

St. Luke School Council Minutes

Date:	January 18, 2021
Attendance:	Erin Crawley, Heather Cherniak, Brenda Watmough, Cathy Hinger, Shannon Blyth, Meghan Ferguson, Melissa Orr-Langner, Teresa Bodker, Kyla Norris, Fiona Nyuli, Carrie Knysh, Melissa Damur
Guests:	Michelle Szott (EICS Trustee), Michelle Suddaby (Staff Representative)
General Business	
Start Time:	6:36 p.m.
Administrative Update (Cathy Hinger)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December Update – The last week of school was busy with some fun Christmas things. As a school community we were able to make and deliver about 18 Christmas hampers to some of our families in need. I was also amazed with the amount of donations we received from parents and the community for the Strathcona County Food Bank and Toy Donation tree that we had set up. It was a great way for the students to be able to use some social justice and give back to the community that gives us so much. <i>(Melissa Damur)</i> We made some special deliveries to our students who had been online learning since the end of November. We put together little packages for them that included some of their favourite nutritional snacks, cards, hot chocolate and timbits and delivered them, while following Covid protocol and AHS guidelines. Everyone on staff participated and had a great time spreading some Christmas cheer. The online experience this time around (as opposed to last April/May) was quite a bit easier for teachers, students, and parents. Attendance was very good. • Pre-K/Kindergarten/Kinder Plus – Opening date for registration is February 1st. I am working with our EICS Communications Director to get some advertising in place. A lot of the outreach will be done through social media and will target the appropriate postal codes so that we are able to get to everyone within our reach. These ads will be going out by the end of this week. • EICS Draft 2021-2022 School Calendar – This will go through a few process pieces before it gets approved. Parent feedback is one of these processes. The first day back is September 1st, 2021. Christmas break will be December 22nd to January 4th. March break will remain the last week of March. The last day of school will be June 28th. The link to the calendar can be found in the S'MORE and you can email me with questions this week so that I can get feedback to our division by the end of the week. • Valeda House (Melissa Damur) - We would like to thank the parent council, our entire parent community and St. Luke community for their amazing support of Valeda House. Our social justice initiative and partnership with Catholic Social Services will remain in place. We will be supporting Catholic Social Services as a whole and while you may not hear the name Valeda House, that does not mean our

**CEPAC Meeting Notes
(Erin Crawley)**

support for them stops. We will be supporting different outreaches that Catholic Social Services has that deal with a wider scope of the vulnerable population.

- **Praise and Worships** – We have decided to have our Praise and Worships every Tuesday at 9:00am. This allows our kindergarten students to be involved. This will also make it easier for parents to join us via the Google Meet in the S'MORE and we welcome the parent community to join us. Praise & Worship lasts between 15-20 minutes.
- **Apple Schools Research Study** – Apple Schools in partnership with the University of Alberta have asked us to participate in a research study. The research pertains to grades four, five and six. We will be asking for parent permission before the survey is conducted. The focus of the study is to understand the impacts of the school closure due to COVID-19. They are wondering about the impact on student's mental health and lifestyle behaviours. Communication will come home this week.
- **Staff Representative Report (Miss Suddaby)** – It has been great to have everyone back together, especially the grade seven and eight students who were away for all of December. We had a successful three days of online learning and are grateful for student and parent flexibility during those days. The grade 1-4's have been enjoying quite a few virtual field trips and activities related to science and social and art curriculum. As a staff, we continue to be thankful for our school leaders (Mrs. Hinger & Mrs. Damur). They go above and beyond to ensure that the needs of staff and students are met. The K-Grade 3 teachers have been learning about a literacy program called Animated Literacy. It's a fun, engaging and interactive way to teach reading and writing through characters, songs, actions and dances. We have been enjoying learning together as a staff and also collaborating via Google Meet with teachers from OLA in Fort Saskatchewan. The Grade one students are all up and running with Chrome Books and are becoming quite fluent in using them. Starting in December and continuing throughout the year, we are following the Apple Schools theme of Mindfulness and taking the time to discuss what Mindfulness is and what it looks like to you. It's been great to see the students take what they learned in December and begin to apply it in January.
- Shawn Haggarty, our Superintendent expressed his pride in how the staff, students and parents have navigated the past couple of months. Feedback from online learning for grades 7-12 in December was very positive and attendance was high.
- The Alberta School Council Association received a funding cut this year. A couple of the Chair's have noted that their level of service has been slightly impacted because of this.
- Some questions that were asked:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there an option for students to return to in-class learning in March? The answer is that the re-entry dates to return to in-person classes from online are November 16th and February 1st. Please be in touch with your principal if you plan on returning in February. - Will students that continue with online classes be able to participate in school farewell activities (i.e., Grade 8 Graduation)? More information will come on this as this had not yet been brought up. - Are students required to write final exams? Grade 12 diploma exams are optional for students in 2020-2021. EICS is not waiving final exams but is encouraging schools to look at a wide range of assessments.
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Guest Remarks

<p>EICS Trustee <i>(Michelle Szott)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'd like to reiterate that if you do have any feedback in regard to the 2021-2022 school calendar to let Mrs. Hinger know. As a board, we will be voting on the implementation of this at the February meeting. Although the virtual world we are living in is getting tiring, it was great to see that 31 people participated in the CEPAC meeting. We have never had that many participants. Some positives of these virtual meetings are that we seem to be reaching our parents and we seem to be getting their engagement. As your Board of Trustees, we do continue to meet virtually and are beginning our advocacy meetings for this year. Although everything is virtual these days, if it means that we can stay connected and we can continue to support each other and continue to support our Catholic education, then I think that is a positive. I thank all of you for being here tonight because it really does make a difference. You can always find our Board Highlights on the EICS website. Just a reminder that our Board Meeting is this coming Wednesday (January 22nd) and starts at 2:30pm. The public are welcome to join and if you are interested in joining, please contact Mrs. Hinger for the meeting link.
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Adjournment

Next Meeting:	Monday February 22, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.
Adjournment:	Adjourned by Erin Crawley at 7:06 p.m.