



## Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes – Nov 12 2024

**Date:** Tuesday, November, 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (6:30pm)

**Attendees:** Rocco Di Ianni (Principal), Nadia Kallu (CSC Co- Chair), Gina Rajack -Aguilar (CSC Co-Chair), Jennifer Santos (Treasurer’s Helper), Stephanie Fernandes (Parish Rep – Holy Rosary), Barbara Jancetic-Jelecanin (OAPCE Rep), Pat Grisoni (Community Rep), Rocco Bellusci (Community Rep), Marie O’Connell (Chaplin/ Non-Teacher Rep), Alex G. (Student Council), Jayden P. (Student Council), Lindsay Quirk, Roanna Guiang -Tulloch, Benny Coniglio, Carol Lobo, Adnan Hadi, Monica Santos, Pavithra Darivemula, Gerry Bergin

**Regrets:** Sonia Sousa (Treasurer), Nidhi Gupta (Secretary), Naghmeh Razmpoosh, Konstantino Zafiridis (Teacher Rep), Karen Boelhouwer (Vice-Principal), Ryan Duffy (Vice-Principal), Adam Mitzel (Vice-Principal), Justin Ieraci (Vice-Principal), Rema Andrade, Preethi Moraes, Sonal Andrade (Parish Rep – St. Benedict)

**Absent/Other:** Amna Shahzad, Francine Countryman, Astha Sharma, Bhagwat Verma, Gaurav Mittal, Julia Magliaro, Nicola Alexander, Nisha Rodrigues, Paxwell Pereira, Rahel Hagos, Randolph Barros, Tania Fernandes, Sean Bitmanis, Smruti Dash, Nicole Lawrence, Jen Ciavoliello, Dr. Shonna John, Sonya Cavalcante

Item	Discussion	Action
<b>Welcome and Agenda</b>  Nadia Kallu  Gina Rajack-Aguilar	Co-Chairs Nadia & Gina welcomed all attendees.  Chairs advised Agenda was reviewed by Principal Di Ianni.  Jennifer Santos member of Council approved agenda, Barbara Jancetic-Jelecanin seconded approval of agenda.	

<p><b>Opening Prayer</b></p> <p>Marie O’Connell</p>	<p>Council Members joined for the Commissioning of all Council Members for 2024-25 School Year and was led by Chaplain Marie O’Connell in our Chapel.</p>	
<p><b>Co-Chairs</b></p> <p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <p>Nadia Kallu</p> <p>Gina Rajack-Aguilar</p>	<p>Both Chairs started off the introductions and everyone followed suit</p> <p>Afterwards, Nadia thanked everyone and then introduced the Student Council Members who were giving a report update.</p>	
<p><b>Bishop Reding</b></p> <p><b>Student Reps</b></p> <p>Jayden Pinto</p> <p>Alex Grindloy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Both Students shared the following that took place at school to present date</li> <li>● Best Buddies Candy Grams – proceeds will go to Salvation Army</li> <li>● Legacy - Grade 10 Leadership</li> <li>● LiB’s – Leader In Black – Boxes of Hope through Halton Alive – collecting items for shoeboxes.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Principal’s Report</b></p> <p>Rocco Dilanni</p>	<p><b><u>SIP – School Improvement Plan Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Principal reported on the following:</li> <li>● Transition Day before Grade 8</li> <li>● Discussed Outreach Program</li> <li>● BR will be participating in Relay for Life in Spring 2025. This is a Canadian Cancer Society fundraiser.</li> <li>● Pre Rally - the entire school participates</li> <li>● Common goals – Achievement Plan</li> </ul>	

- Reaching certain target goals. Literacy, Numeracy – Top of Board and exceeds Provincial averages.
- Don't want to forget Students who struggle
- Last 2 yrs. Failed percentage 1.4% to 1.5% of School population. Low rate.
- Inclusive to all - Belonging works well for students
- After School Credit Rescue - parents will receive an email from teacher or administrator if student is behind on homework or assignments. Parents will be invited to send their student to this program. Marks are no longer given for homework completion therefore some students are not completing it and falling behind. Low number of students qualify because students feel more compelled to do their homework to avoid their parents getting these electronic notifications.
- Homework assignments - Getting caught up with homework achievement goal
- Uniform Sale Perennial Success – Cash online. Described the system before
- Co-Curricular Weight Training
- 2665 Students in school. Engagement. Not all students play sports; arts, tech, leadership, intramural options.
- New this year - Arts Banquet this year to celebrate their excellence.
- Academic Awards and Athletic Banquet to still take place.

**School Generated Funds Report**

- Mr. Di Ianni explained what's taken place with School Generated Funds.
- SGF is also posted on the BR website.
- Mr. Di Ianni confirmed that we can discuss this 3x per year at the School Council meetings.
- Principal explained what's taken place with School Generated Funds
- Christmas Baskets

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School Council</li> <li>● Civvies' Cost and participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Where is the money going?</li> <li>○ Mr. Di Ianni advised that monies collected from civvies day goes to support student who cannot afford things in the school – about 38 families @ \$250/family.</li> <li>○ BR is the highest donating school to charities (for civvies fundraising).</li> <li>○ There is value in having avenues to having these conversations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Pegasus Photo Company Vendor</li> <li>● \$35.00 Yearbook</li> <li>● There was a question-and-answer period pertaining to Photo Vendor Cost as well as status date of prior yearbooks</li> <li>● Regarding Pegasus Photo Company, some members present inquired how expensive it was and wanted to know why there was a sitting fee cost of \$40.00</li> <li>● After much deliberation, Lindsay asked if it's possible for a representative from Pegasus Photo Company to attend an information night for all parents to address concerns</li> <li>● Principal advice will contact the following and will get back to Council.</li> <li>● Meanwhile all were advised anything pertaining to SGF will be posted on the Bishop Reding Website</li> <li>● Jennifer Santos stated received the 22-23 Yearbook. Wanted to know the status of 23-24 yearbook arrival date</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Things Happening Around The School</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Mr. Di Ianni summarized all of the teams who have participated in sports so far this year and what's to come. He reported that the Sr Boys Volleyball team will be participating in OFSSA in the next few weeks.</li> <li>● Football buy out game. Dance Team performed at half-time for Football game.</li> <li>● In the Art's Programs other than Visual Arts and Dance. This School Year Students will be in the High School Musical Product which will be held on the Month of March 2025. Rehearsals is well on the way and we are blessed to have three Drama</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Di Ianni to follow up with other schools in the area and the photography company to see if this is the norm and what the sitting fees include.</p>
--	--	---

Teachers as well as Pat Grisoni who are Co-Directing in this year's School Production. Pat confirmed the students are very talented and that they're beyond excited to be partaking in High School Musical. We will be having a total of seven (7) shows. Show dates March 25-28, 2025

- Bishop Reding has 2665 Students, the highest number in Ontario/Canada.
- Want to do the best for all students in our school community
- Everything's on school website - Information on Prom on the Guidance Information page ie. Photo's, Prom Day, etc.

#### **General Update**

- Mr. Di Ianni provided an update on the forecasted number of grade 9s for next year.
- Mr. Di Ianni also provided some statistics on BR's AP program.
- 2700+ student last year (2023-2024) – largest in Ontario and likely in Canada.
- 7 SHSM's currently, looking to increase this by 2 next year:
  - Health SHSM and Fine Arts SHSM
- The school went from 1 to 3 life skills programs and next year we could move to 4.
  
- Every Student have an opportunity to be part of program
- Full Pathway Math Calculus course
- Another level of AP Computer Science course
- 6 of our classes were without a French teacher
- 3 to 5 Contention Advance Credits University
- 400 – 500 Students Voluntary Exam
- 250 Students wrote AP Exam last year
- Encouraged to be confident taking those exams
- No drop in 4's and 5's. Exceeding Global average in scores. Largest Publicly Funded school in Canada - Bishop Reding
- Best Buddies exploded – 50-60 Best Buddies!
- Medical School. Majority of Students don't participate
- Principal Di Ianni would love to hear and receive input from Students
- Grade 12 Most Students
- Difficult for a Grade 12 to enter SHSM - Why it's important to start earlier
- Health Care SHSM – Grade 10 students applying – Cross boundary students interested.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jayden and Alex Reps. from Student Council explained the process further. Stated it's a learning curve for bigger learning.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Co-Chairs Report</b></p>	<p><b><u>HCDSB CPIC Council of Chairs Meeting - Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● On October 23, 2024, Nadia and Gina attended the HCDSB CPIC Council of Chairs Meeting at St. Francis Xavier along with Principal Di Ianni and Barbara Jancetic-Jelecanin (OAPCE Rep)</li> <li>● There was a presentation around Digital Safety in the Home &amp; School environment. Cell phone usage particularly with Students</li> <li>● Discussed strategies for safeguarding children's online access</li> <li>● Also discussed practical steps for protecting our Home Network against viruses and other cyber threats</li> <li>● Information was incredibly beneficial and we highly recommend Students/Parents to attend a Cyber Safety information sessions that may be offered in the community</li> <li>● Were asked to "build" our ideal school using various sized construction pieces. Each piece represented a different priority, and the larger the piece, the more importance we assigned to that aspect.</li> <li>● Some of the priorities we discussed included academic achievement, athletics and extracurricular activities, spirituality, diversity and inclusion, and access to resources to name a few.</li> <li>● The exercise was challenging because we wanted to assign priorities the biggest piece because we think they're all equally important.</li> <li>● However, during discussions with the larger group, it was insightful to see that <b>diversity and inclusion received the largest piece</b> across our discussions.</li> <li>● This reflects a growing emphasis on creating a school environment where every student feels represented and supported, regardless of background.</li> <li>● This focus is important as it shapes our school culture, fosters understanding, and strengthens the sense of belonging within our community.</li> <li>● It also aligns with the values many of us on the council feel are essential for a supportive and progressive educational environment.</li> </ul>	

	<p><b><u>Bishop's Dinner</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Crosby will host the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Bishop's Dinner for the Halton Catholic Community. Although our school will not be attending, we are pleased to contribute a \$1200 donation, which will directly support students in need, helping them to succeed in school. We're proud to continue to be part of this meaningful effort to make a difference in the lives of students across our community.</li> <li>BR's lead senate will be attending this dinner.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>Jennifer Santos (Treasurer's helper)</p>	<p><b><u>School Council Financial Funds Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A statement of School Council Funds was provided to all Council Members present</li> <li>On School Council Account #3605 Balance Forward \$507.90</li> <li>On Used Uniform Sales Account #5502 Balance Forward \$18,937.00</li> <li>Umbrella Total Balance Forward Total \$19,444.90</li> <li>On August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Used Uniform Sale generated total on Revenue \$13,745.00 in sales.</li> <li>Final Balance to date: Grand Total \$33,189.90</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Chaplain's Report</b></p> <p>Marie O'Connell</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advent is coming up (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in December)</li> <li>Grade 10 – will participate in retreats through their religion classes</li> <li>Grades 11 and 12 will also participate in retreats</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Teacher's Report</b></p> <p>Konstantino Zafiridis</p>	<p><b><u>School Updates</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher Rep sent his regrets. Principal Di Ianni reported on behalf of Konstantino.</li> <li>See all updates on the General column for Principal's report</li> </ul>	
<p><b>OAPCE Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the school year has begun, and is now well under way now, the Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE) extends a heartfelt welcome</li> </ul>	

<p>Barbara Jancetic-Jelecanin</p>	<p>to all parents, guardians, and students, and asks us all <i>"to walk forward in faith together."</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● OAPCE team prepared an October Newsletter, which will be sent out in due course.</li> <li>● Recently, OAPCE represented at our Inaugural Council of Chairs hosted at St. FX in Milton on October 23. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Our Halton Regional Director presented on behalf of OAPCE to HCDSB board staff and parents in attendance representing their children's school council.</li> <li>● We were reminded to embrace fresh opportunities, new experiences, and a renewed commitment to supporting our children's education.</li> <li>● Parents were shown a slide presentation and reminded of OAPCE's engagement and dedication to ensuring that the voice of parents is heard within Ontario's Catholic school system.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Last week on November 7th, OAPCE hosted our Halton Regional Inaugural Meeting, at Corpus Christi Catholic Secondary School in Burlington led by our Co Executive Directors and Regional Director welcoming parents serving in the Liaison Rep role, by hosting a presentation "Super Parents-Unlocking The Powers of Advocacy", and some engaging break out activities for OAPCE Reps to meet and reacquaint with fellow Reps throughout the HCDSB, ending off with our Blessing and Liaison Commissioning and Anointing Ceremony. We were also reminded that 2025 is a Catholic Jubilee Year.</li> <li>● OAPCE wants us all to know that our role as parents and guardians is essential to our child(ren)'s academic and spiritual growth, and OAPCE encourages parents to be active participants in their child(ren)'s journey this year (and every school year)!</li> </ul>	<p><b>Council Co-Chairs to Update Barbara with final Council mailing list</b></p>
-----------------------------------	--	---

- This year OAPCE has asked us all, to prioritize well-being and learning, with faith formation.
- OAPCE serves as the voice of parents and guardians of children enrolled in the publicly funded English Catholic System of Education. As the ONLY Catholic parent association recognized by the Ministry of Education, OAPCE holds a unique position in advocating for the protection and promotion of Catholic education.
- One of the invaluable contributions of OAPCE is its ability to share information and resources with parents. By keeping parents informed about local school boards and Ministry of Education policies, OAPCE empowers parents to be actively involved in their children's education.
- OAPCE also provides a platform for parents to engage in advocacy efforts. Through their representation on various Ministry of Education initiatives and working tables, OAPCE ensures that the parent perspective is heard and taken into account in decision-making processes.
- Also, as a mention to parents who might have missed it, we have a new Minister of Education, the Honourable Jill Dunlop who has taken this portfolio from former Minister Stephen Lecce.
  - Minister Dunlop met with our Co-Executive directors OAPCE last month in her MOE office in Toronto.
  - The new Minister took the time to discuss items that are pertaining to the education of our children in publicly funded Catholic education across the province. In terms of Policy, Bill 97, PPM112, And the "Guest Speaker Approval List" were discussed.

GUEST SPEAKER'S IN SCHOOLS

	<p>The creation and implementation of the "Guest Speaker Approval List" and subsequent vetting and approval policy requirement, through communications of parents across the province, was also discussed. Regarding guest speakers, parents have been vocal about ensuring that the curriculum is the core of what is being taught in the classroom, and safeguarding that our faith is paramount through all teachings in the school.</p> <p>OAPCE WEBSITE: <a href="http://www.oapce.org">www.oapce.org</a></p>	
<p><b>Community Rep(s) Update</b></p> <p>Pat Grisoni</p> <p>Rocco Bellusci</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bishop Reding “<b>Christmas Vendor Extravaganza</b>” <b>2024 Reboot</b>. This was tentatively scheduled to take place on <b>Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024</b>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Monies raised from this event would be going in a separate account for students who are going through financial difficulty.</li> <li>○ Some parents have asked when will we (Council) bring back this event as many loved the idea of doing all of their Christmas Shopping with the “One of A Kind” Vendor Extravaganza one stop shop venue.</li> <li>○ Principal Di Ianni requested I share with Council what is the nature of this event. Pat explained the process.</li> <li>○ To be discussed further. For now this event is not finalized until further notice.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Used Uniform Sale held on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 was successful. We generated over \$13,000 from the sale. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Request/suggestion to have a Fall/Winter Sale. Preferably in December 2024.</li> <li>○ Further discussion on this matter to be discussed at another meeting.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Bishop Reding Trivia “Are You Smarter Than A 9<sup>th</sup> Grader 2025 Reboot.</li> </ul> <p>Shared the process of this event. To be discussed further at next meeting.</p>	<p><b>Meeting with Principal to discuss the following initiatives</b></p>
<p><b>Parish Updates</b></p>	<p><b><u>Holy Rosary Parish Updates – 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Halton Alive Boxes of Hope (Deadline November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024)</li> </ul>	

<p>Holy Rosary - Stephanie Fernandes</p> <p>St. Benedict - Sonal Andrade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Knights of Columbus Breakfast plus Selling Poinsettias. Funds to Support our Coats For Kids Program</li> <li>● Pajamas For Children. Collecting for Boys and Girls 1yr to 18 yrs old. These donations will be going to Pack A Bag. Please contact Clare Cutrara @905-875-2449 if wish to make a donation.</li> <li>● Walk To Bethlehem will take place at Andrew’s Scenic Acres on November 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Visit <a href="https://walktobethlehem.ca">https://walktobethlehem.ca</a></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Benedict Parish Updates – 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2024</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● St. Benedict Parish is hosting a four-part program for all parishioners, entitled “Horizons of Hope: A Toolkit for Catholic Parishes on Palliative Care”, beginning on November 21st on four Thursday evenings from 7:00 until 9:00 PM to share and discuss the importance of palliative care.</li> <li>● Catholic Women’s League will be hosting a two-day Christmas Market on Nov 16th from 12:00 pm – 6:30 pm and Nov 17th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. All are invited to be a part of this market and take advantage of buying early handmade gifts for their loved ones. Please bring along your family and friends and support local businesses.</li> <li>● The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul will be celebrating the 8th World Day of the Poor at all Masses on the weekend of November 16th/17th. Members will be in the narthex to talk about the work of the Society and to kick off the Angel Tree campaign for this Christmas. Please drop by their table for a chat and to pick an angel.</li> <li>● Fr. Pierre Caouette, LC will be leading a Men’s Retreat with a team of collaborators on Saturday, November 30<sup>t</sup>, from 9 am – 3:00 pm at St Benedict Parish. The retreat will consist of fellowship, Mass, talks, personal prayer &amp; small group sharing. Lunch &amp; snacks will be provided. The registration fee of \$30 will cover the expenses and serve as stipend for the preacher. Space is limited. Link for registration can be found on the Parish website.</li> <li>● Kindergarten registration at the HCDSB for the 2025-2026 school year is now open! Parents and guardians who are interested in registering their child for Kindergarten</li> </ul>	
--	--	--

	<p>are invited to visit the HCDSB website <a href="https://hcdsb.info/KindergartenRegistration">https://hcdsb.info/KindergartenRegistration</a> for more information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Knights of Columbus will be accepting new membership enrollments on Sunday, Nov 10th after mass in the church narthex.</li> </ul> <p>The Knights of Columbus will also be launching a Fundscrip Gift Card Drive to raise money for their efforts within the Parish and the broader community. Here’s how it works: Purchase gift cards at face value from retailers you already shop at. A percentage of your purchase will be donated by the retailers towards the fundraising efforts. By using these gift cards for your everyday expenses, you can support the Knights of Columbus’ mission without any additional cost. Getting started is easy: There will be a display in the narthex. Simply scan the QR code posted in the church foyer to order from the available retailers.</p>	
<b>New Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize Parent Council email distribution list</li> <li>• Discuss Bishop Reding Trivia “Are You Smarter Than A 9<sup>th</sup> Grader 2025 Reboot potential event.</li> </ul>	
<b>Conclusion</b>	Chairs thanked attendees, and invited all to attend the Christmas Social on December 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2024.	
<b>Minutes Completed By:</b>	Pat Grisoni (on behalf of Nidhi Gupta, Secretary)	
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	Tuesday, Dec 10th, 2024 (Christmas Social) at 6:30pm	
<b>Adjournment:</b>	9:25 pm	