

Minutes from Parent Council Meeting held January 18, 2022

PART 1 – WELCOME, PRAYER AND APPROVAL

Call to Order: 6:32 p.m.

Attendance:

Rachel McMaster, Tess Cossey, Jess Koehli, Christina Likely, Ed Kucy, John O'Neill, Catherine Cake, Kristine Willis-Dengler, Jenna Bracken, Brittany Faux, Andrea Bohn, Lauren Unrau, Laura Lee

Opening Prayer – Kristine Willis-Dengler

Treaty Acknowledgment – Ed Kucy

Introductions

Approval of November 18, 2021 Minutes –Approved by Laura Lee/2nd by Jess Koehli

Approval of January 18, 2022, Agenda – approved by Andrea Bohn/2nd by Christina Likely

PART 2 - SCHOOL UPDATE:

Jenna Bracken – Mental Health Capacity Builder

Jenna Bracken is a Mental Health Capacity Builder from Strathcona County. She is teaching the students about mental health. Programs being provided are Comoji for the grades kinder to three. She is teaching the students emotional literacy and how to rely on non-verbal feelings beyond the common happy, sad and mad. Mind Up is the program being provided to grade four to six. It focuses on mindfulness, physiological responses such as three parts of the brain (fight, flight or freeze). For the grades seven and eights. Mental Health Literacy which focuses on maintaining mental health, mental illness and how to decrease the stigma associated with mental illness (ex. Language use)

Jenna Bracken indicates the Strathcona Programming Guide is out for Winter 2022. Check it out.

Tess Cossey – Teacher Report

Grade one students are learning all about penguins through research, writing and crafts. They will have a black and white day at the end of the penguin unit. They are also participating in skating on three Tuesdays this month. Thank you to the Boys and Girls Club who provides the 25 passenger bus for free to transport the students to Ardrossan

Recreation for skating. Also, thank you to parent volunteers for helping with the skating program. They will also have a movie and enjoy popcorn on Thursday as their class raised the most money for the school's fundraiser for Laurana Shelter prior to Christmas.

Grade 2 students welcomed their new teacher, Mr. Bennett. They are also enjoying ice skating. In Science, they are learning about liquids. In Social, they are learning about Iqaluit and data analysis in Math. In L.A., they wrote a story including instructions on how to build a snowman and then used those instructions to build snowmen outside.

Grade 3 students dived into Robots, Rocks and Peru. They are doing a novel study on the book Wild Robot. In Science, they are learning all about rocks and had an in-class field trip with Telus World of Science. In Social, they are learning about Peru.

Grade 4 students are working on earning composting badges and learning about recycling. They began a new book, The Great Moon. They are practicing handwriting. In math, they are learning multiplication and division and in religion they are learning about the sacraments.

Grade 5 students began their unit on chemistry. In L.A., they began the novel study, Harry Potter. In Social, they are studying regions of Canada and in math working on patterns.

Grade 7 students began their novel study on the book, The Outsiders and studying for mid-terms.

Grade 8 students also began their novel study on the book, The Outsiders. In Social, they are making trading cards for the Renaissance Period and are also studying for mid-terms.

Administration Report – Ed Kucy

- School is still waiting for masks and rapid tests. Ed is following up everyday. He acknowledges we are at the last end of receiving them. It is set out that each student receives two sets of tests and 20 masks but he is aware that at other schools have not received the full 20 masks/student and two sets of tests per student.

Question from parent John O'Neill: How long with the masking last?

Ed Kucy says he does not know a solid date but we must follow government mandate.

- School's website updated – more colourful and user friendly
- February 7th is the Nature Kindergarten Virtual Open House. Stephanie Spilchak and Jessica Koehli making video to show program.
- February 9th is Kindergarten Virtual Open House

- Registration for Kindergarten begins February 1st.
- Ed indicates he has received parent questions regarding Boys and Girls Club openings for registration. Holy Redeemer families have the first opportunity to register up to a certain date. After that date, programs are open to the public. If Holy Redeemer families decide to register after that date, Boys and Girls Club may be full.
- Report cards become available February 4th
- School purchased items supporting Assurance Plan which can be discussed later in meeting

Kristine Willis-Dengler announces she will no longer be at our school after February 1st. She will begin the position of Principal at St. John the 23rd in Fort Saskatchewan. Ed indicates Kristine has been instrumental in the initiatives for the school. She will be missed.

PART 3 – PARENT COUNCIL-PROJECTS:

a) Treasurer's Report – Lauren Unrau:

Current Balance: \$43,184.00

Raised: \$1600 with Fundscrip, \$945 with Purdy's, \$500 donation from Andrea's employer Capital Power and \$265 through hot lunch.

Allocation of Funds - School requests:

- i) Ipads - School purchased ipads (6) for the amount of \$2,518.75. Kindergarten to grade 3 use the ipads. Grades 4-8 bring own devices.
- ii) Recess sport equipment from Sports Factor. Sports equipment that can be brought outside which is colour coded and a colour will be assigned to each grade. It has not been purchased yet. Approximate cost is \$400 - \$500.
- iii) Artist in Residency (retroactive). It was a virtual program last year that took place for all grades. Government grant covered a portion of the program but school paid approximately \$5000 to cover the rest of the cost. We discussed in December's meeting how it was unclear whether previous PAC agreed to pay for the approximate \$5000 balance. Andrea Minarchi checked previous PAC's minutes and information was vague and not clear on whether previous PAC agreed.
- iv) Lapel microphone system – lapel could be used for recorded drama productions, guest speakers or when Father comes for Mass for improved

sound quality. Ed ordered on sale item on Amazon. Approximate cost \$500.00

Catherine Cake addresses the Artist in Residency payment request. Previous PAC minutes indicate that in the 2018-2019 school year band equipment was sold for approximately \$5,500.00 and it was agreed that the money earned from the sale of that equipment be returned to Fine Arts.

Catherine Cake brings a motion:

The amount of \$5,500.00 from the sale of the band equipment from 2018-2019 school year be put towards the amount paid by the school for the Artist in Residency Program last year.

**Andrea Bohn seconds the motion.
Several attendees in favour. Motion Passed**

Catherine Cake discusses that PAC would like money raised in the school year be used within that school year but also wants the opportunity to work towards bigger projects.

Rachel McMaster suggests an outdoor classroom for a bigger project. That would take years to complete but could be used for years to come.

Rachel McMaster also suggests that she would like to see the sensory pathways expanded towards the grades 5-8 hallway. A great tool to regulate themselves.

Catherine Cake sends a thank you out to all the families that supported the PAC fundraisers.

Brittany Faux suggests money raised could be allocated by setting out percentages to be spent in certain areas each year and possibly a percentage to be kept to be put towards a larger goal.

Question: Could we do raffles including hockey tickets?

Ed states that we have to be careful with certain fundraisers due to Alberta Liquor and Gaming. Ed welcomes each suggestion and they will be looked at individually.

Question: What is the average amount fundraised by PAC.

Catherine indicates not many of us have been on the board for a long period of time so it is difficult to suggest a number.

It was also suggested that we could observe the fundraising this year and make categories for percentages the following year.

Question: Can we receive charitable donations and provide taxable receipt.

Discussion: A PAC council can apply for charitable status for corporations to receive a tax receipt.

Andrea Bohn indicates it would be nice for parents to see a picture of what PAC is trying to raise money for. It is nice to get immediate or quick feedback after a fundraiser is held.

Andrea Bohn brings a motion to support Holy Redeemer purchase of recess sports equipment for each classroom for the amount of \$500.00

Motion is seconded by John O'Neill.

All in favour. Motion approved.

b) Fundraising:

Read-a-thon – Ed indicates that Mrs. Scoggins has a plan for the read-a-thon and is not sure she will need parent assistance as a fundraiser. The parents will encourage reading at home but staff will be organizing from the school. The read-a-thon was looked at as a parent fundraiser v. teacher fundraiser and it makes more sense to run it as a teacher fundraiser and the money raised will go back to the library.

Catherine Cake indicates that because last year's PAC vice chair researched the read-a-thon fundraiser and brought this idea forward it would be nice if it was recognized as a PAC initiative.

c) Yearbook – Jess Koehli left meeting. Catherine Cake will reach out to Jess Koehli for an update.

d) Hot Lunch – Laura indicates hot lunch going well. Parent feedback is welcomed. We receive a coupon for a free 8' ice cream cake from the DQ in North Edmonton each time Holy Redeemer orders a hot lunch. We could save the coupons until the end of the year have an ice cream day summer play day outside or give them to spin to win. Lauren asks whether the coupons could be traded for dilly bars for the ice cream fun day so it wouldn't be so messy for teachers and volunteers. Laura will check with DQ about the dilly bars.

Catherine Cake makes a motion for PAC to approve the extra amount of \$27.00 spent by Andrea Minarchi for the teacher appreciation gift baskets approved in December.

Seconded by Andrea Bohn

All in favour. Motion approved.

Next meeting is scheduled February 15. Next CPAC meeting January 20.
Thank you to all parents who attended

End: 8:06 p.m.