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**Divine Mercy Catholic Elementary School Council Meeting – Minutes**2840 Duncairn Drive, Mississauga, ON L5M 5C6

*May 26, 2025, 5:30 pm* | *Meeting called to order by* Sandra Viola

*Staff/School Representatives:*

Sandra Viola (Principal)

Daniela Letterio (Teacher Representative)

Pamela Leermakers (Community Member)

Brea Corbett (Trustee ward 9 and 10)

*Parent Representatives:*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Angela Trewartha (Co-chair) | Sarah Carson (OAPCE rep) | Jessica Clayton\* |
| Tannice Ashman (Co-chair) | Elaine Dantas (Parish rep) | Vivian Correa-Pinto\* |
| Tashani Parker (Secretary) | Paula Mendonca\* | Johnson Lai |
| Michelle Ferreira (Treasurer) | Deanna Catania\* | Katrina Reis |

*Parent Regrets:*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Jonathan Walker\* | Lisa Bitonti-Bengert\* | Pearl Mofunanya\* |

\*=voting members

1. **Routine Matters**
   1. Call to Order and Attendance
   2. Opening Prayer
   3. Land Acknowledgement
   4. Approval of Agenda
      1. Approved by Elaine and Michelle
   5. Approval of Catholic School Council Minutes (February 2025)
      1. Approved by Johnson and Jessica
      2. Business Arising from the Minutes
2. **Trustee Update**
   1. Thanked the Principal and the committee for their support of the council and leadership at the school
   2. Board meetings every Tuesday night at the board office
      1. Tomorrow night, core education funding will be reviewed- the meeting is posted online and can be accessed from YouTube
         1. Funding is based on a per-pupil basis
         2. Transportation and special education, device upgrade and maintenance are underfunded by the government
         3. Operating under a multi-year financial recovery plan
   3. Brea has 16 schools, west of Erin Mills and North of Eglinton
   4. Parent Question: Funding for chaplains?
      1. Response: Chaplain will exist, but will look different, have chaplains that are teachers and non-teachers- will continue to have a dedicated chaplain for every secondary school and a non-teacher chaplain- current teacher chaplains were given the option to stay as teachers – help to connect between elementary and secondary school chaplain role
3. **Standing Items**
   1. Chair/Treasurer’s Report
      1. Tannice attended executive council will start pilot program with vaping alarms- at 5 different high schools- St. Roch, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Robert F. Hall, Ascension of Our Lord, St. Martin- with minimal funding from the ministry- the alarm will go off in the office and staff will be notified
         1. Reason- concern: students do not feel safe going into the washroom, inappropriate use of washrooms, vaping, and bullying
         2. Goal- not just to detect vaping, but will detect identifiable words such as help, won’t detect words like
         3. Response-
      2. Peel Police presentation
         1. Presentation on May 29 didn’t occur, there was one at the end of April- 3 hours long- suggestion maybe to have it on a Saturday
         2. Education on vaping, human trafficking - 2nd session for Mississauga occurring
         3. Sent out from the board, reshared within schools, shared on the trustee's social media, and posted on the DPCDSB website
      3. Pizza
         1. Winding up pizza- thank you to the volunteers for their help and the grade 8s
         2. Thank you to everyone who organized and helped with movie night; it was great
      4. Shout-out to people leaving
         1. Tashani, Paula (moving to another school) and Pam, who is retiring
   2. Treasure’s report
      1. April budget is reconciled
         1. Spent a little more money on speakers and presentations
      2. May is preliminary- however, there are still items to be paid out/reconciled
         1. Pizza is still to come out
         2. Wanting to earmark for the 2026 school year
            1. Earmark- want to buy 10 Chromebooks with a cart- $4,000

With tech refresh program, kids- JK-4 4-1, grade 6- 2-1, 7-12: 1-1

* + - * 1. The makerspace room- robotics $800
      1. Schools are allowed to carry over some budget for items earmarked

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1. Principal Report
   * 1. *Catholic Faith life:*
        1. The Lenten season began on March 5th
           1. A variety of activities celebrated in class each week (Lenten liturgies, class reflections, Lenten journals/morning announcements reflected the importance of deeper prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Lent)
           2. The focus of the school was on acts of charity

Donations of soap were given to Dr. Simone, and Sharelife donations received.

Thank you to the committee who supported with initiatives- collected a lot of soap and money for Share Life with pretzels, Christmas cards, toy collection, and gift giving

* + - * 1. Shrove Tuesday meal on March 4th was successfully run by Mrs. O’Leary and the grade 8s and parent volunteers.
        2. March 5th, we were joined by Father John, who joined us for our Ash Wednesday liturgy, and Mrs. Symonds' class led our Holy Thursday liturgy.
      1. Partnership with Morningstar rosary will continue/Marian celebration was a special time, and students were excited about being a part of this special celebration of our Blessed Mother
      2. Grade 2’s communion was celebrated on May 25, and Grade 7 confirmation was celebrated on May 7
         1. Gifts on behalf of the Catholic School Council were received, and students were extremely appreciative.
      3. Wellness Day incorporated a special story in the afternoon titled ‘You, Me, We, A Celebration of Peace and Community’ where students had post activities around peace pledges in their school community
    1. *Health and Well-being:*
       1. Thank you to the staff who run teams and clubs to support wellness and engagement
          1. Eden Food- good collaboration for helping
       2. Brave education workshops are booked for next year, Building Emotional Regulation will continue next year: K-3; Setting Healthy Boundaries 4-6; Grade 7 and 8, Understanding Stress
       3. THRIVE resource in newsletters and Peel e-blasts informs parents of important information for wellness
       4. Eco initiatives have taken place- waste audits, book swaps, The great gulp and Big Crunch- Divine Mercy will receive gold status
          1. Bike to school is coming
       5. Continue to refer to SMHO resources and post in classes/ continue to train Mental Health Leaders, and gain more participants
       6. Whole school success wellness day retreat was a success
          1. Thanks to Peel Nurse, Support staff, Mental Health leaders and Grade 7 and Grade 8 leaders leading activities.

Focus was on individual growth for wellness, and connection of mind, body and spirit.

* + - 1. Movie Night was a success
         1. Community engagement that fosters positivity and the well-being of the community
      2. Positive feedback received about the girls' group club
      3. Rocks and Rings/ team sports continue
    1. *Equity:*
       1. Continue to build on an inclusive curriculum-diversity in voices, cultures, and histories, so all students feel represented
       2. Continue to center student voices to share their perspectives and experiences, especially from underrepresented
       3. Continue to engage staff in professional development on inclusive practices and anti-racism
       4. Continue to use harmful language interrupters in class, rooted in anti-racist practices, but used towards all oppressive behaviour/ all students require a common language
          1. Last staff meeting- had a session on common knowledge of common language for grades 4-8- giving them language to express if they’re feeling oppressed and unsafe- helping them to explain themselves, and having it up in the classroom
    2. *Achievement:*
       1. EQAO- students were exposed to practice work and EQAO sample tests
          1. Grade 3’s are finished, grade 6’s- will complete next week
          2. Consensus of French Immersion (FI) administrators throughout the Board is that Math continues in French
       2. Grade 4’s FI students have had transition meetings with OLOM
       3. Had intermediate study hall- extra time to get help or finish homework
       4. Classes booked a Scientist in the school- teachers appreciated the support
          1. Used the Grant for experiential learning to cover costs
          2. Teachers are appreciative of the $100 from the budget per class

Money spent on class supplies, but some teachers wanted to have celebrations with the class, like a pizza party- maybe consider it for next school year

* + - 1. Acadience screening- round 2 took place for grades K-2
      2. Juniors and Intermediates were successful in the Skills competition, winning medals
      3. GAUSS test for Grade 8’s/ more intriguing and challenging problems
      4. Got a grant for wellness day
         1. On wellness day, students received a kit that kids brought home
    1. *Upcoming dates/General updates:*
       1. **May 27-29th-** Grade 6 EQAO
       2. **June 5th-** Softball tournament/ Pam’s retirement party
       3. **Monday, June 9th:** PA Day Report Card Writing
       4. **June 11-13th:** Brock Trip
       5. **Monday, June 16th**: Talent Show in the afternoon
       6. **Wednesday, June 18th:** Grade 8 graduation
       7. **Thursday, June 19th:** End of the year BBQ
       8. **Friday, June 20th:** Kinder Celebration of Learning/ Grade 8’s go to Mandarin and bowling/ Afternoon celebration for grade 4 FI’s and grade 8’s
       9. **Monday, June 23rd**: Year-end Mass at the Church at 9 am
       10. **Tuesday, June 24th**: Final report cards go home
       11. **Wednesday, June 25th:** Co-ed beach volleyball/ whole school play day
       12. **Friday, June 27th**: Year-end celebration at 9:30 – digital yearbook
           1. Grade 4 and 8- parents are invited to clap out at 2:45 pm
    2. Thanked parents for support

1. Parish Report
   1. Continue with the Edge program up until grade 8 on Friday evenings
   2. Saturdays- for high school students- food served
   3. Parish BBQ this Sunday after 12noon mass on June 8- $10- polish sausage, hamburgers, dunking the parish priest, music by DJ, ice cream truck
   4. Corpus Christi procession on June 2, 2025- over 800 people last time
2. **Information/Updates**
   1. OAPCE update
      1. In-person meeting a few weeks ago- nice to be part of the group, and there’s a lot of support for parents and community- wants to think about ways to showcase this more
3. **Action Items**
   1. Budget wrap-up
      1. Shared above
   2. Feedback on movie night/any new suggestions for next year
      1. Need a permit for any events to turn the air conditioning on, as schools don’t have control over
         1. From an efficiency approach, it is centrally controlled
         2. Thanked everyone who dressed up, it was great
      2. Think about new suggestions for next year to do something, Fall/winter, and then spring
         1. Suggestion:
            1. Proposing a Christmas or spring market
            2. Professor Jam- end of year BBQ,
   3. Team recognition
   4. Further discussion of any other business
      1. Suggestion: Table at the BBQ for council- Elaine, Vivian, Sarah, Angela volunteering; give out a one-pager of what the school council is and its purpose and importance, what’s been done for the year
      2. Open house as well
4. **Adjournment at 6:40 pm**