

## **SCA Elementary School Council Meeting**

**October 16, 2024 7:15pm**

**In Person (Art/Science Room)**

**OUR MISSION: To invite students, through Christ-centered education. To know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, in order to pursue a life of godly character in service to others and achieve their academic potential.**

**Attendance:** Jonathan Elzinga, Jaime Peters, Jon Alstad, Erin Tomkins, Lindsey Heerema, Chris Little, Chris Hammond, Kevin Semenjuk, Leisa Crocq, Maira Quintanilha, Chris Perreault, Kelly Tebay, Melissa Seglie, Jen Reirson, Leah Unrau, Laura Volkman, Janet Vader, Cathy Allen, Teresa Tessier, Nate Peters.

- 1. Welcome – Lindsey Heerema**
- 2. Introductions – Everyone**
- 3. Devotional and prayer – Chris Hammond**
  - **Numbers 14:9 Following your Faith and Not Your Fear**
  - You block your dream when you allow your fear to grow bigger than your faith.  
Happened to the Israelites.
  - God has never failed to keep his promises. Not one word of all his good promise.
  - Prayer - Proverbs 3:5-6

### **Reporting**

- 4. Approval of Agenda – Added Hot drink delivery - Motion, Seconded, All approved**
- 5. Approval of Minutes of September 13, 2024**

Motion, Seconded, All Approved.
- 6. Budget/Accounting – Kevin**
  - \$1,200 of expenses this last month.
  - \$4,985 in the bank account.
  - Source of revenue is from Chip Day and Hot Lunch

7. **COSC** – October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting Lindsey and Mr. Elzinga attended. Presentation from Alberta School Council Association. Elected council positions for the year and had a trustee update. Next meeting November 6<sup>th</sup> and Leah Unrau may attend as well.

8. **EIPS Trustee Report – Trustee Cathy Allen**

- New committee of Governance. Will re-evaluate in June. Pilot program.
- New Superintendent to be elected this year.
- New trustees next year. October 2025 Election.
- New election process depending on what happens to Bill 20.
- Discussion around cell phone usage, more operational/administrative than governance.
- No approval for a new school this year for EIPS.
- Fill out the survey for the school calendar – data shows that when teachers have on going professional learning time and opportunity for collaboration with teachers and administration, their efficacy improves and therefore so does student learning. Closes Monday, October 21, 2024. Comes to public board in December for a decision.
- Read Program – Grade 2 pilot project funded out of leveraged student achievement fund. Two rural schools and five elementary in fort Saskatchewan who participated. Intensive intervention and data was amazing showing growth and success. If you can read at grade 3 level in grade 3 strong correlation of grade 12 graduating. Now being funded in public schools as a regular program. Win!
- Junior high funding for four schools struggling in literacy and numeracy last year. Data was great but no funding to continue carrying this on. But teachers learned great strategies to implement.
- Name that School – Provide your suggestions asap.
- Lindsey added we have an engagement grant of \$550 that we will determine how to spend.

9. **Society Report**

- Nate Peters, 1999 Alumni graduate.
- Presentation plan for this year:
  - October – Alternative program Agreement and 2024/25 Board priorities
  - November – Financials Part 1 (costs, Benchmarks, 24/25 budget)

- January – Financial Part 2 (23/24 Audits, 24/25 Budget Updates, 25/26 Fee Setting)
  - March – 25/26 Ministry Plan
  - May – 24/25 Program Review
- Agreement with EIPS signed until 2030 and we are very proud of this long partnership.
  - Third year in a row of record enrollment.
  - Spiritual Outcomes – work with ACSI expertise for next steps in evaluation.
  - Continuity – passing on knowledge we’ve gained over past five years. Are we appropriately staffed for our short and long term goals? A lot of work handled by volunteers and may deter potential board directors. – Being led by Steve Mebs.
  - Mr. Elzinga thanked Nate and the board for the work that they do.

**Information Items:**

**10. Principal’s Report – Mr. Elzinga**

- Terry Fox - \$1,921.25 raised. Weather cooperated.
- Intramurals – girls on Monday and Wednesdays. Boys will begin in new year.
- Hats for Missions – last day that Leo and Hessa will be here. Wear a hat and bring a toonie.
- **Q&A with Leo and Hesse regarding the orphanage**
- What does the orphanage do? Mission in Baja California. School, shelter and daycare. Children come from the government, through social services so we can be the guardians of them. The daycare is for the field workers’ kids. And the schools is for our children and staff children and some will come from town with special needs that we can educate. Very different school than others in Mexico. Because every single teacher will do all pieces of education needed, all roles. 90% of our kids have come from a trauma background. Every single teacher has been trained in psychology of how to help the kids. We try to have our classroom capacity at 10 maximum so the teacher will have personalized attention for every single child. Staff and volunteers will be from Mexico, United States, Canada, and South America. We have a rehab centre. And a half way program for those out of rehab centre. We have

a girls children's home. Apartments for children that have completed high school and go to university, it allows to live in a safe, supervised area.

- Roles –Last year Leo was the principal of the school and now he is the assistant director of the whole foundation. He is the operation director but when the director is not there he is in charge. Talks with everyone and worries about every single thing. Hesse is the guest relations co-ordinator. For any visitors to the grounds, he plans and organizes their activities.
- Challenges – Helping children to be better prepared for integration to society and in a better position than when they joined them. Showing the children how they can see God as real and tangible in their lives. Healing the children's hearts. For adults, different challenges, different cultures, different ways of working. How can every single person find their own spot in the foundation. Some don't know how to speak Spanish. Some can't speak English. Their mechanic is a former student from SCA.
- Difficult times financially for the foundation. They rely heavily on the U.S.. Some months its difficult to maintain payroll for every staff member. God has and is performing miracles for them. They want to take care of every aspect of the child's well being, food, clothing, medical, education. Please keep praying things will become better next year.
- What do you love about the foundation? Leo never thought he'd be in a place like this, live in a city, have good jobs for him and his wife. They attended the church for many years, one trip God spoke to their lives to leave everything behind and go to the orphanage, they knew God wanted them there. When you see a child arrive that the government has taken from their home, they become themselves and you see them change in a few days and you know in your heart this is worth it. All we do is for the kids to have a better life. That is better payment than anything. Jesus said love the Lord with all your heart and love your neighbor.
- Please pray for the budget and sustainability and for the spiritual life of every single child.
- South Mexico can be very dark and kids will come with deep wounds and memories. They see the spiritual struggle inside the children. They will ask you how can I believe in God when all this has already happened to me? They pray and ask us to pray that all hearts will be healed and all children will encounter God.

- Chris Hammond prayed for Leo and Hesse.
- Presentations will begin tomorrow in classes.
- Esmeralda sends greetings.
- Thank you from the whole foundation for all you've done for the kids and school. It is meaningful. One of the best schools in town. You gave us the lab room, the music room, the soccer field. And the computers for the teachers that just arrived. You bless the kids.
- School council provided a baby gift for Leo and Esmerelda's baby boy due in March.

#### **11. Assistant Principal's Report - Mrs. Peters**

- Kindergarten Muffins with Mom. Rebranded from Mom's coffee. October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Healthy Hunger – First lunch is October 18<sup>th</sup>. Still open to order for the whole year.
- Picture day – class photos and retakes tomorrow, October 17, 2024.

#### **12. Assistant Principal's Report – Mr. Alstad**

- character day last week.
- Grade 1 Literacy night went great.

#### **13. Counsellor's Report - Mrs. Tomkins**

- New student Pizza lunch was September 18<sup>th</sup> - Huge success and really positive.

#### **14. FNMI Report – Mrs. Vader**

- September 27<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Orange Shirt Day
- Grade 4's decorated hearts and put them in front of the school. Learned about Residential Schools.
- Grade 1 First Nations Food Tasting is coming up.
- November 1<sup>st</sup> we are taking a group of staff to Shawahnekizhek Academy, a Christian school in Saddle Lake, Alberta that we partner with. If you are interested in visiting the school, let Mrs. Vader know and there will be another trip in the new year/spring.

#### **Action Items**

#### **15. Parent/ Teacher Interview Supper - Laura**

- In the newsletter – please sign up. Will also be in the November Newsletter and posted on the Facebook page

#### **16. Parent/teacher Interviews – December 3 & 5**

- Sign up on line, closer to the date.

**17. ASC Grant - Lindsey**

- Applied for it and we have some left over from last year.

**18. Key Communicator – Sarah – no updates.**

**19. Council Meeting Dates – no changes.**

**20. Hot Drink Delivery**

- November 5<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup>

**21. Bible Memory**

The big 5

Galatians 5:22-23 recited.

**So in everything do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the law and the prophets. Matthew 7:12**

**Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind,” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. Matthew 22:37-40**

**Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19**

**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23**

**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16**

**22. Mr. Elzinga closed in prayer.**