



School Council Meeting Minutes – March 28, 2017

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions

Parent Council Members Present:

1	John Susi	Principal
2	Angie Barden	Vice Principal
3	Tracey DosAnjos	Co-Chair (Parent) <i>Volunteer Coordinator (Chair)</i>
4	Bettina Arapi	Secretary (Parent)
5	Christine Musitano	Teaching Staff Representative
6	Christine Baxter	Community/YMC Representative
7	Nikola Blair	Parish Representative <i>Communications & Media Contact (Chair)</i>
8	Erik Dela Cruz	OAPCE Representative <i>Safety Committee</i>
9	Maria (Gaby) Ball	<i>Halloween Dance-a-thon (Chair); Christmas Wish</i>
10	Kim Male	<i>Christmas Wish (Chair)</i>
11	Bonnie Dey	<i>Uniform Exchange Committee (Chair)</i>
12	Maggie DaCosta	
13	Traci Wansack	<i>Volunteer Coordinator</i>
14	Bonnie Wiltshire	
15	Iryna Tsaryk	
16	Kerstin Baker-Ash	
17	Stephanie Bressette	<i>Movie Night (Chair)</i>
18	Sara Alfonso	<i>Staff Appreciation Day (Chair); Uniform Exchange</i>
19	Roselien Markovic	<i>Pizza Day; Family Fun Night</i>
20	Celeste Celec	<i>Communications & Media Contact for Special Events</i>
21	Christian Cepeda	<i>Safety Committee (Chair)</i>
22	Sheetal Melino	<i>Movie Night</i>



2. Opening Prayer

- Angie Barden started the meeting with a Christian Meditation

3. Principal and Vice Principal's Report

a. School Improvement Plan

- Achieving Goal:
 - By June 2017, marker students in each grade from 1-8, that are currently achieving at a level 2 in mathematics, will increase to a level 3, specifically in the area of thinking and communication. This will be measured using common grade tasks moderated throughout the instructional terms.
- Believing Goal:
 - Students will demonstrate a greater understanding of the Ontario Catholic Graduate Expectations as measured by specific questions that will be added to the "Tell Them From Me" survey in June 2018.
- Belonging Goal:
 - By June 2018, the percentage of junior and intermediate students, who have intense feelings of fear, intense anxiety or worry about particular events or social situations will decrease by 5% (from 21% to 16%) as measured by data recorded from specific questions in the "Tell Them From Me" survey.
- Problem of Practice (Defined as an immediate student need)
 - Based on teacher's observations and data, students have difficulty performing tasks that require them to analyze, develop and monitor their own learning and actions, preferring instead tasks that are teacher directed, monitored and evaluated. Teachers struggle with how to create an atmosphere in which students feel confident that they possess the skills to be a self-directed learner.
- Inquiry Question:
 - How can we create an atmosphere in which students feel confident that they possess the skills to be self-directed learners?
- When we have a goal and there is something preventing us from getting there, we need to stop, reflect and re-evaluate what we know.
- Every month in our Divisional Teaching Team Meetings, teachers bring examples from their class and based on that feedback we may need to alter the teaching and learning strategies used.

b. Microsoft Showcase School – update

- On Thursday March 23rd Queen of Heaven had the opportunity to host an event for educators from around the world as part of the 3-day Microsoft conference they were attending.
- This included professional educators from the Ukraine, Netherlands, India, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Australia, South Korea, etc.
- The purpose of the conference was to gather educators to discuss innovations and challenges in education and how technology can support solutions to improve teaching and learning experiences.

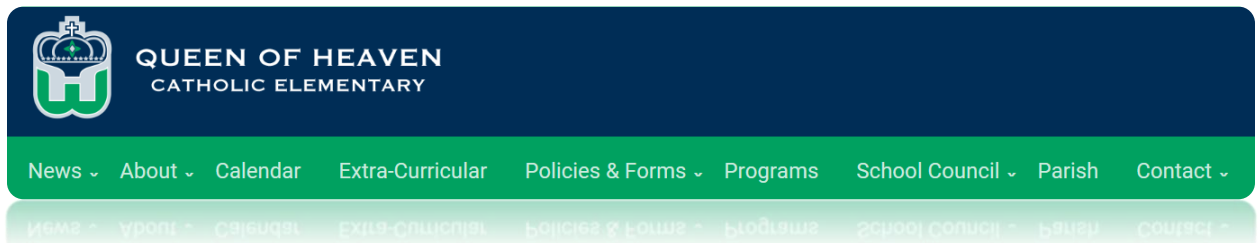
- A reception was prepared for them and a visit to eight different classrooms (FDK to grade 8, and our Library Learning Commons).
- Global educators had a chance to speak to our teachers and to observe how the technology is being utilized.
- The Global Education Exchange also provides worldwide networking opportunities among top educators and encourages attendees to learn from each other about the state of education and technology around the globe.
- We received very positive feedback 😊 with much amazement arising from the students' knowledge, collaboration and a positive sense of respect and pride around the school.
- Our visitors were very astonished how students were able to participate in varied learning centers within the same classroom i.e., not all students were doing the same thing at the same time (Differentiated Instruction)
- They enjoyed the sense of culture they felt and the warm and welcoming nature of all students and staff.
- As a Microsoft Showcase School Queen of Heaven has demonstrated we are a school with a strong vision for change and we are successfully implementing technology into the teaching and learning process for all students.
- We have created a whole-school, innovative learning environment, that is enabled by technology and we embrace 21st Century teaching and learning.

c. Lenten Initiative – “Ford Drive 4 Your Community”

- This year the intermediate Ambassadors have decided on a creative approach to raise money in order to build a well to provide clean drinking water to the impoverished nation of Nicaragua.
- The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Queen of Heaven School parking lot.
- The Queen of Heaven School Community is proud to partner with Milton Gallinger Ford to raise money towards the *Me to We* Foundation.
- Gallinger Ford is providing 4 Mustangs, 4 F-150s, and a hybrid car to test drive. For every test drive, Ford will donate \$20 to the Queen of Heaven Me to We fundraiser.
- Ads have already been deployed for this.
- While our parents are test driving the Ford vehicle, our kindergarten, primary and junior students will be entertained in the school gym by participating in Easter craft activities that will be led by our staff and student Ambassadors.
- Spread the word & bring friends & family to the event.
- We need parent volunteers to help in the gym and outside for the test drive.
- For every test drive, Ford will donate \$20 to the Queen of Heaven Me to We fundraiser.
- We will be selling refreshments and pizza.
- Nikola will invite Snapd to get the press involved.

d. New School Website and Weekly Updates

- <https://elem.hcdsb.org/queenofheaven/>
- New website went live this week!
- The website was updated based on the feedback received from parent surveys board wide.
- Council's feedback from last meeting was also taken into consideration.
- Going forward a link to the pdf housed on the site will be emailed rather than the actual news document thus directing traffic to the site and removing unnecessary attachments.
- Furthermore, monthly newsletters are being replaced by timely weekly updates managed by Angie Barden.
- New we also have a 'week at a glance' calendar, listing events including masses as discussed at our last meeting.
- You can subscribe to our new school calendar by following the instructions listed on top of the actual calendar page.
- This way you will receive reminders for all special events, trips, liturgies, non-uniform days, etc.
- We will continue to drive the traffic through the website.
- The home page includes a spotlight of 'Featured Stories', scrolling up to 5 news items, as well as a 'Latest Announcements' column, with weekly updates.
- There are also valuable links on the home page, such as Student Transportation, Student Registration, School Cash Online, Continuing Education, Medical Conditions, New to Canada, etc., as well as Upcoming Events, Contact Details and much more.
- The top navigation provides access to pages such as News, About, Calendar, Extra Curricular, Policies & Forms, Programs, School Council, Parish and Contact.



News	About	Calendar	Extra-Curricular	Policies & Forms	Programs	School Council	Parish	Contact
Announcements	About or School			Permission Forms		About our School Council		Staff Directory
Featured Stories	Family of Schools			Safe Arrival		School Generated Funds		Location & Directions
Weekly Updates	Energy Conservation & Environmental Stewardship			Code of Conduct		Agenda		
				Home & School Communication		Minutes		
				Health & Safety				
				School Uniform/Dress Code				

- Teachers will continue to send their own communications relevant to their class.
 - Permission forms are now available online, including a generic Day Trip Permission Form
 - The new website is maintained by John and Angie
 - Also, the board pushes out region wide news items (e.g. bad weather alert)
- e. Mental Health Initiative for Parents: “Coffee Chat” at QH on April 26th at 9:45-11:00 and 6:45-8:00. The topic is “Bullying”
- SAVIS of Halton (Sexual Assault & Violence Intervention Services) will be presenting for us.
 - SAVIS will come to the school and deliver a program on Anti-Bullying.
 - A Bully or Not a Bully? That really is the question.
 - This will be the 3rd rotating monthly coffee chat for the Jean Vanier Family of Schools.
 - AS it is our turn to host, the location will be Queen of Heaven Catholic Elementary School.
 - Depending on how many people will register, the event will either be hosted in the library or the computer room.
 - SAVIS will present strategies on how to help your children address and prevent bullying and how to accurately determine bullying behaviors.
 - All parents and their children are invited to attend the 60 minute parent presentation (beginning at 09:45 am or 6:45 pm), followed by a question and answer session.
 - The presentation uses a variety of learning methods including discussion, video clips, and interactive activities.
 - Coffee and tea will be served.
 - You are able to register online and opt for and email reminder:
<https://elem.hcdsb.org/queenofheaven/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2017/03/2017-JV-Family-of-Schools-Coffee-Chat3.pdf>
 - The presentation is aimed at parents and not students, but toddlers are welcome.
- f. Water Cooler and Filtration System
- Currently we have only one water bottle filling station.
 - As a board wide initiative to reduce the amount of water bottles being sent to our landfills, we are asked to be water bottle free.
 - The installation of a second bottle filling station for our school would be at our own school’s expense.
 - We would like to install one upstairs as students currently have to come downstairs and in from the portable to fill up.

- Students love to check the “Green Ticker” bottle counter on the front of the filling station to see how many plastic bottles they have saved by refilling their reusable bottles.
- If every student at the school filled up a sports bottle once a day, instead of purchasing a plastic water bottle, after one year the energy savings would power our entire school for about 4 days.
- **Question to council:** “can we direct some of our money we have been able to collect through school fundraising to purchase a second filling station?”
- By show of hands, the **majority agreed** to go ahead and use the funds of approx. \$2700 to purchase a second water bottle filling station.

g. Family Math Night

- Possible date → Thursday, May 04th, 2017 (RESCHEDULED TO MAY 11th)
- There will be a brief presentation to give an overview and different math centres set up to try out.
- This should be an evening to participate in fun math activities in order to dispel the fear of math.
- **Question to council:** “Are we still in support of this?”
- **Majority answer by show of hands: YES**
- This will be aimed at students in grades 1-6 as this should be the biggest draw, however all are welcome.
- Time will be set for 6:30 to 7:30pm.
- We believe there is a real need for this as kids no longer interact with math as we have done in the past (e.g. using cash money, dice games, board games, etc.) which inhibits them to gain the same understanding.
- More info to come!
- This idea came from the council – parents learning and participating with their kids at the same time.

h. Ministry of Education: PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant opportunity

- Ontario's PRO Grants are designed to support parents in identifying barriers to engagement in their own community and to find local solutions to involve more parents in support of student achievement and well-being.
- This year we used the grant money we received and had Chris Vollum presenting at our school for students during the day and parents in the evening (visual journey into the world of Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and more, on-line safety).
- Are there any ideas or thought for this year's grant?
- The form to submit is available online.
- The last presentation was unfortunately not well attended, so we should include students this time to have more parents come out.
- Suggestion was made to have a parent poll and pick from the top topics submitted.

- The school could put together a survey for the whole community to see what would be of interest.
- Maybe we could limit the choices (to 3 - 5) and rank them in order of importance and include an open section where speakers could be suggested.
- Anyone, willing to take the lead?
- Ideas:
 - Time Management Workshop
 - Evolution of Parenting (parents taking back control)
 - Nutrition ('Active Chefs'; teach parents and kids how to cook)
 - Family Fitness (for kids & parents – Drum Fit, Yoga Night)
 - Growth mind set for Parents
 - Student Anxiety (might be the topic for the next coffee chat session at Fatima)
- Tracey Dos Anjos will put together a survey to council in order to narrow down the choices; this has to be completed before the next meeting.
- We have to be very specific on the form.
- Tracey and Kerstin will complete the online form.
- Due by May 25th, 2017

i. Vision and Hearing Clinic at QH

- The vision and hearing screening would be provided by a not-for-profit organization.
- This would aid in the early detection of middle ear functions
- Parents can also receive this testing for their children by obtaining a referral from their family physician.
- We could tentatively set this up for October 2017.
- The school will also receive the results as it has an impact on student learning
- **Question to council:** "Are we in support of this?"
- **Majority answer by show of hands: YES**
- The \$15 cost to parents is optional and we could set up help for families in need.

j. HCCEF – Halton Catholic Children Education Fund – Golf tournament and donation request

- Same as last year (see your notes)
- If you would like to assist them to raise money please check online for all details.
- <http://www.hccef.org/>
- HCCEF Charity Golf Classic
- Event Date: May 31st, 2017 at 12:00 pm
- Event Location: Hidden Lake Golf & Country Club (<http://hiddenlake.clublink.ca/>)
- All proceeds support the HCCEF Student Guardian Campaign – Helping students in need achieve their full potential.

- We have had some families in our school benefit from the fund this year, as well as before.
- We are asking for donations directly to the foundation or in form of gifts that could be used as prizes for the golf tournament.
- We will be having a 'toonie day' coming up for this event.
- **Question to council:** "Would we like to make a donation to the foundation with our school fundraising money?"
- **Majority answer by show of hands: YES, all agree to donate \$250.**
- Last year we donated \$100.
- Kim Male offered to donate a new Apple TV 😊
- An email will still go out to the parent community for this event.

k. Upcoming Events

- Mar 30 – Crazy Hair Day – Non-Uniform Day
- Mar 31 – Talent Show @ 1pm
- Apr 04 – Rosary Apostolate
- Apr 08 – Easter Craft Extravaganza – 9am to 2pm; School Gym and Parking Lot
- Apr 12 – Grade 2 First Communion Retreat @ Holy Rosary Church
- Apr 14 – Good Friday
- Apr 17 – Easter Monday
- Apr 19 – Grade 7 Vaccinations
- Apr 20 – Wellness Celebration hosted in the library
- Apr 21 – Easter Liturgy – 10:45 to 11:45am
- Apr 21 – "We are Silent" Day – Grade 4 to 8; 11:35 am to 3:05pm
- Apr 22 – Earth Day
- Apr 24 – Curling Day – Grade 2 & 3
- Apr 25 – First Nations presentation to Grade 1 - 6
- Apr 26 – Firefighters' Presentation for Grade 1
- Apr 27 – Twin Day
- Apr 28 – P.A. Day

4. School Council Chair's Report

- Jason was unable to attend and sends his regrets.
- Tracey would like to explore opportunities for everyone to bring forward ideas for future events/agendas.
- A forum where we could brainstorm ideas we would like to share.
- We should establish parameters first to outline what is possible and what is not.
- This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.
- Maybe everyone could think about this for next the meeting and share some ideas.

5. Committee Reports and Updates

- Kim Male - Proposal for bringing new extracurricular activities into the school

- This idea was brought forth to accommodate families where both parents are working.
- Kim contacted 5 different martial arts studios and 2 have so far responded.
- Kim has also contacted dance studios as an alternative
- This would be for an hour long class once a week per type (i.e. dance, martial art).
- This would be at the cost to parents and is not funded by the school.
- Additional costs, such as insurance, cost for the gym, etc. will need to be covered by the provider (i.e. martial arts or dance school).
- Milton Academy of Martial Arts
 - Tue or Wed (3:15pm to 4:15pm) @ \$28 per class
 - Includes free uniform
 - 2 black belt instructors
 - Parent must commit for the entire school year
 - Minimum required participants: 14 kids; maximum: 30 kids
 - The curriculum will be the same as at the academy
 - If we have more than 30 kids, they are willing to add a second day
- Kicks for Kids (Taekwondo)
 - \$11.00 per class
 - Up to 50 students
 - Ages 3 & up
 - Can accommodate full scope of kids
- Dance Elite
 - Once a week for dance also
 - Minimum required participants: 10 kids; maximum: 20 kids
 - Different classes for age group 4 to 6 and grade 2 to 5
 - 30 min. class for the younger kids & 45 min. for the older kids
 - A combination of hip hop & musical theatre
 - Would be taught the same as they do in the studio

- How do we proceed?
- Do we agree that this would be a benefit to students/parents here?
- How will that work in conjunction with the YMCA?
- YMCA students must be registered for the full term as it is not considered a drop off program. Kids must be picked up by an adult, in which case the instructor must have prior parent consent.
- As the YMCA follows a fixed schedule, parents might have to pay for both on that day, the YMCA program and the after school class.
- How do we get the smaller children to class?
- There are various things that need to be addressed first.

- Teacher will need to know where they are dismissing the kids to as this is a private program.
 - The outside providers will have to be available at 3:05PM to receive the kids and their instructors must dismiss the children properly.
 - Outside providers are aware that they must rent the space from the board and have included that cost in the price already.
 - We will have to work out the logistics of when the gym can be used.
 - We should also take into consideration that these programs might require set up time, uniforms to change into, etc.
 - Access to the building must be monitored by instructors.
 - We could see if the companies would do a trade, a free student for parent help (with police check). It was agreed that this may cause discomfort to some parents.
 - The dance studio suggested using grade 8 students to help that are already in dance. This would be up to the studio to arrange.
 - From the school's perspective this is doable. We must simply work out all details and logistics.
 - This can may be offered for the next school year, starting September 2017.
 - Outside provider will handle registrations, most likely available online.
 - Parents must sign up for the entire school year, starting in Oct. until May.
 - Perhaps it is best to just pick one event and have different age groups on different days
 - We need to find out the supervision ratios.
 - The division screen in the gym is not sound proof for the dance studio.
 - Which company do we follow up with?
 - Maybe we need more information (some logistics) to make a decision.
 - Next step: find out more answers; Kim will email additional information as the May meeting may be too late to discuss this further.
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- Stephanie Bressette and Sheetal Melino - Family Movie Night
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- Final numbers are not in yet.
 - 352 people attended ☺
 - Offered pizza this year which went over very well.
 - We have to increase the number of cookies and popcorn for next year.
 - We made a profit of approx. \$1000.
 - The movie licence was purchased in February and is valid for one year which allows us to have another movie night early next year using the same licence.
 - There are some ideas for improvement.
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- Christian Cepeda and Sheetal Melino – Lunch Supervision Protocols

- Christian contacted other schools to see how they are handling supervision at lunch time.
 - Our lunch supervisors monitor more than one class at a time which leaves the class unsupervised for a short time period; however we are strictly following the established HCDSB protocol for this.
 - Portables follow the same procedure as other classrooms.
 - Ideally classes should not be left unattended but this is unrealistic with the resources available over the lunch hour.
 - FDK has lunch time supervision 100% of time.
 - Grades 1 to 8 share one teacher or LS between 1 to 3 classrooms; this is the same across the board. The decisions regarding this are based on the age of the students and the proximity between classrooms.
 - Grades 1 and 2 also have grade 5 student lunch helpers.
 - The requirement states that during instruction time the teacher must be in the classroom.
 - Reality is that we unfortunately do not have the staff to have 100% supervision at lunch. A schedule is made to allow teachers to have their lunch break.
 - Classroom expectations are relayed to the kids at the beginning of the school year and students have been excellent alerting teachers should an incident of any kind occur.
 - This is the same at recess time, considering the percentage of teachers outside compared to the number of students.
 - We do not have a cafeteria where all children could gather for lunch
 - We have had only a few minor incidents at lunch time.
 - We have safety plans & safety protocols in place followed by all teachers.
 - In special needs circumstances for some students there made need to be 1-1 supervision.
 - Students know what to do; teachers develop these kinds of roles early on.
 - During the first week of school teachers set those expectations.
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- Sheetal Melino – Spelling Bee Competition at Queen of Heaven
 - Moved to next meeting due to lack of time.
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- School Uniforms – Update and Feedback
 - Moved to next meeting due to lack of time.

6. Future Agenda Items

- Spelling Bee Competition at Queen of Heaven
- School Uniforms – Update and Feedback

7. Next Meeting

- Tuesday, May 16th, 2017 @ 6:30pm
- If you would like to attend and you require free child care, our school YMCA supervisor, Christine Baxter, is providing staff members for this. Please email Mrs. Baxter if you require this care during our meeting at Christine.Baxter@YMCAGTA.ORG

8. Adjournment: 08:45 pm