



# MINUTES

## Blessed Cardinal Newman School Council Meeting

Date: March 22, 2017 at 7:00pm

Number of Attendees: 20

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Laura Dennison at 7:02pm

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.
4. **Approval of Minutes of Last Council Meeting (Feb. 1, 2017):**

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 February 1, 2017 School Council Minutes as presented was put forth by Tamara Bezemer seconded by Liisa Batti. Motion Carried.

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

- a. Report on Parent & Trustee Meeting (March 9) – Supporting Student Success – Raising Accountable Young People – David Irvine

The presentation was about how we can change the way we talk to our children to raise accountable young people. The slides can be found on the district website and Laura has the handouts for anyone who is interested.

Our school was one of five schools chosen to represent the district at the Alberta School Council Association conference held April 28-30 in Edmonton. Laura will be attending on behalf of our school council. The conference will include the Annual General Meeting and a vote on issue resolutions including support for mental health content for K-12,

accountability surveys, coding and computational thinking skills, etc. Laura has more information and it is on the district website.

b. Open committee positions for 2017-18

The following committees will require someone to take them on for the 2017-18 school year:

- Naturalization committee
- Fundraising committee (Lori Ann and Liisa will stay to help out and have all necessary information organized in binders).
- Treasurer (Sharon's term is up but he's willing to continue unless someone wants to take it over. He would help out the new person.)

6. **Treasurer's Report** – (Sharon Pereira sent his regrets. Laura read the report)

- a. School Council current balance: \$22,646.13
- b. Education Society current balance: \$14,124.36

A question was asked about what items still need to be paid out of that balance. Laura will check with Sharon and will report at the next meeting.

7. **Committee Reports**

a. Fundraising – Liisa Batti and Lori-Ann Bergeron

The second annual F.A.ST fundraiser will be held on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The goal has been set at \$12,000 this year. The packages will be sent home with the students on April 11 to be returned no later than April 25. We will be looking for approximately 25 volunteers to help out with the various activities.

b. Lost and Found – Susan Courchesne

This report will inform you of what the committee has been doing for the last 14 weeks and our plans for the next 3 months.

Since my last report, myself and 6 other ladies have been maintaining the lost & found cabinet twice a week. A big "thank you" to Jacqui, Laurie, Linnette, Marlene, Shilpa and Theresa for doing a great job! As well, I published a reminder notice in the school's March newsletter for parents

and students regarding the display tables set up Monday to Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>.

As planned, lost & found items were sorted and displayed on 6 tables in the hallway between the front office and the library. To encourage students to view the tables, I submitted 3 morning announcement reminders specific to each day. Parents attending Thursday's conferences had the opportunity to view the tables as well. Thanks very much to committee members Laurie, Lisa, Linnette and Marlene for your help sorting and resetting and ensuring our successful week!

On Monday afternoon at 1:30 p.m., Mrs. Hanson (our kindergarten teacher), Miss Walsh (a student teacher), and Jolene and Emily (two leadership students) sorted and bagged all unclaimed items. Mrs. Hanson had 7 bags of clothing for donation and 3 bags of garbage leftover. The 7 bags will be laundered and donated to the St. John's Reception Centre.

Currently, I am recruiting committee volunteers and setting up a maintenance schedule for the last session of maintenance that runs from Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Mrs. Hanson and her crew are planning to sort, bag & donate to the St. John's Reception Centre on the afternoon of Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>. This will give enough time to launder the clothing before school's end the following week. Any few remaining items on the last day of school will be sorted and then either recycled, garbaged or donated to a charitable donation drop bin. Lastly, I plan to submit a morning announcement reminder for students just before Spring break on Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.

c. Parish Liaison – Theresa Stadnyk

SATG parish is looking for altar servers for the 9:00 am mass as they only have 6 left (down from 20). They are hoping for people to come out to train to serve.

There will be a youth rally for 12-18 year olds on April 22, 2017 at St. James parish in Okotoks. For information visit [www.theyellowtree.ca](http://www.theyellowtree.ca).

Father Larre visiting church from April 1 to 17 for the parish mission. It will be a series of talks. Theresa highly recommends attending these talks as

she has heard Father Larre speak before and says he is a very good speaker. The schedule is on the SATG website.

SATG men's sports nights are being held at 8:10pm on March 26, April 9, etc. at the McKenzie Lake Community Centre. There will be floor hockey, soccer, etc. Call Patrick if you're interested 403-472-1240

## **8. Administrator's Report:** Tod Desautels/Jennifer Gakis/Greg Way

### **a. School Updates**

Spring break starts next week. Spring photos are on April 6. School play ran this week with good attendance. Grade 7 band (40 children) left for band camp today and are back on Friday. The remaining students have been combined with other classes. Grade 8 & 9 band students will go to band camp on April 10. During parent/teacher interviews there was \$100 gift card draw for filling out the parent satisfaction survey. Parents can e-mail or call Tanya Kordikowski to enter their name in the draw after completing the survey.

### **b. Occupational Health and Safety Audit (April 3 & 4)**

Audit will take place after spring break. Inspections and interviews of staff will be conducted. This is to make sure we are abiding by all OHS guidelines.

### **c. Budget**

Happily there were no big cuts to education. Transportation and school fees are being addressed. For our school there is a 1.2km walk zone for our school and they will fund transport costs for kids 2.4 km from school. There are not many students from our school that will be affected. As far as the cuts to school fees no one is sure what that will look like yet or how this will impact our district and our school. We do have maximums for fees in our district. Details to follow. New schools were also announced. They are building two more schools in this quadrant: Mahogany (2017) and Auburn Bay (2018). The projections of potential numbers for our school for next year are not in yet. We've dropped 130 kids this year from last year. We likely will drop a little bit as K and Gr 1 numbers are lower. We should have a better idea by next meeting.

Tara Hobart is back from leave in Grade 9 and Mrs. Brewer will be back after spring break. Mrs. Hoffman came back and took over for Mrs. Mooney who's now on maternity leave.

Carl Gratton will be principal at our school next year. He is currently at St. Stephen school. Tod will be going to JJ O'Brian in Bridlewood.

After the administrator's report, Cheryl Schneider announced that there is a Calgary Catholic Education Foundation fundraiser. Steve Bell is performing a concert on April 7 and Holy Spirit Church. See the school website for details or contact Cheryl Schneider for tickets.

Cheryl Schneider discussed putting forward a motion asking school council for money for the Grade 9 farewell dinner that the parents are organizing. This is not a school approved event nor is it a budget item. Thus the school does not support it in any way. She would like school council to help fund the legacy gift and financially assist some students that cannot afford tickets (\$50-55/tickets). They did move venues to cut costs however, some students (around 4) still cannot afford to buy a ticket. There was a question put forth as to whether all parents were part of the decision-making process for determining the budget – approximately 55 parents were contacted out of 90 or so parents.

Tanya Kordikowski discussed her experience with the Grade 9 farewell. When she was involved organizing parents chipped in extra money for students who could not afford to buy tickets as she agrees that this farewell dinner is not a school supported event and she does not support school council giving money for this. She pointed out that the school does a Grade 9 retreat and a mass to bid farewell to Grade 9.

Tod discussed that the school district does not support the parent committee's grade 9 farewell. This is not a school approved program. If the school is associated with this event, then it becomes liable for the event. He does not support a motion to give money

As such school council will not entertain the motion for money for this event.

Cheryl Schneider made it clear that she is extremely disappointed with this decision.

## 9. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was put forth by Lori-Ann Bergeron seconded by Michelle McArthur. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Next School Council Meeting: Thursday May 4, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Learning Commons. Our new principal Carl Gratton will be attending this meeting. (Education Society Meeting to follow).