



**Bishop Reding Catholic School Council Meeting – September 23, 2025**

Attendees:	
Nadia Kallu	Ragy Sharkawy
Gina Rajack	Carol Lobo
Susan Zhang	Andrea Rojas
Suzy Fahel	Karen Martin
Sonia Sousa	Punita Nanda
Yogita Arora	Veronica Machado
Ruchi Puri	Ron Fernandes
Shonna John	Ivette Iglesias
Nidhi Gupta	Jen Ciavoliello
Smriti Dash	Mark H. Kluge
Nidhi Agarwal	Benny Coniglio
Sadaj Sheikh Chaudhry	Jay Zafar
Farah Khoulki	Vince Francsal
Yumei Ren	Rajeswani Shankar
Samar Javid	Roanna Guiang-Tulloch
Esterina Sharkey	Royseon Smith
Tania Fernandes	Vandana Majithia
Sajid Chaudhry	Stephanie Fernandes
Neeraj Garg	Asther Sharma
Rukshan Jayatilake	Barbara Jancetic-Jelecanin
	Admin- Rocco Dilanni
	Karen Boelhouwer
	Bryan De Sousa

1. Prayer lead by B. DeSousa and Introduction by R. DiIanni

2. Election:

Co-Chair: Nadia Kallu and Gina Rajack-Aguilar (acclaimed)

Secretary: Royston Smith (acclaimed)

Co-Treasurers: Sonia Sousa and Neeraj Gaig (acclaimed)

OAPCE – Rukshan Jayatilake (acclaimed)

3. Principal Items: Why BR?

- 99% grad rate and 16 by 16 is 96%

- OSSLT highest scores in the board 96% success rate at 92% writing the test last year with few exemptions
- Outstanding curriculum and course offerings that due to our enrollment we are able to offer. Ex., health science, forensic science, drama and play this year is GREASE, 8 SHSMs – business – phys ed.-construction-transportation-human rights – arts- health care. Co-op has 8 full sections. We have AP and Capstone to offer enrichment opportunities.
- We have many extracurricular activities. Ex. Dance, debate, sci fi movie club. We have many sports such as cricket this year. At competitive level we have 8 berths at OFSSA such as hockey, soccer, softball and so all can play we have many sport clubs.
- Leadership opportunities such as legacy, unity, leaders in black, student council that run many activities like food drives, Christmas fundraiser, dances, karaoke. These build soft skills that balance academics to create multi-faceted individuals.
- Faith we have masses, liturgies, retreats and various activities such as fundraisers, bible study and the culture of life. We encourage all to be reverent and respectful of all the multidimensional faiths

#### 4. Q&A

- Are there leadership opportunities for students with special needs?

Students with IEPs are in multiple pathways. We also have a robust department ranging AP students to lifeskills non credit earning. They are part of our community with activities such as Best Buddies, sports teams and participating in fundraisers. IEP are legal living documents that SERTS and teachers are fully aware of and support. We encourage self advocacy as parents are the first advocates but they eventually become their own advocate.

- What is being done about teacher shortages?

In the last few years the board is using a different formula to calculate student enrollment. We are required to take a physical count of students in the seats to be approved for more sections. Thus, by the time this is completed the pool of available teachers, especially for specialized programs, has decreased. Also, the funding by the Ministry for some of the specialized programs has also changed. We do have dedicated supply teachers and department heads are volunteering to

create packages of work for these classes. The key essential learnings are being covered.

What can parents do?

Reach out to Trustees, the board and MPP.

- What are the safety measures in place for the school?

To address yesterday's incident, be cautious of social media that people can use anonymously and for free. 90% not accurate information was posted for example there was no gun or knife and the VP involved did not get hurt and was not even touched. BR is safe and in fact has the lowest number of violent incidents and suspension in the board. But, when a consequence is given we make it meaningful so the behaviour is not repeated. Yesterday we dealt with the events in the moment and found once resolved there was no safety concern. However confident we were we spoke to the police.

Why was nothing communicated to the community?

We did not want to contribute to the information circulating on social media platforms. We did not hide any information we were dealing with the event in the moment. We have 2 commissionaires, 55 cameras on site, teachers are vigilant and we have a great relationship with the police. If there had been a problem the community would have been notified immediately.

What happens when other students that do not belong come to the school?

We have a no visitor policy and there are trespass and other consequences for them and our own students who invite them. On civvies days teachers and VPs recognize those who are not our students. Parents requested an email to know when fire drills and lockdowns are scheduled but the element of surprise would be lost and students may not take a practice seriously. Evacuation drills the parents are notified once its completed. Students are fully aware of what to do in each of these drills.

Announcements regarding jaywalking and use of scooters will be made periodically to remind students to be safe. It was initially addressed in the grade assemblies at the start of the year. We also reviewed our uniform policy and it is

enforced by the teachers and administrators. If they are not in uniform the first time offered to correct it and second time could result in a school consequence.

- What are the duties of school council?

It is an advisory body. Agenda items are sent to the co-chairs to be added to the meetings if you wish to discuss something. You also help fundraise for the school with things like our welcome wall. Meetings are second Tuesday of the Month and we are required to hold 4 per year but we have 5-6. Can they be moved to a different Tuesday will be taken under advisement by the chairs. The Pro Grant this year will be put before the council for a vote.

- Are the commissionaires security? Were they here for just the day and are they board employees and paid by the board?

We did not have them last year due to board policy as some students do not feel comfortable with them but some feel safer. Issue is being debated at various levels. They are here for the year though and not board employees but a third party contractor. They are partially paid by the board. They are simply our eyes and ears in the school.

- Where will graduation be this year?

Many places have been contacted to find a bigger venue. With close to 750 graduates we need a venue that will seat at the minimum 4,000 people giving each family 4 tickets. We have the possibility of going to the Hamilton Convention Centre instead of the Velodrome. The problem is its an hour away versus the Velodrome where the seating is limited. A vote on this was requested to be put to our graduates. The grad committee will verify that the Hamilton Convention Centre is large enough prior to putting it to a vote. If anyone knows of any other locations please advise Karen Boelhouver.