



St. Luke Catholic School

Go Light Our World

School Council Meeting Minutes September 18, 2023

Attendance: Erin Crawley, Meghan Ferguson, Carrie Knysh, Brenda Watmough, Donna Hayden (Teacher Representative), Shelby MistECKi, Cathy Hinger, Lisa Sweeney, Sean Gregg, Shannon Blyth, Melissa Orr-Langner, Jammie Smith, Cheryl Chow, Edward Whelan, Lisa Vandermeulen, Parichat Deboer, Natalie Lavigne (OLPH Parish)

Meeting Start Time: 6:37 pm

Prayer & Reflection

- Opening Prayer – Sean Gregg

Land Acknowledgement – Done by the students of St. Luke

Welcome & Introductions – Cathy Hinger

- Welcome Mr. Sean Gregg, our new Vice Principal, to his first meeting. We are also happy to have Madame Hayden as our teacher rep and Natalie from OLPH with us this evening.
- The ECIS theme this year is “Go Light Our World”.

Sacramental Preparation – Natalie Lavigne

- Thank you for welcoming me this evening, it is so nice to be here with you all. OLPH treasures our Catholic schools. Father Jim and the rest of the clergy make a point of coming out to visit the schools at least once a week. This can be in the form of a school mass, classroom visits and different school events. Part of my job is to help keep everyone organized. I also coordinate sacramental preparation for school aged children. Beginning in grade two, students can participate in preparation classes for their First Reconciliation and their First Holy Communion. We offer this three times throughout the school year (one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring). There is no one right age to begin this journey – you are never too old to prepare. The First Reconciliation comes before First Holy Communion to prepare to receive the gift of Jesus. Our fall session is under way, the winter session will begin in January and the spring session begins in April. Beginning in grade six, students can begin Confirmation preparation, which then completes their initiation into the church. At OLPH we do Confirmation prep classes for grades six, seven and eight as well as an information night for parents. We have a special program at ABJ for noon hour prep classes for older students which is run by teachers. If any high school aged students have not received their First Holy Communion, then that would be built into their Confirmation prep. We would greatly appreciate help from the parent council on spreading the word about all our sacramental preparation classes. Thank you, St. Luke, for welcoming me tonight.

School Update

Administrative Report – Cathy Hinger

School Highlights

- *Welcome Back BBQ/Meet the Staff* – Thank you to the parent council for putting on the BBQ. It was a great evening to have the community come together. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped.
- The portables will be removed by the end of the week. The area will be grassed.

Staffing Update

- We have had to let Mrs. Johnson (our EA in the Kindergarten class) go due to funding and our low enrollment numbers. We were hoping the kindergarten numbers would increase over the summer but that did not happen.
- Our Mental Health Capacity Builder is back and will be introduced at our next meeting in October. This position is staffed by Strathcona County, with each school within EICS having one. They bring in programs to promote social/emotional well being (positive playgrounds, girls group etc.). This is the last year of the program as it was a three-year cycle.

Community Engagement – Coming Soon!

- We will be sending out information regarding a Community Engagement meeting. We will discuss a wide range of things that we could do to help grow the St. Luke population. We will have members of the division come out and talk to community members to get feedback on what the community would like to see happen. A survey will come out to start this process. We want to ensure that St. Luke remains a strong pillar in this community.
 - Some ideas that were brought up at this meeting: St. Luke and South Cooking Lake should liaise more. St. Luke could have more of a presence in the South Cooking Lake community (maybe have a school liaison who also attends South Cooking Lake community meetings, have an information board set up at the hall with information about the school and what we're up to). The suggestion of bringing grade nine back to the school was also brought up.

Upcoming Events

- September 19 – Terry Fox Run
- September 28 – Bus Evacuations/First Rider
- September 29 – Orange Shirt Day
- October 2 – No School. National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- October 4 – Early Out
- October 6 – No School. PD Day.
- October 9 – No School. Thanksgiving.
- October 19 – Mass at 1:00 pm (at the school) for St. Luke Feast Day.

Teacher's Corner – Madame Donna Hayden

- We had a great start to the year and a smooth start for transportation. We have a couple of combined classes this year. The grade five and six classes sometimes combine for learning (just not for the core subjects). Additional programming for the fives and sixes this year include Outdoor Education, Food Studies, Art, Leadership (Student Wellness Action Team).
- CTF and CTS Courses for grades seven and eight include: Sports Performance, Food Studies, Drama/Performing Arts, Art, Robotics.
- We will be grouping some field trips for grades five to eight and kindergarten to grade four to save on costs. Some of the upcoming trips include: Winspear, Millenium Place, Fort Edmonton, Strathcona Wilderness Centre. The grade five and six class will also be doing some volunteer work. They have decided they would like to do yard work. The grade seven and eights have a leadership club that they do on their own free time.

Old Business

- *Fort Edmonton Rescheduled from June*
 - Date is June 20th. Cost still to be calculated. It will be a Kindergarten to grade eight trip.
- *Safety Protocol Discussion (specifically related to wildfires)*
 - The school is still in talks with the division about what our wildfire safety plan would look like. We are looking for a new muster point. There are quite a few pieces to work though on what to do and where to go. It's hard to give an exact plan of action when don't quite know what that would look like. We are continuing our talks with the division and will keep working towards a plan.

New Business

- Our new Trustee this year is Ted Paszek. He also holds the Vice Chair position on the Board of Trustees. We look forward to welcoming Ted to our future meetings.
- 2023-2024 Meeting Dates:
 - October 23 – Budget Meeting @ 5:30 pm
 - November 20
 - January 15
 - February 12
 - March 11
 - April 22
 - May 13
 - June 10
- Motion by Shelby to move meeting start time from 6:30 pm to 6:00 pm. All in favour.

Elections – Erin Crawley

- The Secretary position was held by Meghan Ferguson last year. She will be including her name for election this year. No other nominations or volunteers came forward. Meghan will remain Secretary for 2023-2024.
- The Vice-Chair/Communications Officer position was held by Brenda Watmough last year. She will be including her name for election this year. No other nominations or volunteers came forward. Brenda will remain our Vice-Chair/Communications Officer for 2023-2024.
- The Chair position was held by Erin Crawley last year. She will be including her name for election this year. No other nominations or volunteers came forward. Erin will remain our Chair for 2023-2024.
- The Director at Large position was held by Shelby MistECKi last year. She will be including her name for election this year. No other nominations or volunteers came forward. Shelby will remain a Director at Large for 2023-2024.

Round Table Discussion

Jammie Smith & Cheryl Chow – A hot topic issue right now is gender theory. This is something that is not immune to us even in a rural community. Stickers were being handed out at the South Cooking Lake Farmers Market at a particular food truck. They were only being handed out to children (example of sticker said “Too cute to be cis”). How is this topic being addressed here?

- Cathy Hinger’s reply: This gets approached from a Catholic point of view. God created us in the image of Him. We haven’t had to speak to this yet specifically at St. Luke as it hasn’t come up as an issue. When and if we do have to have the discussion, we will rely on the district and outside agencies for support. We do everything through a Catholic lens.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:10 pm

Next Meeting: Monday October 23, 2023 (Budget Meeting begins at 5:30 pm)