



St. Luke Catholic School

Go Light Our World

School Council Meeting Minutes January 15, 2024

Attendance: Erin Crawley, Meghan Ferguson, Carrie Knysh, Brenda Watmough, Monique Jean-Burns (Teacher Representative), Sean Gregg, Shelby Mistecki, Cathy Hinger, Shannon Blyth, Melissa Orr-Langner, Edward Whelan

Meeting Start Time: 6:07 pm

Prayer & Reflection

- Opening Prayer – Cathy Hinger

Land Acknowledgement – Done by the students of St. Luke

Welcome & Introductions – Cathy Hinger

- Welcome to Madame Monique Jean-Burns who joins us as our teacher representative tonight.

School Update

Administrative Report – Cathy Hinger

Staff Update

- Welcome to Mrs. Laura Tuininga. She has been part of our community for many years and has been at St. Luke's for a long time. Music is her passion, and we are happy to have her join us. We are also excited to have Ms. Laura Cormier teaching grade five. Both Mrs. Tuininga and Ms. Cormier will be with us until the end of June. They have fit in beautifully and we look forward to a great semester with them.

Advent Celebrations & Concert

- We were very involved in our Advent Celebrations. We had daily gatherings where students added symbols onto our Jesse Tree. The concert was a big success with all students participating in something - singing, production pieces, staging, script writing. We also had quite a few students who received sacraments over the past few months.

Service Projects & Acts of Charity

- Thank you for all the food bank donations for the Tofield Food Bank. We collected 521 pounds of food and other necessities. Hats and mitts were donated to OLPH and we were able to raise enough money for two Baskets of Blessings for Lurana Shelter. For such a small community we have very warm and giving hearts.

Learners & Learning

- Swimming lessons have started and have been a great success so far. Reading Buddies and reading groups have also been going very well – it really helps to build our school community. There has been a lot of great outdoor learning going on as well.

Systemic Wellness

- We are always keeping busy with things like – Crazy Hair Day, Rings & Rocks, Games Day for the whole school. Girls basketball has also started up and they are doing very well. They are participating in a tournament next weekend and the girls are looking forward to that.

Community Engagement

- We had our Catholic School Review in December. Constable Jill Donaldson is doing the DARE program with the grade six class every Thursday. The Saffron Centre was in the school for presentations before Christmas.

Catholic School Review Highlights

- The review was conducted during the second week of December. All staff members were interviewed as well as a select number of students. Parents who indicated they wanted to participate were also interviewed. Highlights include: (5 Marks of a Catholic School Identity)
 - **Grounded in Christian Anthropology.** Shows that the school reflects the church's mission. Highlights for this mark include staff creating a welcoming environment for visitors. Students agree and state that they truly feel cared for. Areas of growth for this section include 62% of students responded they have a bit of familiarity with the school mission statement. Our goal is to now create a short motto which will be easy for students to remember, describing this is who we are at St. Luke.
 - **A Catholic World View.** The school has a Catholic identity which is evident with visible signs (prayer corner, chapel). Students mentioned that everywhere they look there are signs of our faith. Areas of growth for this category would be service projects. The parent response for this is that current service projects are not communicated effectively. Some students also mentioned that they don't spend much time in the chapel so we will also look at how we can incorporate more chapel time.
 - **Faith Infused Curriculum.** Teachers agree they regularly infuse faith into instruction. Only 50% of students agreed. Sometimes our faith and religion classes are infused with other subjects, but we can focus in on making sure expectations are clear.
 - **We are Gospel Witnesses.** All agree that school staff are living witnesses of faith. Parents said as soon as you walk into the school you feel welcomed. Growth in this area (from Father Jim) would be regular attendance at Mass.
 - **Spirituality of Communion.** The school is connecting parents to church activities. An area for growth would be to enhance our communication piece to parents about all good things happening at St. Luke.
- Final thoughts – St. Luke is an example of what a small Catholic school should feel like. We are a family here. All are loved and cared for here. The best thing about the school is the staff (as stated by parents and students). The full report will be available on the school's website.

Nature Program

- Our pre-k program is nature based – everyday they do some instruction outside. Next year we will be incorporating nature learning into our kindergarten and grade one classes. We will be weaving our nature backyard into all the curriculum we do. The hope is that eventually this will be the case of all elementary classes. We really want to connect the kids with the nature play based learning and make those connections for lifelong learning. Our pre-k and kindergarten open house is on Wednesday January 17th from 6:00-7:00 pm. Registration opens February 1st.

EICS Calendar

- The new calendar is out for next year and goes for board approval next month.

Upcoming Events

- January 16 – Grade 1 Book Buzz
- January 16 – Priest Visit
- January 17 – Swimming Lessons
- January 17 – Pre-K/Kindergarten Open House 6:00-7:00 pm
- January 18 – Grade 6 DARE
- January 18 – Girls Basketball Tournament at Holy Redeemer
- January 19 – Kindergarten Day
- January 19 – Girls Basketball Tournament at Holy Redeemer
- January 20 – Girls Basketball Tournament at Holy Redeemer
- January 23 – Grade 1 Book Buzz
- January 23 – Priest Visit
- January 24 – Swimming Lessons
- January 24 – Bell Lets Talk Day
- January 25 – Buddy Reading Program
- January 30 – Last day of Semester 1
- January 30 – Grade 1 Book Buzz
- January 30 – Priest Visit
- January 31 – PD Day – NO SCHOOL

Teacher's Corner – Madame Monique Jean-Burns

- We are gearing up for the open house on Wednesday and looking forward to continuing the nature/outside program.
- We are having a blast in kindergarten. We had a dinosaur Teacher's Pet session on the Five Senses and it was excellent. We have started to incorporate some new science curriculum into our learning. In February we are doing an art project with Carleen Ross ("Messy Art"). We have report cards coming up and are looking forward to some more field trips (also looking at getting Money Mentors in and possibly The Bread Lady). In the spring we are headed to the zoo.

Old Business

Drumheller

- The grade fours are teaming up with the grade fours from Holy Redeemer. This trip will happen in June. The idea is that this will now become a grade four yearly trip. It ties in nicely with the Alberta curriculum for grade four.
- Bottles (for grade 5/6) have not been deposited yet.
- Trips funds are being held under the Parent Association bank account. The School Council has talked about putting funds forward for students (a dollar amount per student). We have looked at how we support other classes (grade 8 farewell, kindergarten graduation) for background. Does the School Council want to go ahead and donate \$10 per student for grade 4,5,6? We will do an official vote at the February meeting as we need to get together and make sure we are all working with the same numbers. Funds go to transportation, the museum cost (includes 2 meals and 2 snacks), swimming and possibly another activity before coming home. School Council donation would not increase based on the cost of the trip itself – it would be a set amount per student. The cost for the grade four trip is \$160 and for the 5/6 class it's about \$175-200. As the grade fours don't go until June, they do have some more time to raise money. We want to make it fair for all involved.

- Erin will chat with Madame Hayden about the proposed dance fundraiser. The date may need to change. An update will be provided at the next meeting as to where fundraising is at and we will vote on what amount of money is to be set aside for each student.

New Business

Shrove Tuesday

- Will be February 13th. Funds will go through the nutrition program. We will serve at lunch again this year. Cathy to chat with Amy this week about logistics. Shelby will also coordinate with Amy.

Yearbook

- Update at next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:07 pm

Next Meeting: Monday February 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm