

MINUTES

CALGARY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL – ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COUNCIL

October 27, 2016

Welcome & Opening Devotion:

- Introductions

Heather Nutma - alumni and parent of 2 students

Alicia Airey - Co-chair, 2 sons at CCS

Mike Thiesen, Principal

Maureen Tarnowski, Teacher representative

- Devotion based on book *Tenacious*

“Give me peace, not take away this hardship”

Walk a journey together with this community.

Heather opened in prayer

Administrator’s Report:

Mike Thiesen (Elementary Principal)

- Extracurricular activities – time concerns for choir and running club

*Choir - on the first day of school, time was announced for the change for choir. This is because of the different time table for 2016-17 and the requirements for daily physical activity (30 minutes per day), a time for students to be moving. The only option was to move choir to after school. Recognizes the notice was late but there isn’t another option. There are currently 70 students participating on Tues and Thurs from 3:30 - 4:15pm.

-a comment from a parent who disagrees with choir being moved and feels that it’s bad reasoning from AB Ed.

-will students be allowed to join in January when student schedules may change again.

*Running Club - new this year, working towards a final event “Run for a Cure”. It was an oversight that the wrap up activity was on a Sunday. They will start up again in the Spring and will ensure that their group activities don’t take place on Sundays.

- Trading card challenges - applies to all trading cards - sports and pokemon. Teachers found the trading, relationships, arguments tough to navigate with the different levels of development levels. Mike connected with Staff and came up with a plan. In general, it is working well. It is a good point of socialization for some students which is why they didn’t ban all cards.
- School Goals: 1) K-2 Learn To Read focus: Literacy Goal. We do well on our PAT’s. There is a lot of pressure in the K-2 level so we’re looking to give them more support into the earlier Learn To Read stage. 2) Teaching for Transformation – Through lines and in Flex/school projects which are worked on in classes along with formational learning experiences. eg. Grade 2 in November and Grade 4 in December, where they will present in Chapel. Refocus of in-school service projects – less focus on raising funds in classroom, more focus on serving with hands: formational learning experiences, using their hands to help with others. Grade 3 carried the dry foods over to Emmanuel - they can see what they’re bringing is to help people who need food. Another example: Operation Christmas child. A little different then what we’ve done in the past.

Executive/Development Office Communication:

- School Directory is being printed and collated right now.

Palliser School Division Update: Craig Whitehead (Palliser Representative)

- Update on Palliser School Division events/initiatives

Trinity Christian in Cold Lake - expecting there may be some inquiries into Palliser Schooling as a result.

*November 3 - Organizational Review Panel will be giving their findings. It will be close to 60 pages long and will be giving recommendations and suggestions to implement. Dr. Garry Andrews contract has been extended to May 26, with both parties being able to give 1 months' notice.

*Talking also about the criminal records checks and the forms. Bring forth a suggestion to move to every 3 years but leave it up to every school to make a decision. This will need to be decided by the Board on Nov 3rd.

*PAT - most are above the exceptional level. But Palliser Schools did drop in LA 2% - the government marks that as a "significant decrease" which Palliser will continue to work with.

*An Executive Summary will be available after the 3rd and posted.

*School Council Chairs - meeting will take place in December 12/13 for additional training

*Central Office decides spending with Principals/decisions to entire District. But Palliser is realizing this format may not work for all schools. Maybe a hybrid of these models would work best.

*update on Alberta curriculum: curriculumsurvey.alberta.ca due by **November 18**. More information on the Alberta Education website.

School Council Items:

- Identification of current School Council activities and leaders. Status update for each

*Blessings and Burdens: We have a new coordinator, Natalija R. Increased awareness is ongoing from Staff as well as Parents. November 24th is booked for a big cook and will help fill the freezer.

*Staff Appreciation - currently with Sandy and Darlene. Last year was "Simple Kindness". Watch SignUp Genius for how you can volunteer.

*Grade/Room/Social Parent - to assist teachers with communication to parents. Would teachers like this to happen again? Feedback: some parents would like to have this happen to connect parents/families together. How to make this happen? Could we have a SignUp Genius created asking for a volunteer for each class? Then they can assist with teacher gifts/support, etc.

*Hot Lunch - could use more volunteers. Parents are allowed to bring their small children if that's convenient. If Grade 5 parents would like to know when their child is serving, they can email Stephanie who has the schedule. This is a huge fundraiser for the school. Include stronger messaging to let parents know the importance of volunteering in this role.

*LEGO - when is taking place? Can we list what is required to facilitate the showcase / description. Maureen and Leona to look into scheduling with Admin.