

School Council Minutes

Date	November 27, 2017
Attendance	Kristy Rice, Colette Lastiwka, Shannon Blyth, Nina Brown, Dave Norris, Kyla Norris, Andrea Sedgwick, Denise Hoag, Brenda Watmough, Lisa Helsby, Brandy Laurin, Aoife Cahill
Guests	None
General Business	
Start Time	7:43 p.m.
Approval of Agenda	Colette Lastiwka
Committee Reports	
Halloween Dance <i>Nina Brown</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dance was held on Friday October 27, 2017 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. • We sold 160 tickets in advance and 62 at the door. 222 attended the dance • Ticket sales \$945.00 • DJ cost \$670.95 • Decorations \$122.63 • Total profit \$151.42 • Concession profit \$278.05 for the grade 6 students
New Business	
School Photos <i>Colette Lastiwka</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are concerns regarding school photos parents are encouraged to form a committee to interview different photography companies for the upcoming school year
Old Business	
Grade 5/6 Volleyball <i>Colette Lastiwka</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today was last our last practice. The grade 5 and 6 students enjoyed a game of kids vs parents • Tournament will be held on Friday December 1, 2017 • I encourage anyone who has a passion or skill to bring it to the school community • We will add a volunteer position for the coaching of school teams
4 x 4 <i>Aoife Cahill</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After speaking with Don Marceau they are still in need of petitioners to go door to door and survey households • I will put a message in the weekly memo encouraging families that live outside the boundary area to get involved in this process
School Report <i>Aoife Cahill</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Again a big thank you to Colette Lastiwka and her friend Kim for volunteering their time to coach volleyball for our grade 5 and 6 students • CEPAC meeting dates have not yet been set. CEPAC would like input on topics that would be of interest to parents • In the past Parent Council brought in SAFFRON to present on technology use, this presentation was before BYOD was implemented. I will look at dates for bringing SAFFRON back for another presentation, we can discuss this further at the next meeting • Michelle Sczott our school trustee is mandated to attend two School Council

meetings per year. *Colette Lastiwka will notify Michelle of our upcoming meeting dates and extend an invite*

- Thank you to Parent Council for returning the school bottles to the depot as an ongoing fundraiser
- There is wood paneling by the Chapel that needs staining, would anyone be interested in helping with this? *Brenda Watmough volunteered her husband*
- *Literacy* – We are building our home reading library and will need parents to set up the books with library cards. Also if there is an interest we can offer a reading strategies session in the evening for parents who are not available during school hours
- *Indigo Fundraiser* – Would there be an interest in doing another Indigo fundraiser? Funds raised come in the form of a gift card and new books are purchased for the library. Erica Odiobala will look into dates and we can discuss further at our next meeting
- *Library Books* – Donations of books are accepted for the library
- School fees are due and can be paid through PowerSchool
- *Milk Program* – We will be making changes to our milk program in January, parents will be asked to pre-order milk online for their children using the Parent Portal on PowerSchool. This will help us to accurately know the amount of milk we need and reduce any amount of milk wasted
- *Catholic School Improvement Program Review* – At the end of October staff, students, and parents participated in a survey. We had great commendations which I have shared in the weekly memo <https://www.smores.com/2n9hg-st-luke-weekly-memo?ref=my> (results from the survey attached)
- Two recommendations from the survey are as follows:
 - Mission and Vision/Logo - due to changes in student population we will revisit this in the new year it will be a great way to unite us as a school community
 - Religion Time – Grades 1-4 have a new religion curriculum program we may need to allocate more time for this or incorporate religion into other subjects

Adjournment

Next Meeting	Monday January 15, 2018 @ 6:30 p.m.
Adjournment	Adjourned by Colette Lastiwka Time 8:40 p.m.



St. Luke Catholic School
Catholic School Improvement Program

Oct. 26 - 30, 2017

Review Purpose – through the perspective of the principles of the “Five Marks of an Excellent Catholic School”:

1. To provide the school information that can be used to support continuous improvement.
2. To celebrate the successes and strengths of the school.
3. To enhance capacity in the school and promote a culture of excellence.
4. Validation of what Elk Island Catholic is doing for continuous ongoing improvement.
5. Reinforcing that Catholic Education is our number one responsibility.

Commentary

St. Luke Catholic School provides programming from ECS to Gr. 8 for the students of South Cooking Lake and surrounding area. It is a small rural school with a student population of 152 students, 14 teachers and 6 support staff. The review consisted of personal interviews with students, parents, staff as well as quantitative surveys of students, staff and parents. The review was conducted by Paul Corrigan, Director of Faith and Wellness, Lorne Monaghan, Principal and Shawn Haggarty, Deputy Superintendent. St. Luke has seen a positive influx of new students due to the closure of a neighboring public school, and the efforts of the school community. The school is effectively working to integrate the new students and families into the school culture.

Commendations

Students expressed loudly the positives that St. Luke has being a small school. They shared that they are known by name and that they, and the staff, know almost everyone in the school. The personalized nature of the school is seen as a big positive.

The work of the ‘WE CLUB’ is to be recognized, the students spoke of the charity and social justice focus that the group bring to the school. This has empowered the students. This year they have also integrated their work with the divisional initiative of Valeda House.

A schedule for Priest visits has been established, and staff look forward to the commencement of

regular school visits.

"I like all things that we learn, including the makerspace, it allows us choice" is a comment that was heard often from students. Clearly students have connected with this program that allows innovation, creativity and choice.

A grade 8 student commented "The teachers are really good at this school, they are almost like friends to us."

"The community the school has created feels like a family. Everyone feels like this is their home." said one parent, capturing the opinion of parents, staff and students.

Parents are fans of the older and younger kids being included together, this opportunity for cross grade interaction is seen as a positive attribute of the school.

Aoife and Rae, as administrators, are visible, open and supportive of staff. They are regularly in the classrooms doing walkthroughs.

Professional Development support is excellent, and staff feel that their input is sought for decisions being made. Staff spoke positively about the PD opportunities that they have been encouraged to attend.

Students and staff are rightfully proud of the new chapel space, which is well used. This space has provided a faith focal point for the school.

The school community has accepted the challenge of supporting Valeda house as a project, and staff have worked hard at integrating the divisional "Challenge accepted" monthly challenges into their personal and professional lives, as part of the divisional theme for the year.

Raylene Yuzyk and the parish have been present in the school to support with Sacramental initiation, and have been well received well by both Catholic and non-Catholic families.

One student commented, in answering what is best about the school "It is Catholic." "Students, teachers and staff."

All students interviewed, strongly agreed with the statement that "I am valued as a student in this school."

Physical symbols of our faith are very present throughout the school. Prayer tables, and displays relating to our theme are to be commended. The stations of the cross are something that other schools would be well served to adopt in common school areas.

The Praise and Worship assembly that takes place every Friday morning is an excellent practice that is focused on prayer and our faith, teaching our students the forms of the mass. The atmosphere is proud, prayerful and positive. Students involvement is exceptional and is used as an opportunity to teach students about mass.

The older students are very supportive of the younger students and grades in the school. The

mentorship opportunities that occur between the grade levels is a beneficial. An example is the Jr. High students offering their leadership in things like the We Team and being DJ's for the family dance.

The new religion program has been adopted and well received in Grades 1 through 4. Many comments were heard about the richness of the resource and the cross curricular possibilities.

Staff expressed that Aoife and Rae are present in the classrooms and to the students and staff. They have an open door policy and respond to requests and needs promptly.

98.7% of students agree that it is clear to everybody that this is a Catholic School.

Father Jim was very happy with the welcome he received at the school, and is looking forward to beginning weekly visits. He mentioned the active faith life of the Principal and Chaplain specifically, and was pleased with St. Luke's visibility in OLPH parish. He looks forward to more staff engaging in parish life.

96% of students know that staff and the admin want them to be the best they can be.

100% of parents report that they are satisfied with the respect students show each other, as well 100% of parents are satisfied or very satisfied with the relationship between School, Home and Parish.

Staff has been provided opportunity for input into the School Assurance Plan. The committee format is well used, been allowing staff an opportunity for input into decisions.

The prayer atmosphere at St. Luke is a best practice that could be emulated by other schools. Daily morning staff reflection in the chapel is followed by student led intercom prayer. In the words of one staff member "prayer is a part of everything we do at St. Luke."

It is clearly understood by the staff that the Catholic faith and worldview is to be taught in all subjects whenever possible.

92% of students surveyed stated that religion is an important part of the school.

The parents spoke repeatedly of the warm, welcoming family atmosphere that they feel within St. Luke Catholic School; that the staff know their child by name. From the interviews, the parents overwhelmingly are very happy with the experience their child is receiving at St. Luke.

Recommendations:

Mission and Vision: In the past five years, St. Luke has experienced a significant amount of change, and the school has also had a recent influx of new students and parents. With a new climate of consistency, we are supportive of a recommendation made by staff to begin a mission and vision process. This process could serve to bring the community even closer together in pursuit of a common goal.

Religion time... denseness of the new resource. The new religion program (grades 1-4) is a well laid out rich resource that offers the teacher many suggestions for permeation of our faith into the other subjects. It is very difficult to fully teach the religion program if the teacher is not the homeroom teacher. The opportunities to use the religion program in a cross curricular manner to meet outcomes of other subjects is diminished. Two or three religion classes per week is not adequate for the program to be fully taught and learned, particularly if the teacher is not the home room teacher. We encourage all teachers to collectively attempt to engage in the use of this excellent resource.

'Challenge To Be Accepted' – 'To Continue With the Goal'

Permeation – We are pleased to share that every staff member expressed that they work to permeate faith into all their classes. St. Luke is first and foremost a Catholic School; staff are called to be witnesses of Christ in every interaction they have. Permeation of our Catholic faith is non-negotiable and an expectation for all. We encourage you to continue to find opportunities to share the 'light of Christ' with your students and be witnesses.

Final Quote

The strength of the school was best exemplified by one staff member's comment "Our ability to connect with our students, parents and community and share the joys of faith with each other." St. Luke is an exemplary model of the family atmosphere that every Catholic school would do well to create.