

St. Thomas Aquinas CSS Catholic School Council- Agenda

Tuesday, October 3, 2023 @ 6:30-8:00 p.m.



Location: Library



CSC Members in Attendance: Emmanuel Nera, Tia Naim, Jackie Thorn, Angela Santos, Rick Morris, Dana Monteleone, Antonia Montanari, Kathleen Moro, Natalie Cook, Helen Dennis, Melissa Giardina, Kylie Dillan Alcasid, Luis Lucca, Selena McLeod, Priya Maharajh, Gysel Matos, Gerry Bergin, Andrea Carvalho

Regrets: **Liz Castellanos**

Secretary: Natalie Cook

Welcome	
Prayer	O HOLY SPIRIT, Source of truth and grace, for those entrusted with the Christian development of children, enlighten our minds, strengthen our wills, and fill our hearts with generosity so that our homes, our parishes, and our schools may cooperate effectively with You, and with one another in the exalted mission of Catholic Education. We make our prayer through Christ, our lord. Amen
Land Acknowledgement	Honouring the Land and Territory
Action Items	
Review Code of Ethics	<div><div>PDF</div><div>CSC Code of Ethics.pdf</div></div> <div>Code of Ethics reviewed individually.</div>
Declaration and Pledge	<div><div>PDF</div><div>CSC Declaration and Pledge.pdf</div></div> <div>Pledge and Declaration reviewed, all signed. Kathleen explained the process to put names forward as Chair, asked if there were any additions. There were no additions, Rick Morris and Gerry Bergin agreed to lead as Co-Chairs. Each member introduced themselves. We recited the Catholic School Council Prayer as part of the commissioning.</div>
Election & Appointment of Membership and Roles	<div>Chair or Co-Chairs: Gerry Bergin, Rick Morris</div> <div>Secretary: Natalie Cook</div> <div>Teacher Representative: Natalie Cook</div> <div>Non-Teaching Representative: Helen Dennis</div> <div>Parish Representative: Dana Monteleone</div> <div>Secondary School Student Representatives: Tia Naim, Emmanuel Nera</div> <div>Community Representative: Angela Santos</div> <div>CPIC Representative: Gerry Bergin</div> <div>OAPCE Representative: TBD</div>
Commissioning Prayer Service	<div>Catholic School Council Prayer:</div> <div>God, the source of every gift You have called us together as servants to do Your will. Grant us the light of Your Spirit To guide us in our responsibilities as a Catholic School Council. May we work together in harmony for the common good. May we listen to one another in a spirit of genuine respect. May we encourage and reverence one another’s unique talents May we use the gifts of the Spirit in creative Christian leadership. May we approach our decision making through discernment and prayer. May we respond effectively to the needs of the children in our care. God of Love, You give us the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the common good. May Your blessing radiate from us to others in a spirit of service. We ask this through Jesus Christ – the Light of the World. Amen</div>
Principal Report	<div>Kathleen Moro</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">Review of Bylaws – Gerry: due to lack of quorum at last year’s meetings, the most recent version of the Bylaws was reviewed, he explained that the Bylaws can be amended going forward, Luis Lucca asked how much of the Bylaws were taken from «above», Gerry explained it is by and large driven by Ministry and Board policy. Luis requested more time to go through the Bylaws. Kylie suggested we not put a limit on the number of active members as has been done at other Board sites. Discussion of «shall include» changing to «may include but not be limited to» page 5. This year we have 12 parent members; we would need 7 members physically present for quorum. Emmanuel questioned how voting is done: by majority? Gerry confirmed a simple majority among voting members (parents) is necessary. We will wait until the next meeting to vote on the Bylaws, so all members have a chance to read and understand.The Gift of Giving Back – a charitable organization run through Oakville Rangers Hockey, Kathleen explained how we participated last year to donate food alongside the hockey association and provide storage in one of our gyms. At the school level, Social Justice Club, the Sports Leadership SHSM, Construction SHSM, first period classes were all involved in giving back to the community.SGF Suggestions – Kathleen explained how School Generated Funds are distributed, that we are at 68% of community donations for School Activity Fee, other schools are at 88%. Discussion around increasing donations to the school (gift cards, student access, Tip Tap, accepting cash - tricky). Kathleen will speak with Rocco regarding strategy to increase School Activity Fee participation. Kathleen explained that a school BBQ (of which there were two last year) costs \$7000 each. We needed to purchase 32 football helmets at a cost of \$12000, a large donation from last year’s graduating student offset that cost. We don’t do much fundraising at the secondary level because of the School Activity Fee. Civvies Day money is only around 40%, we no longer collect cash from students. This money is allotted based on discussions between admin and Student Council. Kathleen will share the budget for SGF at the November meeting. HCCF, Aquinas Cares are used to support families in need. Jackie Thorn will send Kathleen an email re: fundraising ideas.</div>

ACHIEVING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IB Programme Evaluation Update & IB SGF – Antonia Montanari: Audit year for IB, Part 1: preliminary review due March 2024 to demonstrate we are following programs standards and practices, Part 2: Self Study - all stakeholders participate in committees, site visit. The program is evaluated every 5 years. IB SGF at 100% paid, used to fund Turnitin.com to vet for plagiarism, IB graduation, gr. 11 and 12 exam registrations, Common Compass mental health workshops, IB staff training, annual IB fee, yearly database subscriptions. Gerry: does Turnitin.com catch ChatGPT? Answer: no, but the IB office has been training teachers and providing strategies to work with AI. OSSLT Update – Melissa Giardina: waiting for last year’s results, fall tests will be written between Nov. 1 & 30 for gr. 10s taking English this semester, those taking English in semester 2 will write in semester 2. Preparation being provided for previously eligible students. Progress Reports – Melissa Giardina:
BELIEVING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flag Raising Ceremony for Truth and Reconciliation: ceremony on Sept. 29 with flag raising, program on the Morning Show, great participation wearing orange shirts Thanksgiving Liturgy – 4 liturgies for the 4 grades today Staff Faith Day – Fri. Oct. 6 staff working towards the Good Shepherd Christmas Dinner, creating center pieces, wrapping cutlery, etc. Morning Show - runs daily with innovation and great student participation, streamed in all classes
BELONGING	Emmanuel Nera & Tia Naim – Student Council Co-Presidents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Student Council – plan for this year: increase school spirit, sense of community and student engagement, collaborate with athletics and other clubs to get students hyped grade 9 elections - 8 candidates, increasing communication through physical display of posters in a central location Raiders Roundtable – once a month all clubs and groups come together to discuss their events and collaboration Clubs/Mentorship - Black Student Union, Chess Club, Raiders who Code, PAC, etc, grades 11 and 12 act as mentors for younger students, Fall Fest Oct. 19 Orange Shirt Day – Development and Peace club set up in the Atrium iDARE/Representation Matters – iDARE is a parent group, those with a lived experience share their experiences with students to provide role modelling and representation Black Student Union - Christabel will be invited to the next meeting to speak Yearbook distribution – went smoothly, handed out in the Atrium Joe Luciani buyout – tomorrow Pink Day Girls Basketball buyout – in October Proposed Upcoming Events: school dances – Junior Dec. 7, Senior in February, haunted house Oct. 31, possible costume competition, karaoke Fridays starting in October, etc. Kylie: offered parental help and support to Student council
Other Business	<p>Open House: well attended, lots of department and community engagement, lots of interaction among parents, mentors were amazing</p> <p>New policy: prior learning assessment and learning for recognition (PLAR) for mature students. Has existed for many years, but also part of the plan for grade 12 and grade 12+ students to be granted equivalency credits to help them graduate. Gerry: will this impact the school? Kathleen to investigate and report.</p>
Next Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tuesday, November 7, 2023 ✓ Tuesday, January 30, 2024 ✓ Tuesday, April 2, 2024 ✓ Tuesday, June 4, 2024