



Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School Council
Meeting Minutes – Feb 11, 2025

Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 (6:30pm)

Attendees: Rocco Di Ianni (Principal), Nadia Kallu (Co- Chair), Gina Rajack-Aguilar (Co-Chair), Sonal Andrade (Parish Rep – St. Benedict), Barbara Jancetic-Jelecanin (OAPCE Rep), Pat Grisoni (Community Rep), Nidhi Gupta (Secretary), Stephanie Fernandes (Parish Rep – Holy Rosary), Marie O’Connell (Chaplin/ Non-Teacher Rep), Karen Boelhouwer (Vice-Principal), Adam Mikitel (Vice-Principal), Konstantino Zafiridis (Teacher Rep), Benjamin Gorospe (Student Rep), Dr. Shonna John, Rema de Andrade, Preethi Moraes, Benny Coniglio, Lindsay Quirk, Tania Fernandes, Bhagwat Verma, Monica Santos

Regrets: Sonia Sousa (Treasurer), Gaurav Mittal, Justin Ieraci (Vice-Principal), Ryan Duffy (Vice-Principal), Paxwell Pereira, Jennifer Santos, Smruti Dash, Carol Lobo, Nicole Lawrence, Julia Magliaro, Sonya Cavalcante, Pavithra Darivemula, Rocco Bellusci, Nisha Rodrigues

Absent:, Amna Shahzad, Astha Sharma, Francine Countryman, Mary Camastra, Nicola Alexander, Rahel Hagos, Randolph Barros, Sean Bitmanis, Rosanna Guiang-Tulloch, Adnan Hadi, Naghmeh Razmpoosh, Maryanne Sequeira-Brass

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Welcome, Opening Prayer, Land Acknowledgement Nadia Kallu Gina Rajack-Aguilar Marie O’Connell	Co-chairs welcomed all attendees to tonight’s School Council meeting. Gina read BR’s Land Acknowledgment. Our Chaplin, Marie, started us off with The Jubilee Prayer, as this is year of the Jubilee. She provided each attendee with a Jubilee Prayer card.	

Approval of Agenda and Minutes	<p>Barbara Jancetic-Jelecanin approved minutes of Dec 10, 2024; Pat Grisoni seconded approval of minutes of Dec 10, 2024.</p> <p>Dr. Shonna John approved today’s agenda; Pat Grisoni seconded approval of today’s agenda.</p>	
BR Student Rep Report Benjamin Gorospe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Over the past few months, they have promoted Student Life. They raised \$3000 for their charity with their Christmas Candy Grams. - They’re currently doing the Valentine’s Day Cookie Grams. Cookies are from Terra Cotta Cookie Co. and are peanut free. - Upcoming symposium to spread awareness for Black History Month. - Relay for Life – main initiative. Proceeds from Cookie Grams will be going to Relay for Life. - End of March – Rely for Life assembly. Students will be encouraged to fundraise via family, and community. - They are looking for volunteers and help in the Community. - Form to sign up in teams – more to come on this. 	
Principal’s Report Rocco Dilanni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BR went up by 24 students from Semester 1 - 2684 current students. - 2 yrs in a row with over 125 cross-boundary applications to be at BR. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Student Rep spoke about his research on BR’s success rate in post-secondary. According to research, BR had ZERO in drop off rates in post-secondary, which is a testament to the teaching staff and educators, the opportunities, and the school environment. o BR students are well prepared for post-secondary and are highly successful. Our staff, parents, and students are extremely motivated. - EQAO literacy results – highest success rate in our Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Our “failure rate” was the lowest in our Board at 13% - and we have the highest population of students. o Provincial success rate – 88-89%. - Section allocations – we were granted an extra 12 sections for Semester 2. This helped with timetable changes and pathways changes. This allowed students to make adjustments as needed to get what they need to graduate. This also allows for the best student-teacher rate possible. - Suspensions – well below the average in the Board for suspension rates. - BR continues with School Beautification – Weight Room and Foyer were recently re-painted. The We R BR logo also painted on one of the columns in the Piazza. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Valentine’s Civvies Day – there is no dedicated day for a full Valentine’s Day civvies day. Instead students they can add accessories to their uniform. There will be Valentine’s karaoke, a food truck and a photo booth. - Culture Day – student come to school representing their culture. - Relay for Life – want to see school spirit so that we can see more dedicated civvies days. - Feb 19 – Course Fair for students. Students will have a chance to go to different areas and speak to teachers to explore different electives. - Alumni Panel – speak about positive impact; success rates in post-secondary; what the Pathway looks like; etc. <p>DECA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is a Business Sales Competition. - Our Board will be sending 9 students to represent at this competition and 5 are from BR. - The competition will take place in Orlando, Florida in April (4 days). - Fundraising for DECA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o This is difficult to do for individual groups o SGF can help support part of this o Cost per attendee is currently being determined. 	
<p>Teacher’s Report</p> <p>Konstantino Zafiridis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final grades were released. - Literacy will take place after March Break. - EQAO Math will be at the end of the semester. - AP Exams will run May 5-9 and May 12-16. - Black Students Union – BR will be hosting their “Black History in the Making: Unity in Diversity” Event on Thursday Feb 20 @ 6:30-9:30 – there will be music, food, performances and speakers. - March 3, BR will be hosting their Iftar Event. <p>Immunizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Health is ensuring students are up to date with their vaccinations. - It is an order by Public Health; therefore, we must comply. - Beginning of Jan, BR received a list of students who could be suspended due to incomplete vaccinations (approx. 500 students). Updated list was provided last week with around 200 students. - This is a Ministry of Health suspension (not a Ministry of Education suspension). 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is important for vaccines to be up-to-date, and equally important to report this to Public Health. - The school is provided with an updated list daily. If the student’s name is on the list, they are asked to go home and are welcome back once their names are off the list. - The notice of suspension is destroyed when the student returns to school and does not become part of their school record. - These days are counted as absences, which does not go on their transcript. - Online platforms are still accessible to these students. 	
<p>OAPCE Report</p> <p>Barbara Jancetic-Jelecanin</p>	<p>To rewind a bit to December, our last meeting and Council Social took place on December 10th, and a day later on December 11 OAPCE hosted our Advent Retreat.</p> <p>Advent Retreat –December 11th</p> <p>OAPCE hosted a very engaging and heartfelt Advent Virtual Retreat on December 11, via Zoom. It was led by The Most Rev. Bishop Mathieu who shared profound insights on the biblical roots of the Jubilee Year, and the theme of Holy Year 2025. Along with Bishop Matthieu, OAPCE encouraged parents to reflect on this very sacred time ahead of Christmas with our families.</p> <p>A Promising New Year Message</p> <p>To usher in the New year OAPCE would like us all to reflect on a piece of Scripture from Isaiah... <i>“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.” Isaiah 40:31</i></p> <p>As we step into this new year we are filled with excitement and optimism for the journey ahead. This year brings us fresh opportunities to grow, learn, and build together. Each new beginning offers us the chance to renew our commitment to student excellence, foster a warm faith filled environment, and cultivate the fruits of our shared efforts in our schools across the province. As we grow and learn together, let us remember that Christ is the source of our strength, wisdom, and love. Being rooted in Him will help us nurture a community where everyone feels valued, supported, and inspired to reach their fullest potential.</p> <p>To our parents, thank you for your continued trust and partnership. Your support is invaluable, and together, we will nurture and guide our children toward achieving their fullest potential. As we embark on this new school year, let us hold onto the values that define our Catholic community—respect, kindness, and a commitment to learning - and as OAPCE, to engage, advocate and enhance the gift of Catholic Education. OAPCE wishes you all a fruitful and fulfilling school year ahead!</p> <p>Thumbs Down. Speak Up. (TDSU)</p>	

	<p>With that encouraging message from our OAPCE Team I will also share with you some information about OAPCE’S TDSU initiative. TDSU provides you with the tools you need to set your kids up for success before they start interacting online. With the TDSU approach, you can feel confident that your children will be armed with the skills they need to be safe and responsible. Whether we like it or not, technology plays an important role in our kids’ lives. They use it to socialize, experiment with their identities, exercise their voices, and learn about the world. It’s no wonder that we want to shield our children from harm when they are online. But when we let worries about keeping our kids safe dictate how we protect them, we can overlook teaching them the skills they need to navigate their online lives without our constant oversight.</p> <p>OAPCE Parent Survey</p> <p>OAPCE is surveying parents across the province to help advocate for parents in Catholic education and provide feedback to the Ministry of Education. On behalf of OAPCE I encourage all parents on our school council team to complete the survey. It would be greatly appreciated in addition, if our BR Admin could help by sharing the survey with our whole school community by posting it to our website and sharing it via eblast with the whole BR Family. Our OAPCE Team welcomes parents to complete the survey form to provide the valued feedback we need to continue along with our mandate and advocacy efforts. Thank you all for your engagement and support in advance!</p> <p>Upcoming Meeting</p> <p>OAPCE will be hosting our first meeting of the year on February 13th, with Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Josephine Lombardi, an award-winning author, educator, and faith leader. She will present “Pilgrims of Hope: A Walk Through of the Making of a Jubilee Year”; and share insights with us on the graces associated with participating in this special Jubilee Year of Hope. Following the presentation, all regions will join breakout rooms with OAPCE Co-Executive Directors and Directors.</p> <p>Upcoming Events for OAPCE</p> <p>An update that our AGM, and OAPCE 86TH Annual Conference (which I mentioned at our last meeting was scheduled for early April of 2025), is now slated to happen in Dufferin Peel in May.</p> <p>Please Support the Catholic School System</p> <p>Further relevant and valuable information for parents I’d like to offer you is a friendly, but IMPORTANT REMINDER RE: YOUR PERSONAL TAX ALLOCATION SUPPORT TOWARD THE CATHOLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM. As an important reminder to parents, you are all essential to the vibrance of Catholic Education in Ontario. As property owners in Ontario, you are required to support a school system. Please do your part to support our Catholic schools! Please do ensure</p>	<p>If you’d like more info, please reach out to me after the meeting, and you are always invited to check out our website at www.oapce.org</p> <p>More details to come as they’re made available.</p>
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	<p>that you direct your property tax support towards the Catholic School system, which your children attend and benefit so greatly from. Please ensure the designation (ex. English Separate (Catholic) or French Separate (Catholic) is accurate, and according to your support preference, especially following a move! This information can be found on your Property Assessment Notice. If you are new to a school (and every time you relocate to a new dwelling), please double check that you have selected to support the Catholic school system. The designation will appear in the top left-hand corner of your tax bill, under “Assessments”, “Tax Class Description”. Please be aware that as per legislation, your school support defaults to the English Public school board unless you otherwise indicate. The support designation also defaults to the English Public school board when you move!</p> <p>School support designation helps property owners and tenants identify which school board they wish to support in a school board election. Do keep a watchful eye on this at tax time, as it not only impacts support of your child(ren) at school, but also impacts who you will be able to vote for in upcoming elections. Your attention on this front is so simple, but so meaningful, as your support of our Catholic schools strengthens resources delivered to Catholic Education for all our children enrolled in Catholic schools! Learn more, and share this important information with your friends, family and neighbours, as it really makes a huge difference!!! Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.</p> <p>Please look forward to another summary report/ newsletter update from me this month when the February OAPCE Parents4Parents release is made available. Our newsletters are full of updates on OAPCE’s work, important news items and highlights within our parent communities, wonderful resources, uplifting faith messages, and interesting Catholic trivia.</p> <p>Social Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our new OAPCE Instagram account is live since 2024! Follow us @OAPCE85 • Follow us on X @OAPCEONTARIO • Our new Facebook page at OAPCE85! <p>Let’s Connect</p> <p>Please always feel welcomed to reach out to me with any comments, questions, or good news items that you wish to share on behalf of our school community to appear in upcoming editions of Parents4Parents. Should you have any specific questions related to OAPCE’s mission, mandate, the content in Parents4Parents newsletters, or should you require more information or related resources, please always feel free to reach out to me directly.</p>	<p>For past editions of Parents4Parents Press newsletters visit: www.oapce.org</p>
<p>Co-Chairs Report</p>	<p>Annual Selection Criteria for School Principal</p>	<p>Co-Chairs will be sending out a Google</p>

<p>Nadia Kallu Gina Rajack-Aguilar</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each year, Catholic School Councils are requested to submit <i>Selection Criteria for a School Principal</i>. The Selection Criteria for a School Principal identifies the key competency areas of Catholic Leadership, which includes the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Setting Directions o Building Relationships and Developing People o Developing the Organization to Support Desired Practices o Improving the Instructional Program o Securing Accountability - As a School Council, we are requested to rank by order of significance (on a scale from 1-5) the competency areas of Catholic leadership that best suit our school at this time. Reflect upon the gifts and talents that our current administrator has brought to our school. Things to consider: Do we need the same skills and abilities as our current leader? Or it could be that our school is well developed in one area and therefore strength in another competency could enhance the goals and/or current needs of the community. <p>Update on PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As of 4PM today, we were informed that our PRO Grant proposal was approved; therefore, we will be receiving \$750 from the Ministry of Education. This funding supports initiatives that address local parent needs and remove barriers preventing full parent participation in their children’s learning and educational progress. Essential to this process is ensuring parents have accessible and inclusive means to support their engagement. - The theme for our proposal is wellness, which may be in the form of a retreat session for School Council members, to encourage mindfulness and creativity through hands-on air plant terrarium building. This will highlight the therapeutic benefits of nurturing plants and creating personalized spaces. <p>-</p> <p>BR School Council By-Law Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As discussed at our last School Council meeting on Dec 10th, we have drafted by-laws and tweaked it to suit BR. These were derived by the CPIC Guidelines. - This sub-committee will review the by-laws and make any necessary amendments, outside of our School Council meetings. - Members who would like to be part of this committee: Co-Chairs, Pat Grisoni, Barbara Jancetic-Jelecanin, Stephanie Fernandes, Lindsay Quirk, Nidhi Gupta and Naghmeh Razmpoosh. 	<p>form to School Council members to provide their input regarding the order of significance of the 5 criteria. Submission from our school is due on March 5th. Co-chairs will submit on everyone’s behalf, based on feedback gathered from the form.</p> <p>More details to come on this.</p> <p>More information to come on this.</p>
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	<p>Parking/Traffic Flow Concern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large population at BR which leads to a high traffic area. - Students are encouraged to walk/bike to school. - Our Board is no longer funding commissionaires. These commissionaires helped with the flow of traffic. - Another suggestion is to drop off within walking distance of the school (rather than at the school). - Health and Safety Rep – there were speed bumps put in last summer on school property to slow down traffic. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Encouraged parents to reach out to MPP, Police, etc to monitor Main St and Thompson Rd – a commissionaire will only patrol school property. - Email communication is sent each year about safety. Students are also reminded about safety at the grade level presentations. 	<p>Administration agreed to send out another reminder email about Traffic Safety.</p>
<p>Chaplain’s Report Marie O’Connell</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Year of the Jubilee – this is the theme for Ash Wednesday. - Year of Jubilee cards will be handed out to each student. - Ash Wednesday liturgy will be by grade level. - Passion Play – Holy Thursday. - Grade 9s have finished their retreats. Grades 10-12 students who have religion this semester will have their retreats soon. - Students who completed religion during Summer School have the opportunity to also participate in the retreat. - We are open to Student Group for Food Drive – looking for volunteers to run this. - Clothing Drive happening now with Eco Drive 	
<p>Community Rep Updates Pat Grisoni</p>	<p>Coldest Night of the Year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This is taking place on Feb 22. - Many BR students volunteer at this event. 149 walkers are signed up so far, but more to come. Many community sponsors are part of this event. - Proposal – consider donating money towards to the homeless on behalf of council (approx. \$500). Cheques can be brought the day of the event. - The walk starts just before 5:00pm. There are different distances that people can walk. - Meet at Milton Sports Centre. <p>Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>Pat will find out if EMT is an option.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BR will be doing the last Station of the Cross at Holy Rosary Parish on Fri April 11 (week before Good Friday). This is open to the entire school. There will be rehearsals for this. There will be a visualization of the journey. - A flyer will be sent out with more information on this. 	
Parish Rep Updates Holy Rosary – Stephanie Fernandes St. Benedict – Sonal Andrade	Holy Rosary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knights of Columbus have their Valentine’s Dinner and Dance this weekend, on Feb 15. - St. Vincent de Paul is collecting donations from Feb 15-22. - Catholic Women’s League – having a rummage sale on April 4-5 – looking for parent and student volunteers. St. Benedict: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Donation tax receipts are available for pick up. - Deadline to resister for Communion and Reconciliation is Feb 14 – more information on the Parish website. - Knights of Columbus (KOC) – Gift Card Fundraiser <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Purchase a \$25 gift card from a participating retailer through KOC and a portion of your purchase when you use the gift card will be donated directly to the parish by the retailer. - Looking for volunteers for different groups – more information on the Parish website. 	More details to come about this.
New Business		
Next Meeting	Tues April 15, 2025 at 6:30pm	
Closing Prayer	Marie O’Connell lead us in a closing prayer.	
Adjournment	8:30pm	