

Calgary Christian ES School Council November 2015 Meeting

Meeting: CCS School Council

Date: November 20 2015

Chairperson: Hendria N.

Time: 1130 - 1330

Secretary: Alicia A

Location: ES Staff Room

Attendees: Alicia A, Leona S, Maureen T, Ken D, Monique W, Craig W, David V, Henk Band 11 parents.

Item	Description
1	Welcome and Prayer –Alicia Airey
2	<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes October 8, 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2015 meeting. Motion carried.
3	<p>Presentation/Conversation re: Grade 6/7 Transitions at CCS</p> <p>Grade 6/7 Transition concerns has come up in the School Council setting in October & and last Spring. A parent brought forth the concern that students in seventh grade were not well prepared for the transition to middle school. Variability in teaching styles amongst teachers was identified as some students were better prepared than others. The request for universal and consistent expectations was identified with an increase in communication between school and home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented by Dave V& Henk B • A new initiative this year, is cross campus monthly ‘Scope & Sequence’ meetings. (ES, MS & HS staff meet monthly and explore connections between the curriculum, throughout the grades. Ie Grades 5 & 10 science/chemistry-when classes/space permits, will facilitate upper grade ES students to going into secondary campus, initiating the students into the middle school learning environment. Other events include Inspiract, the Science Fair, and where deemed appropriate, chaplain hosted invitations for Grade 6 student participation. The teachers also meet to determine how to make ‘language’ the same throughout the grades, using the same lingo makes the transition smoother, particularly with grading & editing marks in the humanities subjects. Grade 6 students, go to the Middle School in June for a morning to spend ‘period’ blocks of time with the 4 core subject teachers-introduction to balancing 4 classes with 4 different teachers. • Challenges for students, from staff perspective, have been ‘lockers,’ sports tryouts, organization & multiplicity of teachers- Grade 7 can be a ‘Minefield’ or a ‘Cake Walk’, integration of new students can be tricky, so there are community builders/ice breaker events planned by grade 7

	<p>teaching team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are lockers for grade 6 students to ‘practice’ with. Sports tryouts, in middle school, have traditionally been a ‘no cut’ experience to facilitate integration & inclusion-if you try out, you are on the team. Due to the nature of the number of students trying out for teams, this has been difficult to maintain, but it is the goal. In Grade 6, agendas are used & checked for completion at the beginning of the year, but after Christmas, the expectation is the students will record their own agenda items- teachers will not check nightly for completion. Grade 7 students are not required to use agendas-they are a tool, some students use & some do not. The Online Homework Calendar E-teacher sites should have all the downloadable, 4 core subject requirements. Academically, all grade 6 students are expected to read 20-30 minutes daily, do math homework, study for tests & complete any unfinished work. In grade 7, the homework expectations ramp up. In Grade 7 homework should be taking between 30 -60 minutes/night, with special projects taking more time & perhaps involving weekends. It was noted the grading system is different in middle school. Grade 7 students are not used to grading by percent, so their results may be less than their expectations, which can be devastating for them. Students are encouraged to talk about their challenges with their teachers, & build on their strengths. Parents are encouraged to communicate concerns with phone calls/emails to teaching staff & administration (Jason Kupery & Jaden Barthel). Monthly reports are done for students. Parents are encouraged to again, give feedback to staff & admin with student concerns (academically, or with integration/inclusion/adaption concerns). Apart from sports, there are other opportunities supporting inclusion: Leadership/Worship/ & the Music programs specifically were mentioned. • Comments/Questions from parents: • A ‘separate’ entrance for middle school, citing the staggered entry the first day was great, as grade 7 students were somewhat intimidated by the grade 12 ‘giants’ in the same entryway. • The 10 day cycle is very challenging, some students are managing it, others are finding it very difficult. Could we move back to a 5 day cycle at some point? • How can we do more in Grade 6 to get them ready? Parents? Teachers?
4	<p>Playground Basketball Hoop Installation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties arose when drilling the post holes, and with a neighbour citing a verbal agreement in place, not to re-instate hoops after expansion was done. Basketball court(s) are now earmarked for the lower blacktop & plans are in place to provide 2 courts, one at 10’ & one adjustable-8.5’ to accommodate the changing height requirements of our students. The posts have been fabricated; we are now waiting for installation-timeline uncertain.

5	<p>Seniors Lunch & Remembrance Day Chapel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly successful with 97 seniors/grandparents being served lunch. Senior guests from Shalem were invited, and many attended, without having children at our school. Many attendees were ‘touched’ by the experience. • A suggestion from the floor was exploring the possibility of an ‘Adopt a Grandparent’ initiative for students without grandparents here, or seniors without grandchildren. Noted the lunch attendance was near capacity (120) and RSVP’s would be required next year. It was also noted; the students could have communicated better, the whole school participation in singing for the lunch attendees. There was some lack of understanding over ‘who’ was performing. • The Remembrance Chapel also, well attended, and parents were not invited to allow for the ‘honouring’ and seating of our senior population. Surpassing capacity again, being an issue, even hosting at Emmanuel.
6	<p>Executive/Development Office Communication & Promotion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Fair-We are at capacity for vendor tables, & our own school initiatives ie, Belize, Music program fundraising etc. This event exists to serve as a community building event, and as such more seating has been added to allow for connection over the ‘Crepe Brunch’. Sign Up genius has spots for volunteering, as this event does require ~140 volunteers to run. • It was suggested to have a ‘Friends of CCS’ table, or Society Table for those attending the fair to stop at - facilitate greater connection by signing up for the ‘Connect’ newsletter, or communicating fund raising needs/initiatives.
7	<p>Palliser School Division- Craig W (our Palliser Trustee)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craig recently attended a meeting with the Minister of Education-David Eggen, & other trustees. His comments suggested the new government does not plan on balancing the budget on the backs of children- fund current growth & keep current classroom conditions status quo. Noted AB Teacher Contract Negotiations come up in 2016. There is a student led leadership meeting being run in Lethbridge this week. Plans for our School Division Grades 4-6 Leadership student meeting, are in the planning stages.
8	<p>Blessings and Burdens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A communication gap was identified: The ‘Sponsor a Family’ agenda item was not brought to the attention of Blessings & Burdens. There are families within the CCS community experiencing some financial hardship. Envelopes are at the Elementary Office for those wishing to support Blessings & Burdens in this way. Currently the Blessings and Burdens freezer is in good shape. Please communicate any needs via the Blessings & Burdens email- confidentiality is maintained.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program is looking for a new coordinator. Gladys would come alongside and mentor the new coordinator for the year. Information about the program was included in the previous newsletter and opportunities for involvement can be found on SignUp Genius. There are two interested candidates at present.
9	<p>New Topics, Questions, Comments-Follow Up Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are the 4Square/Hopscotch lines going to be repainted? Ken DeWyn responded, as a Spring project this would coincide with the Basketball Court marking on the blacktop. Are there plans to have a speaker geared to the Elementary Students/Parents? (like Dwayne Peace-“Lifes’ Challenges in Secondary School) Community relations office responded. A questionnaire will be sent out via newsletter regarding the Dwayne Peace Special Events, though Dwayne’s speaking was geared to students & parents in the Secondary Campus, the invitation was extended to all interested CCS parents. Are scooters/wheeled toys proving to be a problem at School? Monique Wagner responded. Students are told scooters cannot be ridden until they are in the designated spot on lower blacktop. Initially, there was some confusion, but students know they must carry their scooter on school property unless they are in the permitted area. School Bell times this year are proving difficult, especially for Grade 2 students. Monique Wagner noted, next week, due to the weather, school will be open at 08:20. The first bell rings at 08:32, the second bell, 08:35, is for students to be in their seats. Noted parents find it challenging with bells so close together, to get students from parking lot and into building, before the doors are locked.
10	<p>Volunteer/Subcommittee Reports</p> <p>Staff Appreciation Volunteers are needed for the staff appreciation program for the Secondary Campus. Two assistants have come forward for the Elementary Program: Sandy Forigo, & Darlene Dykstra. They would love to get together to coordinate some staff appreciation activities, such as: supervision, lunches during Report Card writing (March) or suppers during conferences (January). Their theme is, “Simple Kindness.”</p> <p>LEGO Contest-Must be run by parents, if to be offered in 2016. Monique Wagner to determine some Friday, date possibilities in 2016. The event should be held on a Friday, and venues available are the Library & Stage. The regularly scheduled Thursday chapel, would move to Friday, to open the school to guests on one special day. It was mentioned the ‘Peoples’ Choice Awards,’ were well received as allowed children to imaginatively create, or use supplied kits.</p>

Coin Carnival-will be a Staff Run Event in 2016

Any parent support requested will be initiated by the individual teaching groups.

Opportunities to Partner with Glenbrook Elementary

We are waiting to hear back from Glenbrook Elementary School Council their proposal for collaboration with CCS.

School Council Co-Chairs

Erin B, Iris C, Alicia A& Hendria N met & determined the need to have fluidity within School Council and offer some campus focused meetings. In discussion & agreement with administrative staff, it was felt to best manage our time, Elementary Focus meetings would be held on Fridays at the Elementary Campus, and Secondary meetings would be held in the Evening. Many thanks to Kyla Janzen for stepping into the role of School Council secretary, unfortunately, in changing the dates for school council meetings, we are now in need of a Secretary. Kyla is unable to continue as secretary due to scheduling conflicts.

November Secondary Focus- Wednesday, November 25th, 7:00pm, High School IRC

January, ES Focus – Friday, January 22nd, 11:30-1:25pm, ES Library

March, ES Focus – Friday, March 18th, 11:30-1:25pm, ES Library

The next All Campus Meeting is tentatively booked for April.

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Closing Comments, Prayer and Adjournment

- Closing Prayer – Alicia A.
- Next Council Meeting-Secondary Focus: Wednesday, November 25, 7 pm at the HS Commons