*St. Francis Xavier School Council Minutes of Meeting*

*Thursday, March 6, 2025*

**Meeting called to order** – 6:35 pm

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Attendees** | **Present** |
| Principal Ferdinando Tantalo | Yes |
| VP Daniella Gizzi | Yes |
| Chaplain: Betty-Ann Pickett | Yes - Online |
| Teacher Representative | No |
| Student Reps (SAC): William Huynh | Yes – Online |
| Claudia Molina – Leupolt | Yes |
| Caroline Roach | No |
| Shafqat Shan | Yes |
| Renata Kupresak | Yes |
| Airene Cunanan | No |
| Karen Canlas | No |
| Rosa Rongrong Hu | Yes - Online |
| Tim Kwan | Yes |
| Sameer Bhagirathi | Yes |
| Debleena Chowdhury | Yes - Online |
| Ms. Alexa Lazaric | Yes - Online |
| Ms. Julie Sorbara | Yes - Online |

**Trustee-** Thomas Thomas not in attendance

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Ms. Claudia Molina - Leupolt followed by the Opening prayer by Ms. Betty-Ann Pickett, the theme is month of St. Joseph and Lenten Prayer.

Land Acknowledgement by Ms. Claudia Molina - Leupolt.

**Motion of Approval**

Motion to approve agenda for 2025-3-6 CSC meeting.

* Approved by: Shafqat Shan and Renata Kupresak

Motion to approve minutes from 2024-1-9 CSC meeting.

* Approved by: Shafqat Shan and Sameer Bhagirathi

**Ms. Alexa Lazaric & Ms. Julie Sorbara – Co-op teachers**

* There is a shortage in skills trades area
* Ministry is investing via OYAP program – students can apply for 4 credit coop
* They are looking for contacts for trades who can take coop students for placements (electricians, HVAC, carpentry, plumbers)
* Not paid positions – earn credits and hours, gives students opportunities for future
  + The placements are during a semester (September to January or February to June)
* Placement would have to be licenced, a placement assessment must be done by the teachers
* If you know anyone, please contact Ms. Lazaric or Ms. Sorbara directly
* Mr. Tantalo will also send a request to parents via School Messenger

**Student Council (SAC) Report: William Huynh, Prime Minister**

* March 19
  + Next Civvies
* April 8
  + Xavier Fest - diversity day, students can host booths to represent countries of their background
  + Civvies day - wear a cultural outfit
* May 22
  + Annual school dance, theme “Spring Fling”
  + In cooperation with Hospitality
  + In foyer/cafe
  + Geared towards grade 9 & 10, but opened to all grades

**Chaplain’s Report: Chaplain Ms. Betty-Ann Pickett**

* Meeting every Friday for faith formation
* Deepening faith, especially during Lent
* There has been an increase in students coming, doing presentations and praying rosary
* Sunshine Retreat March 28, St. Francis Centre – day retreat
* Holy week – Lenten liturgies at school – 4 grade level liturgies

**Parish report: Ms. Airene Cunanan sends regrets - read by Ms. Claudia Leupolt**

* Fridays during Lent: 6 pm adoration, station of cross 7 pm
* March 9-12, retreat at the parish
* August 12-28, summer camp, contact the parish
* Conference at the parish, March 27 7-9 pm
* Youth conference June 20-22
* Faith formation conference Aug 1-3

**OAPCE report: Ms. Rosa Hu**

* Preparation for lent – by prayer, fasting and giving
* January Parents4Parents Press: <https://oapce.org/wp-content/uploads/January-2025-Newsletter.pdf>
  + Check out the January newsletter. It is full of updates on OAPCE's work, important news items within our parent communities, wonderful resources, uplifting faith messages, and interesting Catholic trivia.
* OAPCE Parent Survey - Your voice matters, complete the survey by March 28
  + OAPCE is surveying parents across the province to help advocate for parents in Catholic education and provide feedback to the Ministry of Education. All parents in the school community are encouraged to participate and complete <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3vD3J9H_YKSPnq7VYfsH-GRg5wjE6rB77R9VMvdw8GTcbLQ/viewform>
* Save the Date: Saturday, May 24, 2025
  + OAPCE Conference in Niagara Falls at St. Michael's High School
  + Check the OAPCE website for updates and registration.

**Chair’s Report: Ms. Claudia Molina-Leupolt**

* Nothing to report

**Treasurer’s Report: Mr. Shafqat Shan**

* No change to balance -> $1602.94
* Approval for Ambition conference - $100 to help fund the conference was requested

**Principal’s Report: Mr. Ferdinando Tantalo**

* This week was Pancake Tuesday, and distribution of Ashes on Ash Wednesday
* Announcements from board level:
  + Order of morning exercises has changed, new order is: Prayer, Land Acknowledgment, the Anthem – approved at most recent board meeting
  + Revised flag protocol for DP facilities – the only flags permitted are Canadian flag, provincial flag and DPCDSB flag, all other flags must be removed – school has begun the process
  + Chaplaincy revision – role of a chaplain is evolving to include grade 7 & 8, chaplain position will be more centralized among different high schools. We will still have liturgies, masses and retreats
  + Dress code policy change – mostly pertains to civvies
    - No clothing that promotes hate, discrimination etc (no change)
    - New change: the area from top of shoulder to mid-thigh is not to be exposed
    - Will be communicated to students and parents – students will need to put something on top or will be sent home
* Parent-teacher interviews – Wednesday April 2, 5:30-8 pm
  + Any parents who cannot book time, can contact the office for a call with teacher
* Course selection (grades 9-11) process is done
  + Activity fee should be paid by everyone
  + Request to parents: please approve the course verification via email and check your child’s courses
* Memo was sent to teachers regarding student work over March break
  + no new/additional assignments are to be set to right after march break, no written tests on first Monday after March break
  + Contact the office if this is not followed
* Curling team made it to OFSAA – won gold yesterday, going to Sarnia to compete in provincials
* Drama club will be doing a drama performance to the community April 9-11
* Parent engagement night on April 10 at Pocock – speaker about human trafficking 6:30-8 pm, more information forthcoming
* New program this year for students coming from gr 8 to 9
  + can take a transition credit in summer
  + Courses offered: technology course (TAS), Civics and Careers or History
  + Great opportunity for students in IB to to get ahead with credits
  + Various locations
  + new program in DPCDSB, other boards already have been doing this before
* Summer school applications – mid April, summer school runs all of July

**Vice Principal’s Report: Ms. Daniella Gizzi**

* OSSLT
  + Half of gr 10 students wrote OSSLT with their class last semester
  + We had a 92% pass rate
  + This semester’s OSSLT will be written during the first 2 weeks of April, specific dates TBA
* Math EQAO
  + written at the end of the semester, with their math class, similar to last semester

**Questions**:

* IB Exam structure
  + IB Exam Length – SL – Paper – 1.5 Hours & HL – Paper – 2 hours
  + IB Exam either in the AM or PM
  + Most courses have a Paper 1 and a Paper 2
* IB fee
  + Payment plan is available for those who choose to break it up
  + Can follow a payment plan and once approved in the school cash online cart it may show zero dollars at first.  It will begin withdrawing based on the dates listed and selected on school cash online.
  + IB payments are due by June 27th (can also pay during course selection if able and desired)
* Yearbooks – both last year’s and this year’s books will be distributed at the end of the year, in June

**Next meeting:**

Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 6:30 pm

**Motion to adjourn**:

Motion to adjourn meeting by Shafqat Shan and seconded by Sameer Bhagirathi

**Meeting adjourned @ 7:30 pm**