



Holy Trinity CSS

Catholic School Council Minutes

Feb. 3rd, 2026 @ 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), Margie Grier (Community rep), Marion Bastiampillai (Mary Mother of God parish rep), Sneha Lata (Treasurer), Sorina Dragan (Fundraising rep)
- **Voting Members who sent their regrets:** Frances Bosco-Latincic (St. Michael's parish rep), Jackie Sanderson (Fundraising rep)
- **Parents in attendance:** Yahya Adhami, Nadia Adderley-Trider, Yvette Hall, Brenda Cohen, Diana Palalas, Ahrima Ahmed, Carmina Geariah

2. Honouring the Land

HCDSB's Honouring the Land

3. Opening Prayer & Chaplain Update

Tina Drakeford

- a. Prayer in the chapel before exams - not a lot happening otherwise during exams
- b. Grade 10 and 11 retreats starting near the end of February
- c. Monday masses are back in full swing
- d. Bishop's installation mass last week- a few students joined
- e. February 18th- Ash Wednesday ceremony for students

4. Liaison Officers from HRPS

Jasvir (Jas) Sanghera & Stephanie Visser

- a. *What their role entails as high school officers (supports, mental health, investigations)- high school unit comprised of experienced officers specifically to work with youth, staff, and community at large; cover all schools in Oakville*
 - i. If there is a 911 call related to youth mental health or safety, liaison officers can support; at times, parents phone in about peer pressure, bullying, vaping, and other noncriminal matters— parents are welcome to reach out for help
 - ii. Liaison officers also spend time at the recreation centre next door to Holy Trinity, to build relationships with students in a more holistic way- they asserted that they are not there for disciplinary and punitive measures; Stephanie brought her dog during exams to help students de-stress.
 - iii. Proactive activities for mental health and wellness- games room open at rec centre Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday for students who need somewhere to go during cold weather, but on Mondays, liaison officers have a space for students- made Christmas cards in December for seniors in residence, officers baked cookies for students
 1. Homework club every Tuesday for HCHC at rec centre- older students get volunteer hours to help younger students with homework
 2. Officers are working at being certified first aid/ CPR instructors so that students can get training for free
- b. *Provide information around other issues (social media safety, safety in the community, relationships)*
 - i. Social media safety- many students getting in relationships with people they have never met on social media- police help them navigate these situations and stay safe on social media
 1. Extortion/ cybercrime presentations for students to help them stay safe; officers also interested in offering presentations to parents about social media safety
 2. Location services on Snapchat should be turned off for all students for safety reasons and mental health issues (e.g. knowing their friends are hanging out without them)



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3. Large group chats created to confront students about conflict- encourage students to withdraw themselves from these large group chats
4. Nude photos being shared online- police educate students about how to respond to this situation (e.g. tell a trusted adult and never share the photo with anyone, as you will be sharing child pornography)
- ii. Officers are trying to build relationships to help students stay on a positive path towards graduation; there is also a social worker who they collaborate with to help students in need- officers support social worker with getting resources for students in need
- iii. Officers assert that dialogue flows more freely in informal settings, such as when they meet students at the recreation centre.

c. Q & A

- i. Nadia asked about how parents can sign up for events for their children to engage with police- Jas mentioned they are happy to organize boot camps or more formalized events upon request- Regional Youth team (4 officers) that runs a different event every week
 1. After-school homework help for teenagers to get volunteer hours- contact Teresa via email if your child is interested in volunteering
- ii. Sneha asked how students receive information regularly from officers- how do they know about what they offer?
 1. Teresa clarified that the role of officers in schools has changed significantly to move away from punitive measures- they are no longer regularly in high schools; HRPS are only at HT when invited (e.g. to brainstorm with admin/staff about e-scooter issues, safety issues, etc.). As a result, officers never go into schools unannounced- there are 5 total liaison officers in Halton, and they mostly try to find informal opportunities to engage with youth.
- iii. Another parent asked if they are promoting sex trafficking awareness to students- Teresa clarified that there are specialized officers related to human trafficking to address this, and they are organizing a youth symposium to discuss trafficking in April or May; SAVIS is also highly involved in promoting awareness.
 1. Jas said to question if your child suddenly has new clothing or items with no explanation
 2. In the Peel region, Square One is an area to watch- question if your child wants to spend time here; they should not be unsupervised
 3. Teresa asserted that Snapchat is a huge problem for access to student location - this is often how traffickers connect with students & how students communicate in large groups.
- iv. Another parent asked how the rest of the parent population can get access to this information about social media safety and human trafficking- Teresa said that if parent/guardian community is interested, the school can organize opportunities for parents and students to get in touch with liaison officers for more information- PRO Grant event at HT will feature HRPS to provide information to parents
 1. Jas said that they are flexible with how they share information- they will leave their contact information with the school and respond to parent requests



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- v. Yahya stated that we need to communicate this information with the entire parent population so that everyone is aware of what they offer to youth in Halton; another parent echoed that they want their child to know how to contact the officers, so they shared their contact information with Teresa to share with the school community at large
 - 1. Teresa stated that she is interested in forming a subcommittee of parents who might be interested in organizing events with liaison officers- names of interested parent volunteers were collected
- vi. Brenda Cohen stated that she is happy that the officers are building relationships with students off-site as repeated exposure to them is important
 - 1. Cameron shared that the role of liaison officers has to be made very clear if there will be ongoing relationship building with students, as there has been a history of officers being unnecessarily punitive in school settings, and trustees have established rules to maintain the safety of students; Teresa expressed that this has not been her experience in Halton but asserted that their role would have to be very defined and transparent so everyone in the school community feels comfortable. At this time, there is still no contact between students and officers in the school- everything happens off-site at the recreation centre
 - 2. Teresa discussed how students are struggling with their sense of belonging, and fitting in, and the pressure has been amplified with social media- this is negatively impacting student mental health in a significant way. Students are asking A.I. for counselling support, as well as building relationships with A.I. friends- we are in unprecedented times and need to support our children with these new challenges

5. Co-Chairs

Marguerite Murad & Marcia Sam

a. Caribbean Marketplace

Cameron Smith

- i. Cameron is looking for volunteers and Black-owned vendor recommendations; please email Cameron if interested in volunteering: cameronatsmith@gmail.com
 - 1. Nadia, Yvette, Aloka, and Marion volunteered in person to join

b. Fundraising Update

Sorina Dragan/Jaclyn Sanderson

- i. **Easter: Purdy's Chocolates** - Teresa asked for flyers to advertise the Purdy's fundraiser and Sorina agreed that she will send them
- ii. **Woodwards Meats**- Marguerite is working with Sorina to organize the HT campaign for Woodward's Meats
- iii. **Used uniform sales**- February, June & August- first sale is **Thursday February 12th from 4 to 7pm**, set-up at 2pm- Marguerite requested all hands-on deck to help- we are looking to fill up three shifts (e.g. 2-4, 4-6, 6-8pm) with parent volunteers
 - 1. Tan pants/ shorts are no longer permitted as part of the HT school uniform- a parent raised that the McCarthy store is still selling them as part of the HT uniform and Teresa was not happy to hear this
- iv. **Silent Auction**- Teresa stated that we need at least five valuable packages to include in the auction; Teresa said that we need a subcommittee to work fast to organize this if we want to make it happen by April
 - 1. Margie stated that we should try to find auction items by next week to help us make a decision- we cannot start planning without knowing if we have big ticket items



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2. 8 executive members voted that they agreed it is an idea worth pursuing to fundraiser if we can secure the big ticket items

c. Financial Update

Sneh Lata

- i. There are no changes

d. Parish Updates:

- i. **Holy Trinity (Aisha Beeai)** - nothing happening during February and March- will have many activities near Easter
- ii. **MMOG (Marion Bastiampillai)**
 1. Ash Wednesday- February 18th
 2. Way of the Cross- every Friday at 7pm (after 6:30pm mass)
 3. Confirmations on Saturday February 28th with Bishop Joseph Dabrowski- schools assigned to this parish will have their confirmations on this day
 4. The Tridium begins on April 2nd, Holy Thursday and Easter is on April 5th
 5. April 18th- Gala Dinner Dance at St. Joseph's Ukranian Parish Hall to celebrate 30th anniversary and to raise money for the roof renovation- tickets are \$125, \$100 towards event and \$25 towards the roof
 6. Opportunities for students to get volunteer hours- (1) Ablaze Youth Band- sign at 11am Youth Mass once per month; practices are on Thursday nights from 7-9pm, vocalists/ instrumentalists can join, volunteer hours provided for practices. (2) Young Vincentians- Faith/ Service/ Friendship- meet once a month on the third Sunday from 12:30-2pm; Faith- retreats/ adoration/ mini groups to review gospel; Service- Kerr Street Mission, Father House, clearing of graves, cajoling at long term care homes; Friendship- Bake sales, attending/ running games at local government housing estates
- iii. **St Michael (Frances sent notes)**- 14th:Valentines Day social after 5pm mass; 18th:Ash Wednesday mass 8am; 21st:Confirmation 11am
- iv. **St. Joseph's**- no rep currently

e. OAPCE

Anu Malhi

- i. Anu will share the presentation about vaping and using technology safely in our *WhatsApp* group
- ii. Most concerning apps- Snapchat, TikTok, Discord, Instagram
- iii. Snapchat- disappearing messages/ photographs can be dangerous, as well as location of students being shared
- iv. Strategies to help- delay personal phone ownership, incrementally grant more freedom as responsibility is demonstrated, filters to restrict content, access to social media profiles to know what they are accessing, take phones away at night and do not allow them to use phones alone in their bedrooms, supervise their use
- v. Encourage critical thinking about consuming and sharing online content
- vi. We need to recognize that we all have a large digital footprint, our devices are listening to us
- vii. Report major issues of cyberbullying to the school for follow-up

f. Community Rep Updates

Margie Grier

- Take a look at <https://visitoakville.com> under 'Events' to see what is happening as there is at least one event every day!



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- Oakville's Black History Month launched last night with an event at the Oakville Performing Arts Centre and will have an open event with a variety of cultural experiences happening all month at Queen Elizabeth Park Community Centre. The theme this year is "Out of Many Cultures, One People" honouring heritage, memory, migrations, resilience, and difference without division. The OPAC holds various shows for all ages and interests throughout the year, with a few kid-themed matinees through March Break. It's good to get tickets early.
- The Oakville Historical Society is hosting a 'Walking Tour; the Underground Railway' on Feb. 7th at 3:00 for kids 10-17, and at 1:00 for adults over 18.
- Oakville Galleries at Gairloch Gardens is offering various Valentine and March Break themed programs for both adults and kids, and their Summer Camp registration opens on Feb 6th at 9 a.m.
- There are various 'Paint and Sip' events available for parents at different locations throughout the town. Feb 12th seems to be the most popular night for them.
- Valentine and Galentine Market at the Hilton on South Sheridan Way 11-4 Feb 8th .
- Joshua Farm Gallery is hosting a variety of events; 'Collage Night', 'and an Alpaca Walk', other craft events.
- Oakville Town Hall Feb 22 nd – Lunar New Year Event - 11-3
- Feb 25th : 'Exploring Black History in our Backyard' via zoom through the Cdn Caribbean Association at 7:00. – touted as great for teenagers.
- March 19th – Eid Bazaar at St. Volodymyr's - 3:00 – 11:00.
- Film.ca is hosting Popcorn Saturdays for kids, various Olympic sporting events on the big screen, and various special events during March Break for teens and kids.
- Bronte Creek – Feb 16th – Family Day events from 10:00-4:00 –'something for everyone'.
- Town of Oakville - various free skate locations during Family Day and March Break – hiking trails, outdoor activities, look online for details.
- Oakville Library - various programs for all ages during March Break and Family Day; gaming tournaments, STEM activities, programming for all ages

6. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 3rd & Adjournment (adjourned at 8:10pm)

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

9 Civvies Day – last Thursday of each month



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Important Dates for February:

February 2026	BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Monday February 2	First day of Semester 2
Tuesday February 3	Course selection presentations (by grade Period 1,2, & 4 in the Theatre) Catholic Parent Council Meeting 6:30 pm
Wednesday February 4	Course selection presentations (by Grade Period 1,2, & 4 in the Theatre) Swim Team at HCAA After school cooking
Thursday February 5	Interactive presentation for all Phys Ed classes "Know More About Opioids" – Gym GRADE ASSEMBLIES (TEAMS) period 4
Feb. 5,6,7	DECA in Toronto
Friday February 6	Report cards (semester 1) distributed electronically
Tuesday February 10	Course Elective Fair (Period 3A & 3B in the Gym) Titans Table meeting 2:40 pm
Wednesday February 11	Tribal Vision Dance for NBE classes, period 1 & 2 Swim Team at GHAC - McMaster
Thursday February 12	Paid CIVVIES DAY "Paint The Town Red" funds to the United Way Black Excellence Symposium @ Thomas Merton 9:00 am to 2:00 pm SS/SRT Meeting
Friday February 13	PA DAY
Monday February 16	FAMILY DAY
Tuesday February 17	Department Head meeting 2:40 pm Junior Football Information Meeting (Theatre) 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm
Wednesday February 18	ASH WEDNESDAY - Liturgy of the Word Canadian Computing Competition
Thursday February 19	Lockdown Drill
Friday February 20	Lunar New Year Celebration in room 320 (during 3A & 3B lunches)
Tuesday February 24	SHSM Reach Ahead Construction & Tech trip
Wednesday February 25	Math Contest period 1
Thursday February 26	CIVVIES DAY
Saturday February 28	HCDSB Skilled Trades Career Fair @ St. FX 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
	MARCH BREAK – March 16 to 20