



# MINUTES

## Blessed Cardinal Newman School Council Meeting

Date: September 13, 2017 at 7:00pm

Number of Attendees: 33

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Laura Dennison at 7:04pm.

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. **Approval of Minutes of Last Council Meeting (June 15, 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 June 15, 2017 School Council Minutes as presented was put forth by Liisa Batti seconded by Maryann Kusmirski. Motion Carried.

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

- a. **School Council Meeting Procedures.** The agenda is prepared in advance and committee leaders are asked for input. A week before the meeting the agenda is made public. If you have an agenda item that you want included in the meeting you must put it forth at least 10 days before the meeting for approval. If it isn't approved it will not be discussed at the meeting but rather, in person.

- b. **Committee Leader Positions**

There is a need for someone to step in to the fundraiser position for next year. It would be best for the potential candidate(s) to assist the current committee leaders during this year to learn the position. As well, there is a need for someone to take over the school supplies. This position begins in June. The family events committee leader needs help organizing the event for this year. All committee positions are described on the website.

c. Upcoming School Council Meetings

- i. There are 8 meetings per year. These are included on the agenda and are posted on the website.
- ii. Trustee meetings are also listed on the website and are highly recommended.

d. School Council Goals 2017-18

School council goals have been supplied with the agenda today to be reviewed and are also posted on the website. They are the same as last year. Motion to approve the goals put forth by Robin Meckelborg seconded by Cheryl Schneider. Passed

e. School Council Budget

- i. Our Treasurer, Sharon Pereira, the Principal, Carl Gratton and School Council Chair, Laura Dennison will meet to prepare a draft of this year's budget. Parents are welcome to have input by contacting Laura. The draft budget will be presented at the October meeting and voted on at the November meeting.
- ii. The Education Society is a 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 can not 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. School Council votes to support the budget of the Education Society. This budget will also be presented at the October meeting and voted on at the November meeting.

f. Guest Speakers are occasionally invited to the school council meetings and suggestions for topics or individuals to include are welcome.

5. **Treasurer's Report** - Sharon Pereira could not attend tonight but passed along the following information:

- a. School Council current balance: \$12,390.09
- b. Education Society current balance: \$14,310.56

6. **Committee Reports**

- a. Volunteer Orientation – Laura Dennison

All parents wishing to volunteer at the school are required to attend a volunteer orientation. There are several dates scheduled that will be posted on the website. If you have attended one live in previous years you do not have to attend again but you must fill out the forms each year. Forms are found on the school website and can be sent in to the school with your child or at the office. These forms were not sent out in the first day of school package.

- b. Christmas Market – Andrea Sereda

- i. Looking for someone to step up and help to learn the position for the following year as Tanya Kordikowski is not going to be continuing after this year. It is being held on Saturday November 18. 70/130 tables have been sold already. Arrangements are coming along nicely. They are looking for more help for clean up this year. Tanya is investigating have some school groups come in to help. Looking for more than 1600 shoppers this year.
- ii. Carl Gratton made the suggestion that possibly Lifetouch could come and do Christmas photos for families during the market. There is a \$30 sitting fee (\$20 goes to the school). Sittings would be pre-booked. This idea was well received by the people present and will be looked into.

- c. School Supplies – Kelly Giesbrecht

There were 165 orders this year. Only 10 ordered through the school – most were online. There were no problems. It was brought up that it is quite a bit more expensive than buying them on one's own. There was some discussion about the school supply

lists that are sent home. Parents feel that they often end up with extra school supplies. They have many items left over at the end of the year. There was some discussion about possibly donating the extra school supplies to other schools-in-need; where we would ask parents to bring in their unused school supplies. We would then either use these items in our school; or pass them along to other schools who require extra assistance.

There was some discussion with Tara Ehret and Carl Gratton as to the process for figuring out what supplies are required by each grade. Possibly, we need to start that process a bit earlier than May.

d. Spirit Wear – Tamara Bezemer

We are off to a good start. The online store is open now and will remain open until midnight on Friday, October 5. For those of you that were not here at the June meeting, we will be using the school's official logo for most of our spirit wear. The ball cap and toque will remain the Eagle sport logo.

We have had some orders placed already. As usual we will have samples for sizing available for everyone to see when they come in for parent teacher conferences. The orders will be delivered to the school about 4 weeks after the website closes. We are expecting them by Nov. 3. The website is [bcn.stoopshirts.com](http://bcn.stoopshirts.com)

This is NOT a fundraiser.

e. Fundraising – Liisa Batti and Lori-Ann Bergeron

Week one of the Entertainment book fundraiser has been going well, more sold this year at this time than last year. The last day is Sept. 21.

f. Naturalization Report – Maureen Gayle

Watering this summer was difficult as it was so dry this year and there were very few volunteers to help throughout the summer.

Maureen would like to set up a table at parent teacher interviews to recruit volunteers. This is possible as there will be a school council table set up that Maureen could share.

Maureen would like to speak to the horticultural option teacher to be involved with naturalization committee. This meeting will be set up.

## 7. **Administration's Report** – Carl Gratton

- a. Introductory biographies were heard from the Administration team. Carl shared his perspective on school climate and culture.
- b. Staffing Updates
  - i. We gained a Kindergarten AM teacher allocation in August and hired Ms. Kayla Walsh who was a student teacher for Mrs. Hansen a year ago.
  - ii. Other changes from June: Mrs. Adams has moved to grade 2 where she will work until her due date and be replaced by Mrs. Mooney who is set to return from maternity leave. Mrs. Arora has moved to Grade 3 to replace Ms. Boldt. These changes created a new vacancy in Grade 5-4 and we hired Ms. Breanna Fridfinnson.
  - iii. The remaining vacancy was for a replacement teacher for Mrs. Soos who is expected to return in Feb. That position is currently filled by Mrs. Schneider.
- c. Enrolment/Classroom Organization –

Class lists have stabilized nicely - total enrolment is just over 700 students. In keeping with previous practice, I advised families in the opening newsletter that changes are only considered when some time has passed to ensure that the work of the teachers to create the best learning groups possible is honoured and that students have made a sincere effort to make connections in their assigned class. Teachers have been very good about nurturing that effort.

### d. School Fees 2017/2018

Fee invoices were issued in the Newsletter extra on Monday. Provincial Bill 1 means the elimination of some fees and the reduction

of some others- BCN fees for 2017-18 are comparatively much lower than the 2016-17 fees.

Kind: \$35 reduction

Grade 1:6: \$20 reduction

Grade JH: \$40 reduction

e. Junior High Options

At the junior high level, lots of time is typically spent during start up organizing the students into their option classes. This has been the case here. Some small changes to offerings in grade 8 and 9 as well as some larger changes in grade 7, which now includes grade 5 and 6 has required a bit more patience and understanding while we work out the bugs. That process is now complete and I for one am grateful.

The long term plan for options in JH is to study carefully how well the changes in grade 7 are received and then apply what we learn for similar changes for next year in grade 8 and 9. The key new feature is the introduction of Career and Technology Foundations programming that exists outside of the workshop and home economics areas.

f. Street signage volunteers

Going forward the admin team would like to recruit a group of parents willing to facilitate the updating of the outdoor sign intermittently during the month. We can update it monthly and train a team of volunteers to do the updates in between. All messages must first be approved by an administrator, but a team of two or three can accomplish it in 30 minutes.

## 8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was put forth by Lori-Ann Bergeron. Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.

Next School Council Meeting is Thursday, October 19, 2017 in the Learning Commons.