

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date – April 13, 2021

Meeting Time – 6:30 pm – Microsoft Team Meeting

Members Present: Adriano Perusin, Principal
Adriana Rerecich
Michelle Sparrock-Henderson
Kevin Wells
Shery Milhail
Ciara De Jong
Judy-Ann
Angela Lombardi
David Montoya
Antonia Montanari

Prayer and Honor of the Land: Adriana

Covid update

Will provide more information tomorrow. During lockdown EAs will be in the building with Life Skill students. Some teachers will have access to building to teach from school – ie. Math teachers using whiteboards.

Grade 12 Graduation

Graduation pictures had originally been scheduled with Pegasus for the beginning of May. Grad pictures were originally planned to be completed in our school cafeteria with all Covid protocols adhered to by Pegasus staff and STA students upon entering the cafeteria and while taking pictures. Given the new province wide shut down, we may have to pivot to a secondary location. We are waiting on a sign-up sheet from Pegasus to be shared with our student population. The sign-up form will be distributed once we know location.

Graduation gowns have already been distributed to our graduates; please keep them safe and clean for picture day. Any student who has not picked up their gown is asked to contact the main office.

The virtual Graduation ceremony is scheduled for Monday, June 28 at 7 pm. The video link will be provided to all STA graduates and families a few days in advance. The video is being prepared by Mr. Montoya with support from Sheridan College colleagues.

Additionally, the STA school community would also like to offer a grad “drive through” on the day of June 28th through the STA parking lot. We are planning to create a “safe” outdoor location for student/family pictures and for STA staff to acknowledge and celebrate our 2021 Graduates.

Grad momentos will also be shared with our students on a date to be determined. The Graduation committee has been working very hard to put together a memorable experience for our 2021 Graduates and will continue to share details in the upcoming months.

On-going school enhancement

Working on newly designed Tech room 109 – located beside Auto and Outdoor Ed. Room will be completely re-outfitted with new top of line computers from Apple. This room will be properly vented so we can fully utilize all the equipment – 3D printer, t-shirt printing press, laser printers. Planning to have room ready by end of June so can utilize in September.

Second enhancement - adding an extra bathroom for life skill students as 9 currently share 1 bathroom. Plan to access one of adjacent coach rooms to utilize existing plumbing.

Third enhancement – room 306 turning into Robotics room. Purchasing large order of robotics to be more competitive with other schools with SGF investment of \$30k. We are hoping this will service a wide range of students.

Finally received approval from City of Oakville, so field tent is ready to go. Outdoor hut will be ready by September for sports equipment.

SHSM programs: waiting on final Ministry approvals

Still awaiting final approvals for SHSM programs noted in previous minutes but assured they are approved. We have also been granted an extra Carpentry class from the ministry.

IB update – new courses being offered

Healthy recruitment this year for grade 9 pre-IB program, with over 100 enrolled. There are several initiatives on the go to try to make this program more flexible and inclusive going forward.

May 2021 exams have been cancelled due to covid. Final marks will be based on course work and internal assessments.

We have two new IB courses this year: 1/ higher level Business Management - 90% of students going into grade 11 have chosen 2/ Italian beginners’ language – has been added in addition to French and 20 students have chosen. It is an IB requirement that students write an exam in second language, so this is a great addition.

Access to laptops in the event we move to virtual learning

We have plenty available so in a good position for any students needing a laptop.

OSSLT and Grade 9 Math EQAO

Planning for May but not sure if will be in school. Grade 9 numeracy may be in June. Assuming that both will be written by cohorts a and b but not cohort c. Board will be making decision if going to run or cancel.

School enrolment for 2021-22 school year

We have 1104 students enrolled as of last week, so we are really pleased with this. All our current teachers will remain at school and we anticipate that this number might improve. Area is not growing but with all our enhancements and promotion, we feel that our numbers will be coming back towards 1200 in next few years.

Textbook collection

Message went out from office. Procedure for cohort c drop off and pickup on same day.

Course sharing between schools

We have recently worked with other schools in Oakville to allow our students to sign up and work remotely for courses not offered at STA. We will continue to do this assuming we continue with remote learning.

Equity and inclusion

There is an ongoing coordinated effort to support equity and inclusion in our school community. We continue to follow-up the results of the survey which assessed how we handle diversity and race relations in our school. We have a Representation Matters Group with a dedicated group of staff members who continue to support our students. We continue to work with Father Con to educate staff on how to handle tough conversations around transgender, racism, and identity with focus on how to support students in a compassionate and caring way.

Our Library and Book club are choosing more diverse and equitable novels with a lens on equity and inclusion.