



St. Gabriel School Council

585 Signal Road, Fort McMurray, AB, T9H 4V3

EMAIL: stgabrielsc@gmail.com

Minutes – January 14, 2020

3:15pm Meeting Room

This meeting was called to order at 3:15pm with an opening prayer done by everyone.

In attendance:

Jennifer Lacey, Abbie Ouellet, Sarah Dube

No amendments were made to the November 19, 2019 minutes.

Principal Report:

Christmas Concert

The Christmas concert was a wonderful production and the stage was a nice addition making any seat in the gym a good seat. Next year the Christmas concert will use a stage and is being planned for the first week of December.

Staffing

The Indigenous Liaison has started and our School Counsellor has returned full time after being shared part time with another school. At a District level Teacher and EA positions are available and more information about career positions can be found on the Catholic District website (www.fmcschools.ca).

Proposed Calendar 2020-21

Mrs. Lacey presented the proposed calendar for 2020-21. Start of the year is earlier than usual (Aug 31st) because the way the September long weekend is from Sept 5-7th. There is a single Wednesday off in the middle of the week during November to honour Remembrance Day. Christmas vacation is similar to this past year and Easter break is the first week of April. Last day of school is June 24th. Sarah commented that it would be better to match up some days off either before or after Remembrance Day so that there isn't a day off school in the middle of the week.

Accountability Pillar Survey

The accountability pillar survey will be out soon. It is for Grade 4-6 students, teachers and parents to respond to. This tool is used to evaluate the school's performance and identify future goals for improvements. Mrs. Lacey will be communicating with parents and teachers to ensure that responses are received.

Treasurer Report:

NOV 19, 2019 – JAN 12, 2020

Summary of Account Balance on Nov 19, 2019	\$16, 727.78
Deposits (Extra Hot Lunch, Bottle Return, Parking Lot Raffle, Christmas Couch Raffle)	1,251.55
Expenses (Childcare, Council Appreciation, Eco Club, Fruit, Office/Mail Teacher Appreciation, Water for staff, Walk-a-thon)	<u>1,890.78</u>



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Summary of Account Balance on January 12, 2020

\$16,088.55

Chair Report:

OLD BUSINESS

Election of Executives

No one currently step forward for Vice Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer.

Teachers Appreciation/ Wish List

One request from Mrs. Molloy (grade 2) was received to cover the cost of Lego and games for \$77.04. Therefore, the remaining funds of \$574.19 are available for a teacher's wish list. This can be for individual or group purchases. Teachers are to submit their requests to School Council for approval.

PTI Welcome Table

A welcome table was set up at the entrance of the school during Parent Teacher Interviews. Parents were stopping by to purchase tickets for the raffles but there was no interest expressed to volunteer for the vacant School Council positions. Suggestion was made to have a survey for parents to fill out to engage them more at this table.

ASCA Engagement Session

Four people were in attendance. Thank you School Council for covering the costs of childcare. Topics that were discussed included: Funding, Tobacco & Vaping, School Community, Diploma weighting and Choice in Education. For each topic an overview was provided and then the participants were asked to fill out a survey to solicit feedback from participants. In regard to funding, information about the recent announcement of the provincial budget was provided. The reduce funding will require school districts to look for efficiency and reduce costs. As well there has been substantial increases to insurance costs. It was discussed how to engage parents; how to help teachers and staff; and how to advocate the parent voice to our MLAs. In regard to Tobacco & Vaping, the participants were surveyed to find out if vaping should be included under the tobacco laws. Majority of participants agreed. In regard to School Community, ASCA encouraged communication with parents, having tables at events, and creating strong relationship with admin & staff. One idea was to do online meetings to capture more parent involvement in the meetings. With the Education Minister the discussion of diploma weighting was brought up. The PC government's election platform included reviewing the weighting of diploma exams and changing it back to 50% of a student's grade. The ASCA members were surveyed and the majority wanted it to remain at 30%. The final topic was about Choice in Education. Our group valued faith-based education.

Christmas Staff Luncheon

Several staff members approached Sarah and expressed their appreciation for School Council providing the Christmas Staff Luncheon and covering supervision so that they could enjoy it together.

Valentine Dance

Darlene has involved a few other parents to organize the Valentine Family Dance. They met and discussed the following: entrance fee will be a donation to the Food Bank, profit will go towards the Spring Fun Afternoon,



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the gym decoration will be a heart-gram filled out by students, there will be 8 raffle baskets (Mom, Dad, LOL, Spa, Beyblades, Lego, Movie, Nerf), small and home business from the St. Gabriel School community will be asked for donations to help promote and support our St. Gabriel family. There will be a change in location of a few things at the dance and the map was reviewed. The map will be included with the information going home with students. One new game, Plinko, will be added and the Race Track game will also be set up. Prices will remain the same as previous years and the new fairy dusting station will be 2 tickets.

Volunteers

Fatima Khatoon was the drawn volunteer for the School Council parking spot in the staff parking lot from Jan 15- Feb 5. Volunteer at the school before our next School Council meeting on February 6th to be entered into a draw for the parking spot for the following month. Volunteers are also needed for the Recycling Friday on January 24th and the Valentine Dance. Split shifts will be available for the Valentine Dance and 21 volunteers are needed for the night. Parents, staff, and teenager siblings will be encouraged to volunteer.

NEW BUSINESS

Alien In-Line Skating

Alien In-Line Skating in class instruction will be February 3 to 6. The Family Skate Night is on Tuesday, February 4th with two sessions from 5-6pm and 6-7pm. Information will be going home soon with the permission form. Students have already started to express their excitement for the event.

COSC Meeting

The Council of School Councils (COSC) met in December. At the meeting the purpose of Council of School Councils was discussed. As well, the Accountability Report Card Summary for the District level was reviewed. The 2019-20 Budget and Implications were presented. The budget has been reduced by \$3.2M which is equivalent to 34 teachers. This year our District will be using reserves to cover costs. However, it is not sustainable for the next 4 years so District will be evaluating non-core services such as transportation, school fees, admin/ board governance, enhanced kindergarten, and high school options. The priority will be to the core business of providing instruction to students. District will also be meeting with the Public District to discuss what they are doing in response. Parents voiced that it was a priority to keep to the money in the classroom and charge for non-essential services such as transportation. GrACE (Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education) will be hosting an engagement session in the new year. Future COSC meeting is set for March 2nd and COSC will organize an ASCA workshop on Fundraising for which the date is to be determined. During round table Sister Mary Phillips mentioned they have Lego Bricks for Kids come in the school. Sarah suggested we have them come in for indoor recesses, however, the cost is high and the instruction in the past was not great. St Paul's is also hosting Dr. Carrington on March 12th at the Keyano College. Tickets are still available.

Council Surveys

For the remaining school year, School Council will have a single question survey for parents to fill out monthly. It is to evaluate the level of service from this school year and solicit feedback to direct School Council for the next school year. Questions were reviewed and a suggestion to provide a poll on meeting dates/times was made.



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Family Lunch

A parent brought forward the idea of having a family lunch where parents can come into the school and have lunch with their children. Sister Mary Phillips allows families to come in any day of the week to have lunch with their child in their atrium. Mrs. Lacey will organize a couple of days or a week of family lunches in the meeting room to see if this is something that would be utilized by our families.

Fundraising:

Special Event Days

The Extra Hot Lunch on November 29th raised \$259.92. Additional fundraisers are not required at this time but to help our parents another Extra Hot Lunch will be planned for March.

Boston Pizza Operation Education

From the Boston Pizza receipts collected from Sept-Dec we will receive around \$40. This is down from previous years. Receipts will continue to be accepted from Jan – June 2020 in the office.

Parking Spot Raffle

The Parking Spot Raffle raised \$95 towards Office/Mail expenses.

Christmas Concert Couch Raffle

The Christmas Concert Couch Raffle for grade 1-6 raised \$150 towards the Christmas Staff Luncheon and the EEP/K raised \$57 towards classroom resources. More advance promotion should be done next time.

Kindness T-Shirt Fundraiser

Staples has a T-shirt Fundraiser for Pink Shirt Day. Cost of shirts are \$5 and Hoodies are \$20 but a minimum of 50 must be ordered. School Council will be sending out information home for parents/ staff to purchase t-shirts only at cost. Currently additional fundraising is not required and School Council wants to encourage everyone to practice kindness and wear pink to symbolize that we do not tolerate bullying. The logo chosen was “Be Kind always” and deadline for orders is Thursday, January 23rd.

Closing Comments:

Meeting adjourned at 4:06pm.

Next Meeting date and time: Thursday, February 6th, 2020 – 3:15-4:45pm. All parents welcome!