

**St. Rita Advisory Council
Minutes of 2nd Meeting
November 20, 2024- Draft 1**

Attendees: Michelle Assenza, Jennifer Vieira, Joanne Pereira, Lucy Ferreira (virtual), Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi, Maria Castrucci, Sophie Tyrrel, Mario Magnone, Inez Bertao, Jessica Watt, LeeAnn Chng, Eileen Terry, Jessica Lourenco-Pruitt, Charlene Smith, Charlene Savoury (virtual)

Regrets: Steven Quartarone, Victoria Miele, Gracie Ricciardi, Jennifer Geerts

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

Welcome

- Chair Jessica Watt opens meeting at 6:10pm

Opening Prayer

- Mrs. Castucci led us in prayer

Land Acknowledgment

- Mrs. Castucci led the land acknowledgment.

Approval of November 20, 2024 Agenda

- Jessica Lourenco-Pruitt- motion to approve
- Joanne Pereira seconded

Approval of October 3, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Michelle Assenza- motion to approve
- Mario Magnone - seconded

Business Arising from Last Meeting

-A list of school events, clubs, and sports team seasons/tryouts have been sent to the community via the November SMORE newsletter.

B. Trustee's Update

-Trustee P. Dametto-Giovannozzi sends her best wishes to the council. No further updates given.

C. Standing Items

Chair Report

- No new items.
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Treasurer's Report (LeeAnn Chng)

- No new items. Budget to be discussed later in the meeting.
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Principal's Report (Mrs. Vieira and Mr. Quartarone)

School Updates

- 2025 is the Jubilee Year. This year's theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. St. Rita will mark this special occasion throughout the school year.
- A Peel Public Health Grant has been awarded to the school. It was used for the school yard line pavement painting. Students are enjoying these new activities at recess/lunch.
- Spirit Wear Fundraiser is currently running until the end of November. Items purchased will be handed out to families at the December 12 Merry and Bright event.
- The existing school banner outside of the school will be replaced with a new one. The banner will include the school name, our school motto and the new school logo. Banner has been ordered.
- Guest speaker Roland Acheampong visited our grade 4-8 on November 4. He spoke about resilience and overcoming negative mindsets. He also gave staff PD about effectively mentoring students.
- A virtual parent information meeting for the grade 7/8 trip to Ottawa was held on November 19. The trip will be in May 2025, pending interest from families.
- EQAO Scores from 2023-2024 school year have been released. Results are recorded below. Please note that the percentages reflect students who achieved a Level 3 or 4 (at or above grade level expectations)
 - Primary Results (grade 3): Reading 78.4%; Writing 56.8%; Math 64.9%
 - Junior Results (grade 6): Reading 75.6%; Writing 80%; Math 33.3%

Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycles- St. Rita continues to work towards improvement in the following 5 areas: Believe, Respect, Excel, Thrive, and Trust. Activities to support these include:

- **Believe:** building a sacred space in the school, virtue assemblies, creating a land acknowledgement for primary grades.
 - **Respect:** bringing in diverse speakers in the school, including diverse texts in the classroom, enhancing student voice, incorporating Indigenous education opportunities in our school.
 - **Excel:** building math confidence, use of math resources, implementing new reading screener for students in FDK to grades 2.
 - **Thrive:** focus is on wellness and belonging, culturally relevant and responsive teaching and building on our safe schools committee.
 - **Trust:** increasing opportunities for parent engagement, various school eco initiatives, and building the home/school connection by giving parents a regular look into the classroom called, "Windows into Learning".
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Teacher's Report – Mrs. Castrucci

Catholicity

- The Virtue of November is Conscience.
- The Thanksgiving Food Drive for Knights Table was a success! Thank you to families for their contribution of non-perishable food items.
- The school Advent Mass will be held on December 3 at 11:15am. All are welcome.
- Rosary Club meets each Friday at first recess. All students are invited to come to pray a decade of the Rosary.
- On November 1, St. Rita celebrated All Saint's Day with a Saint Walk around the school. Students were able to learn about the different Saints of our faith.
- Sharelife is hosting a Poster Contest for all students. St. Rita students have been busy working on their posters with Mrs. Castrucci during first recess.

Sports

- Cross Country- The family meet was held on October 18 at Sesquicentennial Park in Brampton. The boys earned a Family of Schools banner! Board finals were held on October 22 at Centennial Park in Etobicoke.
- Volleyball- On October 8 St. Rita hosted a mini-tournament where the boys team came in first. At the family of schools tournament they made it to the semi-final round. The girls team played in their mini tournament at St. Jean Marie Vianney where they came in second. The Intermediate tournaments will be held on November 29.
- The Flag Football Tournament was held on November 5 at Vianney. St. Rita came in 2nd place at the Tournament.
- Junior soccer boys tryouts were held earlier this month.

Other News

- Remembrance Day/ Indigenous Veteran's Day was marked by a ceremony organized by Mrs. Iannuzzi and Mr. Pappas' classes.
- PALS (Playground Activity Leaders in Schools) has started back up again this year. Grades 5-6 student leaders learn games and activities that they bring to Primary students at recess.
- Origami Club- Mrs. Bowels leads a group of over 100 students from grades 1-6. It is a very popular activity that students really enjoy!
- Eco Schools
 - The Battery Drive resulted in 200kgs of batteries collected. Earth Rangers will be presenting to the school in the New Year their message of environmental stewardship.
 - Mrs. Forgette organized a school yard clean-up in October. There will be another clean up in the spring.
- On November 1, grade 8s went TreeTop Trekking at Heart Lake, partially funded by the outdoor education grant.
- Guest Speaker: Ray John Junior will give a virtual presentation on November 25 and 29 to Mrs. Stornelli's class. Ray is an Indigenous knowledge sharer from the Oneida Nation. He will talk to students about the importance of demonstrating respect for others, modeling positive leadership qualities, being a good role model for younger students, and looking after each other and our surroundings.
- Merry and Bright Christmas Night will be on December 12. Parents and teachers will help

with hot chocolate and cookies. Santa will be available to take photos. There will be lots of fun activities like gingerbread houses, carolling, Christmas colouring, and a book fair.

Parish Update (Mario Magnone)

- Archbishop Francis Leo celebrated mass on November 17 at St. Leonard Parish
 - The Knights of Columbus will hold a Brunch with Santa on December 8 at 1pm in the parish hall. Tickets are on sale after all masses. Tickets are \$15/adult and \$5 for kids under 12 with a maximum of \$40/family
 - There will be a Children's Christmas Choir at the 5pm mass on December 24 mass. Practices will be held on December 7, 14, 21 at 2pm at the church. All children are welcome to join.
 - Dates for this year's Sacraments are as follows:
 - First Reconciliation: Friday February 21 from 4-6pm
 - First Communion: Saturday May 25 at 12:30pm or 2:30pm
 - Confirmation: TBA
 - There are enough gifts/items for Reconciliation and Confirmation but we may need to order small bags and cards to go with the gifts.
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D. INFORMATION/UPDATES

Ontario Association of Parent in Catholic Education (OAPCE) Report - (Michelle Assenza)

- November 6 meeting with DPCDSB OAPCE reps. Executive member Joe Perry spoke to representatives about being 'superheroes' in their child's education.
- New Instagram @OAPSE85; X account @OAPCEONTARIO; Facebook OAPCE85
 - Parents are encouraged to visit the OAPCE website and invite other parents to join/follow on social media
- The Parent 2 Parent newsletter is now available online on the OAPSE website.
- The OAPCE conference will be held in the Spring. This year's conference will be held in Dufferin Peel.
- Family of schools meeting held on October 24 to elect representatives from DPCDSB for the Central Committee. The first meeting was held on November 14.

Other:

- Save the date: on November 28 there will be a virtual role training sessions for each Executive school council position.
- Last year, parent council sent out a questionnaire to parents about their interest in guest speakers/parent engagement. The top topic votes went to 1. Resilience 2. Anxiety, Stress and Emotional Health 3. Mindfulness and Self-Care, and 4. Friendship Programs, Faith and Spirituality, Human Rights/Indigenous Learning.

Community Information/Updates- Jessica Watt

City of Brampton Update

- Outdoor skating rinks will be open soon- check out the City of Brampton website for dates.

Town of Caledon Update

- Valleywood Tree Lighting will be at the Margaret Dunn Library on December 6 from 6-8pm.
- The Southfields Holiday market will be held at the Southfields Community Center on December 13 at 4-10 pm.

Fundraising Committee

- Charlene Smith will be heading the fundraising committee.
- The Christmas Merry and Bright event will be on December 12 at St. Rita. Please refer to teachers report for more details.
- There is extra popcorn from a previous popcorn sale. A proposed fundraiser could be held to use this popcorn and order more if needed.
 - Each popcorn case is \$32 for 12-19 cases (87 cent profit at \$2)
- Fundraiser idea: Family Movie Night: sell popcorn at the event, offer family pizzas from Venezia.
 - Motion to hold a fundraising Movie Night Thursday February 20 in the evening.
 - Motion passed and carried
- The Terra Cotta cookie fundraiser was a good success. The profit from the sales is \$1802.00.

Inquiry re: City of Brampton Swim to Survive

- A parent inquired if we could apply for the Swim to Survive program from the City of Brampton. Council members inquiring if there are other schools who are participating.

Inquiry re: Permission Forms for Sports Tryouts

- Clarification around board permission forms for team tryouts: all board forms must be printed (not just digital), for archiving purposes.

E. ACTION ITEMS

2024/2025 Budget Allocation

-Balance as of September \$8832.90

-Income is \$17, 248.63

-Recommended expense allocations to be voted on:

- Catholicity \$0
- Donations: \$1350.00
 - Motion passed and carried
- Program Delivery \$21,500.00
 - Motion passed and carried
- Clubs \$580.00
 - Motion passed and carried
- Sports \$1000
 - Motion passed and carried
- Miscellaneous \$26,701.33
 - Motion passed and carried

-School to determine order and timeline of expenditures.

Pro Grant Funding Plan-

- Last year, the council sent out a questionnaire to parents about their interest in guest speakers/parent engagement. The top votes went to 1. Resilience 2. Anxiety, Stress and Emotional Health 3. Mindfulness and Self-Care, and 4. Friendship Programs, Faith and Spirituality, Human Rights/Indigenous Learning
 - Council will now research possible future guest speakers/initiatives to be brought to parents.
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Upcoming Parent Council Meeting Dates

- Thursday January 30 @ 6:00pm (potluck)
 - Thursday March 6 @ 6:00pm
 - Thursday May 15 @ 6:00pm
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G. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm- motion passed and carried
