

Saint Agnes Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) 2023-2024 End-of-Year Report

Introduction

The 2023-2024 school year has been one of growth, transition, and continued commitment to enhancing the learning environment for the students at Saint Agnes Catholic Elementary School. This report highlights the key activities, discussions, and accomplishments of the Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) over the past year. With a strong focus on student engagement, community involvement, and infrastructural development, the council has played a vital role in supporting the school administration and the wider school community.

CSAC Membership and Meetings

Executive Team:

- Co-Chairs: Heather Gawel & Andrea Connolly (exited midterm)
- Treasurer: Kathy Bader
- Secretary: Kahlyn Pronk
- Community Representatives: Michelle Martin, Paula Ibanez

Throughout the year, the CSAC held regular meetings in October, November, March, April, and June, fostering productive discussions and decision-making on various school-related matters. Meeting minutes located here:

[▢ Minutes](#)

Budget and Financial Overview

The financial health of CSAC was a priority, with several reviews of the budget and expenditures taking place during the year:

- **Budget Approval:** In November 2023, the council voted to pass the 2023-2024 budget
 - **Fundraising and Grants:** Successful fundraising efforts, such as the Dance-a-thon and Spring Carnival, generated additional revenue. CSAC also received grants, including the PIC grant (\$1716.62), ProGrant (\$1027.34), and a Roots and Shoots grant for environmental projects.
 - **Expenditure Highlights:**
 - Purchase of gym equipment, jerseys, and classroom supplies.
 - Support for school bus funding for trips and the purchase of outdoor playground equipment.
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Key Projects and Activities

1. Student Engagement and Support

- **Gym Equipment and Playground Improvements:** Significant funding was allocated for the enhancement of gym facilities and playground areas. This included purchasing sports equipment, folding tables, and goalposts.
- **Nutrition for Learning:** CSAC continued its commitment to the Nutrition for Learning program, ensuring that children without lunches received the necessary support. Funds raised from Giving Tuesday and other events contributed to this cause.
- **First Communion and Confirmation:** The council supported sacramental events, with 29 students receiving First Communion and 12 students confirmed.

2. School Communication

- The council actively worked on improving communication channels between the school, teachers, and parents. This included regular principal newsletters and updates via school messenger.

3. Parent Engagement

- **Workshops and Events:** Parent engagement remained a priority. The Mental Health Awareness event in the spring was a significant step towards supporting parents, although it was noted that future events should coincide with other school activities to increase attendance.

4. School Improvement Projects

- **Eco Team:** The school's Eco Team, with the support of CSAC, worked towards maintaining an environmentally friendly status, earning recognition for their efforts.
- **Playground Development:** Plans for upgrading the playground were in motion, with the council playing an integral role in gathering feedback from students and the parent community. Implementation is expected in the 2024-2025 school year.

Events and Fundraising

1. Dance-a-thon: Held in October 2023, the Dance-a-thon was a successful fundraiser that raised significant funds for school initiatives. This event also received positive feedback from students.

2. Spring Carnival: The Spring Carnival, held in May 2024, was another major fundraising event. The carnival aimed to raise \$10,000 to contribute towards the construction of a Gaga Ball Pit and other school improvement projects.

3. Catholic Education Week & Volunteer Appreciation: CSAC contributed to the organization of activities for Catholic Education Week in May 2024 and hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Café in June.

Challenges and Areas for Improvement

While CSAC made notable progress, certain challenges were encountered:

- **Parent Participation:** Despite the efforts to engage parents, attendance at some events was lower than expected. Moving forward, the council plans to integrate engagement opportunities with existing school events.

- **Teacher Representation:** The council lacked a teacher representative during the year, which impacted some discussions on curriculum and student activities.
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Looking Forward: 2024-2025 Initiatives

As we look ahead to the next academic year, several priorities have been identified:

- **Playground Installation:** Finalizing the design and installation of new playground equipment.
 - **Parent and Student Engagement:** Continued focus on increasing parent involvement through more integrated events.
 - **Fundraising for New Projects:** Initiatives like the Gaga Ball Pit and classroom outdoor equipment remain top priorities.
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Conclusion

The 2023-2024 school year was marked by resilience, collaboration, and meaningful contributions from the Saint Agnes Catholic School Advisory Council. Through various initiatives, the council has significantly impacted the student experience, school facilities, and parent engagement. As we prepare for the upcoming year, CSAC remains committed to its mission of supporting and enriching the Saint Agnes Catholic School community.