

Calgary Christian School Council October 2014 Meeting

Meeting: CCS School Council
 Chairperson: Gwen Russell & Hendria Nielsen
 Secretary: Bonita Halford

Date: October 1, 2014
 Time: 7:00 – 9:00pm
 Location: CCS High School Commons

Attendees – Gwen Russell, Hendria Nielsen, Bonita Halford, Gwen Uittenbosch, Jason Kupery, and 14 parents.

Special Guests – Colleen Deitz (Palliser School Division Trustee)

Item	Time	Description
1	7:00	<p>Welcome, prayer and general overview of meeting agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Thess 5:18 – Encourage and build one another up!
2	7:10	<p>Approval of School Council June 2014 Meeting Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion made by Carolyn Kuhn seconded by Iris Charabin. Carried.
3		<p>Palliser School Division Trustee Update – Colleen Deitz</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has been a trustee since '98 • They are in the process of getting a meeting with the new education minister • Board meetings are held once a month – all welcome • Palliser Beyond Borders – online courses that are not a replacement to teaching but gives students more options. Also available to adults to obtain needed high school credits. • They are looking at ways to support the teachers in terms of collaboration to do the best for the kids • Looking at international students to increase enrollment and bring education to all • New school act has been passed, waiting to see what the fall out will be • The board is down one trustee. A new trustee will be added through a by-election
4		<p>Coordinators for Teacher Appreciation, Lego Contest, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year the Lego contest was run by staff and parents cooperatively. It coincided with the VIP tea which was a quite successful. Looking to do the same this year. • Date for VIP tea and Lego Contest is Friday, May 1. • There is a need for volunteers for Lego contest to work with staff • Need for volunteers for Staff appreciation. • Volunteer needs for both events will be posted on SignUp Genius
5	7:18	<p>Principals Reports</p> <p>Note: In future both principals will have their reports posted on the web before school council meetings</p> <p>Gwen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 426 students enrolled in ES • Music room is under renos – one of the beams was weak and is being replaced. Music classes have been held in Emmanuel or an empty kindergarten room • Music program with Amy Gatus is bringing great results • Hosting a volunteer information morning tomorrow (Thursday, October 2) at 8:50 • Criminal checks need to be done yearly now

- Grade 3's are doing Student Learner Assessments now (these are the replacement to the PAT exams). Teachers are keeping it low key
- Attended a Literacy symposium in Lethbridge – the information was practical and ready to use
- Two new teachers from GCA – John Bird, Amy Gatus – both gifted teachers. Come by and meet them.
- Power outage and snow day – Jan 30 will now be a school day as the snow day was an onsite PD day
- Synavoice – training will be done on this new system that will be used to pass on information to parents if school is closed, late busses and other information

Questions

- Children are welcome to attend volunteer meeting. Should be done by 9:15
- Criminal record check – forms are in the office to pick up. Emails are going home to tell parents of this change. The forms will also be available at parent/teacher interviews. What is the rationale for this change? Colleen Dietz– not sure why policy has changed. Who will pay for the checks? Gwen has a potential plan. Social service check still done every 3 years

Jason

- Enrolment steady – problem with demographic – lose about 25 students between the number that graduate and the number coming over from elementary
- Enrolment is at 420 – evenly split between middle and high school
- Shannon Dean left to take a job with the CBE. It was late to get someone of quality. Jason is not teaching this year to help cover this position. Glenda Jullion is here on part time to help with the role of vice principal as well.
- Theme for the year, *Do Hard Things*, is carried over from last year's theme *Leaving a Legacy*. The survey last year showed that parents wanted to see the bar raised. Chapels are being split between high school and middle school. Middle school is working on doing hard things as a community and building community through that.
- Grade 7 sleepover was a success. Feedback from survey showed that it is a big transition for students entering grade 7. This was a way for students to meet and get to know one another and the teachers.
- Revamped discipline policy this year also because of parent feedback. This year they are not letting kids get away with not handing things in. Students will lose privileges until the work is done. This is a formal policy now. Parents will be contacted when an offense occurs. This policy will be presented to Palliser Board on Oct 21.
- Driving rules – We now need driving abstracts due to tightened policies from Palliser. Can not be done through the office anymore. It is up to parent discretion to give updates on driving record but they do not need to be done every year.
- Parent involvement – There will be a book study for *Do Hard Things* – reading the book will help parents support the school. More formal info on this will come.
- Grade 12's have been on their trip to Frontier Lodge
- The principals were away in Victoria for a Christian Principals Conference. It was a great time spent with valuable information.
- Belize – Jason and Ken DeWyn and four teachers will be going in November. This is part of the 50th anniversary legacy. They will be bringing supplies and teaching teachers on

		<p>integration of faith to 3 different Christian schools. They will be helping to teach healthy discipline, looking into food programs as a possible means of helping deal with behaviour issues. May have some thing to bring back to society for future opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New chaplain, Lane Kilbreath, just announced. We are looking forward to great new things.. This is a full time position.
6	7:40	<p>Discussion Topics</p> <p>Orientation Feedback – ES/MS/HS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ES – This year a couple of teachers in grade 3 and 5 held a parent orientation evening for their classes in particular. This may be done next year for all classes and then the need of a larger more general orientation may be eliminated. • Some parents would like to see the Back to School BBQ event brought back. Could be done along with the orientation. A social time with name tags could help new families to get to know other parents. There is discussion about whether to hold a general social time or to have the social time be more specific to each grade. This time could be connected to the grade orientation night. • Possibility of changing the grade parents to be more of a social coordinator to host coffees to help parents get to know one another. This role still needs to be defined as there is some miscommunication between parents and teachers about what it really is. • Back to school celebration? Missed this year. Maybe school council could host next year? <p>New Website Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents can find the times for daily activities like lunch under the parent tab under calendars. • ES – Class schedules are with each teacher’s information. • There is still work to be done to ensure every teacher has a link under eTeachers • Some teachers have their own websites. If they do a link will be given on their eTeacher page. • Some parents were wondering if there could be links to textbooks through website. Jason said there may be licensing problems with this. Some may be online. It may be possible that textbooks are on overdrive or apple books for loan. I • Will take time to get used to the new website and getting in the habit of using it <p>Volunteering – SignUp Genius</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simple to use • There is concern that people won’t use it and volunteers will be lost • It is better for teachers – not needing to manage too many requests especially for field trips. It is on a first come basis. • Sending out invitations to volunteer may help get the needed volunteers especially when new needs are posted. These will come as event leaders post invites but it is difficult as staff also want to manage the number of emails that parents receive and the needs are constantly changing. • Staff are also looking into possibly using a blog so that if parents subscribe to the blog they will see when something has been updated. • Kitchen in HS needs to be cleaned and made functional. Can it be a part of discipline policy? Or Service project?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link from newsletter brought good response. Easy to use and sign up for. <p>Parent Driver Forms Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School will reimburse \$20 of the cost. • Forms are available on website under Parents/Volunteers or see Sindee Cornez in the Business Office. More explanation is on Jason’s blog under Secondary/From the Principal. • No fellow students can drive others. • Forms need to be signed to drive other students. Lots of changes and things are being sorted out still. Coaches or teacher sponsors should have all the info as who has the forms signed <p>Lunch Parent Help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In secondary – lots of need in MS/HS • Elementary - Hot dog days. Stephanie Nebata is overseeing the program this year. <p>Incident in Alley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information to parents came out late as the school wanted to have accurate information. • Lots of misinformation through twitter and facebook • The safety of the students was not in question. • Will re-examine the way communication comes out about future incidents.
7	8:00	<p>Questions/Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principals will be away for next monthly meeting. Wed Nov 5 School Council meeting will go without administration present. Principal reports will be on web ahead of time. Questions will be collected and passed to principals. (It was later clarified that principals must be present at meetings. Limited principal availability at the end of October and beginning of November resulted in not being able to reschedule so the November 5 meeting had to be cancelled. The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 3 at 1:30 at Emmanuel Church.) • There is uncertainty about who the teacher representatives to the school council are for this year. This will be looked into. • Is it possible to have matching school shirts for field trips? Kindergarten had them. Could have classroom sets rather than paying for each individual student to have one. This would help parents know who belongs to the group especially for the first field trips of the year. Where would the money for this come from? • Lock down practice – Can there be a film on windows or blinds for blocking out people outside looking in? This will be reviewed back as windows need to be clear in the event of fire. Currently during a Lock down the kids need to close blinds. Can parents be notified of lock down practice ahead of time? Parents could ask the teachers for information. It is always presented to kids very calmly. There will be another fire drill practice this month. • High school teachers are notified for the first fire drill/lock down drills. Next time no one is notified. The message they want to give to students is that they need to get to a safe place. • HS has strobes to notify parents not to enter. Guests in school have to find a safe place. • Even if fire alarm is pulled during lock down kids are not to leave. No one comes out until principal or police open the door. This is something that needs to be reinforced in MS/HS.
8		<p>Closing Comments, Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting Wed. Dec 3 at 1:30 at Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church. (November meeting had to be cancelled – see item 7 above)