



Bishop Reding Catholic Secondary School Council
Meeting Minutes – November 25, 2025

Date: November 25, 2025

Attendees: Paul Cianciolo (Principal), Karen Boelhouwer (VP), Marie O’Connell (Chaplain), Ken Flynn (Teacher Rep), Gina Rajack-Aguilar (Co-Chair), Nadia Kallu (Co-Chair), Neeraj Gerg (Co-Treasurer), Rukshan Jayatilake (OAPCE Rep), Stephanie Fernandes (Parish Rep), Barbara Jancetic-Jelecanin, Carol Lobo, Shonna John, Vandana Majithia, La Tania Burey, Nidhi Gupta, Roanna Guiang Tulloch, Jonathan So, Susan Zhang, Tania Fernandes, Nicole Lawrence, Paxwell Pereira, Sajid Chaudhry, Benny Coniglio, Lindsey Quirk, Mark H. Kluge, Jen Ciavoliello, Temitope Ajaja, Ragy Sharkawy, Esterina Sharkey

Students: Derek, Sandra, Sreebrinda, Abeerah

Regrets: Kay Loforte (Community Rep), Royston Smith (Secretary), Sonia Sousa (Co-Treasurer), Rajeswari Shankar, Samah Abushakra, Munazza Shams, Punita Nanda, Reyes Rey, Samar Javid, Naz Shagufta, Sonya Cavalcante, Umair Chaudhry, Ren Yumei, Charles Soares, Aliaa Derkeshli, Astha Sharma, Giancarlo De Rosa, Dimple Sequeira, Farah Khoulki, Smruti Dash, Ivette Iglesias, Sadaf Sheikh-Chaudhry, Veronica

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Welcome, Opening Prayer, Land Acknowledgement	Marie started us off with the Land Acknowledgment and opening prayer.	
Approval of Agenda and Minutes	Approval of minutes of September 23 2025 are on hold; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Member expressed that minutes are usually circulated 2 weeks in advance of the meeting. - Hold until Dec meeting so that members can review them thoroughly. Questions about the Elections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Was there an election process for the positions on Council? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Co-Chairs, Nadia and Gina explained that if there was only one person who applied for the various positions, then they would be acclaimed. We explained that we were informed by Principal Dilanni that this was the case for all of the 	

	<p>positions on Council, except for the Chair position. One other person expressed interest, however they are not Catholic, which is one of the requirements of being a Chair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A few council members remembered Principal Dilanni asking if any other people were interested in any of the other positions at the first meeting on Sept 25/25 and no one expressed interest. <p>Mark Kluge approved today's agenda – subject to next meeting date correction of Dec 16/25.</p>	
<p>Bishop Reding Student Reps</p> <p>Derek Sandra</p>	<p>Co-Prime Ministers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Building Activities that have happened around the school so far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Old School Day – bingo ○ Clubs Fair – hosted in library. Info about clubs at BR ○ Opening School Mass ○ Pink Day Pep Rally (buy out for Breast Cancer awareness) ○ Halloween Spirit Day (karaoke, Family Feud) ○ Sr Semi Formal – 500 attendees ○ Bullying Awareness Week ○ Academic Awards ○ Fall Food Drive – lead by the BR Leadership Groups ○ Christmas Assembly/Concert/Talent Show (not confirmed yet) – student council will discuss at next student council meeting ○ Cookie/Candy Grams – also will be discussed at the next student council meeting ○ Christmas Spirit Day – each day will be accompanied by an activity. 	
<p>ECO Club</p> <p>Sreebrinda Abeerah</p>	<p>See attached ECO Team funding request proposal (attached).</p> <p>Request amount: \$700</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This funding will go to the campaigns that they hold throughout the year, as well as prizing for participation in the campaigns. - Eco Club Chairs informed that they do not plan on spending the full \$700 this school year and plan to bank the remaining funds for the following year. 	

	<p>Council discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A member suggested asking for donations from parents for some campaigns. - Suggestion that every dollar should be tracked throughout the year and at the end of the year, come back to School Council meeting to provide update on how things went with the Club this year. - How did they arrive at \$700? Teacher rep arrived at this amount. The teacher puts in a requisition and the Principal signs off on it to ensure responsible spending. - Member is willing to donate 50 can crushers to the ECO Team and use it as they please (i.e. sell them as a fundraiser) - Do we approve this funding amount in the absence of an itemized list of what they will be spending the funding on? - Perhaps we can give them seed money, in a smaller amount, because there are many other clubs in the school who may all want funds. - Ask the reps to go back to their teacher rep to provide itemized list on what they plan on spending the money on. - This money will be coming from SGF. - Previous years, there used to be a form, handed out to teams and clubs for them to be filled out to request funds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Motion brought forward to bring the Form back for clubs/teams to apply for funding from School Council. Motion was moved by Jennifer Ciavoliello, and seconded by Jonathan So. - Form should be distributed to all teams and clubs. - Vote on hold for funding request. 	<p>Need from ECO Club: Financials Requisition Form Itemized list of clubs that we have funded (3 years)</p> <p>Principal Cianciolo to locate form.</p> <p>Principal Cianciolo to update teacher rep of ECO Club on discussions tonight.</p>
<p>Principal's Report Paul Cianciolo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More information on SGF will be presented in the December School Council meeting, due to extenuating circumstances. - SGF should be spent in the year that it was collected; however, there could be an agreement that if some funds need to be carried over (i.e. for bigger purchases) then a portion can be carried over to the following year. - Paul Cianciolo – 2005-2010 was the Principal at BR. Retired since 2019 but has been asked to cover Principals in the Region in his retirement. He is a former math teacher. Likes to walk the halls and speak to the students. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School Improvement Plan Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Work in progress o Teachers need to work collaboratively to meet the needs of the students o PA Day discussions have been on AI and how we can use AI to our advantage o There have been discussions about Triangulation data used in assessments - Things happening around the school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A couple teams went to OFSSA recently (field hockey, sr boys volleyball). A few more teams did well at GHAC/HCAA o Academic Awards – this coming Thursday - Questions from Council Members: - How do we decide on the level of support for each of the sports teams? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Principal Cianciolo makes sure that each club/group/team gets part of the activity fees collected at the beginning of the year. - Why isn't there a bus for the younger teams/clubs? Do team/club fees cover this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Principal Cianciolo said that in the past it has been but cannot speak about this year. - Question from Council Member: Yearbooks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Typically, yearbooks arrive in Oct/Nov because it's not put together and sent to the printer until late June, to capture graduation. This is beyond the school's control because it's with the printer. o This year, for the students who paid their activity fee last year, their yearbooks should arrive by Dec 2025. These are circulated during homeroom. There is a list of students who have paid their activity fee. 	
<p>Co-Chairs Report</p> <p>Nadia Kallu Gina Rajack-Aguilar</p>	<p>We attended CPIC Training for Chairs Session, which is usually offered at the beginning of each new year.</p> <p>We attended the Bishop's Dinner on Nov 13, 2025. This event raises much needed funds for students in need in the Halton Region. Bishop Crosby was present; it was his last Dinner before retirement.</p>	

	<p>We have also attended the CPIC Council of the Chairs meeting and the CPIC Let’s Connect Sessions this past month.</p> <p>At the CPIC Let’s Connect meeting, we learned that the deadline for the PRO Grant Application was last Friday. Due to an oversight, we were not provided with the original PRO Grant Application email, therefore, we could not meet the deadline, seeing as we needed to discuss and vote on ideas here at this Council meeting. We asked for and received an extension of the deadline, which is Nov 28.</p> <p>Purpose of PRO Grant: It’s a Grant that aims to help schools improve in areas such as addressing social inclusion and various forms of racism, creating safe environments, respecting parents as partners, enhancing communication with teachers, and informing parents about the Ontario Curriculum. The Grant is usually in the amount of \$750.</p> <p>We had the opportunity to speak with the Chair at St. Benedict who offered us the opportunity to partner with them for a Neurodivergent Night. This event would feature a panel of speakers and provide families with information to help navigate the challenges related to diagnosis, support options, available resources, and building a supportive parent community.</p> <p>Potential panelists include a psychotherapist, an executive functioning coach, a teacher with ADHD, and a SERT. The event is tentatively planned for the winter/spring, with the date to be confirmed.</p> <p>The Chairs offered the opportunity Council Members to bring forward any other ideas that our school could use with the Pro Grant funds. No others had ideas to share. Council Chairs also sent out an email to elected council members on Mon Nov 24/25 and received no responses for ideas on how they would like to see the Pro Grant funds used.</p> <p>Motion for hosting a Neurodivergent Night as outlined above – approved by Jonathan So, seconded by Roanna Guiang Tulloch.</p> <p>Uniform Sale Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - June 2025 sale generated \$7,884; and September 2025 sale generated \$9,478 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Minus cost of laundering of uniforms at \$2,649.33 (HST not included in amount). 	<p>Co-chairs will complete the Pro Grant Application and submit before the new deadline.</p>
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<p>Chaplain's Report</p> <p>Marie O'Connell</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As of today, all retreats are completed for this semester. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Grade 9s attend 2x; Other grades attend with their Religion class. - Opening school mass - September Advent mass coming up in December. - Boxes of Hope, starting next week. Collecting items for Allendale – please bring donations to chapel. Looking to fill the boxes with Christmas ornaments and cards, note paper, colouring books, hygiene products. - Attended Province wide Conference - Pilgrimage Cross - Eucharistic Ministry training - Lunch time rosary on Wednesdays - Bible Study on Mondays 	
<p>Teacher's Report</p> <p>Ken Flynn</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Former teacher, alumni, current guidance counsellor at BR - Remembrance Day assembly happened in Nov - University and College applications are open. University application deadline is in Jan. College application deadline is in Feb. - Mid terms just came out. Strategies in place for students who are struggling - Dec 8 – SHSM info session - Pathway presentations are coming up in conjunction with course selection deadline in Feb 	
<p>OAPCE Report</p> <p>Rukshan Jayatilake</p>	<p>First OAPCE meeting was held on November 10, 2025 at 7:00 pm at St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Secondary School in Oakville.</p> <p>We also have a newly appointed OAPCE Director for Halton region – Marlo Znidarec – She can be reached at Halton@oapce.org along with Annalisa Crudo-Perri & Joe Perri - Co-Executive Directors</p> <p>We were presented with a Presentation: The Total Digital Reset by Lucy Colangelo, Student Success Coach & Communications Expert for an empowering conversation that will help your family learn how to turn technology into a tool for success and growth.</p> <p>We were also reminded of the ministry of education Policy/Program Memorandum 128</p> <p>which is in effect as of September 1, 2024 - The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct - The purpose of this memorandum is to communicate to school</p>	

	<p>boardsfootnote 1[1] the revised Provincial Code of Conduct and to provide direction on the authority and responsibility of boards to develop, implement, enforce, review, and assess codes of conduct for their school communities.</p> <p>Parents and Guardians can get more information about the OAPCE: https://oapce.org/halton/ and also we have a Newsletter which parents and guardians can access at https://oapce.org/parents-4-parents/</p>	
<p>Community Rep Updates</p> <p>Kay Loforte (read by:</p>	<p>Stuffies4Smiles – Registered Canadian Charity # 792947343RR0001 www.stuffies4smiles.ca stuffies4smiles@gmail.com</p> <p>Stuffies4Smiles is now in its fifth year of serving communities across Halton, the GTA, and Toronto. The charity was created by siblings Juliana (age 12) and JP (Grade 9, Bishop Reding).</p> <p>Over the years, Stuffies4Smiles has supported thousands of children, youth, and individuals facing barriers including homelessness (under-housing), mental health challenges, addictions, grief, and family hardship. Our work has expanded far beyond stuffed animals—we now run multiple annual drives focused on compassion, community service, and hands-on volunteer involvement.</p> <p><i>We offer volunteer hours for:</i> Making homemade meals (sandwiches, baked goods, KD, pasta, casseroles, snacks) Creating holiday or Christmas cards, Preparing kids’ Christmas packages, Making hygiene/care kits, Purchasing items for drives, Packaging food or donations, Porch drop-offs, Attending volunteer events in person</p> <p>Every volunteer is acknowledged, added to our records, and featured on our website. We also sign school volunteer sheets and provide recommendation letters for employment or education. To date, we’ve completed 126 recommendation letters, including for major universities and trade schools.</p> <p>Holiday Homeless Drive - December 21st, 2:00 PM, Good Shepherd Men’s Shelter, Toronto We attend every year and deliver food, care packages, Christmas cards, and essentials to both the shelter and surrounding encampments.</p>	

	<p><i>Age Requirement:</i> 16+ can attend without a guardian; Under 16 must be accompanied by a guardian</p> <p>If you cannot attend in person, we urgently need volunteers to prepare: Sandwiches, Baked goods, Homemade meals, Care packages (hygiene items, snacks, juice, water, fruit, mittens, etc.)</p> <p>All homemade items are prepared from the comfort of your own home, and volunteer hours are fully granted.</p> <p>Every year, 300–500 students participate in this drive through their schools, clubs, youth groups, or individually.</p> <p>Christmas Packages for Kids We prepare and deliver Christmas packages to over 300 children across Halton.</p> <p>Note: Our volunteer delivery list for Christmas packages is currently full, but volunteers are still needed to: Create cards, Make care kits, Prepare food, Donate items Volunteer hours are fully provided.</p> <p>School & Community Involvement Many teachers, classrooms, and schools participate every year by: Making holiday cards, Collecting donations, Preparing items, Encouraging students to complete volunteer hours through our drives, We also send cards to seniors in long-term care as part of our annual holiday kindness campaign.</p> <p>How You Can Help? If you would like to contribute, volunteer, donate items, or get your school/classroom involved, please let me know. Your support truly makes a difference, and this experience is always fun, meaningful, and humbling for everyone involved.</p>	
<p>Parish Rep Updates</p>	<p>Holy Rosary Parish Knights of Columbus will be hosting their annual Food Drive after each Sat/Sun weekend mass during Advent (Nov 29/30 until Dec 20/21). Please drop off non-perishable items at the Knights trailer in the church parking lot.</p>	

Stephanie Fernandes	<p>Knights of Columbus also has a poinsettia sale, on now. Purchase a TERRA Greenhouses Poinsettia in support of the Coat for Kids program.</p> <p>St. Benedict Parish Annual Christmas Bazaar - Dec 6 at 11am-6pm and Dec 7 at 10am-3pm.</p> <p>Both parishes are always looking for volunteers.</p> <p>Additional information can be found on each of the Parish Websites.</p>	
Other Business	<p>What does the school activity fee go towards?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yearbook, student agenda, locks, school assemblies, special events (guest speakers), co-curricular (athletics/arts), facilitating student leadership conferences, school functions, awards, after school curricular (literacy, numeracy, student success) and other miscellaneous expenses. - List can be found on the BR Website <p>Do we have the opportunity to get more Priest presence at the school/Chapel?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Father John, who is connected to this school, is very busy and does as much as he can. He's connected to all the schools (elementary and secondary) North of Derry. He attends our school for 3 masses per year (minimum is 2x/year). - There are a lot of opportunities for student to practice their Catholic faith at BR with our Chaplain. - If possible, invite members of the Parish around Christmas and Easter. 	
Next Meeting	December 16, 2025 at 6:30pm	
Closing Prayer	Marie O'Connell lead us in a closing prayer.	
Adjournment	8:35PM	