



MINUTES

Blessed Cardinal Newman School Council Meeting

Date: Sept. 21, 2016 - 7:00 pm

Number of Attendees: 29

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Laura Dennison at 7:00pm

1. **Welcome and Prayer:** Chairperson Laura Dennison welcomed everyone. Assistant Principal, Greg Way, lead us in the opening prayer.
2. **Introductions:** All attendees introduced themselves.
3. **Review of Agenda:** The Agenda was emailed out to the school community last week. Everyone here has a copy of the Agenda. Christine Hansen added an item: Parish Report.
4. **Approval of Minutes** of last council meeting (June 1, 2016):
The draft Minutes were emailed out to the school community last week for review. There were no questions or changes requested. Motion to approve the June 1, 2016 School Council Minutes as presented was put forth by Susan Courchesne. Seconded by Liisa Batti. Motion Carried.
5. **Chairperson's Report** - Laura Dennison
 - a. Approval of Secretary

Motion to appoint Leanne Lesniak as council secretary was put forth by Cheryl Schneider, seconded by Pam Myhill. Motion carried.
 - b. Committee Leader Positions

John Van Roessel would like to step back from Naturalization committee. He will help out the person who takes on this role. This role mainly includes looking after flower beds around school - weeding and pruning. Also organizing a committee to gather volunteers a few times a year to weed/prune, etc. Judith Tuck has a lead on a parent who may be interested.

Laura Dennison thanked all of the executive and committee leaders for taking on roles this year.

Tara Ehret is the teacher representative on council this year. Thank you Tara for volunteering to be our representative.

c. Upcoming School Council Meetings (2016/17)

Wednesday, October 19 (Guest Speaker: Laurie Bacon, BCN Guidance Councillor)

Thursday, November 17

Thursday, December 15 (wine and cheese)

Wednesday, February 1

Wednesday, March 22

Thursday, May 4

Thursday, June 15

Laura will invite guest speakers to our meetings – if you have any suggestions please let Laura know.

d. School Council Goals 2016-2017

These goals were e-mailed out to the school community for review and they are available for review on our school website. Everyone here has received a copy of the School Council Goals.

Motion to approve the School Council Goals as presented put forth by Cheryl Schneider, seconded by Robin Meckelborg. Motion carried.

e. School Council Budget

Laura to meet with Sharon Pereira and Tod Desautels to put together draft budget for school council and the Ed Society. The draft budget will be presented at the October council meeting. The Ed Society will spend money raised last year on items for the school; in particular, items for the Learning Commons and technology (iPads and Chrome books). It was asked why the Ed. Society info is not on our school website. Laura will request the information be put up there.

The Education Society is registered charity. It is a non-profit organization where we are able to issue income tax receipts and apply for grants

(which are things that the school council cannot do). This is a separate organization from School Council. The executive of School Council are the members of the Education Society as well as class representatives.

6. Treasurer's Report - Sharon Pereira

- a. School Council current balance: \$12,858.51
- b. Education Society current balance: \$13,121.05

7. Committee Reports

- a. Volunteer Orientation - Laura Dennison

There have been three sessions so far with a great turnout. Still a few more to go. Orientation slides are on the website. Parents wishing to volunteer and have done the "live" orientation before must obtain a form (printed off from the school website) and fill one out after reviewing the orientation slides EACH YEAR and hand the form in to the office.

- b. Naturalization - John van Roessel

John reported that Susan Courchesne organized people to water the new trees over the summer. One tree was ripped out and was replaced. The bin where John keeps the wheelbarrow and hoses was vandalized and so they had to work with caretakers during the summer to do the required maintenance. John will organize a cleanup this fall. An e-mail from the school is to go out to attract volunteers to help with cleanup.

- c. Fun Lunch Program - Sarah Pereira

Sarah sends in regrets for tonight. She sent in her report: In addition to the Little Caesars and Subway lunches, we have added two new restaurants, Wok Box and Pita Pit. The lunches will start on September 30. Reminder to please setup your accounts and submit your orders prior to cutoff, 5 days before the lunch. So far 145 students have registered and on average 70 lunches ordered.

- d. Christmas Market - Tanya Kordikowski and Andrea Sereda

The 23rd annual Christmas Market on Saturday Nov. 19 is 60% sold out (60 tables out of 100). Will be following the same set up as last year - both gyms, ATM on site, people enter from back of school. The hours of the market have been shortened due to caretaker costs. Andrea's doing a lot of advertising and looking to obtain more signage for this year by talking to local print shops. Volunteers will be organized. Leadership students will help out with set up and take down (via Mrs. Brewer). Mrs. Perreault will have choir/hand bells and South city Jazz will be back. Cheryl Schneider is organizing the coffee shop with band students.

e. School Supplies - Kelly Giesbrecht

Kelly sends her regrets. She reports that everything went smoothly.

f. Spirit Wear - Tamara Bezemer

Tamara sends her regrets. She reports a lot of interest during meet the teachers. Baseball style shirts are selling the best. There has been positive feedback about the on-line ordering. Ordering closes on Sept. 30. Items will be delivered to the school on Oct. 24. More details to follow next meeting.

g. Fundraising - Liisa Batti and Lori Ann Bergeron.

There is no difference between ADmazing savings and SUTP (except there is no app) - company name was changed as is under new management. Thus far, numbers sold are a little lower than last year but there is still time left. Tod did remind everyone that we do have less students this year. There will be only 2 fundraisers this year. ADmazing savings and an A-thon in the spring.

h. Parish Liaison - Christine Hansen

Sacrament registration forms went home today with students. The forms need to be returned to the school by Friday. Church times are changing so please check the church website. On Sept 24 there will be a pet blessing. Youth ministry for grades 7-9 will be held from 6:30-8:30 pm in the church basement 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month.

8. Administration's Report: Tod Desautels

a. Staffing Updates and Classroom Organization

Tod reminded us that we are staffed as 3 schools - kindergarten, elementary and junior high. It was projected that we would have 110 kindergarten children (5 classes) but only 43 showed up. This is likely due to the new schools that opened (Catholic and public) and the poor economy which means the city is not growing as fast. As a result there are only 2 kindergarten classes and we lost 1.5 teachers and had to reorganize.

The elementary had more children than projected for so we were allotted another teacher who had to be used as a homeroom teacher to reduce class size. Therefore it was decided to split the 3/4 split class and have a separate grade 3 and another grade 4 class. Junior high numbers were exactly as predicted. We can't control any of this it just happens when the year starts and we see how many children actually show up. We have two class size contingency teachers in elementary and one in junior high.

Staff changes are as follows:

Melissa Thompson went to another school - replaced by Aneta Barciak,
Megan Ferguson to replace Mrs. Briere for her maternity leave,
Miss Krammer is replacing Mrs. Hoffman until she returns,
Miss Sheets is replacing Mrs. Bolt until she returns,
Miss McKinlay is replacing Mrs. Hobart until she returns.

Ms. Ellenton is in grade 4 now and Mrs. Manley is the other grade 3 teacher.

Staffing is set for the year and shouldn't change. Last year we had just under 900 students, this year we have 731 students. Our school isn't capped. We'll take registrations throughout the year.

An e-mail list of all teachers will be posted on the website shortly.

b. School Fees 2016/2017

Last year we collected field trip/special events fees as they took place. This was a lot of work on the accounting side of things, for the office and for the teachers. This year we have gone back to collecting in advance at the beginning of the year. We give each teacher the amount they are allotted and it has to be spent. Parents can call and ask what has been spent on field trips and the fees have to be justified to accounting. If isn't spent for that grade in that year is carried forward for the next grade, next year so the students that paid are benefitting.

Fees can be paid in instalments, etc. Fee inquiries/arrangements can be made in confidence to administrative staff.

Swimming program was cancelled as school can only collect a certain amount of field trip money per year and it costs so much for bussing to swimming that it would go over the maximum amount that is allowed to be collected from parents mandated by district and legislation. Also Canyon Meadows closed down for maintenance.

For people who didn't pay their fees in previous years they are carried over so those outstanding fees will show up in addition to this years' fees. Outstanding transportation fees get sent to collections unless paperwork is done to waive these fees.

c. School within a School Update

So far so good. A little crowded (170ish extra kids). Construction is a little ahead of schedule with Our Lady of the Rosary and should be ready by Christmas. Then we'll have lots of room. Grade 6 will move back to the elementary wing because we need the space for our Jr High classes. Currently we have Jr High classes in the computer lab and art room. Junior high schedule will change after Cranston students leave.

Currently, Our Lady of the Rosary is at 177 students.

d. Boundary discussions

Discussions about the high school boundaries will be starting for the new high school in Legacy around Christmas. Parent input will be welcome. The new high school is scheduled to open in 2018.

9. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was put forth by Pam Myhill. Seconded by Robin Meckelborg. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next School Council Meeting: October 19 at 7:00 pm in the Learning Commons