

St. Thomas Aquinas CSS Catholic School Council- Agenda

Tuesday, November 7, 2023 @ 6:30-8:00 p.m.



Location: Library



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

Regrets: **Liz Castellanos**

Secretary: Natalie Cook

Welcome & Call to Order	
Prayer Rick Morris	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
Motion to Approve Agenda	Rick Morris Seconded by K. Alcasid
Motion to Approve Minutes	Rick Morris Minutes from October 3 Meeting - Seconded by K. Alcasid  STA CSC Meeting Agenda October 3 2
Review/Vote on Bylaws	<div><div>OBJ</div><p>Luis was looking for highlighted changes in the working document, Gerry and Kathleen explained that the entire document is new, the first set of by-laws as they did not previously exist at STA. Discussion regarding the number of elected parent members. Limit removed to reflect that elected parent members must make up the</p><div> School Council Bylaws - STA Apr 17</div><p>majority of council. Motion</p></div>
Principal Report	Kathleen Moro <ul style="list-style-type: none">OSBIE Conference – attended by Kathleen and David Agro, Kathleen explained that any time a student is injured an OSBIE form must be filled in. The Conference reinforced safety and proper reporting.Director/Trustee Visit – Fri. Oct. 20 with Mr. Klein, Mr. Duarte, Ms. Karabella, Mr. Saunders, started in IB office with student representatives presenting on the four SHSM programs, as well as IB Diploma and Certificate programs. The visitors engaged with the students then toured the building together. Mr. Gendron and Mr. Morgante exhibited their programs and their rooms, the guests visited the music room and were entertained, visited the library, then Mr. DiDiodato did a science experiment for the guests. Kathleen mentioned that she is very grateful to Antonia for having taken on the tour and organized the student presentations and for entertaining the guests.Proposed lunch changes for 2024-2025 – Kathleen explained section allocations based on student requests. It is easier to schedule if students are not grouped by grade during lunch. The guidance dept head suggested that we do not limit scheduling to specific lunch hours. Kathleen discussed the pros and cons of both options and mentioned having three different lunch periods. Emmanuel agreed that non-specific lunches would make scheduling easier but feels that having grade 9s with their mentors is beneficial. He believes keeping grade appropriate friend groups together should be considered. Kylie asked if an example schedule could be generated. Kathleen will ask Tony. Gerry reminded us that if the ultimate goal was to facilitate scheduling, it would be a benefit to students. Discussion around mentors and whether or not grade 9-11 mentorship is happening during lunch. Kathleen said hand may be forced due to the tech credit and explained this new government initiative. Clarification around a 75 minute lunch and 5 period day. Tia would like student council consultation. Kylie: prepares students to make new friends, for university or workplace or college. Kathleen will speak with Student Council.MPLAR – granting credits for previous/life experience, students will be evaluated through working on assessments and booklets. M (mature) applies to students turning 18. Students can earn credits if in danger of not attaining their diploma. Gerry wanted to know what that looks like in practice: a student would be in a credit recovery class with a credit recovery teacher and would work towards attaining the credits by completing booklets and final assessments. Kathleen explained the difference between MPLAR (mature students) and credit recovery (students under 18).SGF plan - Kathleen and Antonia explained the SGF budget. No accruals therefore an inflated opening balance. Gerry requested a definition of «Administration» - at the end of each year we must zero out each account, so small leftover amounts are moved to the «Administration» line. Kathleen pulled up an additional spreadsheet to explain in more detail. We discussed the 5% CashOnline fee and HST recovery. Re: fundraising – if Council is going to fundraise, Kathleen would like the money to go to HCCF as we often ask them for support with our students.
ACHIEVING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">IB Update – Antonia Montanari - Common Compass presentations on mental health and wellbeing for Gr. 11 and 12 IB students. We also hosted an evening Common Compass presentation with two therapists and social workers who provided support to parents. Antonia is making visits to non-feeder schools for IB presentations. Nov. 15 our exam registrations are due to IB. Nov. 27 the application for gr. 9 pre-IB opens, due Dec. 8. Offers will go out in January. Audit is underway, our first Self Study meeting of 4 will be on Nov. 9.OSSLT Update – Melissa Giardina – Monday we had a meeting with all teachers who will be administering the OSSLT. No longer paper based, strictly online.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library Printing – Helen Dennis - we’ve moved from free printing to \$0.10/page. This has decreased the amount of printing as well as the amount of paper and toner being used. Helen explained that the cost is primarily a deterrent.
BELIEVING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Service for the repose of the soul of Adan Tejada – Natalie Cook – Sat. Nov. 11 Praying the Rosary – Natalie Cook – initiative came from students, takes place during both lunches with a specific intention.
BELONGING	<p>Emmanuel Nera & Tia Naim – Student Council Co-Presidents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Halloween - a really good turnout both lunches for the Haunted House, costume contest winner will be announced soon, \$385 collected Dance – Junior Semi formal on Dec. 7 being held in the cafeteria, theme is Winter Wonderland, Kylie suggested that we use parent volunteers, Emmanuel stated that they will ask teachers first. Mr. Konopa-Nurdin will be the DJ (staff member). Christmas activity day last day of school before break will be proposed by Student Council.
Community Rep Update	Angela Santos – a sports program was just launched at St. FX and a subcommittee is trying to mirror that initiative and support equitable access to the arts across the region with an arts program. They are researching and have toured some other schools and Angela will report on this in January. The board has not decided yet if they are going to earmark a specific school or integrate into the regular school programming.
Parish Rep Update	<p>Dana Monteleone – many opportunities to volunteer in our parishes</p> <p>St. James is starting a youth group, once a month on Tuesdays, high school students can bring a friend, receive volunteer hours for mentoring younger students.</p> <p>St. James also putting together a play for Dec. 19, rehearsals Saturdays at 1pm. Looking for older students to help younger.</p> <p>St. James Christmas Bazaar - Sun. Nov. 26 9-2 need high school student volunteers</p> <p>St. Dominic Youth group called Conquest, Tues. Nov. 14 at 6:30 – can receive volunteer hours</p> <p>Bazaar Sat. Nov. 25 10-3 – they need many students</p> <p>St. Dominic is also looking for ushers.</p> <p>St. Andrew has not yet confirmed dates but they are doing a House Tour, they need students to work in the tea room after each tour.</p> <p>Kathleen will email</p>
OAPCE Rep Update	Rick Morris – first Halton meeting is Thurs. Nov. 9, Rick will report back
CPIC Update	<p>Gerry Bergin – chairs and co-chairs from across the board meet for information sharing and networking. Presentations on SEAC, Project Search, Black Graduation Coach etc. Speaker series every year, first one Nov. 8 at Holy Trinity.</p>
Discussion Items	<p>Fundraising – CSC Used Uniform Sale – would it be possible to hold sales throughout the year, maybe once a month for parents who need throughout the year? Kathleen will put Tina in contact with Kylie and Jackie so that they can coordinate re: sales. Discussion re: donation of shoes, coats, etc. Kathleen said shoes are a great idea but storage is an issue.</p> <p>Pro Grant – up to \$1000 for parent engagement, Gerry and Kylie will look into it and submit for the grant, we can generate ideas at the next meeting. Kathleen mentioned that Robb Gendron is planning a skilled trades night, might be a good use of the funds.</p>
Other Business	
Next Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Tuesday, January 30, 2024 ✓ Tuesday, April 2, 2024 ✓ Tuesday, June 4, 2024