

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date – February 9, 2021

Meeting Time – 7 pm – Microsoft Team Meeting

Members Present: Adriano Perusin, Principal
Adriana Rerecich
Michelle Sparrock-Henderson
Kevin Wells
Shery Milhail
Sierra Alcasid
Ciara De Jong
Judy-Ann
Priya Maharajh

Prayer and Honor of our Land: Adriana

In honour of Black History Month, we are doing prayers and discussing different historical figures each morning. The board created a video called Indigenous Land Acknowledgement which has been shown to all students.

Covid update – new safety protocols

All previous protocols remain in place with a few additions:

- Masks that cover nose and mouth are mandated for all students (not face coverings) and staff are required to wear a face shield or goggles when they are in close proximity to students.
- Staff and students are logging in to conduct daily screening check and screen shot must be shown upon entry to the building.

Numbers in Cohort C have gone up a little higher as more students are working remotely.

Grad Update

Final decision is still uncertain, but we are preparing to pivot for different options. At this point a virtual graduation seems the most likely unless gatherings are allowed in Halton. The board is looking for consistency across all schools.

Grad committee will be meeting this coming Monday. In addition to the virtual option, will discuss such options as tents in the football field – pending ministry rules around social gatherings and unpredictability of weather.

Putting together a video using template from last year (working to access the copy from last year). Considerations being given to such things as including a student drive by to receive diplomas and take photos.

Reached out to Pegasus today about potentially taking grad photos at school near the woodworking room. This is an ideal location since we can keep the garage door open, so students do not need to enter the school. Pegasus will ensure this complies with their COVID-19 protocols and confirm soon.

Gowns and caps have been ordered.

We will reach out to last years virtual graduates (Adriano) and parents (Michelle) for any advice they can offer.

Textbook return

We are sending out a lot of messages to ensure we get books back from last semester. This is a pressing issue since the books need to be wiped down and sit untouched for 24 hours.

English Department has chosen new novels with focus on black history, anti-Semitism, indigenous, inclusion and diversity.

Upcoming events – promotional

There are a lot of promotional things happening at our school:

- New SHSM programs opening for Sports, and Construction and Carpentry. Doing a presentation to parents of our feeder schools on 18th of February.
- Students working on a model UN Virtual Conference which is a board-wide event.
- Science Club to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) in our school - student run, virtual 3-day conference with guest speakers and former students.
- Parent night February 22nd to support non-academic needs such as anxiety and difficulty transitioning to new school model. Will discuss resources in our school and introduce agencies from our community that are available to help families.
- Anti bullying day February 24th will be a focus at school.

- Radar Fuel for Life Summit has been organized with a former professional football player and motivational speaker. Will talk about fitness and nutrition and how it leads to a healthy life. Will target elementary feeder school, grade 5-8.
- April – grade 7 outreach planned to reconnect with our feeder schools.

Black Lives Matter activities

In honour of Black History Month, we have several guest speakers throughout the month to discuss black advocacy, history, and culture.

We have a Representation Matters Group and have completed a survey with the students to understand how we handle diversity and race relations in our school. We are meeting this week to discuss the results and how we educate staff to handle some of the challenges. Father Con will help us with the conversation with staff around some of these issues such as LGBT relative to Catholic teachings.

Final marks and other discussion

Final marks are due Thursday, and report cards going out for Quadmester 2. Teachers are encouraged to reach out to parents directly.

IB still planning for written exams in May.

Course Selection – the presentations have been uploaded on the STA website and can be found under Student: Course Selection tabs. Myblue is open and parents/students should have access to the program.

Next Meeting TBC