

Calgary Christian School Council February 2015 Meeting

Meeting: CCS School Council
 Chairperson: Gwen Russell & Hendria Nielsen
 Secretary: Alicia Airey/Hendria Nielsen

Date: February 5, 2015
 Time: 1:30 – 3:30pm
 Location: ECRC

Attendees – Gwen Russell, Hendria Nielsen, Alicia Airey, Gwen Uittenbosch, Jadan Barthel, Maureen Tarnowski, Ken DeWyn, Lesley Halcro, Leona Schaap and 6 parents.

Item	Time	Description
1	1:30	Welcome and Prayer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hebrews 13:15-17 "...so that their work will be a joy, not a burden..."
2		Approval of School Council January 2015 Meeting Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion made and carried, Lesley Halcro. Alicia Airey.
3		CSCE Report – Ken DeWyn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Survey is open until Feb. 9. All CCS households are encouraged to respond as the responses are looked at by the Board and staff. Results will be used to prioritize goals for the year and to get a sense of direction. • Spring Fundraiser "Game Time" is Mar.13. It is a sports themed event, with lots of opportunities to work and play together. Ticket sales are needed, as that primarily pays for the cost of the event itself. Money raised at the event goes toward the Annual Fund initiatives. • Feedback is requested on "Before and After School Care". This has come up in several new family interviews as being desirable for family logistics and also might reduce the need for bussing. B&A Care was looked into several year ago and there was interest but not enough families who were willing to pay for it. Evaluation of interest should include consideration of the pricing. Bussing is expensive so this could be more affordable from the Society perspective. There will be reduction in bus lines next year: elimination of one line and consolidation of two others. Affected families have been notified. B&A Care has become a growing concern and will be put to the Society Membership & Board to review. • Question was asked with respect to growth: What is the best number of students per grade? What are the future plans? Three classes per grade is the general cap for the next several years due to facilities limits. Growth would require building expansion of some kind that would have to be campus specific.
4		Palliser Board Update – Colleen Deitz Colleen Deitz sent regrets that she could not come in person but sent this report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1. Stan Hielema, principal from Trinity, has been hired as the Associate Superintendent of Student Services and alternate programs. Stan will be replacing Dale Backlin in this position. • 2. New Trustee from Picture Butte area. Craig Whitehead was sworn in at our Jan meeting and we now are back to 6 trustees. • 3. Had a meeting with the Minister of Education and a few MLA's and ten school boards on Monday. Minister briefly advised that there will be shortfalls in the coming budget. Stated that the Provinces revenue will be down 20% from last year. Did not know what this will mean for education, but I'm sure we will be receiving some reductions. The extent we are not

		<p>aware of yet but once we know we will be having discussions on how to address these. Palliser is continuing to explore the other opportunities to increase our revenue with our international student program, online school and with our transportation department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4. Community Meeting to be held in 4 areas, Calgary on Mar 2(Monday, March 2 6:30-8:30 p.m. at CCS HS), Vulcan Feb 24, Coaldale Feb 25, and Picture Butte Mar 5. This is an opportunity to meeting with the community and parents etc., we will be explaining how and why Palliser is different from other school boards in the Province, we go into the history of why we did change, how we have changed and the results from that change. We will then have a follow up meeting in May sometime to discuss with the parents, students, teachers and community members on where we should go from here. It is a great opportunity for the Board to hear from the stakeholders. • 5. Our next meeting is Feb 10, should anyone have any questions concerns etc. please contact myself. Contact info is on the Palliser web site.
5		<p>Follow Up Topics</p> <p>Can Parents help reduce stress on teachers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwen U. reviewed time pressures on teachers due to reduced prep time causing teachers to have been working through their lunches/breaks etc. A tremendous help would be for parents to regularly come supervise students at recess time and lunch eating time. Gwen will facilitate communicating to ES parents this opportunity to bless teachers. May be setup on signup genius but please contact individual teachers to volunteer for now. Suggested other ways to free up nonessential teacher time: photocopying, the meals this week have been wonderful as staff appreciation during parent teacher interviews. • To take back to Secondary staff: ways for parents to help relieve some workload there? • The effect of volunteerism, or lack thereof, may need to be communicated to the parent community to increase volunteerism. Perhaps an 'endangered events' list. <p>Communication to parents from teachers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can be confusing for parents if different teachers communicate classroom news in different formats. It is helpful when information is posted on the e-teacher pages for reference. • ES discussing ways to improve and coordinate communication. • Sign-Up Genius and individual teacher/parent arrangements have worked out well for volunteering. Signing-up is easy, but still figuring out how to effectively raise awareness of volunteer opportunities, especially new ones. • Community Relations and Principals are considering how to possibly do weekly campus specific emails for reminders and updates. How to beconsistent and not duplicate; including,for example: highlight coming events, hyperlinks to signups,e-teacher pages, etc. Trying to balance between getting the information out and not overloading with too many notices. • Secondary successfully uses REMIND system fornotifications for the secondary staff/students/parents. Can sign up for either texts or emails for a particular class or group.
6		<p>New Topics, Questions, Comments</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ES Parent Information Evenings in September EShave on agenda for staff meeting to plan forclass communication to parents in the beginning of the school year.It may be a time on the day before school starts or it could be an evening the first week of school. The focus is to orient the parents to the new classes and not just the students. This may coincide with a Volunteer orientation process with respect to Police and Social Service checks. That clearance process for next year will hopefully start with an initial batch in May/June then another in September for additional parents. • Question: Does admin look at MS/HS class averages for exams? For example in terms of accountability, one class average is very high vs another’s low on an exam? How is that information used? • Internet Safety Presentation in the Commons 7 pm Feb 23 HS Commons. • Staff Appreciation Events still looking for assistance with food on both campuses and classroom supervision at ES. See Sign-Up Genius. • AVolunteer Bond was suggested. This is fundraiser fee if families don’t meet their volunteer commitment (20 hours). This could motivate more participation and bring in money but is also difficult to administer and must consider different family circumstances. • LEGO SHOWCASE - May 1 (grades 1-3) andMay 22 (grades 4-6) Kids encouraged to build and name their creation. Kids are allowed to invite a guest (but this is not meant to be a replacement VIP Tea/Grandparent Day). Tea will be provided by Community Relations and Chapels will be moved to the Friday those weeks so guests are invited to stay and worship with the students. There will be no judging of these creations; this is anexhibition and nota competition. The comment was made that perhaps it would be nice to somehow recognize excellence in the creative students and not just the sports element in school. Science Fair also has awards. • The school choir has been invited to participate at The Military Museums’70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Holland’ eventon May 5.
7	3:00	Closing Comments, Prayer and Adjournment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Meeting - Thursday, March 5 @ 1:30 – 3:30. Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church.