

St Catherine's School Council Meeting Agenda

Dec 12, 2024, 7:00 pm

1. **Call to order - 7:03 pm**
2. **Record of attendance – Marla Cote, Andrea Nieboer, Amy Brecka , Crystie Praskach, Lexie Paskal, Heather Harling, Dan Vanden Dungen**
3. **Opening prayer and Land Acknowledgement** - Dan Vanden Dungen
4. **Review and adoption of minutes from previous meeting** - Minutes approved
5. **Reports:**
 - a. **Principal** (attached below)
 - b. **Chair** (attached below)
6. **Correspondence: N/A**
7. **Old Business:**
 - **Updates on Personally Owned Devices Policy** - Dan Vanden Dungen
 - At parent-teacher interviews, a question was posted on the table, “What if our school was cell phone-free from the first bell to the last bell?” Most parents were very supportive of this. Three things came up: 1) It would be difficult for some students. 2) Other students need support joining or finding belonging. 3) Ongoing contact with family could be a challenge.
 - Increased rates of anxiety and depression have been noted. How can the children be exposed to more unstructured play? How could junior highs be encouraged to go outside other than Gas King?
 - **Feedback on Recent School Events** (eg. Parent-Teacher Interviews, Book Fair, Tournament, Christmas Potluck etc.):
 - How could parents and teachers meet more?
 - Dan will check with St. Joe's regarding their success with office hours.
 - Junior high students helped with setup and cleanup
 - The square is \$70 and 2% per transaction. Dan will look into it. Would it be \$800 a year in fees? A lot of families do not have cash for tournaments and the canteen.
8. **New business:**
 - a. **PreK Coffee** - Date for late Jan/Early Feb.
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 - b. **Grade 4-5 Basketball** - Dates and volunteers. We need to start looking for help. We host zones the first weekend in March. Basketball should start after this.

- c. **Family Dance** - Date near Valentine's? Or later in the year? Potentially works on Wednesday, February 12.
 - d. **School Survey involvement and incentives** - How do we get as many responses as possible?
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 - e. **Student Drop Off** - Issues around students arriving early and vehicles blocking buses - Students often arrive before the doors are unlocked. Some parents will be contacted. The stop sign on the bus is ideally consistent. Some parents are driving around the buses when the stop sign is out.
9. **Next meeting:** January 16, 2025 - 6:45 pm
10. **Closing prayer**
11. **Adjournment** 8:27pm

Principal's Report

1. Superintendent Visit on December 11
 - Our new superintendent, Chantal Axani, visited all the classes (junior high were helping to set up for potluck) and she says that she will be coming out again.
 - She was very touched by a special blessing from the grade 6 class,
 - On January 29, she will come out with the entire Senior Admin Team for an hour after school and sit with staff and have open ended conversation.
2. Staffing:
 - Farewell to PSI students **Madison Hetu** and **Jared Beler** this week and to PSIII interns **Cassidy Behm**, **James Moore**, and **Carissa De Leeuw** next week.
 - Welcome to PSIII students Johanna (Jo) **Dixon** in 34O and **Cassidy Haun** in 34C starting in January. They will be coming to meet us before Christmas break.
 - Our FNMI Facilitator, **Anette Bad Eagle**, resigned over the past month to resume her studies. The position was posted on November 28.
3. Maintenance / Facility:
 - Most of the clocks are now keeping time thanks to the efforts of Mr. Snow. We have put in requests for new ones in the grade 6 room and the music room.
 - A crew was out last week making adjustments to the heating system. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we have finally got things running more smoothly for this winter!
4. Assessments / Data:
 - K-3 Early Literacy and Numeracy Assessments Jan 13-31, 2025
 - All Kindergarten to Grade 3 students
 - Literacy and Numeracy Support Grant
 - Last year we received just under \$6000 for learning disruption funding
 - This year we will receive **\$1,572** (to be spent prior to May 1, 2025)

- Alberta Assurance Statement:
 - We continue to be above the province in all areas of the AEA Survey
 - The measure that stands out in this regard is Parental Involvement which used to be well below the province a few years ago but is now well above
 - The Access to Supports and Services measure has also seen a significant increase relative to the provincial results in recent years
 - We will continue to watch the Welcoming, Caring, Respectful, Safe and Caring Learning Environments measure because junior high was low
 - PAT results were more of a mixed bag. The Acceptable measure for Grade 9 was very positive, but the number reaching the Excellence range was lower than expected. Grade 6 Social was lower, but mostly just on Social where EAL students had a harder time. Our students were close to the province on the Acceptable standard on Science and well above on the Excellence standard.

5. Home and School:

- Auction is being held on Saturday, April 5th
- Approved spending for this year (last fundraising cycle):
 - Keurig for School Council
 - \$3000 for new library books.
 - Up the support for field trips to \$1000..
 - New guitars up to \$3000.
 - Purchasing new Sewing Machines for \$2000
 - Overage category \$2000.

6. Calendar:

- Our Lady of Guadalupe presentation at 11:40am, December 12
- Junior High Dance at 6:30pm, December 12
- Winter Colours Day, December 13
- Gr. 4/5 Volleyball Camp, December 13
- Stage Assembled, December 13th
- Week 3 Advent Celebration (Gr9/Gatner) at 11:30am, December 16
- Christmas Character Day, December 17
- Christmas Concert at 10:15 am and 7:00 pm, December 19
- Christmas Family Activity, December 20
- Jr High Bonspiel, December 19/20
- Epiphany and First Day Back from Christmas Break, January 6
- Student of the Month (St. Thomas Aquinas - Knowledge), January 10
- Gr. 4/5 Volleyball Camp, January 10
- Mass (Grade 3/4 Constant) at 9am, January 15

Chair Report

- **Pre-K Coffee** was November 21st. We had close to 20 moms attend, no dads. They spent the time visiting and visiting the book fair. I think it went very well. Marla was looking into money for us for the remainder of the year from Home and School, as they have extra money (family events budget). Possibly even to buy a Keurig for this purpose. We were thinking \$300 would easily cover the rest of the year. It will likely repeat in the end of January or the beginning of February.
- **4-5 Volleyball** is underway! First date had great turnout, lots of parent helpers. Second date had only 12 returning kids and myself and the only parent. Four junior high girls helped and they did great. I am using an app from volleyball Canada called "Smashball" which breaks down volleyball into five levels and provides practice plans! Third and final date before Christmas is this Friday. Two more dates in January.
- **ASCE Grant** - Screensanity parent night kit. \$250, Book Study parent group? We could purchase books. Other parenting books, in multiple languages...
- **Council of Chairs Night.** December 2nd.
 - New west side elementary school - to be completed by Fall 2026. Will go to tender after the west lethbridge byelection. They are looking at boundary reconfiguration in January.
 - Creating "Parish Community Meetings" 1-3x per year, gathering the parish area Priest, Principals, School Council, Parish Council, possibly trustees, to meet to discuss issues and goals pertaining to our specific parish area and goals like increasing Mass and sacrament participation. ie) we would be paired with St. Joes.
 - Three roundtable discussion items:
 1. How to get more engagement in the School Satisfaction surveys that come out in the Spring. Ideas were: short, easy to read infographics sent to parents to look for the survey in the mail and what the survey is for. Use permission click to send in a response that you have completed it (also could track for some kind of incentive). Use a movie night with "survey stations" to help people without internet access.
 2. How to use your ASCA grant money... we are not the only ones with this issue of how to spend the \$\$! A lot of schools are starting to purchase "parent library" materials. One school is doing their own "book club" on the Anxious Generation. PD for School Councils. No one has had very much luck spending this... everyone wants to spend it on food!
 3. What are we doing in our schools to increase awareness of FNMI and Truth and Reconciliation? Lots of ideas and past events were shared. Many shared that older jr high and high school, staff and possibly parents should go through the blanket exercise. Anything that can incorporate an experience is usually well attended (ribbon skirt making, earring making, story telling, smudges, naming ceremonies, Young Drums Program). Also some were talking about the Learn, Build, Go program for staff... I am unfamiliar with this program.

- There will be one more of these meetings later in the year, date TBD.