

Calgary Christian School - Elementary
School Council Meeting, Music Room
October 30, 6:00pm

1) **Opening Prayer** - Pastor Layne Kilbreath, Chaplain of Calgary Christian School

2) **Call to order** - **Stacey Kolenick, Co-Chair**

3) **Review of Agenda** - **Stacey Kolenick**

4) **Principal's Report** - Dan Magnan, Principal

New staff member: Only one this year - Ms. Hansen in Phys Ed. Kids love her. She came to CCS from Rockyview - Welcome!

Assessment and Reporting - Looks a bit different this year. More information was included in the parent weekly email that came out this week (available online too). The school board has moved towards outcome based assessment. The 5 point scale has now moved to a Proficiency letter based scale. Assessment and thinking about student learning is now leaning less towards percentages and more towards a more descriptive "How well is my child learning?"

There will only be 2 report cards this year. Parent Teacher Interviews will take place in November (Report cards at the end of January) and again in April (report card at end of year in June). However, please feel free to communicate with your teacher throughout the year if you have any questions/concerns with your child's learning.

** This excludes IPPs: There will still be 3 IPPs sent home each year - Oct/Jan/June)

Before and After School programs - lots of people asking... This program would not be run by the school, but organized/overseen by the society. They are hoping to have it ready by November 18th licensing. They will start looking to start registrations, tours, etc. next week.

Suggestion: It would be great to have coverage over PD days.

Christmas concert - will include all grades this year. *December 16th. at Foothills Alliance church.* For Easter, there will be a special chapel instead of a full concert

Upcoming holidays - November 8th and 11th - No classes. Then there is nothing until the break. December 19 is the last day before the break.

5) **Board updates** on recent and upcoming decisions and activities. Updates given by **Chris Radke** - Vice Chair of the Calgary Society for Christian Education.

The board is looking for a new Executive Director. Over 100 responses have been submitted so far. A professional HR representative has been hired and is doing the first level of screening and interviews (phone call vetting, etc). She will narrow it down and then in person interviews will

take place. Early January is what the board is looking towards for a timeline in narrowing down a candidate.

A Building committee is getting started up again - the focus will be more towards funding/financial this time. The committee is looking to secure more funds, so that tuition will not be affected. The funding model that was presented last year is drastically different from what we are looking at now due to increased government funding, a change in interest rates, etc.

7) Featured Speaker - Marliss Visser (CCS Elementary ATA representative and Local 19 Political Engagement officer)

ATA Update and Central Bargaining Q&A:

Last year, teachers were bargaining at the local level (main issues: sub pay, prep time, etc.) Now they are currently in central bargaining at the provincial level (all Alberta boards - ATA).

The bargaining team is working on a package to be presented to the government and will then enter negotiations. There could be job action down the road if there is not an agreement. That job action could look like many different scenarios, decided upon by the provincial exec. This could include strike action.

Some of the issues under negotiation in central bargaining:

Classroom complexities and class sizes

Bringing in more specialist support (example: there is one Occupational Therapy for the entire Palliser School District)

Speech Language Pathologist - There is a very long waiting list and the students who have made it into the group only get seen once at the school a month, the support is not as effective as it could be.

Educational Assistants - right now, schools only get funding for an EA if there is a student in the class that is a direct risk to the other students or themselves. (CCS is blessed to have extra funding through the society so extra EA's have been hired.)

Teacher salaries are also under negotiation in the central bargaining package. There has not been an increase in years, and has not matched with inflation. If the salary increase was to match the rising cost of living that has occurred since the last increase, then an overall increase of 30% in salary is needed.

Stats Canada shows that Alberta is the province that has the lowest amount of funding per student in the country.

CCS Tuition pays for building, the Christian perspective curriculum and busing. Everything else is paid for by the government. CCS is under the Palliser School Board, which is part of the Alberta Teachers Association (ATA) union.

See the attached handout, or contact Marliiss Visser for more information or if you have any questions.

8) **New Business**

Hot Lunch Volunteers

We need more! Lack of volunteers is putting the program in danger of closing. Reminder - you do not need a police check. It only takes an hour. **PLEASE HELP.**

Other suggestions - if we can't get volunteers: could we look at getting some High School kids to help? Do we increase the lunch fees and bring on a paid position and hire someone to come in and organize/distribute the lunches? Do we have a pay/volunteer obligation for families who want to access the hot lunch program? The money from this program goes back into the school and benefits all students (Gaga ball pit, artists in residence, Alien in line skating, etc.)

Parent suggestion: Split volunteering responsibilities into months, so each grade would have a "month" they need to volunteer for. (Example: October - Kindergarten class parents will volunteer) This structure has worked at other schools, and also built up a sense of community within the grades and classes. Then the responsibility seems less.

Parent comment - Volunteering is also fun! You build relationships, you make the kids happy :) Kids love seeing their parents at school.

Parent Suggestion: Send out the hot lunch information and request for help by a separate email so it doesn't get lost in the long weekly emails.

Parent Suggestion: The board now uses video clips to deliver messages. Maybe a video request would be more effective?

Sign up genius is sent out every week. Please consider donating an hour of your time to help with hot lunches.

Christmas or post Christmas staff blessings

Last year we blessed the teachers with lunch in the new year. We would like to do that again. Feedback - End of January/February for the teacher blessing (lunch) was better than before Christmas as there are already a number of treats around.

Parent Suggestion: Could we set up a teacher fund where people can donate towards the lunch? We can ask parents to donate.

Parent Suggestion: Getting Chef Chris to cook a lunch in the new year. Cost effective and he can accommodate specific dietary needs.

School Council Meetings - Getting more parents involved - Messaging needs to be clear and preferably in a separate email as it is getting lost in the weekly email
New name? Parent School Council as School Council doesn't sound like it includes parents.

Society used Instagram and social media, tiktok, etc. Let's get the School Council meetings and events on there as well to "advertise" them more widely.

School weekly emails - The emails are not being read - it's being read in snippets, lots of big information is being missed.

Talia Antonopolis - volunteering to take it over - will chat with Niki Brandsma (Society) to look at logistics of more social media engagement.

Bus transportation - When the bus is running late, there is no longer a Wilco notification system. Scheduling has been a bit off this year, and there used to be a notification system to let parents know if the bus is going to be late. Wilco is currently working to build an app. Right now, there is a multi step process for getting this messaging across to parents.

Suggestion to parents, provided from Wilco:

At the bus stop, wait 20 minutes. If the bus doesn't show, then call Wilco, and if they answer - great. If not, wait another 20 minutes and then if the bus doesn't show up, you need to take the kids to school yourself.

Parents/School is looking for a better way to address these issues. A timeframe was not given when asked about when the APP would be ready.

OTHER NEW ISSUES TO BRING UP:

Parent Feedback: Traffic outside of the school at drop off/pick up is getting extremely dangerous.

There are parent volunteers who greet students at drop off to help keep the traffic moving, but it can get a little bit chaotic. There have been many "close calls" lately and daily incidents of speeding, parking illegally, blocking neighbors driveways, disrespecting neighbor property, 5 point turns, u-turns, jay-walking, blocking in the buses, making illegal lanes, blocking corners and fire hydrants, parking in handicap zones, etc.

It was noted that some behaviours are not representing our school in the most gracious light.

How can we help parents slow down and be gracious neighbors and members of our school community?

Can a video message come out from the administration? It is a dangerous situation for students and neighbors.

Call in the School's Resource Officer?

Call 311 and complain, make a case and maybe there will be support from the City (flashing lights? Extra signage?).

Parent Suggestion (comment): We are very thankful for the parent volunteers!

Additional parent suggestion - Additional signage on the fence.

Additional parent suggestion - Social media engagement and increased messaging.

GRATITUDE:

Thank you to the staff and parents who care and who came here today.

9) **Closing Prayer and Adjournment** - Pastor Layne Kilbreath