

St. Joachim Elementary School - 2024-2025 School Council

Meeting Minutes, April 24 , 2025, 7:34pm-8:26pm

Attendees: L. Tuccitto, S. Salameh, G. Russo A. Baez, A. Valente, T. Johnson-White, L. Pavao, A. Picano, S. Luckie, P. Johnson-Powell, M. Castro, I. Nwankwo, N. Gluhushkin, S. Davis Parsons, C. Daly, M. Rogato

Regrets: W. Mac, A. Szekely, R. Castro

DPCDSB Budget meeting from 6:30 pm-7:32pm.

AGENDA ITEM & NOTES	ACTION ITEMS/PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE/APPROVALS
Opening Prayer & Land Acknowledgement	Amanda
Approval of Agenda	Melanie Angie-2 nd
Approval of Minutes	Angie Shenna-2 nd
Chair/Co-Chair Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update from last meeting: Talked with Trustee Anisha Thomas Thanks to Ms. Tuccitto's efforts, the abandoned car was finally towed out of our Kiss & Ride parking lot • Plant Department was called to inspect our driveways/parking lots. Ms. Tuccitto has the results of their visit and will share. Will request that she join us for our May meeting to provide St. Joachim specific updates from the board. Patties resumed today. Slightly fewer orders than last time but still brought in \$1158.48 total profit for the 9 weeks. • Need to reimburse Angie for supplies purchased for patty Thursdays (paper bags/labels). Motion: to approve supplies for patties, up to \$100, actual amount is unknown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VOTE: Total up to \$100. Natasha, Lisa, Angie, Mel, Izuu, Trisha, Ms. Russo, Amanda, Sacha Teachers have asked for new AV equipment for the school. Awaiting quote. If we can, we will vote now to approve this purchase. Depending on what we have remaining after the AV purchase, other things we have been considering are: Freezies for end of year play day (~\$150 for a jumbo freezie for each student) Can we help support sewing club/scientists in the classroom? Jungle Sport indoor play gym for the fall/winter next school year (~\$3000) BBQ for school open house in the fall • Any other suggestions? Will come back to at our May meeting. Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Tuccitto: Guelph Grado will set up for the entire week, also Jungle sport. There would be a schedule, and each class gets an opportunity to attend. This was done at her old school, and she will provide more details at the next meeting. Defer vote for AV equipment to May meeting. 	Amanda
Treasurer Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Account Balance January 31, 2025, \$ 8,186.70 Cheque 512 Jeanie's Bakery Inv #2634 -\$ 386.20 Cheque 513 Jeanie's Bakery Inv # 2651 -\$ 386.20 Cheque 514 Jeanie's Bakery Inv #2662 -\$ 386.20 Cheque 515 Jeanie's Bakery -\$ 386.20 Cheque 516 Jeanie's Bakery Inv # 2693 -\$ 386.20 Cheque 517 Jeanie's Bakery Inv #2719 -\$ 363.60 Dance-a-thon Company Donation \$ 49.00 Dance-a-thon Donations School Cash Online (Mar 7-31) \$ 787.00 Account Balance March 31, 2025 \$ 6,728.10 Outstanding Expenses and Deposits Cheque 493 Donation to St. Anne's Youth Ministry -\$ 500.00 Cheque 501 Xmas Activity Rak -\$ 30.00 Cheque 504 Xmas Activity Burns -\$ 30.00 Dance-a-thon Donations School Cash Online (Apr 1-4) \$ 1,664.00 Cheque 518 Brave Education Parent Engagement -\$ 565.00 Patty Thursday Deposits (Apr 2-15) \$ 2,407.15 Cheque 519 Domino's Pizza for Dance-a-thon -\$ 774.31 Cheque 520 	Amanda

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<p>Decorations for Dance A thon -\$ 149.11 Cheque 521 Shrove Tuesday Pancakes -\$ 600.00 Cheque 522 Brave Parent Engagement (to be voided) -\$ 250.00 Dance-a-thon Donation from Jump Basketball (for decorations and top prize(s)) \$ 200.00 Dance-a-thon Donations Board Website \$ 5,107.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total \$ 6,479.73 Total Balance after Outstanding Account Balance \$ 6,728.10 Outstanding Expenses and Deposits \$ 6,479.73 Total \$ 13,207.83 Total Monies Promised Grade 8 Graduation -\$ 600.00 Grade 8 trip to Toronto for 2 students -\$ 510.00 Top Prize for dance a thon -\$ 250.00 Total -\$ 1,360.00 ▪ Corporate donation from ResQ Youth International to be added in. There is money due to be deducted from the account -\$2250.45 for patties ▪ Cheque 322 will be voided as awaiting payment from St Agnes for reimbursement for the joint Parent Engagement event. 	
<p>Principal and Teacher Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intermediate girls and boys' basketball has started, both teams placed first and will move on to the families tournament at D'Youville. Thank you to our coaches Mme Notte and Mrs. Procaccini • Chess continues and primary students will compete at the tournament at Philip Pocock on Friday, April 25th. • Soccer has started for summer season for juniors and intermediate • JaysCare Program-Girls at Bat-Girls Gr. 6-7 <p>Coaches-Ms. Dyba & Ms. Russo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sketch Club and Crochet club continue at the school at lunch • Dance team performed at Rose Theater for the 17th annual dance competition • Beach Volleyball will be on May 30th • Catholic Education Week - Pilgrims of Hope Week of May 5th. We will have various activities everyday for the different themes. Beginning with a school wide liturgy and ending with a schoolwide pilgrimage in the community. • Sewing Studio – Sewing studio will be coming during Catholic Education Week for all students. <p>The Sewing Studio's team of stereotype-busting mentors will guide each student through success, teaching everyone how to sew using a sewing machine. Boys and girls, that means you! Each child will gain confidence, develop their growth mindset, and complete their very own customized project from start to finish, all while being motivated and inspired.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scholastics Book Fair for CEW • Sacramental Beading Bracelets for students in grade 2 and 7 on May 5th. • Indigenous Planetarium on May 7 and 8 for grades 6-8 	<p>Ms. Tuccitto</p>

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 <p>The poster for Catholic Education Week Pilgrims of Hope features a central graphic of a cross with a flame inside, surrounded by the text 'Catholic Education PILGRIMS OF HOPE'. Below this is a quote from Pope Francis: 'We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us.' The poster lists five days of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day 1: By honouring human dignity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catholic Education Week School Liturgy at 11:00 am hosted by our YFA students Day 2: By caring for creation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students can wear Green and Blue to represent being stewards of creation Sewing Studio Workshop Day 3: By responding to the poverties in our world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live Stream Mass with Archbishop Leo at 11:00 Sewing Studio Workshop Day 4: By serving in solidarity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School wide Catholic Education Week activities at 1:00 and FDK retreat Day 5: By living as peacemakers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School wide closing ceremony and pilgrimage community walk at 9:30 am. Parents are welcome to join us in our school pilgrimage. Wear St. Joachim spirit wear or school colours Blue. <p>Scientist in the school have been in for grades K-2 and will be coming in for grade 8's</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> X Movement will be coming for class presentations week of June 16 and parent engagement night of June 19 at 5:30 pm Graduation Trip – Grade 8's will be going to Toronto Trip on May 15th Graduation will be at Notre Dame High School on June 24th at 6:30pm Graduation lunch and dance will be at the school on June 20th <p>Kiss and Ride/ Bus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Salameh and I have been outside before and after school in the bus zone and kiss and ride We are encouraging all parents to be using Kiss and Ride not the front of the school Front of the school is bus only The traffic is less through the front doors but continues to be a concern. Students are reminded to be on time for school, students entering through the front doors are late. Mr. Salameh and I had a meeting with the plant department virtually as well as in person meeting with the board plant department and construction and they have decided 	

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<p>to replace the signs at the school and paint new line markings for kiss and ride and bus zone. We are waiting on a final quote of the work before the construction begins.</p> <p>Fire Drill and Lock Down:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have completed two fire drills for this term and have one more as well as a lockdown <p>Purchases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School has purchased new sports equipment for the gym • A new tractor for our custodian • Recess equipment for all classes • Painting of the office and washrooms • Teacher supplies • Decodable Texts for primary classes • Math Manipulatives <p>Catholicity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosary Apostles – Will be at St. Joachim on May 12 and 13 for the crowning of Mary assembly at 9:30 – 11:00 • Easter Food Drive for Knights Table by YFA students • Stations of the Cross Presentation by grade 8's <p>Wellness Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wellness committee continues with wellness workshops for all students • Wellness Wednesdays that will alternate between various activities weekly from K-8 – such as mindful coloring, yoga, movement, dance, etc. • The wellness committee participated in the wellness conference with Coach Miguel from MTC Life at St. Evan this month. Students discussed what wellness looked like at St. Joachim and had an opportunity to do a gallery walk of all the schools in our family on initiatives at their school. Students also received a book from Coach Miguel on the various wellness activities. • Students made positive clothes pins for students and will be pinning students with them next month as a school wellness initiative. <p>EQUITY and Indigenous:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students in grade 3 will participate in Indigenous Metis presentation at St. Joachim on May 14 • May 7 and 8 for grades 6-8 Students will experience the night sky and celestial knowledge inside our portable planetarium. Facilitated by Wilfred Buck who is renowned for his knowledge of Indigenous astronomy, students will learn about significant constellations and celestial movements from Cree and Anishinaabe perspectives <p>ECO Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECO Team has meet with Mrs. Burns and they have implemented wasteless Wednesdays. • ECO team had Earth Week with various activities at the school including community/ yard clean up, scavenger hunts, bulletin board contest (the winner will receive a pizza lunch) • Textile drive during Earth Week. Donations to Diabetes Association. <p>Board Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Screener Part 2 for SK – grade 2 was completed after March Break 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EQAO for grades 3 and 6 will begin at the end of May <p>Upcoming Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEW May 5-9 • Rosary Apostles May 12 and May 13 <p>Requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AV • <i>Sacrament Bracelets for grade 2 and 7 \$11 per student at 103 = \$1,133</i> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gravel at the school is a Board project and they will be repatching the area around the portables. This is part of the school plan. They removed all the gravel and are waiting for them to patch. • Re: the Kinder students got eggs, and Mr. Landry took care of them over the long weekend. They are waiting for the chicks to hatch and there was concern but they are fine. • St Thomas Aquinas has the Playing Matilda program, and it is up to teachers if they would like to attend. <p>Question: Are the sacramental beads edible? Answer: Ms. Tuccitto, no they aren't. Question: What are the sewing dates? Answer: Ms. Tuccitto, May 5th- May 7th. Question: A Grade 3 student is missing a medal for her performance and participation as a member of the chess team? Answer: Ms. Tuccitto will look enquire and report back on the medal.</p> <p>Motion: Sacrament Bracelets for grade 2 and 7 \$11 per student at 103 = \$1,133</p> <p>VOTE: Everyone¹</p>	<p>¹ <i>Unanimous</i></p>
<p>Parish Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be Dramatization and then the Rosary. Each child will be going home with a medal. There has been agreement to do the May Celebration, and the Rosary template has been given to Ms. Tuccitto. Students will write and present their personal prayers/intentions. 	<p>Amanda</p>
<p>OAPCE Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcoming Regional Meeting: We will have our OAPCE Regional meeting in person on Thursday, May 1st @7pm at the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board. 40 Matheson Boulevard West. Superintendent • Drago Radic is scheduled to join us at this meeting to answer some of our questions and concerns. The agenda is to follow. <p>*****</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OAPCE 86th Annual Conference on May 24, 2025, in Niagara Falls: Conference registration is now open! Join us at the OAPCE 86th Annual Conference 2025 for an enriching day filled with three powerful presentations, engaging discussions, and faith-filled inspiration. This year's theme centers on strengthening the partnership between parents, educators, and the Catholic community. Registration is free for OAPCE representatives and \$30 for other attendees. We 	<p>Natasha</p>

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<p>ask that OAPCE representatives who do register, do attend. Please click to register.</p> <div><div><div>ENGAGE</div><div>OAPCE 86TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!</div><div>★ Exclusive Hotel Offer: We've partnered with the Old Stone Inn to provide free parking and a special discount for conference attendees. To book your stay, call +1 (805) 357-1234 and provide the booking ID "137575" to reserve your room.</div><div><div><div><div>OAPCE 86TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE</div><div>"COMING TOGETHER AS ONE"</div><div>MAY 24, 2025</div><div>† LOCATION: SAINT MICHAEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, NIAGARA FALLS, ON</div><div>📍 ADDRESS: 8699 MCLEOD RD, NIAGARA FALLS, ON L2E 6S5</div></div><div><div><div>In Partnership With:</div><div><div><div><div></div><div>NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD</div></div><div>+ CONFERENCE & MASS: 9-4</div><div>+ RESOURCE EXHIBITOR FAIR</div></div><div><div>REGISTER NOW</div><div><div><div></div></div><div>SCAN ME</div></div><div>WWW.OAPCE.ORG</div><div><div>OUR INSPIRING SPEAKERS:</div><div><div><div><div><div></div><div>JOE PERRI</div><div>OAPCE Co-Executive Director</div><div>Presiding</div><div>"The Power of One"</div></div><div><div><div></div><div>TERESA HARTNETT</div><div>General Family Ministry</div><div>Elbow Division of Niagara</div><div>Presiding</div><div>"Pilgrims of Hope Live in Families!"</div></div><div><div><div></div><div>ANTHONY PERROTTA</div><div>Executive, Storybook & Digital Learning Advisors</div><div>Presiding</div><div>"AI in Education"</div></div></div></div><div><div><div></div><div>NIAGARA CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD</div></div></div></div></div></div></div><div><div><div>Conference At a Glance</div><div>Date: Saturday, May 24, 2025</div><div>Location: Saint Michael Catholic High School</div><div>Address: 8699 McLeod Rd, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6S5</div><div>In Partnership With: Niagara Catholic District School Board</div><div>Sponsors: Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement Committee</div><div>Three powerful sessions:</div><div>Joe Perri "The Power Of One"</div><div>Teresa Hartnett "Pilgrims of Hope Live in Families!"</div><div>Anthony Perrotta "AI in Education: Guiding the Next Generation of Learners"</div><div>*****</div><div>Welcoming the new Minister of Education, Honorable Paul Calandra!</div><div>The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) are pleased to extend best wishes and congratulations to the new Minister of Education, Honorable Paul Calandra.</div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div></div>	

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<p>OAPCE is excited about the opportunity to work alongside the new Minister's office in advancing educational policies that will have a lasting positive impact on students, families, and educators across the country. well-rounded education for all students.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Book Suggestion</p> <p>"When God Made You" by Matthew Paul Turner is a beautifully illustrated children's book that celebrates the uniqueness and individuality of every child. The story emphasizes that each person is created with a purpose and is loved deeply by God. Through rhythmic and poetic language, the book conveys the message that every child is special, valuable, and has a unique role in the world. It's a wonderful read for children and parents, encouraging self-acceptance and appreciation of one's own gifts.</p> <p>Faith Formation - How Catholic Education Enhances Faith Formation for Children</p> <p>Catholic education has long been a topic of debate, often focusing on its funding and place within public education systems. However, there is no denying the significant impact Catholic education has on the faith formation of children. It provides them with a strong religious foundation, instills the values and teachings of the Catholic Church, and nurtures a sense of community.</p> <p>"Catholic education has been instrumental in nurturing my child's faith. The incorporation of religious studies throughout their education has enriched their understanding of Catholic values and helped cultivate a strong sense of belonging within the community." – Jennifer Pilzecker, OAPCE Niagara Director.</p> <p>"We must remain vigilant in protecting the gift of Catholic education in an increasingly secular society, ensuring that we do not succumb to the influence of fleeting social trends."</p> <p>One of the key ways in which Catholic education enhances faith formation for children is through its integration of religious education into the curriculum. In Catholic schools, students have the unique opportunity to learn about the teachings of the Catholic Church and actively participate in religious rituals and practices. This not only deepens their understanding of their faith but also fosters a sense of belonging and solidarity with others who share their beliefs.</p> <p>"Working in a faith-filled environment allows me to not only educate my students academically but also guide them in developing their relationship with God. I consider it a privilege to be able to support their faith formation along with their academic growth. – A. Madonna, OAPCE Simcoe Muskoka Director, Educator</p> <p>Catholic schools also provide a faith-filled environment where children can grow in their relationship with God. The presence of dedicated teachers and staff who are committed to their own faith journey serves as a positive role model for students. These educators not only teach academic subjects but also nurture the spiritual lives of their students, guiding them to develop a personal relationship with God and encouraging them to live out their faith in their daily lives.</p> <p>Furthermore, Catholic education promotes moral values and ethical behavior. Catholic schools actively cultivate a culture of respect, compassion, and social justice. Students are taught to treat others with kindness and dignity, promoting inclusivity and acceptance. They are also encouraged to be conscious of their responsibility to care for those less</p>	

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<p>fortunate and work towards creating a more just society. Through service projects and community outreach programs, students actively engage in acts of charity, solidifying their commitment to living out the Gospel values they learn in school.</p> <p>“I firmly believe that Catholic education, supported by the active involvement of parents through organizations like OAPCE, provides a unique and valuable opportunity for children to develop a strong faith foundation alongside their academic journey. Our partnership with OAPCE allows us to work collaboratively in ensuring that the needs of students in Catholic schools are met and that their faith formation is nurtured in a holistic manner.” – Most Rev. Bishop Mathieu, OAPCE Liaison Bishop, Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario.</p> <p>The Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) plays a vital role in supporting and enhancing the faith formation of children in Catholic schools. Recognized by the Ministry of Education, OAPCE works closely with other stakeholders such as Bishops, Principals, Trustees, and Teachers to ensure a holistic approach to supporting Catholic education. This partnership strengthens the connection between school, home, and parish, fostering unity and shared purpose in nurturing the faith of children.</p> <p>OAPCE also provides valuable opportunities for parents to get involved in their child’s education and faith formation. Through its network of local OAPCE representatives and regional committee meetings, parents have a platform to voice their concerns and engage with like-minded individuals. These meetings provide a supportive network for parents, allowing them to connect with others in their local Catholic education community. By fostering this sense of community and collaboration, OAPCE further enhances the faith formation of children by creating an environment where parents actively participate in their child’s education and faith journey.</p> <p>“OAPCE hosts regional committee meetings where parents can come together to share best practices, exchange ideas, and get to know other parents in their regions” - quotes R. Takeaway, OAPCE Dufferin Peel Director, “as well as providing guest speakers such as Dr. Josephine Lombardi and Teresa Hartnett who help with our Faith formation as Adults, which in turn inspires us as parents to our children.” In addition to advocating for Catholic education at the provincial level, OAPCE ensures that the parent voice is heard and considered in decision-making processes that impact Catholic education. Through its involvement in various Ministry of Education initiatives and working tables, OAPCE plays a crucial role in promoting parent involvement and fostering a strong partnership between parents and the Ministry.</p> <p>“Our organization is dedicated to empowering parents and guardians in supporting the faith formation of children in Catholic schools. Through advocacy, information sharing, and community-building initiatives, we aim to enhance the partnership between parents and the Ministry of Education for the benefit of all students.” – J. Perri, Co-Executive Director, OAPCE.</p> <p>In conclusion, while Catholic education may be controversial to some, it undeniably plays a pivotal role in the faith formation of children. It provides them with a solid religious foundation, promotes moral values, and creates a faith-filled environment. Through the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE), parents and guardians have a voice in supporting and promoting Catholic education.</p>	

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<p>OAPCE's advocacy efforts, information sharing, and community-building initiatives contribute to the enhancement of faith formation in children attending Catholic schools in Ontario.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and X (Twitter), and subscribe to our new YouTube channel for inspiring content, community updates, and spiritual resources. Like, follow, and subscribe to stay engaged with our faith community—we can't wait to connect with you online!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natasha cannot attend the Conference on May 24th so if anyone is available to attend, please request the Parent Council to assist. 	
<p>Community Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	Sacha
<p>New Business</p> <p>Dance-a-thon Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 172 students helped to raise funds. The top prize was a \$250 gift card from Toys R Us. Ms. Tuccitto will reach out to the rest of the top fundraisers. She may ask Ms. Russo to assist with calling the parents. There are 17 top prizes to be awarded. <p>Discussion</p> <p>Question: Can the crochet club use help with the purchase of material?</p> <p>Answer: Ms. Tuccitto, Madame Staicu purchased material, and Ms. Tuccitto will provide materials if needed. The same is done for the Sketch club.</p> <p>Question: Is there a sketch club?</p> <p>Answer: Ms. Tuccitto: yes, there is a sketch club, and the information is in the newsletter.</p> <p>Question: do we plan to spend more money for the school?</p> <p>Answer: Ms. Tuccitto: we are waiting to hear back about the AV equipment. We can earmark money for certain events for September and October. The recommendation from the principal is to assist with Guelph Bravo, Indoor play.</p> <p>Discussion; Only allowed to carry over a certain amount of funds so need to decide how to spend the money from now.</p> <p>Ms. Tuccitto: There was a discussion with the teachers, and they wanted an air conditioner, but the school cannot purchase this. The expenses are: Sewing in school, Science in School. The Kinder students need a new water table, and the school purchased this.</p> <p>Question: suggestion that investigate Let's talk science as they were giving out tomato seeds?</p> <p>Answer: Ms. Tuccitto: In relation to Science in Schools, they are coming to the school, and they are an approved vendor. Will check into Let's Talk Science. The school is ranked as Gold based on the application for Eco status. Mrs. Burns has planted seeds with the students.</p> <p>Meeting dates for CSC 2024/25(all meetings hybrid, unless noted otherwise):</p> <p>o Thursday, May 22, 2025</p>	
<p>MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:26 PM</p>	<p>Melanie Angie-2nd</p>
<p>Next Meeting is on May 22, 2025 at 6:30PM</p>	