

Calgary Christian School Council May 2015 Meeting

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

Date: May 7, 2015
 Time: 1:30 pm
 Location: ECRC

Attendees – Hendria Nielsen, Alicia Airey, Gwen Uittenbosch, Maureen Tarnowski, Corrin Brouwer, Lesley Halcro, and 11 parents.

Item	Time	Description
1	1:30	<p>Welcome and Prayer – Hendria Nielsen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proverbs 19:20 NLT Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life.
2		<p>Approval of School Council April 2015 Meeting Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion made and carried.
3		<p>Co-Chairs and Secretary for 2015/2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation of new leaders is encouraged. New co-chairs and secretary can transition with ongoing support from current leaders. Be involved in planning for next year by coming alongside now. Contact Gwen or Hendria or use SignUp Genius.
4		<p>Provincial Budget Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Before the recent election, we received communication from the President of the Alberta School Councils' Association suggesting that we consider, together with the principals and Palliser, communicating to our government representatives how the recent provincial budget will affect our students and encouraging them reconsider education funding. However, since the change in government may result in a new budget, we will wait. Administration will be discussing at their meeting.
5		<p>Stand-Up Desks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The idea of having stand-up desks for students was brought up by a parent. They are a trend among office workers. Potential benefits include: helping kids pay attention, reducing fidgeting for kids who can't sit still, and improved fitness due to body being engaged. There are currently some stand-up desks in Mr. Barthel's HS classroom. He will be consulted about his experiences when he returns from the West Coast Trail trip. A training and implementation period may be necessary. Grades K-3 tend to have more opportunity to move throughout their day. It may be worthwhile to have a few stand-up desks available for each classroom grades 4-12. Unfortunately, these desks are more costly than regular desks. Suggested to talk to Resource/OT supports to see if this is worth pursuing.
6		<p>Outdoor Art Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent proposed idea to refresh the paint on the retaining walls along the school playing fields. The MS/HS Art teacher, Mrs. Reitsma, was consulted and suggested parents could prime the walls over the summer and then students could decorate in the fall. It was noted that the walls are actually on the property of adjacent home owners so must first solicit their approval via Executive Director. It was also suggested this could be a student Senior Project Activity. Details will be worked out.

7	<p>ES Class Lists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ES class lists are being put together now, to be completed by the end of the month. Plan is for teachers to send letters in the mail to let children know in August which teacher's class they are in. Discussion about previous "Ambassador Family" program to connect new families with some existing CCS families. Unfortunately, when tried previously it was difficult to find available host families to match and often new families already have some connection to the school. Suggested to provide new CCS families with last year's directory to help them facilitate connections.
8	<p>ES Hot Lunches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership help is required if parents want to expand the ES Hot Lunches to more than the currently offered Hot Dogs/Pizza. Gladys & Stephanie are working with the Business Office to set up using the online ordering and payment system already used at Secondary. Next year planning to continue offering pizza the beginning of the month, hotdogs, as well as milk. The money raised from the ES Lunch program goes to funding extras for Elementary: Alien In-Line Skating, presentations, dance creations, special speakers, etc. Request from parents to make public the amount of funds raised. Possible Bulk Fresh Fruit Fundraising opportunity in fall.
9	<p>New Topics, Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Calgary "After School" presented to MS yesterday about a free program with various activities offered at Optimist Arena for 11 to 15 year olds. This is a City Recreation program that is not checked or endorsed by CCS. It is not a Christian program and kids do not need parental permission to go. The program is offered schooldays 3-6 and Fridays 2-6. The 2015/16 School Calendar has been approved- ES: School opens at 8:30 to go in, class commences at 08:40, ends at 3:30, on Fridays-school is out at 1:40. This time change allows for teaching staff to have 3 x 40 minute prep times, instead of only 2 x 45 minute preps. MS/HS times will remain the same as this year. The New Elementary Office will be located on the 49 Street entrance which is the physical address of the Elementary Building. The current office space will be converted to a classroom. Volunteer Security Checks- CCS has obtained an ePIC number through Calgary Police Service. Currently rewording VOAN application to cover all volunteer needs. CCS must offer an orientation for all volunteers and Principal must sign off each volunteer. Still aiming to have this online process and orientation logistics worked out this spring so volunteers can be ready to go in September. The new system will also allow volunteers to share clearance with other organizations, rather than applying for each organization separately. ES Winter Activity – suggestion to possibly do a different program than skating especially for Div. 2 – possibly swimming or skiing at COP? Could cost more, especially including bussing. Outdoor Rink suggested, however, there too much liability and maintenance required. Spring Society Meeting: Tuesday, May 26 at 7 pm "Wine and Cheese Reception" Encouraging more parental involvement, so after the formal business, will have round table discussions with topics: 1) Volunteering, 2) Faith Formation, 3) Mission and Direction, and 4) Principal topic. An invitation and agenda have been sent out by the Society which includes new Board Nominee profiles. Childcare will not be available as has not been utilized in the past.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will Grade 9 core courses be semestered again next year? Will ask Mr. Kupery (very likely yes). • ES Sports Day is Friday, June 5. Being run by Grade 6 students, the events are proposed by Grade 6. Grades K/1/2 in morning, Grades 3/4/5 in the afternoon. There may be a water play activity at the end. • ES Basketball Nets - On the week of May 18th, the maintenance staff in conjunction with a company will be installing the outside nets and fixing the broken net in the gym. Ron Dees is coordinating this. • Coin Carnival - No carnival this year, but there will be a Coin Collection instead. Some parents could possibly have taken over from staff to keep the event happening. List of ES events and activities was provided with December newsletter. Parents requested more input before events are changed. • September Volunteer Opportunity Promotion Parent wondering if we can offer a 'Pep Rally' atmosphere to catch new families or families we already know. "You're new? Or What's New?" Can get committees going to take on projects, then we would have all year to plan events/projects. Perhaps offer "booths" and have representatives. Hope to have ES parent orientation the first evening back at school - grade & admin based. Perhaps Community Relations and School Council can have a presence at the orientations showcasing volunteer opportunities. Also, do the same at the School Council Welcome Back Tea on September 10. • Parenting/Education Sessions It may be beneficial in the fall for parents to have opportunity to learn about current best practices for helping kids at home with literacy/comprehension/fluency/numeracy/etc. Could this be grade based? • Grade 6 to 7 Transition Request for Grade 6 students to have more homework to help prepare the kids to time manage in order to help the transition to Grade 7. This is beginning to happen. Grade 7 students are also taught skills for the increased responsibility and also utilize the flex period. • Calgary Bike to School Day Tuesday June 2. Students encouraged to participate by riding their bikes to school but this is not a school event - it is responsibility of the parents during pre/post school hours. Kids should utilize current bike racks but may need to lock onto chain link fence if there are too many bikes. 50 schools/8000 students participating city-wide. http://calgarybiketoschool.weebly.com/ Scooters stored inside the school during the day have been fine. • Before and After School Care Survey results received. More requests for after school care than before school. Approximately 50 families.
10	3:15	<p>Closing Comments, Prayer and Adjourment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Back Tea on Thursday, September 10 • 2015/16 Tentative Meetings: Thursdays Oct. 8, Nov. 19 (evening), Jan. 21, Mar. 17 (evening), May 12

