

St. Jean de Brebeuf Catholic Secondary School
Catholic School Council Meeting Minutes
September 27, 2021

In attendance – Paul Di Ianni, Carm Bozzo, Diana Battliana, Christine DeGregorio, Angela Catania, Alice Vidinha, Sabrina Soler (student)

1. Mr. Di Ianni welcomed the group to the first meeting and began with a prayer.
2. With a small group of parents for the first meeting, Diana Battliana accepted to chair the council for the 2021-2022 school year. Carm Bozzo accepted the position of recording secretary. Christine DeGregorio accepted Social committee lead.

Mr. Di Ianni let the group know that Mrs. Boase is the parish rep and that Sabrina Soler and Bahar Zali Kah Kesh will take turns each meeting as the student reps.

The student reps organized a lot of in person and virtual activities last year to engage students and are looking forward to continuing to bring the school community together in a variety of ways.

3. SJB has a collection of gently used uniform pieces that have been washed by custodial staff and folded and sorted by clerical staff for storage in the Brave Cave. These pieces are made available to all students should they require some uniform pieces for a variety of reasons.

There is a hoodie available to be purchased that can be worn daily. As with other certain pieces, the SJB letter logo is on the back of the hoodie as a safety piece – so staff can see that the student wearing a hoodie is an SJB student from the front and from the back.

SJB's contract with DGN Kilters is up at the end of the year. There are pros and cons regarding using this supplier – CON – their head office is in Mississauga – PRO – they are the only supplier offering the very popular Kobe pant. There will be further discussion about renewing or ending this contract as the months go on.

Regarding uniform pieces, Mr. Di Ianni understands and appreciates the importance of comfort for students which leads to better uniform compliance. This is in relation to hoodies and the Kobe pant.

The Physical Education department will also be getting new uniform pieces that will also have a sense of comfort and modesty.

Sabrina asked if the school would be having more civies days before the Christmas holidays as it helped build morale last year. Mr. Di Ianni will update this closer to the time

4. Catholic School Council Meetings will happen at least 4 times a year and we are looking for more parents to join!

5. Areas of Focus for this coming year will be to increase participation on Council and the members are encouraged to brainstorm other ideas.
6. SJB Initiatives – Quadmester – 44 days – 2 credits – teachers will be connecting with parents at the mid-point but parents are encouraged to reach out to teachers if they need to discuss anything of concern. There will be final exams in most courses, some may opt for cumulative projects. It is hoped that the students will all be able to write their exams in the school. Online students are not mandated to write in school.

Mrs. Bozzo asked of Demonstration of Learning which exempts students from writing exams due to having a certain mark in the class would resume. Mr. Di Ianni said that it will not resume this year. This was a system decision

Teachers are encouraged to take their students out for a walk around the school -get some fresh air, a time for kids to have some food or drink – good for their mental health.

Health and safety is always the number #1 priority of the school. Keeping masks on while inside which is why teachers are encouraged to bring students outside. As well, the cafeteria is being used however physical distancing is mandatory and half of the library is being used as a cafeteria space. The school also purchased a bunch of tables to be used as an outdoor cafeteria for students to eat at lunch and break times.

As well, keeping doors locked while still making sure students from the portables can access the school is a top priority. Mr. Di Ianni will look into some washroom issues such as stall doors not having locks on them, as it was brought up by Sabrina.

Mr. Di Ianni also made note of the TIKTOK videos going around where students are vandalizing school properties for notoriety with friends – and that the schools are aware and on top of this as much as possible.

SJB has submitting an ask to Public Health to have a pre-packaged lunch program at the school through Mr. Chiarini. This would be purchased through cash online or possible on site.

As it has been asked – there are only 2 students exempt from wearing a mask in the school.

7. Construction – Windows and HVAC have been upgraded throughout the school as well as many parts of the school have been painted, the electrical and lighting have been updated, there are new blinds in some areas of the school, exterior panelling done, 95% of school have updated air conditioning and heating, new padding in the gym and a new track has been added. Next projects include painting the stairwells and some updates to the art and tech wings.

The school also purchased some new printers that will help create some great banners and student artwork! Honour roll should be posted on our board this week and announced on social media with the next couple of weeks.

8. Community Building (Reconciliation, Athletics, Arts)

For the school, supporting mental health and well being is imperative and with that the Board has allowed some sport and clubs to occur with proper guidelines and protocols in place. Mrs. Battiliana was concerned that the students were not the ones able to enjoy the typical tradition of attending football games but instead parents were allowed in to watch. She believes it should be peers cheering on their peers. Mr. Dilanni acknowledged her concerns and noted it has become a new process for principals and staff to logistically plan for these sporting events in a way they have never had to before. He noted he would bring her concerns forward.

Mr. Di Ianni let the group know that this month the school community was able to celebrate their first liturgy virtually and noted his thanks to Father Mark Gatto for his support and involvement.

9. Synchronous learning expectations

Teachers have been instructed to have a link ready to go for online learning should their class or students in their class have to isolate. If a child is absent and their class does NOT have an online component to their class there is no way for that student to access the live instruction. A question came up regarding students who are suspended – they would be instructed through asynchronous learning.

Another question came up about the parent portal and teachers updating it. Mr. Di Ianni will look into this.

Meeting adjourned – 7:48pm

Next meeting – October 25, 2021