St. Francis Xavier Secondary School

Catholic School Council (CSC) Minutes of General Meeting

Thursday, November 2, 2023

**Meeting called to order** – 6:30

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| **Attendees** | **Present** |
| Principal Ferdinando Tantalo | Yes |
| VP Christopher Vincent | Yes |
| VP David Parisotto | No |
| Chaplain: Betty-Ann Pickett | Yes |
| Teacher Representative | No |
| Student Reps (SAC): Remy Robinson and Azlaan Khan | Yes |
| Claudia Molina – Leupolt | Yes |
| Shafqat Shan | Yes |
| Nina Guha | No |
| Caroline Roach | Yes |
| Renata Kupresak | No |
| Julie Sadhu | Yes - Online |
| Debleena Chowdhury | No |
| Karen Lindow, Parent | Yes |
| Karen Canlas, Parent | Yes |
| Anjani Kesharwani, Parent | Yes |

**Trustees:**

Thomas Thomas – Not present

Stefano Pascucci – Online on Google Meet

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Claudia Molina – Leupolt followed by the Opening prayer by Ms. Betty-Ann Pickett and Land Acknowledgement by Claudia Molina – Leupolt.

**Motion of Approval**

Motion to Approve minutes from October 4, 2023 CSC meeting.

* Approved by: Shafqat Shan and Karen Canlas

Motion to Approve Agenda for November 2, 2023 CSC meeting.

* Approved by: Shafqat Shan and Caroline Roach

**Trustee Report by Stefano Pascucci:**

* Board and Organizational Meeting underway to pick the new Chair and Board Chair at DPCDSB.
* Two Student Trustees will be chosen. First Indigenous Student Trustee was chosen this year. Total of 3 Student Trustees in 2023-2024 school year.
* STOPR – created an APP – Chipmunk used by parents and students to see the bus route in the minute. Pioleted in the northern part of DPCDSB as there are a lot of students.
* Trustee Iannicca (Ward 7) – is promoting the Human Trafficking seminars scheduled for late November or early January 2024 – Online link will be provided for those that will not be able to attend in person and the session will not be recorded. Peel Regional Police will be onsite to highlight how to identify early signs displayed by victims of human trafficking.
* At the last Board Meeting the Trustees passed a new policy – to grant greater powers to deal with parents who are vulgar and disrespectful to teachers and admin staff at the DPCDSB Board. Principals can issue warning letters to parents and legal action will be taken if required. Trespassing letters will be given to parents as well.
* Budget deficit - DPCDSB has a budget deficit of $96 million due to decrease in funding by the Provincial Government. DPCDSB is working with Ministry of Education to get out of Debt. Trustee S. Pascucci will provide an update on balancing the budget at the next meeting on Jan 11, 2023 as the Education Act states that each Board should have a balanced budget and in camera sessions and meetings are being taken place regarding this matter.

**Student Council (SAC) Report by: Remy Robinson and Azlaan Khan**

Events planning:

* Sept 29 – Orange Shirt Day – Students wore orange shirts to pay respect to indigenous culture.
* Oct 10 – World Mental Health Day – Free drinks, cookies and muffins; partnered with Starbucks.
* Instagram account had contest for Gr 12 Grad Designs. Voting was held on Oct 28 and the winner of best design gets their own piece
* Student Price Card (SPC) Sales – 208 cards were sold for $10 each (discounts at frequented stores)
* Halloween Week Events:
  + Morning announcement for a scavenger hunt (solve the riddle and find the small pumpkin hid in the school and send a pic to SAC Instagram to get a price),
  + Candy Jar (guess the number of candy in the jar),
  + Pumpkin Carving/ Painting,
  + Halloween Civvies Day and Halloween Costume Contest
  + Lunch Photo Booth,
  + Halloween dunnit (mystery of whodunnit)
  + Movie night
* Secret pathway – daily cahoots in the cafeteria during lunch, announcements and social media posts. Walk for Wenjack.
* World Teachers Day – Oct 5 – interviewed students about teacher relationships and put it on social media.
* Breast Cancer Awareness month – Terracotta cookies - $2 each – pink ribbons were distributed to place onto a Breast Cancer tree. All proceeds to Canadian Cancer Society.

**Chaplain’s Report by Chaplain Betty-Ann Pickett**

* Ms. Betty – Ann Pickett – provided an update on the Religion Retreats
  + Talked about the Pastoral plan signed by the Chair and Principal
  + Grade 9 Religion Retreats are all completed – Theme was Friendships – building friendships in their daily lives.
  + Grade 10 Religion Retreats – Theme is Stewardship and Respect – Outdoor retreat – (knowing about inner dignity, respecting parents, respecting the environment). Held at Riverwood Conservancy.
  + Grade 11 Retreat in November – World Tour going to 3 sites Synagogue, Gurdwara, Mosque. Reflections on the war situation and praying for peace
  + Grade 12 – Retreat – Regeneration kitchen – to prepare food. Learning about vocations
  + Catholic Education Week – “We are Called To Love”
  + Grade 9 masses – Encourage students to participate more at Mass with responses and music
  + St. Francis Xavier Day – Chaplaincy – to organize at school

**Teacher’s Report: By Principal F. Tantalo**

* No update at the moment - Looking for a new Teacher Rep

**Parish Representative – Julie Sadhu**

* St. Francis Xavier Church is open to High School Students for Volunteer hours – Mon, Thurs night and Saturday. Julie Sadhu to send an email about the Volunteer Opportunities to Principal Tantalo to send to the parent community.
* Youth Ministry kicked off Nov 10 - Edge Youth Program – Online Registrations
* Feast of St. Francis Xavier – Mass celebrated by Cardinal Collins on Dec 2, 2023 at 5 pm.

**OAPCE Representative – Renata Kupresak**

Nothing to Report

**Treasurer – Shafqat Shan**

Current Balance at $1213.14. Same as before.

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

* Oct 19 – Chair’s meeting was held at St. Francis Xavier School and was catered by the students at the Hospitality program. They catered to almost 400 people and it was organized very well and the food was excellent.
* Catholic School Council online training for Members will be held on Nov 20 – link to be sent out by email.
* Parent engagement night – to be announced soon

**Principal’s Report: Mr. Ferdinando Tantalo and Mr. Christopher Vincent**

**Report from VP Christopher Vincent:**

* SHSM program at St. Francis Xavier SS is very popular
  + **Health and Wellness**
    - Very high enrolment. $59000 is budgeted for this program
  + **Transportation ($13,000 is budgeted)** 
    - New Teacher – Mr. Natale teaches the auto shop program. He has very good auto experience and has now retrained as a teacher to impart great hands-on experience to the children.
  + **Hospitality**
    - Culinary teachers are doing a great job. There are lots of catering events at the school including retirement parties for the DPCDSB staff that are catered by the Hospitality students. They have an opportunity to showcase their culinary skills.
* **HVAC Upgrade Update** – Only 36 Heat pumps were replaced out of the 156 Heat pumps that needed to be replaced since the Summer of 2023 due to logistics issues and supply chain issues. The project is still underway during after school hours. They are prioritizing rooms where the HVAC is not performing at optimal capacity.
* **IB Diploma Program** – Mr. C. Vincent is happy to lead the IB Diploma Program at St Francis Xavier SS as it is the largest IB program in Ontario. Approx 40% of students are in Pre-IB and IB Diploma programs.
  + 218 students in Gr 9 – Pre-IB
  + 193 students in Gr 10 – Pre-IB
  + 197 students in Gr 11 – IB Diploma
  + 133 students in Gr 12 – IB Diploma

Most Grade 11 IB Diploma students find the beginning of the first semester difficult and might not continue with the IB diploma, therefore a drop in student numbers from Gr 11 to Gr 12 is noticed. Although, it is noted that if they persevere and overcome the first semester, they become acclimatized to the IB Diploma testing and advanced terminology and continue with the program. IB grading system is objective. Teachers provide a predicted grade on internal exams and evaluations. In May, the external exam evaluation is conducted and all subjects are marked externally. If the external IB Exam Grade is higher than the predicted internal grade, the student gets an opportunity to use the higher grade on their diploma.

**Report from Principal F. Tantalo:**

* Parent – Teacher Interview – lots of parents came out – 900 parents booked appts. Lots of teachers were at full capacity.
* Nov 24 – Report Cards will be going out.
* Grade 12 children – Nov 17 – marks will be uploaded to OUAC and OCAS – Nov 20 will be the date to drop a course if they need to for their University Grade Average.
* November Events:
  + Nov 8 – Grade 8 Open House
  + Nov 14-15 – OSSLT for Grade 10 students
  + Nov 16 - Diwali
  + Dec 6 – Café Night
  + Dec 14 - Drama/Dance performance
* Oct 25 – Post Secondary fair – lots of parents and students showed up. UFT, McMaster, Waterloo and many other Universities and Colleges were present. Shafqat Shan had attended and did find that the event was excellent, informative and had good engagement and participation with the Universities and Colleges.
* Halloween Dress Down was a fun day with no face masks and everyone adhered to the Catholic Code of Conduct, Rules and Dress Codes.
* Karen Lindow asked Mr. Tantalo about the decrease in Instagram posts as it was helpful for parents last year. Mr. Tantalo advised that SAC puts up most of the posts.
* Mr. Tantalo will look at whether the yearbooks were distributed from last year.
* Hospitality SHSM is planning a culinary trip to Disney – Committee approved it will be sent to the Board of Directors office for approval. Looking for around 40 students (minimum).

**Tentative Future Meeting Dates (5 per year)**:

Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 6:30 pm

**Motion to adjourn the meeting Shafqat Shan and Karen Canlas**

**Meeting adjourned @ 8:05 pm**