

## **Minutes from Parent Council Meeting held March 16, 2021**

### **PART 1 – WELCOME, PRAYER AND APPROVAL**

Call to Order: 6:30 p.m.

#### **Attendance:**

**Parents:** Tammy Bilodeau, Jessica Koehli, Catherine Cake, Angelina Mclaughlin, Andrea Minarchi (Chair), Lori Taylor (Vice Chair), Shelley Leroux (Treasurer), Laura Lee (Secretary)

**Staff:** Ted Pascek (EICS Board Chair), Ed Kucy – Principal, Kristine Willis-Dengler – Vice Principal, Tess Cossey-Grade 4 Teacher

Opening Prayer – Kristine Willis-Dengler

Approval of February 16, 2021 Minutes – approved by Andrea Minarchi/2<sup>nd</sup> by Catherine Cake

Approval of March 16, 2021, Agenda – approved by Andrea Minarchi/2<sup>nd</sup> by Lori Taylor

### **PART 2 - SCHOOL UPDATE**

#### **Teacher Report – Tess Cossey (Grade 4 teacher)**

Kindergarten students are learning their simple three sounds using jolly phonics. They are using Rekenrek for Math and they are creating leprechaun art in Art.

First Grade students are participating in the Active School Challenge where they stay active for 30 minutes per day for two weeks. At the end of the challenge, they are entered into a contest. They are doing activities like Zumba, basketball and Yoga to keep active.

Second Grade students just finished their virtual field trip to Iqaluit. During their unit on Iqaluit, they were able to make their own soapstone carving. They are also enjoying Hot and Cold unit in Science.

Third Grade students are on the math unit, Measurement and Building unit in Science. They also began a new novel study of the book, Frindle.

Fourth Grade students began a new novel study of the book, Poppy. They also created a new game which they named, Yeetball. In Math, they are learning fractions and decimals.

Fifth Grade Students are reading and citing evidence in Language Arts. They are also very excited about basketball.

Sixth Grade Students are learning about Provincial Government in Social Studies and learning about Ancient Athens. They are also excited about basketball.

Seven Grade students are learning about the Canadian Confederation. They just had an in-school presentation, Scientist in School. They are excited for the extracurricular activities to begin.

Eighth Grade Students are using what they learned in building mechanical systems to build their own leprechaun traps.

### **Administration Report – Ed Kucy**

- Due to the easing of AHS guidelines, students may now have recess all at the same time but have to maintain zones.
- Lockers for the older students (grade 5-8) are coming in April. While using the lockers, they will have to maintain 6 feet spacing.
- Extra-curricular activities have resumed like Fine Arts-Auditions began for a musical performance. Basketball has also begun. Ms. Sarnecki and Mr. Kucy are coaching basketball. It will be skill development and nine participants per one-half side of the gym. These two activities will run for six weeks and then different activities will begin.
- EICS Survey results are in. Staff will review the results as a team and prepare a plan. Need parent volunteers to take a look at the plan and offer feedback. Anyone interested can let Ed or Kristine know. Parent requirement to take a look approximately in April. (Andrea Minarchi, Lori Taylor, Tammy Bilodeau, Angelina McLaughlin and Catherine Cake volunteer.)
- Existing plan is somewhat looked at while making the plan such as detecting if milestones were met from last year's plan.
- What new strategies and goals can be implemented into the plan?
- Last year's plan can be viewed on HR website – About Us – School Assurance Plans
- Alberta Education will be asking for a further survey to be completed by grades 4-8.

### **Trustee Report – Ted Paszek**

- EICS board meeting on February 24, 2021. Passed calendar for 2021-2022 school year for Sherwood Park, Fort Saskatchewan and Vegreville. Camrose calendar pending.
- Been advised Provincial Government funding will not be less than this year. An amount is to be returned for PUF funding but too early to tell how it will impact EICS.
- The impact of the budget to be discussed at next EICS meeting.
- Good news – A new Catholic High School has been awarded to Camrose.
- GRACE Committee is having a contest to share information on what is good about attending Catholic education.

End of Report

### **Discussion – Planning for Next Year**

- Funding for school is based on projection not necessarily actual
- How to get more registrations at Holy Redeemer?
- Spread the word we are known to be a warm, caring, loving safe place.
- Virtual Nature Kindergarten and Kindergarten Open House to spread word in community.
- Concerns grade six is where we lose some students. Staff will work on strategies to promote the positive aspects of our school. Staff and parents to echo those opportunities.
- Possibility of a brochure to let people know about our opportunities
- New outdoor signage to spread the word about our school
- Ed and Kristine to check out video for Holy Spirit/EPK Open House
- Is there a possibility to buddy up with other schools to accommodate additional options? Transportation an issue and loss of instructional time an issue.
- Parents concerned about accessibility to variety of options. It is as though parents are basing their decisions on where to send their children based on options not academics.
- Parents choose our school for a family atmosphere. Teachers loving the kids first.
- Parents feel a disconnect to the school specifically Kinders going into grade 1 and this year because parents not allowed in school. Will look into providing a virtual open house.
- We may need to think outside the box and expand learning. Maybe extending the Nature Program to an outdoor education program for the older students. Jessica Koehli has information on an agriculture program with Round Hill as a possibility within the outdoor education program.

- Andrea Minarchi followed up on the Student Engagement Program forwarded by the teacher at Edmonton Catholic. Is any teacher interested in the program or could provide feedback? Ed will look into it and provide information to Andrea.

### **PART 3 – PARENT COUNCIL-PROJECTS:**

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- No change in report. Current amount \$49,690.08
- Waiting on Lexia's invoice. Ed is working with Lexia representative to obtain.
- Shelley still waiting for annual returns

#### **PAC PROJECTS**

- a) How do we get more parents involved and ease the feeling of disconnect?  
Posting lots of pictures/videos on Facebook page.
  - Maybe teachers could get access to Facebook page and can post photos/videos?
  - Maybe a youtube video highlighting a grade per week?
- b) Fundraising Options:
  - Fundraising set aside for this year
  - Set a target for fundraising this year in preparation for next year
  - Read-a-thon still being looked at. Lori Taylor getting information. School librarian, Tracey Skoggins agreed to be liaison for the Read-a-thon.
- c) PAC funded projects
  - Teacher wish list – any funding provided by PAC should stay at the school
- d) Yearbook:
  - 2019-2020 – Angela Morin still has extra yearbooks available for purchase
  - 2020-2021 (current year). Need parent volunteer to put together the yearbook. Angela Morin can show volunteer how to use yearbook program. We would like to have orders in by the end of this year.
  - Students on yearbook committee? A possibility but still need an adult to oversee. Kristine WD will inquire.

- e) Grade 8 Farewell – Angela M. and Laura L. planning. We would like to gather kindergarten photos of students. We will let Kristine know. Would be nice to have a something digital to show parents and grandparents. Ed indicates if we want to put up grad wall we could get into school after hours.
  
- f) ASCA Annual General Meeting April 23-25  
Andrea Minarchi can attend some sessions. Laura Lee can attend some. Will discuss by email.

Adjournment:

Next meeting: April 20, 2021

End: 8:08 p.m.