



## GEORGES VANIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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### CATHOLIC SCHOOL COUNCIL INAUGURAL MEETING MINUTES

September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
6:00pm

*Attendees: Daniel Birkenbergs, Michael Burns (virtual), Alexis Commander, Marcello Farrace, Christina Ferguson (virtual), Sonia Mastrantoni, Andrea Payne*

- Opening Prayer / Land Acknowledgement / Welcome / Introductions
  - Mr. Birkenbergs called the meeting to order at 6:15pm
  - Meeting was run in a hybrid format with attendees in-person and virtual
  - Mr. Birkenbergs opened the meeting with a prayer and land acknowledgment, followed by a welcome and round-table introductions
- Election of CSC Executive
  - Report of Nominations → D. Birkenbergs, Principal
    - Mr. Birkenbergs indicated that the school received 7 nominations for CSC for this school year, 6 of whom were present at the meeting.
    - All 6 individuals present at the meeting were acclaimed to the Georges Vanier Catholic School Council for the 2024-2025 school year
  - Declaration of Interest → Nominees
    - Mr. Birkenbergs called for declarations of interest in the various portfolios for Catholic School Council
    - After some discussion, the individuals were acclaimed to their various portfolios as indicated below
      - Chair: Michael Burns
      - Treasurer: Christina Ferguson
      - Co-Secretary: Alexis Commander & Sonia Mastrantoni
      - Parish/OAPCE Representative: Andrea Payne
      - Member-at-large: Marcelo Farrace
- Formal Introduction of CSC Executive
  - Mr. Birkenbergs congratulated the new membership and thanked them for their willingness to take on their respective roles
- Opening Remarks → D. Birkenbergs, Principal
  - Confirmation of CSC Meeting Dates (discussion)
    - Dates for the meetings of CSC were provided to CSC members for the 2024-2025 school year

- Principal's Report
  - Staffing/Programming Update
    - FSL: Currently the school has a vacancy in the FSL position; the school has made multiple attempts to fill the position with no success. Mr. Birkenbergs is currently working the Human Resources department of the Board to fill the position. Mr. Birkenbergs will be providing a letter to the community by the end of the week
    - Kindergarten: Significant needs in the KG room have created the need to divert support to this classroom. Mr. Birkenbergs is working with the Family of Schools superintendent to seek solutions to this pressure point for the school
  - Pastoral Plan / Liturgies / Virtues Assemblies
    - Pastoral Plan
      - Shared via e-mail in September with all families
    - Virtues Assembly: Conscience → October 29<sup>th</sup> @ 2:45pm
  - Fundraising
    - Discussion
      - Mr. Birkenbergs indicated that a larger-scale fundraiser will be needed to support school initiatives
      - Mr. Birkenbergs also noted changes to athletics requiring two adults to be present at each event to support teams; this will require additional funds to cover staff and/or the support of parent/guardian volunteers
    - Consideration of possibilities
      - CSC members engaged in a discussion about different options
      - CSC agreed to establish the plan at the October 2024 meeting
      - Ms. Mastrantoni requested the contact information for World's Finest Chocolates to explore this avenue; Mr. Birkenbergs will send requested information
  - Events Update
    - Mr. Birkenbergs provided a brief update in relation to school events that occurred throughout September
      - X Movement
      - Opening of School & St. Vincent de Paul Feast Day Liturgy
      - Open House
      - Terry Fox Event
      - Orange Shirt Day

- Upcoming School Events
  - Mr. Birkenbergs provided an overview of upcoming events at the school
    - Thanksgiving Food Drive
    - Rosary Apostolate Visit → October 2<sup>nd</sup>
    - Athletics
      - Softball → October 3<sup>rd</sup>
      - Junior Volleyball → October 9<sup>th</sup>
      - Cross Country → October 16<sup>th</sup>
    - Picture Day → October 4<sup>th</sup>
    - BRAVE Workshops → October 9<sup>th</sup>
    - CCAT Testing (Gr. 4 students) → October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>
- Discussion Items
  - Approval of Agenda
    - Approved by: S. Mastrantonj; Seconded: M. Farrace
  - Approval of June 2024 Minutes
    - No changes required
    - Approved by: M. Farrace; Seconded: A. Commander
  - Items for Discussion
    - Uniform for GVANI → raised by M. Farrace
      - In response to the item, Mr. Birkenbergs provided a brief overview of current Board policy related to school uniforms in the elementary panel
      - Mr. Birkenbergs explained that there is a prescribed process involved which would require the engagement of the Family of Schools Superintendent, local Trustee and other Board departments
      - Mr. Birkenbergs indicated that in order to move forward with the process, CSC would need to pass a motion at a meeting to explore the possibility for the school
      - After brief discussion, CSC agree to vote on the motion: “that the Georges Vanier CSC agrees to explore the possibility of a school uniform for Georges Vanier School”
        - The motion was moved by M. Farrace; seconded by A. Commander
        - Upon voting, the motion passed unanimously
  - Chair’s Report
    - No formal report
    - Mr. Birkenbergs passed along well-wishes for a successful year from the school’s former CSC Chair, Sandra Salvino
  - Treasurer’s Report
    - Balance carryover from June 2024 is \$5380.45
    - Additional deductions for expenses and bank charges will be updated for October meeting

- Parish Report
  - Provided by A. Payne
  - Ms. Payne indicated that the information evenings for sacraments has occurred and that registration for the sacraments will occur in the coming two weekends
  - Parents/Guardians are encouraged to connect with the Parish Office for more information
  - Mr. Birkenbergs noted that Fr. Liborio has made a change to the way school liturgies are celebrated. For school events, the Eucharist will not be included in these celebrations
- OAPCE / DRAPCE Report
  - No formal report
- Other Business
  - No items
- Adjournment
  - Mr. Birkenbergs called for the meeting to be adjourned at 7:30pm
    - Approved by: M. Farrace; Seconded: S. Mastrantoni

*Next Meeting: October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 @ 6:00pm*