



St. Luke Catholic School

Better Together

School Council Meeting Minutes May 15, 2023

Attendance: Erin Crawley, Meghan Ferguson, Carrie Knysh, Kyla Norris, Brenda Watmough, Leanne Evans (Teacher Representative), Shelby Mistekci, Cathy Hinger, Lisa Sweeney, Heather Cherniak, Shannon Blyth

Meeting Start Time: 6:36 pm

Prayer & Reflection

- Opening Prayer – Cathy Hinger
- Prayer for Catholic Education – Cathy Hinger

Land Acknowledgement – Done by the students of St. Luke

Welcome & Introductions – Cathy Hinger

- Thank you to Ms. Leanne Evans for joining us tonight.

School Update

Administrative Report – Cathy Hinger

School Highlights

- *Adoration* – We were blessed to have Father Vince here to lead a celebration for our school. He came with the Eucharist and put it into the monstrance. The choir led us all in song and each class was able to spend some time in the chapel with Jesus.
- *Mental Health Week (Leanne Evans)* – As part of the Apple School community, we are typically strong at physical activity and healthy eating. We decided to put more of an emphasis on mental health since COVID. Over the span of three days, we had three activities which helped us to continue the discussion of good mental health – Hats on for Mental Health, Smoothie Tuesday (smoothies to drink and “Brain Smoothies” done with our Mental Health Capacity Builder) and Forest Bathing. Our buddy classes were also able to connect with each other outside for some fun yard games.
- *Track & Field Day* – Thank you to our parent volunteers for a successful day!
- *Royal Alberta Museum* – A great day for all students. Thank you, parent volunteers.
- *Metis Art* – We were pleased to have Connie Kulhavy for two days, helping our students create their own birch tree art. Each student had a canvas to paint, while listening to Connie explain the significance of the birch tree in relation to Metis history.

- *Arbour Day* – The grade ones received their trees to plant.
- *GRACE Contest* – Congratulations to Brooklyn Tuininga in grade six and Myelle Tuininga in grade four for their representation of “We do better together.” They will be presented with a gift card.
- *Staffing Update*
 - Mrs. Sharilynn Shakeshaft will be leaving us at the end of the school year, and we will be welcoming our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Sean Gregg, who comes to us from St. Theresa’s. Mrs. Shakeshaft will be going to St. Patrick’s in Camrose.
 - Mr. Mason Hawkes has accepted a position at Holy Redeemer as part of their Sports Academy Hockey Program.
 - Mrs. Melanie Mazurek will teach the Grade 7/8 classes as well as options and music.
 - Ms. Yasmine Akhtar will not be returning.
- *Budget Update*
 - We are on track for where we should be right now. The bulk of the budget here at St. Luke goes toward salary (77%). Supplies and Services (things like software, equipment, furniture, phones, substitutes, casual staff, professional development, transportation for students, cost recovery) is at 79%.
 - The 2022-23 budget was \$1,359,377 (144 students)
 - The 2023-24 budget is \$1,287,277 (149 students). There is a district wide \$2.5 million reduction in the budget spread out through all schools and the Central Learning office.
 - Here at St. Luke, this means that there will be a reduction in staff. As Ms. Akhtar won’t be returning, her position (Grade Four teacher) will not be replaced. We are working with staff to figure out how we will work with one less staff member.
 - We will have one full-time EA 2.
 - We will have one part-time EA 3 (focusing on special education, behavioural pieces).
 - We will have an early learning programmer (Pre-K).
 - We may have increased class sizes. We will look at timetabling and see what will be best for all involved. This will most likely result in adding another split class. We need to figure out which classes will be best supported by this.
 - This is where we sit now and doesn’t mean things can’t change. If we increase our student population, we may be able to bring in one more teacher. Things may change throughout the summer, but this is what we have to work with right now.

Upcoming Events

- May 15-18 – Catholic Education Week
- May 18 – Wear Blue for Catholic Education
- May 19 & 22 – No School
- May 25 – Volunteer Tea
- May 29 – Election Day
- June 2 – Kindergarten Family Day Afternoon (cafeteria)
- June 2 – International Children’s Festival (Gr. 1-5)
- June 5 – School Council Meeting
- June 16 – Grade 8 Farewell & Year End Mass from 1-2pm at OLPH. Grade 8 Dinner/Program at 5:30pm at the school
- June 19-22 – Alien InLine Skating
- June 19 - Grade 7/8 Final Exam: ELA (morning)
- June 20 – Last day for kindergarten students

- June 20 – Grade 7/8 Final Exam: Science (morning)
- June 21 – Indigenous Day
- June 21 – Grade ½ Field Trip to John Janzen Nature Centre
- June 22 – Grade 7/8 Final Exam: Social (morning)
- June 23 – Pre-K & Kindergarten orientation for next year’s students
- June 23 – Grade 7/8 Final Exam: Math (morning)
- June 26 – PAT Social Studies
- June 27 – PAT Science
- June 27 – Last day for students

Teacher’s Corner – Ms. Leanne Evans

- Apple Schools & SWAT – I’ve been here for 12 years and as one of the original Apple Schools, we continue to receive small amounts of funding for each year we continue the program. The funds are based on how many students we have at the school. The money will cover small things like the activities I am able to do with the SWAT (Student Wellness Action Team) team. The SWAT team have become a young version of a leadership team and they help to implement the Apple School activities. There are over 80 schools in British Columbia, Alberta, Northwest Territories and Manitoba that participate in the Apple School program. Our students love the food we are able to provide. This year, the SWAT team was able to help with taste tests, healthy Halloween and Christmas snacks, spa water, setting up the Terry Fox run, making buttons, social justice projects and collecting food. SWAT is a great program and I really enjoy running it. At the end of the year, we sometimes have money left over and this year we would like to purchase some new decals to spray paint on our tarmac.
- We are doing the student vote again this year for the grade 5-8 students. We do a mock vote when there is an upcoming election. We receive ballots and ballot boxes from Civics Canada. Everything must be counted and recorded. We discuss the results of how the kids voted versus how the country voted. Students will do their own research and from their own opinions.
- June activities – we will have a healthy, active celebration at the end of the year. Outdoor classroom day is coming up, so we are encouraging each class to find a way to take their learning outside. Grade 6 PAT’s and breakfast and Grade 7/8 PAT’s and breakfast will also be happening.

Old Business

- *Council Priority Funds Grant – Cathy Hinger*
 - We have already spent some of the money on getting more picnic benches (4) for junior high students to sit and gather (cost approx. \$4,000). We have about half of the grant money left to spend. We are looking at some flat boulder rocks for an outdoor classroom. The boulders are about two feet wide and one foot high. We do not have a cost for the boulders yet. We have a division consultant that is helping us with pricing and design.

New Business

- *Agenda Use for 2023-24 – Cathy Hinger*
 - Agendas were purchased for all students this year. It’s up to the teacher if they would like to use them. Elementary uses them daily. Grade five and up, most things are done online. We will ask teachers if they are planning to use agendas and order what we need.

- *Staff Appreciation – Erin Crawley*
 - June 8 – looking for five volunteers for supervision this day.
- *Grade 8 Farewell - Erin Crawley*
 - Meghan Ferguson will present the grade eights with a gift on behalf of the parent council at the year end mass on June 16.
- *Last Lunch Day – Shelby Mistecki*
 - It would be nice to provide all students with a last lunch. We are thinking something like hot dogs and fruit.
- *Wildfire Preparedness Plan (brought up by Carrie Knysh) – Cathy Hinger*
 - With recent events, this is something we need to be more aware of. I don't believe we have a wildfire plan. We will do our due diligence and get something put in place We will talk to Central Learning and Fire Station 2 and see what our options would be should we have to evacuate. We will look at what is in place presently (ie. What we do for a gas leak) and see how we can build on that.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50 pm

Next Meeting: Monday June 5, 2023 at 6:30 pm