

**St. Rita Advisory Council
Minutes of 3rd Meeting
Thursday March 6, 2025- Draft 1**

Attendees: Joe Lise, Joanne Pereira, Maria Castrucci, Inez Bertao, Jessica Watt, Michelle Assenza, LeeAnn Chng, Michelle Assenza, Jessica Lourenco Pruitt, Gracie Riccardi
Virtual attendees: Norma Flynn, Shelly Neves, Victoria Miele, Francesca Petryshyn, Suzy Falzone

Regrets: Mario Magnone, Charlene Smith

A. ROUTINE MATTERS

Welcome

- Chair Jessica Watt opens meeting at 6:09pm

Opening Prayer

- Joanne Pereira led us in prayer

Land Acknowledgment

- Mrs. Castrucci led the land acknowledgment.

Approval of January 30, 2025 Agenda

- Joanne Pereira- motion to approve
- Michelle Assenza- seconded

Approval of November 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

- Michell Assenza- motion to approve
 - Inez Bertao- seconded
-

B. TRUSTEE'S UPDATE

-No update for now

C. STANDING ITEMS

Chair Report

-Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Tuesday was held on March 4. Council received gift cards from community

partners to help support this event: \$50 from Food Basics and \$25 from Metro. The event was a great success and students enjoyed their pancakes!

-A donation on behalf of the parent council was made to the Ferreira Family. We continue to pray for them and for our dearly departed friend, Lucy,

Treasurer's Report (LeeAnn Chng)

- Parent council budget spreadsheet is up to date as of January 31, 2025. We are still waiting on expenses from the Shrove Tuesday event and the fundraising cheque from Terra Cotta Cookies (frozen cookie dough fundraiser from the fall).
 - Items purchased for the Shrove Tuesday event were less than council had originally budgeted. Final amount will be added to the budget soon.
-

Principal's Report (Mrs. Vieira and Mr. Quartarone)

School Updates

- Mr. Lise has been here for 6 weeks and has spent time observing day-to-day operations at St. Rita. Items to note:
 - Buses in the afternoon are late picking up students too often. Some buses return to school in the evening with children well after the school day ends. This is a safety concern that will be addressed with the bus company.
 - Some changes were made to bus routes because of capacity.
 - Parent question: some buses seem to be at capacity. Is there a way to add more buses to certain routes?
 - Answer: the bus company and STOPR decide routes; the school does not have a say in this. Parents are welcome to contact them to inquire about this issue.
 - Concerns with speeding on local roads (Summer Valley Drive).
 - The winter weather has kept students inside during recesses due to cold temperatures and ice on the pavement and field.
- The school is in need of painting. A work order has been placed and this school improvement is forthcoming.
- New subdivisions being built in the school boundary will mean that St. Rita's student population will continue to grow. We don't have a projected 'number' of new students; it will depend on the timing of the subdivisions being built and the makeup of the families in those new neighborhoods.
- The HVAC in the gym will be fixed during March Break!
- On March 7 there will be a school dance for all students in the gym. Mr. Marchese will be DJing the event. Intermediate students have been putting together a song playlist. Students are very excited.
- On February 14 all Dufferin Peel schools moved to a new banking provider. St. Rita is now banking with CIBC.
- The school production will be held on May 7 and 8. There will be morning and afternoon performances to accommodate all the families who want to attend.

- Mr. Quartarone is leaving St. Rita and moving to another school. St. Rita will welcome Ola Holyk on Mondays, Thursday, and every other Wednesday. Council wishes Mr. Q the best of luck at St. Andre Bissette.
-

Teacher's Report – Mrs. Castrucci

Catholicity

- The Virtue of the month for March is Kindness.
- Shrove Tuesday pancake breakfast was held on March 4th. Thank you to parent volunteers who helped serve and prepare.
- The Ash Wednesday was March 3. Mrs. Dollimore's class planned and prepared a liturgy for the whole school.
- A Lenten Mass will be held on March 19 with Father John and 1:30pm. Ms. McGougan's class and the school choir will assist on this day. All are welcome.

Sports

- Junior boys soccer team played in a tournament at the Save Max Centre on February 3. The boys made it to the semi-finals!
- The soccer tournament for the intermediate girls team was on February 6th.
- The intermediate boys soccer tournament was held on February 5. They were in the top 4 teams for the tournament, out of 30! Way to go boys!
 - Soccer teams are coached by Mr. Caronzo, Mr. Marchese, and Mrs. Murray. Thanks for your hard work!
- Junior boys basketball tournament was held on February 21 at St. Francis Xavier. The boys lost in the finals.
- St. Rita hosted a junior girls basketball tournament on February 24. They also made it to the finals but lost.
- The intermediate basketball seasons are underway.

Other News

- Eco Schools Initiatives
 - National Sweater Day was held on February 6. On this day, the temperature in the school was lowered by 1 degree. Students and staff were encouraged to wear an extra sweater to keep warm!
 - February 20 was the Region of Peel Water Day- Alectra Utilities and Peel Water presented to grade 2 to 8 students. Students learned about water and electricity conservation.
- Rubix Cube club is under way for grades 3-8.
- Origami Club still very popular with Ms. Bowles.
- The chess club is open to Primary, Junior, and Intermediate students who are getting ready for their tournament on March 19 at Guardian Angels. Club coaches are Mrs. Iannuzzi and Mrs.

DelCore.

- Grades 1-8s are going to see Snow White in theaters on March 21. Thank you Mrs. Forette for your hard work in planning this trip.
 - On March 21, grades 1 and 1/2 classes will go to Peel Safety Village.
 - Black History Month was commemorated in February. A variety of events were held to celebrate Black Excellence.
 - February 25/26 Black Excellence Day (exploring Canadian Black Excellence through arts, sports, literature, law, politics, etc.)
 - Other activities included: The Hallway of Black Excellence, spoken word poetry exploration, and the Hope-Inspired Musical Journey.
 - Thank you Mme. Mehta, Mme. DelCore and Mrs. Iannuzzi for their leadership in this celebration.
 - Parents can follow the school account on Twitter/X: @stritaroch1 for all of our St. Rita news!
 - Welcome Mr. Lise to St. Rita and to the parent council! We look forward to working with you to make St. Rita the best place to learn!
-

Parish Update (Mario Magnone)

- No update from the parish representative
 - Parent question: Have the dates or times for the grade 2 Communion and grade 7 Confirmation changed?
 - Answer: There has been no change that the school is aware of. Mr. Lise will reach out to St. Leonard Parish to get confirmation.
-

Fundraising Committee (Charlene Smith)

- Krispy Kreme has agreed to change the original date of delivery to May 15 to coincide with our movie night. Suggestion to open school cash online for 2 weeks of sales.
 - May 15 will be our community movie night. The event will be held in the school gym. Popcorn and water will be sold on school cash online. Families will have the opportunity to purchase pizza from Venezia for the evening.
 - 5 Frozen Fridays will be on May 23, 30, June 6, 13, and 20.
-

D. INFORMATION/UPDATES

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

- Regional meeting was held on February 13, 2025.
 - Dr. Josephine Lombardy spoke about the Jubilee Year 2025.

- The January newsletter of Parents4Parents is out. It contains updates, news, and resources for parents.
- New OAPCE parent survey is out. Parents are invited to give feedback to the Ministry of Education. The survey can be found on the OAPCE website.
- Saturday May 24, 2025 in Niagara Falls -OAPCE annual conference.
- 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)

City of Brampton

- March 11-15: Winter City Festival in Downtown Brampton
- Spring Program registration now open (except city and skating- those will be at a later date)
- “Best You” Program: In-school workshop for grade 1-8 students offered by the city. Many topics like physical activity, social emotional development, and social engagement are offered.

Town of Caledon updates

- Spring program registration is now open. Check out offerings on the Town of Caledon website.
- Summer camp and program registration will be open later in the Spring.

Grade 8 Graduation

- Graduation will be Monday June 23 in the gym
- Graduation pictures will be at April 25 during the school day
- Students eligible for 2 awards, plus the valedictorian award
- The Lina Marino award will be decided by parents

Honouring Lucy Ferreira

- Parent council will sponsor an award given to one primary, junior, and intermediate student at the end of year in Lucy’s honour. Details to be decided at the next council meeting.

Parent Concern

- Parents are concerned with an uptake in racism and homophobia in the school
 - Question: what is the school doing/ what can the school do to make St. Rita a safe space for all students, and at the same time makes it clear to students and staff that this will not be tolerated?
 - Response: The school will send out communication to parents reiterating the Board Policy around discrimination and harmful language
-

E. ACTION ITEMS

Pro Grant Funding Plan

- A motion was passed in the last meeting to use Pro Grant funding for a guest speaker on Human Trafficking for grades 7-8 as well as a parent engagement evening .
 - Speakers from the Elizabeth Fry society will be coming to speak to students in April about human trafficking. An evening event would be held for parents.
-

Upcoming Parent Council Meeting Dates

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

G. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm- motion passed and carried
