

**Holy Family Catholic
School Community Council**
Location: Holy Family Catholic School Library Meeting Room

October 9, 2019 @ *Meeting called to order by Tim*

In Attendance

Tim, Carmen, Brad, Karen, Bonnie, Connie, Sarah, Blaire, Tanya

Regrets

Jason, Amanda, Curtis

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Led by Connie

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved: Bonnie

Second: Carmen

Carried: Yes. All in favour

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for September, 2019 approved: Karen

Second: Bonnie

Carried: yes

- Reminder to read through the minutes and be sure to approve them as there may be changes needed
-

School Report- School Report led by Connie

Please see school report in addition to the following notes:

- Had a meeting with the Superintendent and was able to pass on feelings of gratefulness for the support of fundraising and the efforts of Friends of Holy Family
- Thankful for the involvement from the community council
- Welcome Back BBQ and AGM
 - o Lack of attendance for the AGM although good turn out for the BBQ
- Use of Funds
 - o Purchased 5 bike racks to help with overflow of bikes
 - No more room to add more currently but hopeful that 5 will be sufficient
 - o Looking to add a Buddy Bench thanks to the Kohut family which will be added in two weeks
 - May not be able to cement it in due to weather
- Learning Improvement plans
 - o Faith formation for students and staff
 - Retreat planned for students and staff

- Reading outcomes – currently the outcomes are above average but still have some students with reading challenges so will have a literacy intervention program to support those students
- Math
 - Continuing to focus efforts in numeracy and the number strand, math facts,
 - Computation skills continue to be an area of concern
- First Nations
 - Work towards greater understanding and recognition of all being a part of Treaty 6
- Staff Professional Learning
 - Personal Growth Plans
 - Connecting staff with resources
 - Attending conferences to continue learning
- 3-Way conferences coming up on November
- Trustee Reps
 - 2-3 are allocated per school
 - would be happy to attend our council meetings
 - Trustee council meeting October 23rd in the gyms with presenter Dr. Michael Unger talking about building resiliency in children
 - Need to meet with the trustees at least one meeting a year

Parish Update- Blair

- Cathedral started the children's choir with a good turnout.
 - They sang at the 9am mass and will be singing a total of 3 masses in the church calendar year.
 - Not too late to join
- Full turn out for the fall supper
- Cat chat starts "soon" for Grades 3-5 contact the youth minister Katherine

Set Up Parent Contacts

Everyone received the email

Meeting Times & Dates

First week of the month on Weds

Next meeting Nov 6 at 7:00 PM

Social Media

- The School has Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and both Connie and Jen post updates on the Facebook account
 - Carmen and Bonnie have been added as administrators as well
- Bonnie posts updates on Fundraising and newsletters are posted by Admin Staff
- Instagram will be used to post interesting items from day-to-day within the school
- Recognition that each platform reaches different people
 - Consensus to have Facebook provide the main source of information
 - Connie and the school office will post anything related to the school, Church
 - Carmen will post items related to WUHCA updates
 - Unsure where and how to share information on School Council
- Screen in the hallway of the school and shares information
- Bonnie and Julie make displays in the front entrance of the school for Friends of Holy Family

- Discussion around which social media platform to use and how to communicate what funds are being used from Friends of Holy Family as well as how much of the funds are being spent

AGM

- Carmen presented concerns around the clarity of guidelines that our council has been following
 - o Handbook for Principals and Catholic School Community Councils has a number of guidelines which have not been previously enforced
 - o Official guideline states that people need to be given 4 weeks notice of the AGM prior to the date which has not been followed
 - o Concern regarding the absence of any people outside of the council
 - o Our constitution does not define what constitutes quorum and this will need to be clarified for the future
 - o Need to define how members are voted in and how to ratify positions on the council
 - o Our current constitution was approved by the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) and in order to change the constitution it would need to be presented for approval from the GSCS
 - o Interest in having a subcommittee review the constitution
- Discussion around how to engage more people in the AGM
 - o Perhaps change the order of the meeting to have the AGM take place prior to having supper
 - o Perhaps have the AGM attached to a Parent Educational Session with a guest speaker possibly in regard to mental health, or mathematics and reading
 - o Possibility of changing the timing of the AGM to June instead of in September
 - o Perhaps having a carnival night or a school fun night with the AGM in the library
 - o Blair stated that the school he works at ran a wellness expo with lots of current topics and it was well attended
 - Had different booths set up in the gym with pamphlets and parents could walk around and ask questions as needed
 - The staff were the ones who organized and ran the event
 - o Noted that extra food from the BBQ was given to the Friendship Inn the next day

School Photos

- Half of the photos were done today – K-3 and the Grade 8s.
- Life Portraits heard our concerns and made a concerted effort to slow the process down and focus on quality over speed
- Photos were split over two days in order to allow more time for photos
- Parent volunteers helped with getting kids ready

Christmas Concert

- This year's concert will be "A Gift of Songs" with each class singing a few songs
- Discussion around trying to accommodate the large number of people that attend the concert
 - o The Cathedral seats the most people so it is difficult to look at other venues
- Discussion around improving people's ability to see and hear the Christmas concert especially people seated in the back of the Church
 - o Suggestion made about videotaping the Concert
 - o Decision to look into using video equipment in order to live stream the concert in the overflow section of the Cathedral to allow parents to still view the concert

Parent Nights

Already discussed – see above under AGM

Staff Appreciation

- Intend to run the same process as last year
- Prairie Meats prepared the food previously
- The lunch this year will be scaled back for more appropriate portions

Friends of Holy Family Update – Bonnie

- After providing funds for planners, a bus ride, BBQ expenses, the school musical, an 4 classroom iPads there is \$4000 in funds
- Clothing sale was successful
 - o 172 pieces were sold which was more than last year
 - o currently working on a pick up date for items ordered
- A Whats App group has been created for volunteers or helpers of the fundraisers
- Apple fundraiser sold 76 boxes of apples
 - o Desire to try this fundraiser again next year in order to build more momentum
 - o Apple people were wonderful to work with and made arrangements easy
- Hot Lunches have been posted up to January and are trying out some new restaurants
 - o Waiting to see how the new restaurants are received as well as how easy they are to work with
- Next fundraiser is Mom's Pantry
 - o Order forms will be sent home at the end of October
- Applications are being accepted for the first ever Christmas Trade/Craft Show
 - o Amanda is receiving the applications
 - o Trade Show is set for Nov 23 from 10am-3pm
 - o Promotions for the event will begin once Mom's Pantry orders are completed
- QSP fundraiser used to provide around \$8000 so there is a need to make up that difference with other events
- A bulletin board has been created downstairs to provide information about the fundraising committee and upcoming events
- Other fundraising ideas include:
 - o Purdy's Chocolates for Valentine's Day
 - o Movie Night before Easter
 - Suggestion to have two different movie nights with one strictly for the older grades
 - o BINGO if someone can be found to organize
- Blair commented that St. Maria Goretti is looking to use the \$150 from School Start donations to purchase headphones for the computer lab

WUCHA Update - Carmen

- AGM was held on October 2 with no changes to council positions
- Fall programs are up and running and currently looking for program suggestions for the Winter
- Looking for volunteers for board members and coaches
 - o Coaches receive a \$50 voucher at the end of the year
- Looking at having more inclusive programs that would be free of charge
 - o Coffee dates for people new to the community

- Seniors programs
- Currently have a wellness martial arts class that caters to individuals over 50 years old
- Reminder that WUHCA will help with costs of programs for individuals that are in need

Parent Council Email & Mail Report - Karen

- No e-mails have been received and there was nothing in the mail

Old Business

- Slack has been set up for council members with new topics and threads being available for anyone who would like to create one
- Update of Strategic Plan that was sent out to council members with 5 questions
 - Q1 – Are council meetings effective?
 - 4 respondents said consistently, 2 said mostly, 1 said somewhat
 - Q2 – How could council meetings be improved
 - 6 responses – meetings run smoothly, set some goals, they are efficient
 - Q3 – What should our next step as a council be to support our school?
 - 6 responses – areas are targeted pretty well, parent engagement, inclusivity
 - Q4 – As a council, which areas should we target
 - 6 responses – so far the areas targeted have been pretty well rounded
 - Parent engagement?
 - Inclusivity
 - Q5 – Generally, how do we want to improve as a council?
- Tim expressed desire to make the agenda more inclusive
- Next agenda items
 - Blair will talk further about the Mental Health Expo that was done at St Maria Goretti
 - Discussion around making everyone feel welcome at the school as well as inclusion into the school among new immigrants
 - Looking at the ski trip for this year as well as other options for those who do not wish to go skiing

Adjournment of Meeting

Motion to adjourn @ 8:45

First: Carmen

Second: Brad

Next meeting will be in November 6, 2019, at 7:00pm – 8:00 **

School Report -October 9, 2019

Thanks:

- For the continued support for the efforts of the staff in our instructional and programming initiatives.
- For those of you who helped with the barbeque - many hands made light work!
- Bonnie and company, your leadership with *The Friends of Holy Family* is so awesome and appreciated!
- The Schools Wins Twice project has begun. Thanks, Shalla Shuler for your extra time and involvement!
- To those of you who attended our meeting today - your presence, time and your input into the decision of the school is greatly appreciated!
- To those of you who are new to our council! Your involvement is greatly valued!

Looking Back:

- The Welcome Back BBQ evening was a wonderful way to welcome back old and new families!
- Our Opening Mass was a great way to celebrate with Fr. Ephram at the Cathedral.
- More bike racks were installed and a Buddy Bench ordered

Learning

- We have completed Learning Improvement Plan. Goals will be developed in the areas of Faith Formation, literacy, Math, Early Learning and Improved Understanding in First Nations and Metis History and Culture.
- Staff professional learning continues in many areas.

Looking Ahead:

- 3-Way Conferences Thurs. Nov. 21/22nd with Progress Reports on Nov. 29th
- Our trustee reps are Todd Hawkins, Ron Boechler and Alice Risling are always available to attend a meeting.
- CSCC/Trustee meeting @ Holy Family Wed. Oct. 23rd 7PM. Presentation on how parents can build resiliency skills with the children by Doctor Michael Unger. Doctor Michael Unger is a family therapist and professor of Social Work at Dalhousie University.