



# MINUTES

## Blessed Cardinal Newman School Council Meeting

Date: October 19, 2016 - 7:00 pm

Number of Attendees: 25

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Laura Dennison at 7:01pm

1. **Welcome and Prayer:** Chairperson Laura Dennison welcomed everyone. Assistant Principal, Greg Way, led 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. There were no changes.
4. **Guest Speaker:** Laurie Bacon, BCN Guidance Counselor

The guidance counselor is available to students from grades 1 through 9 and is in the school full time. She has met with all the junior high students in groups and has gone into most other classes to make the students aware that she is there for them to talk to and how to meet with her. She has met with some students. Parents can call her to discuss issues with their children but she would prefer that the students seek her out.

Fear, anger and sadness are the most common feeling students struggle with. She has a counsellor first aid kit to make the students feel comfortable. She teaches various techniques for calming and gives them strategies to self-calm. The Community Helpers program is starting up again this year. This involves peer support. They get training through CHS.

She has a large role with Grade 9's transitioning to grade 10. She will be working with them and helping with registrations.

Student can go to her for issues they are facing at home or in the community – anything that will affect them at school. Parents are welcome to come in with their child. It is all

confidential unless there's a threat of them harming themselves or someone else, at this point she must let the administration know.

5. **Approval of Minutes** of last council meeting (Sept. 21, 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 Sept 21, 2016 School Council Minutes as presented was put forth by Kim VanKosh. Seconded by Cheryl Schneider. Motion Carried.

6. **Chairperson's Report** - Laura Dennison

a. **Report:** School Council Chair and Executive Orientation

This was a great way to meet executives from other schools. After listening to comments about other council meetings, it was clear that Blessed Cardinal Newman has a well attended/supported school council and a very involved parent body.

b. Draft 2016-17 Budget

The draft budget was presented and discussed. Discussion about the smart boards: a new version will be placed in Ms. Butler's room and in Home Economics room – these units are portable. Tara Ehret talked about how much better using the laptops/chrome books in the classroom works rather than going to the computer labs. There was also discussion about the budget for the Family Event, Shrove Tuesday, and applying for the S'cool Life Fund. The budget will be voted on next month. Any comments on the budget are to be directed to Laura Dennison before the next meeting.

7. **Treasurer's Report** - Sharon Pereira

a. School Council current balance: \$26,935.84

b. Education Society current balance: \$13,121.59

8. **Committee Reports**

a. Christmas Market and Coffee Shop - Andrea Sereda and Cheryl Schneider

Tonight marks one month until our 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Christmas Market! We are 85% sold out in terms of tables, so still a few available. The ATM and Neon Bold signs are also booked. The Market has been listed on several online Calgary Christmas Market listings including Avenue Magazine, Calgaryarea.com, Kijiji, FamilyfunCanada.com, All Events Calgary, Evensi, and Carpe Diem Calgary. Cheryl and I are coordinating to recruit volunteers for the day of the event. If anyone is interested, please let us know. Lastly, we are considering getting a feather flag made that can be used year after year for the day of the event only. If anyone has contacts locally, please let me know after the meeting!

Sobeys in McKenzie Towne will donate 250 hot dogs, 250 buns and 250 waters for the event. Good Earth will donate coffee and hot chocolate. Cheryl is still deciding if she will get baking from parents. The Junior High band students will help with the concession and any money raised at the concession will go to the band.

b. Family Events - Mary Rose Argonza-Oberhoffner

The Family Events Committee has decided to change things this year and will be organizing a **Family Dance Night**. The reason for this is to do something different, get people moving and to try and draw in more participation from the Junior High families. We feel it will be an extremely fun event for all ages.

The date for the dance will be the evening of **Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. We are considering charging a per person rate up to a maximum per family rate (i.e. \$2 per person up to \$5 for 3+ people). This is another way to encourage families to attend together, keep the cost to the family low and allow for the Jr. High students to attend separately or without their parents.

We are looking at selling hot dogs out of the canteen for \$1 much like what is done at the Christmas Market. We feel hot dogs are an easier option for families and the kids and we can offer them throughout the evening rather than just at the start. We are also considering options such as:

- including a bag of chips and bottle of water for everyone who attends
- a “dessert bar” area in the small gym where we could have cookies, squares, fruit, baked goods, etc.

If we are allowed, we could create a 'lounge area' using the learning commons furniture so the Jr. High kids and families can hang out and take a break from dancing. We also want to utilize space as best as we can.

We have narrowed it down to two DJs who have differing prices the higher of which is about \$600.

We would also like to hand-out prizes that are slightly better than glow sticks, such as \$5 gift cards, etc., to encourage dancing and participation; possibly have door prizes tied-in to our RSVP for the event also.

We are looking at some themes ('80 Night?) and would like to decorate to add to the atmosphere also.

There will be a teaser blurb in the next school newsletter.

c. Lost and Found - Susan Courchesne

This report will inform you of what the committee has been doing for the last 6 weeks and what we plan to do until Christmas Break.

- i. For the last 6 weeks, I have been maintaining the lost & found cabinet once a week, published a reminder notice in the school's October newsletter for parents and students, submitted a morning announcement reminder for students just before the Thanksgiving long weekend and created a regular maintenance schedule for the committee members. We currently have 19 members of which 7, myself being one of them, will be maintaining the cabinet until Christmas. I met with those volunteers for a maintenance orientation last Friday and this Monday mornings.
- ii. In November, I plan to recruit some of our volunteers to help with organizing the display tables we set up in the week preceding parent/teacher interviews. They will help sort, fold and display the lost & found items on several tables in the hallway near the cabinet. As well, I plan to publish a reminder in the school's November newsletter for the display tables that week. Also, both a Monday and a Thursday morning reminder announcement for staff and students will be submitted during this week.
- iii. In December I will recruit the committee volunteers and I will set up another maintenance schedule for the second session of maintenance that runs from January 9<sup>th</sup> to March 24<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, I plan to submit a morning announcement reminder for students just before Christmas break.

d. Fundraising - Liisa Batti.

Lisa sent her regrets. Laura Dennison read her report. For the Admazing fundraiser, there were 794 books sold. That is 270 less than last year.

Division Winners

Mrs. Hanson (AM) – 73 books sold

Ms. Ehret – 53 books sold

Mr. Chamberland – 44 books sold

Ms Ehret and Mr Chamberland are having a combined pizza party on Friday October 28. The kindergarten class had their pizza party on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

There was a lot of discussion about the recent band fundraiser for cookie dough. It was called the “59 Minute Fundraiser” where the Grade 7, 8 and 9 band students congregated in the small gym for a fundraising event. This is the first time that the band has run this type of fundraiser. Concerns were raised over taking class time to participate in a fundraiser. Also, concerns over the number of fundraisers planned in this depressed economy. For the band fundraisers, all proceeds raised by the Jr High band students goes directly into their band account and is applied towards their personal cost to band camp.

Everyone was reminded that all school fundraisers and band fundraisers are optional. There is absolutely no obligation for families to participate in fundraisers. Tod will discuss band fundraisers with Mrs. Haydt.

e. Parish Liaison – Christine Hansen

Reconciliation meetings are starting this weekend. It is not too late to register for Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation. Contact Dan at SATG or e-mail [sacraments@st-albert-parish.com](mailto:sacraments@st-albert-parish.com). They are also enrolling for school-aged Baptism for Grade 2 and up.

October is World Mission Month and next Sunday is World Mission Sunday which every parish across the globe celebrates. Prayers and donations at the second collection will help support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations where the Church is beginning.

The Knights of Columbus at SATG parish are providing access to a Catholic website. It is available to all parishioners and provides unlimited access to the site's broad spectrum of Catholic content including movies, talks, programs and eBooks. You can register and login at no cost at <https://formed.org/>. The access code is in the bulletin and the school newsletter.

## 9. **Administration's Report:** Tod Desautels

### a. High School Boundaries

There are meetings for the high school in Legacy: 2 focus group meetings and 2 public meetings. All schools in the South can elect a representative to attend the focus group meetings which are on Nov. 7 from 7-8:30 pm and Dec. 12 from 7-8:30 pm. Let Tod know if you would like to attend and a selection will be made from those volunteering. Public meetings will follow these focus group meetings.

### b. Assessment Updates – Jennifer Gakis

There are common guidelines this year for Junior High teachers regarding the handling of late assignments. The discussion for these assignment guidelines started in the spring. After much input from teachers, parents and administration, we came up with these common guidelines. The Late Assignment Guidelines 2016-2017 was published in the October newsletter and was also presented to the students. Thus far, there has been no feedback.

### c. Safety Drills – Greg Way

The first lockdown was carried out last Thursday. It took 40 minutes. CPS came out to assist. There are safety drills scheduled once per month. At the fire drill that was held in Sept. we cleared the school in 92 seconds. There was a discussion as to how parents are notified of an actual lockdown: central office gets information from CPS and they release information as necessary to the parents.

### d. Learning Commons – Jennifer Gakis

The Learning Commons is up and running now. We have all the furniture. There are different projects and activities to enhance what the students are learning in class.

## 10. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was put forth by Erin Luong. Seconded by Pam Myhill.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Next School Council Meeting: Thursday November 17, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Learning Commons