

**St. Rita Advisory Council
Minutes of 4th Meeting
Thursday March 7, 2024**

Attendees: Michelle Assenza, Lucy Ferreira, Jennifer Vieira, Joanne Pereira, Maria Castrucci, Shelly Neves, Sophie Tyrrel, Jenn Geerts, Lisa D'Amico, Charlene Battershell-Smith, Mario Magnone, Steve Gardiman, Greg Byrne, Inez Bertao

Regrets: Jessica Watt, Norma Infusini-Flynn, Lesley McGougan, Jessica Lourenco Pruitt, Victoria Miele, Francesca Petryshyn, Jule D'Ambrosio, Daniela Gigliotti Rivas, Steven Quartarone, Lesley McGougan

Welcome

- Michelle Assenza opens meeting at 6:34pm

Opening Prayer

- Lisa D'Amico led us in prayer

Land Acknowledgment

- Mrs. Castrucci led the land acknowledgment

Approval of March 7, 2024 Agenda

- Lucy Ferreira- motion to approve
- Charlene Smith- seconded

Approval of January 29, 2024 Minutes

- Mario Magnone- motion to approve
- Lucy Ferreira- seconded

Teacher's Report – Mrs. Castrucci/Ms. McGougan

- **Catholicity**
 - The virtue for February is Respect; Mr Cunanan's class prepared the virtue assembly which was held on February 27; the virtue for March is Kindness
 - Lenten Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday March 19 at 11:15am with Fr. Nosan. All are welcome.
 - Sharelife Update- Pretzels are being sold with proceeds going to ShareLife. They can be purchased on School Cash online; pretzels will be distributed during Holy Week.
 - March 18-22 will be ShareLife Spirit Week. Students will be encouraged to donate

a toonie to Sharelife all week. More details to come.

- **Sports**

- February 6: Intermediate boys soccer tournament
- February 7: Intermediate girls soccer tournament. The girls placed third in the pool
- February 8: Junior girls basketball tournament at St. Alphonsa. They placed third in the tournament.
- February 15 Junior Boys Basketball tournament at St. Francis Xavier. The team placed third in their pool
- The intermediate boys and girls basketball teams are practicing for their upcoming tournaments. The girls mini-invitational tournament will be on March 21. The boys tournament will be in April. Date is TBA.

- **Eco Schools:**

- Mrs. Tedesco organized EcoSource workshops for classes. Topics included recycling and energy conservation.
- Waste Free Lunches Tuesdays- Litterless lunch encouraged; students ordering pizza on Tuesdays are encouraged to bring a reusable non-breakable plate.
- Friday March 8- The Big Crunch: students are invited to take a big bite out of a healthy and crunchy snack at the same time!
- March 22- Earth Hour will be commemorated at St. Rita.
- March 28-The Big Gulp event: students and staff will take a big gulp of water from a reusable bottle, glass, or mug. Region of Peel's tap water is safe to drink.
- Pink Shirt Day on February 28- Pink Shirt day is a reminder to show KINDNESS to all.
- February 29: Show your colours for Rare Disease Day organized by Mrs. Ferlisi, ERW.
- Primary/Junior Students are enjoying the Origami Club with Mrs. Bowles on Thursdays and Fridays
- Rubix Cube Club with Mrs. Castrucci is being held on Wednesdays at first recess. Grades 4 and up can learn and practice their skills, as well as participate in friendly competitions. Students are invited to bring their own. Mrs. Vieira has also purchased some for students to share.
- Black History Month- Classes are engaging in many lessons and activities.
 - Mrs. Rebelo, Mrs. Wilson, and Mrs Barrett, our CYW are organizing a Black History and Black Excellence assembly - date/details to follow.
 - In February, Mrs. Rebelo's class showcased achievements by black artists, inventors, athletes on the daily announcements. Each division is participating in their own inquiry for black history. They are showcasing their learning in the hallway.

Principal's and Vice Principal's Report

Mrs. Vieira

- **Outdoor Learning Grant** received \$2000- money has been used to purchase pickleball sets for students. Part of the grant will help fund a trip to Claireville Conservation for a primary class and help subsidize the 2nd deposit for grade the Gr 7 & 8 Overnight Muskoka trip.
- **First Communion** for grade 2 students will be held on April 13. Mrs. Sist' class will

receive at 10:30am; Mrs. Forgette, Mrs. Waller, and Mrs. Richardson's students will receive their sacrament at 12:30pm.

- **Staff Changes:** Returning teachers- Mrs. Salvaggi (Library and Planning Time), Mrs. Stornelli (grade 4/5). LTOs Mrs. Huynh has moved to grade 2 (Mrs. Sist), and Mr. Cunanan has moved to grade 7 (Mrs. Wajnblum).
- Update from Town of Caledon regarding traffic safety concerns in Anthem Village: Mr. Quarterone has completed a form to request a Traffic Review and Analysis from the town. Should receive feedback in approx 30 days.
- Catholic School Improvement Learning Cycle- Teachers and staff continue to work towards our school goals. Professional Development sessions held for grades 2 and 5 teachers who are participating in Math Professional Learning Community with other teachers in our family of schools. Grades K-3 teachers working on the Science of Reading professional learning. There is also whole school professional development on student voice, and assessment. Program support received from the school board includes board consultant Mrs. Allalaine who is working with teachers and intermediate students on closing gaps in language and mathematics. Our board **EGELT** (Elementary Guidance Experiential Learning Teacher) has been supporting intermediate grades with science and technology. Mrs. Anthony is supporting K-3 teachers and students in reading and writing.
- Mrs. Vieira is seeking parent input on agendas, specifically who uses the agendas regularly. Currently agendas are given to all students from FDK- grade 8. Recommendation to only order agendas for FDK-Gr 6 to save significant costs. Council members expressed that intermediate students are not utilizing this resource and support the reduction in orders for 2024-2025.
- Mrs. Vieira seeking parent input on school photographer: Currently using Edge and have for a few years but concerns with their services; LifeTouch is another board vendor to consider. Council members expressed LifeTouch is a good alternative and that they have been used in the past and support the change to this vendor for 2024-2025.

COMMITTEES and UPDATES

Budget Update- Shelly Neves

- As of January 31 balance \$15,572 but does not include outstanding cheques
- Big Box of Cards profit will be updated at the next meeting.
- Pizza Lunch: December income \$3400, January income is \$4600. February numbers will be updated soon.

Fundraising Committee Update- Lucy Ferreira

- 161 Big Box of cards sold- prizes will be handed out in the coming weeks.
- February and March cookie fundraisers were successful. Upcoming cookies in April will be a butterfly
- May fundraiser is Krispie Kreme donuts-May 15.
- May/June fundraiser is Five Frozen Fridays
- Mrs. Vieira: we are on target to purchase all of our proposed items voted on by council.
 - \$10,800.66 earmarked for chromebooks in our 2023/24 budget. Will need to take

a look at funds available once all bank rec's have been updated to determine if this allocation should be increased.

Lunch Program Updates- Lucy Ferreira

- Pizza slices: .25 cents/slice increase began in February; Subway continues to be a great seller as well.

Parish Update- Lisa D'Amico

- Grade 2 Reconciliation February 23- gifts were handed out last week
- April 13 is the First Communion for the Grade 2s. Dates and times given above in teacher's update.
- Totus Tuus Camp: July 29- August 2 at St. Leonard for grades 1-6 students. Forms can be picked up at the church. Cost is \$70 for the week.

OAPCE Information/Update- Sophie Terrell

- 2024 Conference: April 13 at Monsignor Percy Johnson School. Cost is \$35 for conference. The Gala dinner will be held at 6pm at the Sandman Hotel \$75. Tickets for both events can be purchased on the OAPCE website. Combo price \$100
- OAPCE parent survey- to be sent out to parents.
- OAPCE website is a great resource for STEM, Faith, Lent
- Family Life Studies curriculum now ready.
- Dufferin-Peel's OAPSE rep is available to come to a future meeting to speak to St. Rita parents if desired. School Council in agreement.

Community Information/Updates- Jessica Watt

- Spring recreation program registration is now open for Brampton and Caledon.

Brampton update

- *Seedy Saturday is on Saturday March 9, 2025: 10:00am – 3:00pm at Century Gardens Recreation Centre. This year is the 12th annual garden show in partnership with Brampton Horticultural Society.*
- *International Women's Day (IWD)* is celebrated annually on March 8. The city is celebrating on Saturday March 9, 2024 6:00pm – 8:00pm at Rose Theatre

Town of Caledon Update

- *Swing into Spring* (March 23, 2024 10:30am – 12:00pm or 12:30pm. – 2:00pm at Southfields Community Centre): This is a free program for families, playing games and making crafts. Children of all ages must be accompanied by an adult. Each participant must be registered on the Town of Caledon Website

Community Safety Follow up- Michelle Assenza

- Covered in Mrs. Vieira's update

Board Updates on Council Meeting Protocol- Mrs. Vieira

- Changes to School Council procedures have begun and will be fully implemented by September: includes standardized agenda circulated 2 weeks prior to meeting; fully hybrid model for parents wanting to join online including members of council; voting can also happen online.

OTHER ITEMS/BUSINESS

- Michelle Assenza discusses next Advisory Council meeting dates
 - Motion put forward to cancel Monday April 29 meeting
 - Motion passed and carried
 - Next meeting will be Thursday May 23 @6:30 - will include discussion and voting for 2024-2025 lunches and potential fundraisers for September-Dec 2024.
- Public Budget Webinar will be held on Wed April 24 6:30-7:30 via Zoom. Link will be distributed to all council members and parents before the meeting date for viewing.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:22pm- motion passed and carried

Meeting concludes at 7:22pm