Currently using Empower and Lexia Reading Programs to support struggling readers in Junior and Intermediate grades.
 - Identity Affirming Books- in classrooms and library (K-8)
- **Speeches:**
 - Grades 4-8
 - School Competition February 23, 2023 in the AM
 - Mississauga South Competition March 1, 2023 in the PM
 - Descriptive Feedback (School Focus)
- **Sphero Pilot Project:**
 - Ms. Sousa Grade 6 Class Pilot Project with Chromebooks instead of IPADS
 - Currently the school has 10 Sphero
- **Catholic Education Week:**
 - **THEME: We are Many, We are One**
 - **TENTATIVE SCHOOL Events**
 - **Monday:** Crowning of Mary Parents Invited to visit K- 8 Classrooms @ 2:45 p.m. /Grade 2 First Reconciliation @ 7:00 p.m.
 - **Tuesday:** MS Film Festival (English, Carnovale)/ School Wide Presentation K-8

- **Wednesday:** Cardinal Collins Virtual Mass @ 1:30 p.m./ Welcome to Kindergarten Night
- **Thursday:** Virtues Assembly ACCEPTANCE/ Catholic School Council Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- **Friday:** MS Joe Sax Activity Festival

Diana - OAPCE Report

- OAPCE definition – Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education
- Availability and upcoming parent engagement events coming soon.
- Sign up for and view the OAPCE Parents4Parents newsletter
<https://www.oapce.org/parents4parents-press/>
- Parent resources page
<https://www.oapce.org/parent-resources/>
- OAPCE Regional Meeting in Kingston April 22nd, all parents welcome. Find out more by visiting <https://www.oapce.org/conference2023/>

Open discussion/ Parent share

-Can we make the thrive newsletter support phone numbers more accessible to all students as the numbers are for them.

Ms. Pompili Bosco will work together with Ms. Smith-Foster to see the best places to post this information for all students.

-Can we ensure all supply teachers are updated on end of day procedures (grade 1 and 2 lining up during dismissal particularly)

Ms. Pompili Bosco will ensure expectations are added to supply teacher packages.

-Disconnect between parents and expectations/procedures on school property, daily school procedures (Pick up and drop off expectations etc.)

Ms. Pompili Bosco and Ms. Smith- Foster will look into sending out a review to parents on what these items are and why these are done daily.

-Assembling a club or group in schools that focus on embracing black excellence and heritage.

Group unanimously agreed that it would be an amazing idea and will be discussed one on one with Ms. Pompili Bosco

General discussion

- Parent engagement event ideas
- Ensuring special education children involvement in music, sports etc.
- End of year BBQ to be decided.

Bruno Iannicca report

- High increase in absenteeism with students as well as teachers which has through the last few months which has also caused shortages in Supply Teachers and higher use of Emergency Instructors.
- Board continuing tech upgrade support.
- DPCDSB down 8000 kids enrolled over 6 years
- Getting approval to have a presentation on Human Trafficking for parents and teachers.
- Board reviewing hold and secure options for alerting and safety in all schools.

Ms. Pompili Bosco - Closing Prayer

8:00 pm Meeting Ended