



# HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Principal: A. Polischuk Vice Principal: T. Timpano

Administrative Assistant: S. Nosich, A. Simmons

*LEAD LIKE CHRIST WITH WISDOM, RESPECT, TRUTH*



## Catholic School Council Meeting Minutes November 15, 2023 6:00-7:00pm

**Attendance:** Lindsay Melanson, Krista Orazi, Amanda Nesci, Pam Anderson, Tina Timpano, Sarah Duncan, Rose Scopazzi, Meghan McMillan, Sharon Selmen Chattaj, April Abbott, Alison Burgess, Katie Richardson, Paola Nikodem, Angela Polischuk

**Regrets:** Lori Leduc, Jana Hall, Frances Cavanagh, Anita Nero, Ashley Trebb, Christine Pun

### 1. Welcome, Land Acknowledgement and Prayer

Land acknowledgment by Angela Polischuk

Prayer by group

### 2. Introductions

Round table introductions completed as new members have joined since last meeting.

### 3. Principal's Report

- Working on “student achievement plan”, spent last Friday’s PD Day working on different areas of the plan. It is directed by the Ministry and was changed from the “school improvement plan” to “school achievement plan” and directs areas where we create goals, and what data is being collected. Angela reviewed the areas including:
  - Leadership: (literacy and numeracy) around new language curriculum, and teaching de-coding pieces. In numeracy – resource called “mathology” teachers are using to teach the new math curriculum
  - Innovation: how we as a school are partnering with organizations such as science north and dynamic earth to do some of the hands-on work. The school board buys science north membership and allows teachers to join and lesson activities through science north as well.
  - Faith: student engagement and well-being. Partnering with Parish with Father Pat and learning from him. Also includes Indigenous partners, and mental health supports within community and school board. Measuring this by how the grade 6 can find the resources they need, should they need mental health support for example.

- Student communication: through Edsby
- Received EQAO data:
  - Reading and writing above where the province is sitting.
  - Province is wanting students to meet a 75% benchmark above level 3 standard.
  - Exceeded majority of board and provincial benchmarks, but math was above the board scores but below the provincial scores. (A reminder that this is a snapshot in time, and that now EQAO is all electronic and children often give quick click responses, similar to gaming).
- Father Pat started his visits, 2 classrooms every Thursday to speak on whatever topic the teacher requests him to discuss to match the grades Religious curriculum.
- Anna Santos, school Social Worker, has been in classrooms presenting programs like zone of regulation, mindfulness and kids have stress too. By the end of the year, Anna is hoping she would have been in every classroom providing the weekly 6-week programming.
- Many classes have been to Dynamic Earth, Science North or Laurentian Lake. If not yet, planning visits to go.
- Students participated in Learning Disability Month: they went to a flag raising and put blue flags along Paris Street to represent the more than 1000 students in the community diagnosed with a learning disability.
- Sock fundraiser –looking for new adult socks (through St. Patricks Church)
- Campus food drive – St. Benedict’s is spearheading food drive, connects well with social justice. Will be sending out specifics for what needs are.
- Doing the “giving tree”, messaging went out asking for families that could use some extra help during Christmas, once finalized we will circle back depending on the number of families and a plan in place.
- Had a Remembrance Day and Indigenous Remembrance Day celebration
- Recognized Treaty education day last week. Have a Knowledge Keeper who will be in a few kindergarten classrooms.
- One class had a parent come in and talk about Diwali – did unique sand art in hallway, part of tradition to learn.
- Indigenous Elder – Vince came to school
- Joel – Indigenous support worker – in kindergarten and will be starting a Lunch program for students in grade 2-5
- Healthy Snack program has started, increasing to 3 days a week – done by volunteers to prep food
- Volleyball has started, tournament coming up
- Cross country running event occurred, over 100 students in attendance
- Choir happening grade 3-6, once a week at lunch time. Reached out to St. Josephs Villa to see when is a good time to go sing, 3-5 Christmas carols.
- Other clubs starting up as well outside of sports
- Bullying prevention week is next week – resources coming home next week
- Christmas concert – save the date was sent out. Sheila will reach out, will be at 10am.
- Thank you for Poinsettia fundraiser – money goes towards field trips and support cost of bus. Angela passed around paper for volunteers to sign up if

needed for delivery, and will look into it.

- Book fair will be the last week of January into the first week of February. Angela will reach out for volunteers closer to. A previous parent is willing to train someone from council to take over and then volunteers for an hour or 2 to be in the fair when students are coming in with classes. Responsibilities will include organizing volunteers, making sure books are ordered, putting in orders set up/packing up. Everything comes in boxes labelled. Krista volunteered to take the lead. Will be set up in the library instead of the gym so that the gym can still be used.
- Mass in December Christmas Mass Dec 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am at St. Patricks. Students will be bussed over. Angela will send more information.
- Have been having chats around cyber security, chats daily – tips and tricks. School Board is providing lessons and resources for that before Christmas (i.e. digital foot print).
- At the last parent council meeting, parents were asking about how they could help out in the school. Angela took it to the staff, and at the last staff meeting they shared:
  - We don't have a librarian, and for the most part the teachers are diligent and reshelve books but there are times where they don't so if someone had an hour a week, would be a great spot for some support.
  - We have a number of robotic kits (a teacher who has since retired previously supported a Robotics team). If anyone or their spouse was interested in a lunch time or after school club – have the kits that students would enjoy doing. Will also put out in communication to families if anyone is interested.
  - Shrove Tuesday volunteers

#### **4. PIC Update – Lindsey**

PIC is the “Parent Involvement Council” through School Board. Lindsey attended on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is comprised of mostly parents that are representatives of their school councils (either chair or vice chair, secretary, treasurer), Trustee (Sherly McKnight), the Director of Education and a community representative. Both elementary and secondary schools attend PIC. That council has its own chair, vice chair and were elected that evening that are going to be meeting with the Director of Education and moving forward of planning events that would be open to all of schools in the board (or at least the parent councils). Talked about bringing in guest speakers, talks about triple P parenting to make it more accessible to parents. The council will figure out an event and it will occur in January/February. One takeaway was offering free childcare for parent council, which is why it was available tonight – the little things that the board can support to parent council being accessible to all. Lindsey shared the mandate of PIC which is available on the board's website. There will be another meeting in the new year and Lindsey will bring back an update after that.

#### **5. Committee Update: Family Dance – Lindsey**

Sub-committee met November 1<sup>st</sup> and was well attended. Have a DJ for music and entertainment, decorations are being organized, planning on selling food

(pizza/drinks), planning on doing a raffle of gift certificates for various local businesses (lottery license is required, will make sure it is done). It will be clear to parents need to be there. Event will be from 5:30-7pm, Valentine's Day theme and be on Thursday, the day before PD Day (Friday Feb 2). The sub-committee meets again in December. Will need volunteers on the day of, will send out communication from the school asking parents that could donate some time during the event (not the whole event, want to enjoy it with your family/kids) but short time slots. 3-4 St. Benedicts art students available to do face painting, and Angela can find more if required. Angela has put out to the grade 6 teachers if they wanted to do anything for their fundraiser for year-end trip, they are interested and will circle back with ideas. We will ask the office to send out the form to families, so we can get an idea of how many people would be coming and purchasing pizza. Will advertise on Edsby, Facebook page, etc. Lindsay will make a list that the subcommittee of the dance will need support from school.

**6. Next Meeting:** January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6pm

**7. Adjournment**