

Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary School Council Agenda and Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Via Google Meet

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

Devotional: Leah Unrau

Previous Minutes: Leah Unrau

Reporting:

Chair

• **Approval of Minutes** -Approved by Elaine. Seconded by Heather.

• **Budget/Accounting – Leah Schmidt** We currently have \$14,289 in our account less the care and compassion fund putting us at \$10,357.

• **COSC Shared by Devon Marshall**

- 2021/2022 Calendar approved.
- Honors Program for Grades 8-9 approved to be at Ardrossan, FRH & Heights
- No PATs
- Re-registration for schools is in February
- Nominations for Trustees opening soon
- Feedback from online learning:
 - Hard for families with working parents.
 - Much better than the spring
 - Transition was smoother due to amount of time teachers prepping kids on Brightspace and having a heads up this time, ie. Info and chrome books were sent home prior to going online
- ATA rep mentioned they were disappointed in lack of support from the government. With online learning, assuming that everyone has access to a device, this is not true; access to chrome books at the school level was discussed.
- ASCA Report - Grant funding cut by 70%
- Saffron has created our next Cyber Second to distribute to our families
- First Nation, Metis & Inuit Programming 2021-
- Introduced themselves and their roles at EIPS
- 2 outcomes of Indian Residential Schools: 1.

- Truth & Reconciliation Commission 2. 94 Calls to Action
- So thankful to EIPS for recognizing the value and importance of this; leading in the province. They work with lead teachers from each school to help carry the work forward and bring it to life in all our schools (Book: A Knock on the Door)
- Also offering sessions virtually to parents/caregivers/anyone that would like to attend: Jan. 26 at 7:00-7:30PM (Why Self Identify?)
Feb. 2 at 7:00-7:30PM (Introduction)
Feb. 23 at 7:00-7:30PM (Terminology)
Mar. 16 at 7:00-7:30PM (Indigenous Languages)
Goal is to start the conversations and for parents to learn the history our children will be learning
- COVID Update:
 - 0 active cases
 - 117 cases to date, 117 recovered
 - 39/43 schools have had cases
 - SCAEs outbreak ends January 8th
 - No school transmissions according to AHS

• **EIPS Trustee Report -**

- Results Reviews for Schools and Central Office completed
- 2019-20 Audited Financial Statements approved
- EIPS Fall Budget for 2020-21 Approved- \$201 million
- Annual Education Results Report 2019-20 completed- (66 pages)
- System Junior High Honors Program approved
- PATS cancelled for EIPS students 2020-21
- Coming October 18 Trustee election- Division Calendar 2021-22 changed PD Day Oct. 8 to 18
- Returning Student 2021-22 Registration happens February 1-28

Information Items:

1) Principal's Report

- **COVID-19 Update** We had 16 cases from the end of Nov. to Dec. We had up to 14 staff out at once. The health inspector came to visit the school and went through questions and made some recommendations.
- **School Education Plan Update** We changed and updated the 3rd goal due to covid.. It is now posted on the schools website.
- **Hot Lunch/Chip Day** We are thankful for the parents who took this on to allow students to have their hot lunch day. The kids were really excited and it brought joy to the school.
- **Brightspace** Is the new platform which was used for a few days when the entire school was online. This went well other than a few technical and internet issues which have been resolved.
- **Re-registration** This starts Feb 1. Kindergarten interviews have begun. We are down 40 kids due to homeschooling. We are thankful that the federal funding kicked in and helped with those numbers at the beginning of the year due to covid.
- **PAT's** No grade 6 PATs
- **Parent/Teacher Interviews** Teachers really liked it. They liked the opportunity to be able to be virtually face to face in the midst of the pandemic.
- **FMNI** There will be a blurb about this and what was mentioned in the report from Devon (above) in the school newsletter. The blanket exercise, lead by Mrs.Vader, will still continue this year. Teachers are just figuring out the logistics this year to follow covid protocol.

2) Society Update

- **Finances (fees)** We have had a very successful discussion with EIPS / Mark Liquori and a finalized communication on fees will be going out at the end of the month. The communication will be reviewed with the Chairs of the School Councils before the end of the month. The SCA Society Treasure (Jeff Schellenberg) will attend the February School Council meeting to answer any questions.
- **SCA spiritual success factor** This document highlighted things that attribute to measuring the spiritual success of the school. Some things the students experience are daily devotionals in each class, having a minimum of 10 chapels each

year. The staff do things such as daily devotions and are provided with spiritual support. The parents are to fill out a family commitment form and pay fees for the alternative christian programming.

One comment mentioned was to see if we can figure out how many parents are alumni as to see if this something worth including in this document.

Action Items:

1) Playground Update – Jaime/Heidi/Kim

We are moving ahead with this in full steam. The grant funding decision will be made in June. We can contact Nate Glubish later on to inquire where the application is at. This project was initiated by parent council.

The expansion is a grand total of \$250,000. We hope to receive \$50 000 for the grant and the remaining \$200 000 is from years of payment. Even if we don't get the grant funding, we have surplus paid by parents and the hole will be dug July 5th. Heidi will send out the grant application and we can read through all of the letters and see the document that was submitted.

2) Parent Ambassador – Raelyn Mellick -

We will plan to do another check in with parents soon.

3) Hospitality Ambassador – Aileen Bozic

The Theissen family (parents Brian and Angie) have a son named Adam who is in need of a heart transplant. He is high up in priority and we need to be ready to support them when the moment comes. They may have as little as 4 hours notice. We need to keep this family in our prayers. Between Elaine, Devon and Aileen, they will be sure to make a phone call and check in on the family.

4) Bylaws – Devon Marshall

As Devon and the committee begin to work on these, please take time to answer the questions that Devon has emailed out to us all. This will be helpful as we begin to make thoughtful bylaw changes.

5) Facebook Update – Sarah Dyck Over the christmas break the facebook page was used a fair amount. A feel good was that all the non homeroom staff such as custodians and bus drivers, who don't typically get gifts, were blessed by the parents on the page. These gifts were well received.

6) Hoodies – Shannon Anderson/Jaime Peters Hoodies were a huge Success. There has been interest for more and on Feb. 2nd there will be another in person ordering night. This info. will

be rolled out in the next school newsletter, facebook page and possibly Mr. Poole's video announcement. We sold 302 hoodies in total and our goal was 100. We made \$414.50 from the hoodies to go back into council funds.

7) Council Membership Please let Devon or Mr. Pool know if you know of anyone who is interested in joining council. We will have quite a few members who are either moving on to the next school or terms are up. We would love to have a few new members. We will also need a new treasurer and Leah would love to walk along side them next year and support them as a training year before she is done as well.

8) Gift Policy Devon motioned, Heidi seconded and all approved in favor of the new gift policy. This policy was emailed out to all council members prior to the meeting for review.. It was created to be able to show appreciation and to be sure we are consistent over the years.

9) Literacy Advent Debrief This went ok for our first go. We had about 13 families participate and a family was awarded a prize. We will plan to do this again next year and plan ahead to roll it out in advance. The teacher photos were a hit and we talked about next year perhaps partnering with Mrs. Welinga and getting more creative to get the word out.

10) Teacher Blessings We will continue to dialogue about different ways we can bless the teachers each month. We talked about doing a custom drink for teachers. Please share your ideas with Devon and council via email.

Closing Next meeting - Wed., March 10