

**St. Giovanni Scalabrini Catholic Elementary School - Catholic School Council Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Time: 6:30pm

Location: School Library

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**Attendees:** Tensy Kalaparambath (Principal), Debra Calabretta (Teacher Rep.),  
Linda Ballarin (Teacher Rep)  
Michelle DeCouto (Parent), Melissa Requiell (Parent), Lisa Taylor (Parent),

**Regrets:** Laritzia Quintero-Silva (Parent)

**Guest:** Bruno Iannicca

**Meeting Notes**

Items	Notes	Actions
Routine Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Call to Order &amp; Attendance</li><li>• Opening Prayer</li><li>• Land Acknowledgement</li><li>• Approval of Agenda</li><li>• Approval of November 6, 2024 Minutes<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Motion approved by M. DeCouto</li><li>○ Seconded by D. Calabretta</li></ul></li></ul>	
Trustee Report	<p>Presented by: B. Iannicca</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dress code policy highlighted, as an FYI only to inform families:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Elementary schools have requested uniforms</li><li>○ St. Sofia is the only school in the board with uniforms</li><li>○ Standard colour scheme is more cost effective, logo more expensive</li><li>○ 60% must vote in favour for uniforms to become school dress code</li></ul></li><li>• Meeting with families with Special Needs<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ January 16 in person meeting or January 20 virtual</li><li>○ Opportunity to bring forward concerns, share informative presentations</li><li>○ Special Education budget (spent) +\$1M</li></ul></li><li>• Elementary enrolment challenge<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Funding based on # of children enrolled</li><li>○ Capacity deficiency equivalent of closing 30 schools</li></ul></li><li>• DPCDSB Budget Meeting (April 24)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Will inform where Board money flows</li><li>○ Efforts underway to improve website</li><li>○ A/C too expensive to install in schools</li></ul></li></ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Ontario Human Right Commission<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Review how children read/write</li><li>○ Screening at JK implemented</li></ul></li><li>● Fundraising efforts noted<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Discussed how to increase results</li><li>○ Paperwork hinders efforts</li><li>○ Suggesting 'umbrella" corporate paperwork to reduce task for individual schools</li></ul></li><li>● Additional concerns expressed by families: Secondary school bathrooms<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Fears students facing, activity witnessed</li><li>○ Schools do not have staffing to monitor</li><li>○ If caught, proper discipline is enforced to set an example and deter behaviour</li></ul></li><li>● Ministry introduced Financial Literacy program for Gr 10 students<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Students have requested to learn the value of money, investing, managing their own money</li></ul></li><li>● Peel Crime Stoppers looking into presentation for families</li><li>● Considering merging of French Immersion schools<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Siblings at same school would be beneficial for families</li></ul></li><li>● Audit Reports: to monitor financial responsibilities</li><li>● Shortage of support workers in schools; additional help is needed and efforts underway to recruit</li><li>● Peel Regional Police Dog<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Smells out thumb drives &amp; air tags</li><li>○ Will be a central committee presentation</li></ul></li><li>● Computer that are obsolete do not support software and are security breach risk<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ New computers will be purchased centrally and distributed at schools (estimate \$4M/year)</li><li>○ 20% will come out of school budget</li><li>○ Federal and Provincial funds for computer no longer available (as had been available during covid); therefore will take longer for updates, but will get</li></ul></li></ul>	

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	there; efforts to minimize challenge to meet demand of required numbers.	
Budget Allocation of Funds	<p><b>Approximately \$7000.00</b> in account, per discussion to be distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Sacramental gifts:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Gr 2 (30 students)</li><li>○ Gr 7 (30 students)</li><li>○ 60 students total</li><li>○ Request \$10/student plus tax</li><li>○ JK bracelets</li><li>○ <b>Above estimated \$1000.00</b></li></ul></li><li>● Grad Trips:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Albion Hills day trip (May 28)</li><li>○ Jays School Day (May 22)</li><li>○ Dave &amp; Busters (day after grad)</li><li>○ <b>Approx \$1500.00</b></li></ul></li><li>● \$10/student for any school experience<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Approx \$3250.00</b></li></ul></li><li>● <b>Remaining funds</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Funds for supplies for classrooms - \$50/classroom</li><li>○ Outside equipment</li></ul></li><li>● Approval re Allocation of Funds:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Motion approved by M. DeCouto</li><li>○ Seconded by M. Requiel</li></ul></li></ul>	
Fundraisers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Would be allowed to host a smaller fundraiser this school year. Ideas discussed:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Ice cream sandwiches, Ice Dogs</li><li>○ Silent Auction (prizes are donated);<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Electronic sale, can advertise prizes at BBQ, close a few days afterwards,</li><li>■ Payments made via School Cash Online</li><li>■ Can send Google form survey to get temperature of prizes</li><li>■ Products/Services/Events could be collected to be auctioned.</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>	

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Principal's Report	<p>Presented by: Tensy Kalaparambath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drumming presentation</li><li>• Performer Testament (Feb 24)</li><li>• Spoken word and black excellence<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Runs 2 assemblies</li><li>◦ Workshops for Gr 4-8</li><li>◦ Beat box, breakdance, spoken word</li></ul></li><li>• Jade's Hip Hop (April through May)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Routines grouped K-Gr 3, Gr 4-6, Gr 7-8</li><li>◦ Students may perform at Family Night/BBQ</li></ul></li><li>• Catholic Education Week: Pilgrim of Hope<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ 1<sup>st</sup> week of May</li></ul></li><li>• Carnivale Event returns</li><li>• Shrove Tuesday (March 4)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Pancakes served to classrooms</li></ul></li><li>• Family Day Mass (Feb 18)</li><li>• March Break (March 10-14)</li><li>• Good Friday (April 18)</li><li>• Report Cards (Feb 11)</li><li>• Parent Interviews (Feb 13, 14)</li><li>• PA Day (May 16)</li><li>• Gr 7-8 Immunization</li><li>• Book Fair: Catholic Education Week</li><li>• Grad photos (Feb 26)</li><li>• Focus this year on spending, upkeep &amp; tech</li></ul>	<b>ACTION: CSC Members</b> to volunteer as available for Pancakes
Future Meeting Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• April 23, 2025</li></ul>	
Meeting Adjourned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meeting adjourned at 7:13pm<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Motion approved by M. DeCouto</li><li>◦ Seconded by M. Requiell</li></ul></li></ul>	

**Next Meeting : Wednesday, April 23, 2025**