



Holy Trinity CSS

Catholic School Council Minutes

Nov. 4, 2025 @ 6:30pm

1. Welcome

Teresa Castellarin

- **Voting Members in attendance:** Marguerite Murad, Marcia Sam (Co-chairs), Aisha Beeai (HT Parish rep), Aloka Fernandes (St. Michael's parish rep), Anu Mahli (OAPCE rep), Cameron Smith (Secretary), Frances Bosco-Latincic (St. Michael's parish rep), Margie Grier (Community rep), Marion Bastiampillai (Mary Mother of God parish rep), Sneh Lata (Treasurer), Sorina Dragan (Fundraising rep)
- **Voting Members who sent their regrets:** Jackie Sanderson (Fundraising rep)
- **Parents in attendance:** Imran Yahya, Nadia Trider, Yvette Hall, Brenda Cohen, Christine Krueger

2. Honouring the Land

[HCDSB's Honouring the Land](#)

3. Opening Prayer & Chaplain Update

Tina Drakeford

- Update on food drive - we collected over 500 items for Kerr St. Missions. This initiative was led by chaplaincy student leaders
- Update on leadership conference - we took 9 student leaders to the When Faith Meets Pedagogy Youth Forum. They heard some incredible inspiring speakers, had the opportunity to converse with student chaplaincy leaders from schools across Ontario, and we had some great discussion and enthusiasm coming back to the school.
- Update on grade 9 retreat - the retreat went well; great engagement, good feedback

Looking forward:

- Grade 10 and 11 retreats - happening over the next three weeks. Smaller than the grade 9 retreat. Taking place in the chapel during Religion class period in groups of one or two classes at a time; "Our Journey in Faith" is the theme for grade 10 and "Encounters with God" is the theme for grade 11
- Bullying prevention campaign-student leaders are preparing a social media campaign that will run on the chaplaincy instagram
- People of life symposium - ten students will attend this symposium with chaplaincy student leaders from every high school in Halton and will attend workshops related to dignity of life
- Advent mass - our first whole school Eucharistic liturgy will take place on December 16.

4. Student Update

Joleen Abskharoun

Student Council:

- Costume contest, pumpkin carving both went well (On October 31st)
- Planning Senior semi-formal for Nov 20th- theme that students voted on is "Starry Night"

SAC:

- Haunted chancerooms went well
- Upcoming Pink game (This Thursday, November 6th)- tickets on sale until midnight tonight (November 4th)



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School Teams:

- XC (cross country) is finished
- Golf is finished- female student qualified for finals
- Ski and snowboard - underway
- Swimming underway- lots of participants
- Varsity hockey - 1 tryout left
- Debate - underway, runs all year-round and applications are still open- top-performing students will attend the competition
- Model UN underway- run by Ms. Mowat- Teresa believes that applications have closed- striving to build the program and make it bigger- most likely traveling to Ottawa for finals, but no travel to the U.S. at the moment
- DECA preparing for regionals
- Junior Girls Basketball team won their final game- great support from the school community
- Thursday is tier 2 football championship

SHIELD:

- Grade 8 parent information night was on October 9
- Grade 8 AP parent information night was on October 16th
- Parent-teacher interview was on October 23rd
- All went well
- Mini High School day on Wednesday

Robotics:

- Stemly event quarterfinalists, took many grade 9s along for their first robotics event - gave them a taste of the team, and it went extremely well
- Grateful for the continued support of the parent council

Equity and Change:

- Walk for Wenjack went well
- Candy Grams went well
- Preparing a bullying prevention week video- will be premiered later this week

Chaplaincy:

- Leadership and faith Conference went well, masses are doing well (every Friday)
- Life conference coming up
- The Thanksgiving food drive is also coming up
- Preparing a bullying prevention week initiative

Relay for Life:

- Selection for the committees is almost complete
- Happens every year in May to raise money for Canadian Cancer Society- students participate in walking the track and other events to raise money- schools run the event during the day instead of walking at night- CTK is the leader in fundraising in Halton, but HT does very well with fundraising as well

BSU:

- Halloween photo booth went well, and pictures are actively being sent out

LASA:

- Movie night was cancelled due to a lack of attendance



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- Joint event with UASA coming up (soccer game)- buyout event during 4th period on Friday November 7th
- Preparing a bully prevention week sticky note poster

UASA:

- Joint event with LASA (the soccer game)

GSA:

- Solely focused on inter-club events for the past month like the Halloween party

5. Co-Chairs

Marguerite Murad & Marcia Sam

- **CPIC Updates/Review-** Catholic Parent Involvement Committee- Executive of CPIC help to guide co-chairs from all the schools- co-chairs attend three meetings per year- different topics for each of the three meetings
- Marguerite provided the following summary from the recent CPIC meeting she attended:

Brenda Agnew and Cassandra Jack-Caldeira head SEAC- SEAC stands for Special Education Advisory Committee, they are a legislated committee who advises school boards on special education programs and services - to foster inclusion

The 5 W's of Inclusion – Summary

Why is inclusion important:

Inclusion promotes empathy, improves academic and social outcomes, builds respect, and ensures every child feels they belong.

What does inclusion look like?:

Inclusion means creating accessible classrooms, equitable policies, inclusive activities, and a culture that celebrates every student's unique gifts.

Teachers tailor lessons to adapt to the diverse learning needs of all students - use of multiple teaching methods - visual, auditory and provide options of how students demonstrate their learning.

Universal design for learning - accessible classrooms

Peer support - encourage peer tutoring, group work, buddy system

Accommodations and Modifications to learning.

Who is responsible for inclusion?:

Everyone shares responsibility—teachers, administrators, students, parents, community partners, and system-level supports all play a role.

Where does Inclusion Happen?:

Inclusion happens everywhere—classrooms, playgrounds, school events, extracurriculars, and social spaces are all designed to welcome and support every learner.



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When should inclusion happen?:

Inclusion is ongoing—during daily learning, social interactions (recess, conflict resolution), planning, schoolwide events (assemblies, field trips) , and extracurricular activities (sports, clubs etc)

How can we foster inclusion together?:

We foster inclusion by empowering students, celebrating diversity, teaching empathy, modeling inclusive behavior, and making inclusion visible across the school community.

TVO - Digital Learning Resources

TVO was originally an educational TV station, now they've evolved into a multi platform digital media and learning organization

TVO Learn: geared from kindie to grade 12, curriculum aligned, safe, no ads. Connects to 44 high school resources. From K-6 learning is through games.

TVO Learn Mathify:

- 1:1 math tutoring for grade 4-12 students, available after school. All tutors are Ontario certified teachers.
- Registration is required where you would create an account.

TVO Kids: video, games and content for learners aged 2-8

TVO ILC - Ontario's largest online high school

- Supports Ontario residents ages 14+ who want to upgrade high school marks or take a credit course
- Earn credits
- Change careers
- Offering more than 140+ courses in english and french.
- **Asynchronous learning - at students own pace, accessible 24/7, teacher supported**
- Note that courses are not free, Teresa said that some universities do not accept these credits, be mindful of which courses your children are taking online (*more about online courses and summer school in Principal's Talk section*)

- No HT council members attended the **online CPIC meeting** offered to all parent council members, but Margie encouraged Executive members to attend in future, especially parents new to the parent council
- **PRO Grant**
 - Parents Reaching Out grant- Marcia explained that this is money released by the Ontario Ministry of Education to support activities for parent engagement- each school can apply for funds every year, \$750 for each school
 - Last year, we had a presentation for parents by guest speaker Paul Davis about social media and online safety
 - Other ideas- STEAM night, or in-person workshops about community organizations/ services in Halton (e.g. SAVIS- discussion of human trafficking, addiction counseling, ROCK- teen mental health, e-scooter awareness, etc.)- most parents at the meeting agreed that the series of workshops is a much better idea than a guest speaker, as guest speakers have not been drawing a crowd
 - PRO Grant committee- Brenda Cohen is interested in helping organize this; application is due November 29th



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● Fund Allocation

- Funding comes from Parent Council account- money raised from fundraising events, as well as used uniform sales; **total ask from school clubs is \$22,450 and total amount available in our account is \$13,477**
- Marguerite and Marcia presented all of the student clubs requesting funding, as well as how much we have allocated to the clubs in the past two years, and Marguerite's recommended amounts ([LINK TO FUND ALLOCATION OVERVIEW CHART](#))
- Marguerite recommended we focus on the following when voting:
 1. Prioritize inclusive objective and academic impact (leadership, equity, accessibility, school-wide benefit)
 2. Higher weighting to groups who have not received funding in the past 2 years
 3. Support as many groups as possible (avoid 1 or 2 clubs absorbing the majority)
 4. Cap extremely large requests to encourage shared fundraising responsibility
 5. Council funds are supplemental, not primary funding- they are to increase access and reduce exclusion barriers, not fully finance all program costs
- Marguerite's recommended amounts add up to the total amount in our account currently
- Teresa reminded everyone that the HT Cares fund will help supplement all of the club funding; student activity fees can also help families in need of financial support for athletics- *a parent recommended that Teresa email everyone around the holidays to remind families to pay the student activity fee and let them know that some of the money will go towards families in need*
- Executive members voted unanimously in agreement after minor changes were made to Marguerite's suggestions. **Final allocations are as follows:**
 1. Empower Her: \$500 (\$500-\$1,000 requested)
 2. HT Football: \$1,500 (\$2,000 requested)
 3. HT Music: \$2,500 (\$3,500 requested)
 4. HT Book Club: \$100 (\$100 requested)
 5. SHIELD: \$1,000 (\$1,000 requested)
 6. Robotics: \$2,000 (\$5,000 requested)
 7. Best Buddies: \$400 (\$400 requested)
 8. Athletics: \$1,000 (\$2,000 requested)
 9. Varsity/Jr Boys Hockey: \$1,500 (\$2,000 requested)
 10. Black Student Union: \$500 (\$500 requested)
 11. Equity & Change: \$1,500 (\$2,000 requested)
 12. Titan Cheerleading: \$450 (\$450 requested)
 13. DECA: hold off for now (\$1,000 requested)
- **Fundraising-** Teresa to meet with fundraising reps separately, as Jackie is absent + will discuss holding a December used uniform sale
- **Financial-** Sneh presented that the used uniform sale gave us \$108 more into our parent council account since we met in October, bringing balance to \$13,477
- **Community update-** Margie recommended that parents find out more about many community events in Oakville by looking at the Town of Oakville website and visiting your local parish to find out events they are organizing- be sure to visit your local parish Christmas bazaars, Christmas teas, bake sales during the holiday season; Margie emailing more details to Teresa to include in the meeting notes

6. Vice Principal Update

Gary Laurin

- *We are bypassing this tonight in the interest of time*

7. Principal's Talk

Teresa Castellarin



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- **Questions/ Concerns raised by parents throughout meeting**
 - i. Summer school- Teresa recommends students take summer school courses being offered by the school board, as opposed to ILC, as they are free - students can sign up at the end of April/May- courses are online and asynchronous. Please know students do not have to take HCDSB courses, there are other nearby school boards that offer more courses and in-person summer courses; Teresa does not recommend asynchronous classes for subjects where students are struggling.
 - ii. Parents can make an appointment with guidance counselors with their children if they have any questions.
 - iii. Teresa recommended grade 9 students take Civics/ Career Studies at summer school to get a head start, or you can also spread out more challenging courses in grade 12 by taking some in the summer. Again takes planning – can do so with guidance counsellor.
 - iv. Teresa advised parents to remember when planning summer school courses that universities look at top 6 marks from university-level or mixed-level courses when deciding on acceptance, including the prerequisites for the program.
 - v. International student exchange email sent by the school board - Teresa asked parents to email her with specific questions
 - vi. Vaping in school bathrooms - vaping detectors in school bathrooms have reduced vaping at school. Be aware, students are now using nicotine pouches- they look like rolls of gum, sold in small brown packet at Shoppers Drug Mart (from behind the counter) to anyone who is of legal age.
 - vii. Anyone who missed **parent/teacher interviews** is welcome to reach out to staff members individually to check in on student progress via email or schedule a phone meeting
 - viii. To contact staff, all emails are Last Name, First initial @hcdsb.org (e.g. CastellarinT@hcdsb.org) - you can also check the [staff directory on the HT website](#) for all staff contact information
- Year books for 2024/25 school year are not yet available- Teresa will notify parents and students when they are available
- Aloka brought up issue with driving by students riding **e-scooters** in unsafe ways- Teresa reminded everyone that this is a parenting issue- Teresa can only control what is happening on the school property- one parent suggested that you can call your town councillor to report events you are concerned about; parents all need to do their part by having conversations about road safety with their children
 - i. Yahya recommended that we ask Halton Police to make e-scooter safety a point of focus when educating the community
 - ii. Teresa recommended writing to your Town of Oakville representative for your riding to report what you are seeing
- **Buying & Selling of Items** (recent email)-Teresa asked if we had any questions- Teresa suggested that we do not allow our children to buy counterfeit items for resale, as it is causing many conflicts in the school

8. Next Meeting Date & Adjournment at 8:20pm: Tuesday, January 13th (Teams)



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Staff Meetings 1st Tuesday of each month

Catholic Parent Council – 1st Tuesday of each month 6:30 pm (5 meetings)

Titans Table & Safe Schools Team meeting – 2nd Tuesday of each month

Department Head meetings – 3rd Tuesday of each month

Civvies Day – last Thursday of each month

November 2025	
November 3 to 7	Treaties Recognition Week
Monday November 3	SHSM Business trip
Tuesday November 4	Jr. Girls Basketball championship game vs Assumption 10:00 am BUY-OUT bussing to Sheridan DECA trip Staff Meeting 2:40 pm Catholic Parent Council Meeting 6:30 pm
Wednesday November 5	TYKTWD (1 st Wednesday in November) Mini High School Day – Grade 8 students visit HT
Thursday November 6	SHSM trip to St. Andrew's elementary school PINK BUY-OUT Final Senior Football Championship PINK GAME at HT vs Loyola -11:30 am
Friday November 7	Term 2 starts (civics/careers) All SHSM First Aid Hosting Elementary Volleyball Tournament for our Family of Schools – gym BUY-OUT Soccer Jersey Civvies Day–LASA vs UASA soccer game period 4
Sunday November 9	DECA in St. Catharines
Tuesday November 11	Titans Table meeting 2:40 pm
Wed. November 12	Math Contest period 1 & 2
Thurs. November 13	SHSM Arts Reach ahead trip Report cards distributed electronically Practice Lockdown Drill, period 2 Robotics meeting 6:00 pm - Theatre
Friday November 14	OUAC reporting deadline Chaplaincy trip to ND
Nov. 14 & 15	Hosting Sr. Boys Basketball Tournament Friday 6-9 pm, Saturday 8am to 6:30 pm
November 17-21	Bullying Awareness & Prevention Week
Monday November 17	Subject Awards 9:30 to 11:00 am in the Gyms
Tuesday November 18	Honour Roll distribution, period 1 in the Theatre Grade 11 Law trip Department Head meeting 2:40 pm
Nov. 18, 19,20	Hosting the Gift of Giving Back
Thursday November 20	Senior Semi Formal (Cafeteria) 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm – run by Student Council



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Tuesday November 25	OYAP LevelUp Tradeshow (Reach Ahead activity)
Thurs. November 27	CIVVIES DAY BUY-OUT- Student vs Teachers Volleyball period 4 (funds to Relay for Life) period 4 in the gym Girls Night In (grade 7 & 8 students from our Family of Schols) 2:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Friday November 28	PA DAY
December 2025	
Tuesday December 2	Joint Department Head & Staff Meeting
Wednesday December 3	Intramural Volleyball Day
Friday December 5	Robotics tournament set up – gym & cafeteria
Saturday December 6	Robotics Tournament in the gyms (all day)
Tuesday December 9	Titans Table meeting 2:40 pm
Thurs. December 11	Christmas Music Night 7:00 pm in the Theatre
Friday December 12	PSK4U trip to McMaster
Tuesday December 16	Ash Wednesday Liturgy
Thursday December 18	CIVVIES DAY After school – gym set up for variety show tomorrow
Friday December 19	HT Holiday Showcase/Christmas Variety Show in the gym 10:30 am to 11:45 am – run by Student Council Student vs Teachers Basketball Game Early dismissal