



MINUTES

Blessed Cardinal Newman School Council Meeting

Date: October 19, 2017 at 7:00pm

Number of Attendees: 26

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Laura Dennison at 7:05pm.

1. **Welcome and Prayer:** Chairperson Laura Dennison welcomed everyone. Principal, Carl Gratton, led us in the opening prayer.
2. **Introductions:** All attendees introduced themselves.
3. **Guest Speaker** – Laurie Bacon, BCN Guidance Counsellor

Ms. Bacon spoke about how she helps the students who come to see her. She encourages students to talk about what she discussed with them at home. She tries to teach students to take ownership of their issues and guides them to try to come up with solutions themselves. She follows up with the students who have come to her for support. Often times teachers recommend that she meet with a student. She also has resources for parents. She will share relevant seminars available to attend in the school newsletter.

There was the suggestion of a presentation called “Nope to Dope” for junior high. All those in attendance felt it would be worthwhile so Ms. Bacon will book it.

4. **Approval of Minutes of Last Council Meeting** (September 13, 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 September 13, 2017 School Council Minutes as presented was put forth by Lori-Ann Bergeron seconded by Liisa Batti. Motion Carried.

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

- a. School Council Chair and Executive Orientation

Pam Myhill and Laura Dennison attended this orientation. The district faith theme this year is “Ask and it shall be given you”.

The district will continue the concept of champions at the school. The idea is every child deserves an adult who will never give up on them.

The 4 priorities of the district were outlined. They are Faith Formation, Student Excellence, First Nations, and Student Wellness. Mr. Gratton will address these priorities in his report.

b. BCN Book Drive

The diverse learning team has asked to start a book drive in January. They would like a committee formed to organize this event to increase the books available in the classroom. This means collecting the books, going through them to determine the correct grade and then distributing them to the appropriate classes. They are hoping to gather 1000 books. If anyone would like to help out with this committee, please contact me (bcn.schoolcouncil@gmail.com). Lisa Bush and Kim Wilson will be the guest speaker at the November meeting to provide more details.

c. Draft 2017-18 Budget.

The draft budget was handed out with the agenda today. We have implemented some changes from last year. You'll notice that instead of focusing on general expenses we have decided this year to put our money to some specific items that are required.

If there are any changes or questions, please let Laura know. It will be discussed and approved at the meeting in November.

We must also support the Education Society Budget. The major expense for this year (using money raised by the fundraiser last year) is \$10K on Chrome Books and Chrome book carts. This will get us 54 Chrome Books, 6 iPads, 8 laptops, 8 chrome boxes, 4 desktop video machines.

6. Treasurer's Report - Sharon Pereira

- a. School Council current balance: \$23,093.66
- b. Education Society current balance: \$15,311.16

7. Committee Reports

- a. Family Events – Mary Rose Argonza-Oberhoffner

Family Dance – January 19, 2018. More information to come in the November newsletter. Carol Gracia offered to help with this event.

- b. Fun Lunch Program – Sarah Pereira was unable to attend tonight’s meeting but sent the following information:

The Fun Lunch committee met yesterday to sample options to replace the Pita Pit. We received samples from 5 restaurants, and decided on going forward with The Lunch Lady. The lunch lady has several options to choose from including pasta, wraps, even pancakes and sausage! There are also gluten free options. Sarah will be adding this to the Fun Lunch rotation schedule starting in January. The updates will be made to the Healthy Hunger website next week.

- c. Coffee Shop – Cheryl Schneider

Looking for donations from Good Earth and Sobeys to supply the coffee shop. Baking will be donated by parents. Money raised from the coffee shop at the market goes to the school band.

- d. School Supplies – Marnelle Perras

Marnelle will look into other companies to order supplies from at, hopefully, a lower cost as well as looking into how to avoid over-ordering of supplies. She discussed a Crayola program to recycle old markers that she would like to see introduced at the school. Information about this will be on the website. Everyone in attendance felt that it was a good idea.

- e. Fundraising – Lori Ann Bergeron and Liisa Batti

Entertainment books went really well. The representative for the program is excellent. Will do this fundraiser again next year. Liisa thanked Mr. Way for being such a good sport about being duct taped to the wall in celebration of the school reaching its fundraising goals. The next fundraiser will start in November. We are selling poinsettias! Then in the spring we will have our a-thon. If you have any ideas for activities for this fundraiser let us know.

8. **Administration’s Report** – Carl Gratton

- a. Annual Education Results Report

There are 10 categories in the survey report – the school dropped in 5 of 10 categories from 2016 results. 3 of the 5 areas were rated as significantly declined: program of studies, education quality, and citizenship. We also improved in 2 categories. Sometimes the results are misleading, so it is good to look at the numbers to determine why the results dropped. Administration will definitely look into these areas.

b. School Goals

The four main areas for the school goals are Student Excellence; Student Wellness; First Nations, Metis and Inuit; and Faith Formation. Various programs to address these areas are in the works. Mr. Gratton asked for input and suggestions. The final document will be on the school website in November.

c. Pass It On Clothing Drive

Led by the school district. Several schools were designated as donation sites. We collected 78 bags of clothing.

d. Safety Concerns regarding Early Student Drop Off

- i. Drive through is a safety issue. Information was in the last newsletter as to how to use it properly. Seems to flow better as long as someone is out there managing the drivers.
- ii. CPS got a complaint regarding kids not wearing helmets when riding their bikes, rollerblades, and scooters. It should be noted that riding bikes rollerblades and scooters is not allowed on school property. It was brought up that there are children that use our bike racks that are not from our school. It is not really our job to police this.
- iii. There is no staff at the school before 8:05am. The caretaker must be here at 7:00am but it is not his role to supervise students. There are several students here early (not in extracurricular activities). Legally there is a concern for the school as if something happened with these students the school would be liable. Please do not send your children to school before 8:00 am.
- iv. Student News Report 1st Edition was shown from the media students.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was put forth by Cheryl Schneider. Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

Next School Council Meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 in the Learning Commons.