

**St. Rita Advisory Council  
Minutes of 2nd Meeting  
Thursday January 30, 2025- Final**

**Attendees:** Steven Quartarone, Jennifer Vieira, Joanne Pereira, Paula Dametto-Giovannozzi, Maria Castrucci, Mario Magnone, Inez Bertao, Jessica Watt, Joe Lise, Charlene Smith, Norma Flynn, Francesca Petryshyn, Charlene Smith.

Virtual attendees: Eileen Terry, Michelle Assenza, LeeAnn Chng

**Regrets:** Victoria Miele, Sophie Tyrrel, Jenn Geerts

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**A. ROUTINE MATTERS**

**Welcome**

- Chair Jessica Watt opens meeting at 6:09pm

**Opening Prayer**

- Mario Magnone led us in prayer

**Land Acknowledgment**

- Mr. Quartarone led the land acknowledgment.

**Approval of January 30, 2025 Agenda**

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

**Approval of November 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

- Jessica Lourenco Pruitt- motion to approve
- Mario Magnone- seconded

**Business Arising from Last Meeting**

***City of Brampton Swim to Survive Inquiry:*** at the November 20 meeting, a parent inquired about St. Rita students participating in the city's swim to survive classes.

-Staff provided input on how this activity was run in the past. They identified 3 challenges: lack of privacy in the public change room; bussing issues (bus schedule for pickup/drop off meant there was limited time in the pool for the students); students were not comfortable changing in front of their peers.

-Outcome: The school has decided not to go ahead with this activity.

***-Permission form for sports tryouts:*** at the November 20 meeting, a parent inquired if permission

forms for sport tryouts could be done digitally.

-Mr. Quartarone provided clarification on this issue. The board policy is to make sure paper copies of important documents such as permission forms are housed in the office for a set number of years. Paper copies are required.

-Outcome: The school will continue with providing paper copies of permission forms to students and parents.

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## **B. TRUSTEE'S UPDATE**

-Trustee P. Dametto-Giovannozzi would like to continue the Rosary Apostolate at St. Rita. She is looking for any volunteers to help in this endeavor. It will run from October until May. Any interested volunteers can contact her for more information.

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## **C. STANDING ITEMS**

### **Chair Report**

- No updates
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### **Treasurer's Report (LeeAnn Chng)**

- Parent engagement fund deposited (\$500).
  - Expenses: Some items close to or slightly over budget: families in need, clubs.
  - The Wellness Day had an average of approximately \$20. Council to vote to apply additional funds to cover this extra cost.
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### **Principal's Report (Mrs. Vieira and Mr. Quartarone)**

#### **School Updates**

- Window into Learning communication has been launched. Teachers can share all of the great things that are happening in their classroom with parents. This is a great opportunity to encourage more conversation about your child's school day, what they have been learning, and upcoming events.
- Upcoming guest speakers:
  - Sewing Studio: January 30 and 31, 2025
  - African Drumming (February 5 ): The focus of this group is a message of unity and togetherness.
- Acadience screeners have been done for students in FDK to Grade 2. This assessment will help identify students who are at risk and/or do not meet reading benchmarks for their age. Staff will

use this data to create focus groups for reading intervention and support.

- DPCDSB is rolling out a new technology plan. The board will now provide and maintain technology for students in all schools. The number of chromebooks and computers available in the school is based on specific ratios for each division.
- Invitational tournaments: For the rest of the year, students participating in invitational tournaments will be responsible for paying any extra or outstanding tournament fees (such as the entry fee). The amount per student will be capped at \$30.
- St Rita school will be transferring all bank accounts to CIBC Bank in the coming weeks.
- Now that the school board is taking over for the technology in the school (see above), the money allocated in the council budget for technology can no longer be used for this purpose. This money will need to be reallocated. Council had initially allotted \$15 000 for this purpose.
  - Motion put forward to reallocate \$15000. The following areas of need were identified:
    - \$750- families in need in our school community
    - \$100- the origami club
    - \$2900- classroom enhancement (29 teachers x \$100 each teacher)
    - \$20.67- Wellness Day additional fees
    - \$2000- graduation award wall
    - \$1000- guest speakers
    - \$1000- invitational tournaments
  - Motion passed and carried

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

- The Catholic School Learning Improvement Plan is a 3 year cycle. This year's plan has now been finalized. These above areas will continue to be developed throughout the school year.
  - A detailed overview of the CSILC goal and action items can be found on the St. Rita website.
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## **Teacher's Report – Mrs. Castrucci**

### **Catholicity**

- The Virtue of the month for January is Self Control and Decision-Making. Mrs. Sist's class held a virtue assembly on Wednesday January 29.
- Father Nosan visited students preparing for their Sacraments on Thursday January 17.

### **Sports**

- Intermediate Volleyball
  - Congratulations to the girls team who made it all the way to the finals of their mini-tournament!
  - The Boys also participated in a tournament where they made it all the way to the semi-finals. Congratulations to players and coaches Caronzo, Marchese, Huyhn, and

Campos on great seasons!

- Junior Soccer
  - The Junior Boys Soccer tournament was scheduled for January 29 at the Save Max Centre, but due to inclement weather it was postponed. The new date will be Monday February 3rd. Team coaches are Mr. Caronzo, Mr. Marchese, and Mrs. Murray
  - The Junior Girls soccer tournament at Save Max Center was held today. We wish them and their coaches (Mr. Marchese and Ms. Huynh) the best of luck!
- There will be an Intermediate Boys soccer tournament on February 6. This team is coached by Mr. Caronzo, Mr. Marchese, and Mrs. Murray
- The Intermediate Girls indoor soccer tournament will be on February 7. Coaches are Mrs. Street and Mr. Pappas
- Basketball tryouts will be this week with coaches Mr. Caronzo and Mr. Marchese.

### Other News

- Black History month at St. Rita will be celebrated during the month of February. This year's theme is "Black History 365: A look back, a look within, a look ahead". A beautiful display is set up outside of the kindergarten rooms. A Black History book display is also set up in the library.
  - Author Yolanda Marshall will be reading her book "My Soca Birthday Party" (virtual) on Monday February 3
- On December 4, St. Rita participated in the Invitational Chess Tournament. They did very well, missing the finals by only a few points. Mrs. Iannuzzi coaches this great team.
- Rubber Duckie Day commemorated on January 13 for the first time for Dufferin Peel. The math department shared duck-themed math problems and tasks with the school.
- Wellness Day was held on January 15. Students from FDK to grade 8 enjoyed activities such as talks from the Peel Public Health nurse about healthy eating, cardio bucket drumming, a smoothie station and mindfulness activities. Thanks to Mrs. Selvaggi for organizing this event and to parent council for this support.
- On January 30 and 31 sewing workshops were held in the school. This dynamic and engaging workshop was run by Ronal Acheampong. More info on this program can be found at [www.originalroland.com](http://www.originalroland.com)
- Merry and Bright Night was a great success! There were performances by the choir (led by Ms. Bowles and Mrs. Oliveira) and the Glee Club run by Mrs. Iannuzzi. The book fair held that evening raised \$1800 for our school.
- Eco Schools Initiatives
  - Earth Rangers visited the school for a presentation for grades 1-6. The presentation focused on environmental education and conservation for. In their presentation, they brought live animals including Shelly the Turtle.
  - National Sweater Day: February 6. This day brings awareness to climate change and conservation of energy. On this day, the temperature in the school will be lowered by 1 degree. Students and staff are encouraged to wear an extra sweater to keep warm!
- February 20 is Region of Peel Water Day- presentations will be held for grade 2 to 8
- St. Rita X account (Twitter) @Stritarock1

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### **Parish Update (Mario Magnone)**

- 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: Thursday May 29, 2024 at 6:30pm and 8:15pm
- Knight of Columbus Fish Fry and BINGO Night will be on Friday February 21 at St. Leonard's Parish
- The Good Shepherd Prepare a Meal event will be on February 1, 2024. Families can drop off meals at the church between 11:00am and 12:00pm.

### **Fundraising Committee (Charlene Smith)**

- No update

Updates to standing events:

- May 15 Movie Night
- May 22 Parent Council

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### **D. INFORMATION/UPDATES**

#### **Ontario Association of Parent in Catholic Education (OAPCE) Report - (Michelle Assenza- read by J. Pereira)**

- We have a newly appointed Director. Ramey Takawy is the new OAPCE Director for the Dufferin Peel region.
- As a reminder, parents are welcome to utilize the OAPCE.org website or social media apps for access to resources pertaining to education, special needs, learning disabilities, parental engagement, webinars and more.

#### **Community Information/Updates- (Jessica Watt)**

- A meal train has been set up for a family in our school who is in need of our support. The link can be found on the St. Rita Council Facebook page.

## **City of Brampton and Town of Caledon updates**

- February is Black History Month. There are a variety of events happening in Brampton and Caledon. All events are posted online on the respective city/town website.
- February 17 is Family Day. Parents are encouraged to check out the City of Brampton/Town of Caledon website to explore the many events happening for this day.

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## **E. ACTION ITEMS**

### **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 Resilience and Anxiety, Stress and Emotional Health
- Motion to spend Pro Grant on a guest speaker on Human Trafficking for grades 7-8 as well as a parent engagement evening .
  - Motion passed and carried

### **Pancake Tuesday (March 4, 2025)**

- Parent council has budgeted \$250 for this event. Mr. Lise will send communication asking for parent volunteers to help prepare and serve pancakes on this day.

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### **Upcoming Parent Council Meeting Dates**

- Thursday March 6 @ 6:00pm
- Thursday May 22 @ 6:00pm (this is a new date)

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## **G. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 pm- motion passed and carried

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