

Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary School Council Agenda and Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 10, 2021 – 7:15 p.m.

Via Google Meet

Present: Jim Seutter, Leah Schmidt, Heidi Peters, Kimberly and Jeremy Teeuwesen, Devon Marshall, Elaine Reed, Aileen Bozic, Gillian Orquia, Heather Lewis, Leah Unrau, Darlene Janzen, Jaime Peters, Francis Poole, Janet Vader and Jeff Schellenberg.

Devotional: Heidi Peters

Previous Minutes: Leah Unrau

Reporting:

Chair

• **Approval of Minutes** - Gillian and seconded by Leah U

• **Budget/Accounting – Leah Schmidt**

- Currently at \$16,124.31 with 2 outstanding cheques to be cashed for \$3,308.42
- We have \$3031.86 in our Care and Compassion fund
- Outstanding spring 2020 covid hot lunch balance is \$1,970.00. Last hot lunch cost about \$2000 for reimbursement.
- We have approx \$4914.00 remaining in our council budget for accessible funds.

• **COSC – Devon Marshall**

- We are hoping to return as normal as possible in September. We will need to be intentional with what we bring back because of both funding and AHS guidelines.
- \$130 million covid mitigation. There will be a budget meeting in May
- Technology Fee- Conversations are starting and are ongoing. We are using more and more technology in our schools and the boards are struggling with this. Do we do BYOD or do a tech fee?
- Evergreen fund stopped to get money. \$444,000 due to budget cutbacks.
- Covid update- Overall cases are going down. Only 4 new cases. (3 @ BF and 1 @SH. Only 1 is the new variant) There is no easing on restrictions but libraries are opening and hot lunch is happening in schools where there is enough man power.
- Quarter and final exams- Everyone will be writing exams
- Sports - in support of outside sports if AHS allows but not in our schools for spring

• **EIPS Trustee Report – Trustee Seutter**

- Big news is the Provincial Education 2021-22 Budget Overall the same level of funding for education 8.3 Billion
- No decrease in funding despite drop WMA enrollment PUF funding renewed and busing grants remain the same
- No 6.1M federal money and standard salary costs are up
- “Funding Letter” from Ab .Ed. comes at the end of

March.

- Allocations approved and sent to schools on April 22
- Budget submitted to Ab. Ed. by May 31
- Capital Projects at Sh. Hts. & Ft. Sask. waiting approval
- Technology Fees under discussion by trustees
- New K-4 Digital Curriculum still waiting for development
- COVID-19 cases in school are trending down but still no teams or field trips or changes to safety procedures

• **Society - (Jeff Schellenberg & Jeremy Teeuwesen)**

- Aug 5th- working towards changes for next year.
- Network upgrading will take place this summer
- North Gym contract is being worked on and is to be completed by Sept. 2021
- Access controls in also being worked on

• **Fee Meeting Debrief**

- Church is very responsive and moving forward to maintain and make changes to address concerns
- This will be done to make an agreement that has guidelines and guardrails in place to address concerns.
- 5 areas of focus:
 1. Parent fees: Revenue = Cost of programming
 2. Revenue collected in the most tax efficient way possible
 3. Providers of funding (SCA Society) via parents. So society can participate in how funds are spent
 4. Key items get independent review
 5. Enhanced communication
- There IS going to be negotiation moving forward. It will be measurable in months, and positive changes for many years and parents to come.
- March 23rd is a scheduled meeting and

progress is happening.

- We need to continue to encourage parents to support and pay fees and know that positive change is in the horizon
- The \$200,000 surplus works out to be about \$170/student

Information Items:

1) Principal's Report (Mr. Poole)

• COVID-19 Update

- Very thankful there are zero cases, parents and families are being careful
- We still aren't sure what things will look like in the fall. Likely still masks and maybe field trips?

• 3 Year Plan: Reading/Math/School

Culture

- Reading and math continue to be strong. School culture is being nurtured through things such as hoodies and the school playground.

• Hot Lunch/Chip Day/Library

- Back up and running
- Hot lunch was well received. Parents needed to get used to ordering for each month individually. (Prior to Covid, parents would typically order hot lunch for a few months at a time)
- Library is back up and running. Mrs. Welinga has gone ABOVE and BEYOND!

• Re-registration

- This is up and moving along but not quite fully complete.
- Currently for next year, there are 6-7 spots still empty for kinder which isn't typical. But, an overwhelming amount are already registered for the following year. It could be partially covid but also a rare sibling gap that will be made up the following year.

• Traffic Safety/Bus Cancellation Loop

Update

- We survived a week of -35, no busses, indoor recess all while managing covid. Well done everyone!
- We had help from the RCMP directing traffic
- If busses are cancelled in the future, we can call the detachment office the day before and they will send out an officer to help with traffic.
- We are currently in touch with the county.
- Fairly quickly, they will be putting up those bumpy pylons to keep traffic

entering the loop from floating too far out left and restricting the visibility of traffic leaving the loop.

- We are going to begin a traffic study to figure out the best possible solution for traffic turning out of the loop.
 - The cost of the study is \$18,000. The financials of this were discussed. If funding wasn't fast it could be put in que and NOT even considered until next year.
 - Mr. Poole wanted this study started asap so a solution for the safety of parents could be figured out ASAP, and even in place before or during the next school year.
 - We discussed after Nov. break the possibility of sending out a reminder to keep your kids dressed appropriately and a video of the loop flow. A "Dress and drive" reminder.
 - Also, on bus cancellation days, the school doors will be open about 10 minutes earlier than normal to help with the flow and congestion of the loop.
- ##### **• Parent/Teacher Interviews**
- We had really good support and feedback on this.
 - We plan to do the same thing for the upcoming interviews.

Action Items:

1) Playground Update – Jaime/Heidi/Kim

- Contracts are all signed
- Deposit cheque is being processed.
- They will break ground on July 5th, 2021
- Invoice for the grant proposal is paid for.
- % of the consulting fee was covered for us.
- We haven't heard about the grant yet, but we will be in touch soon and should hear the final result in June.

2) Parent Ambassador – Raelyn Mellick

- No new update
- Families and parents will be called starting next week

3) Hospitality Ambassador – Aileen Bozic

- We now need approval prior to.
- We must let them know who we are helping out and what we plan to bless them with to be sure it meets all criteria.

•Bus Driver Appreciation

- We will plan to give all the bus drivers a \$10 GC as a thank you

4) Bylaw Update – Devon Marshall

- Please refer to the bylaw document sent out by devon for references.

- She reviewed the document with us and outlined the main focus areas.
- We added that we would be in communication with the municipal gov't on 4F.
- School council's format, roles and nomination process may change.
- It was proposed that we have 9 parents to help with governance who are elected at the AGM. Any new members would be voted in.
- 4 members would include: chair, vice chair, treasurer and secretary. Then there would be 5 members at large.
- Ideas discussed were: who we might give priority to, perhaps parents who haven't served, or having a variety of parents across the grades, or one spot for each grade.
- Mr. Poole cautioned us on being too specific or selective. He didn't want us to put ourselves into a position where we couldn't add a committed parent due to restrictions we put on ourselves
- We need to invite and encourage any parents who have interest and potential to join
- We will promote this and the soon to be approved changes (after a little more discussion) on the facebook page in May.

5) Facebook Update – Sarah Dyck

- No update from Sarah this month

6) Hoodies – Shannon Anderson/Jaime Peters

- We ran out of time and decided to discuss this at another meeting.

7) Council Membership – Devon Marshall

- There will be council membership turnover at the end of this year. It was proposed that we grandfather the existing current members in. There will be 9 remaining, which works with our current proposed structure. But we also discussed ways in which we could make the council more open and welcoming for new members/parents. We don't want to tell parents we want more membership and to join when we don't have spots.
- We talked about being TRANSPARENT and giving parents the ability to JOIN any meetings if they would like.
- Keeping parents in the loop and inviting them to join all the meetings is a huge step in the direction we want to move towards.

8) ASCA Resolutions & Voting – Devon Marshall

- This will be discussed at another meeting.

9) Bible Memory – Big 5

- Gillian volunteered

Next Meeting: May.12, 2021

Devotional: Kim Teeuwsen

A few notes:

*There will also be a new scheduled meeting to finish discussing points from this evening's

agenda. Date and time TBD

*From our excellent devotional we have been challenged to be bucket fillers this next month

*On March 17th, please join in on the secondary meeting for ASCA resolutions. Come prepared with your top 3 points of discussion.