

Parent Council meeting November 15th, 2022

Father Lacombe Catholic School

In attendance: Donna Tugwood (Trustee), Maria Wagner (Principle), Stephanie Amstutz (Vice Principle), Claudine Bruning (Chair), Laurel Paulson (Vice Chair), Kelsey Rockwell (Secretary), Jenna Panchyshyn (treasurer), Parents: Vivian, Daniel, Gwen.

- 1) Claudine welcomes everyone and Mrs. Wagner says prayer
- 2) Introductions around the room
- 3) Admin report (Maria Wagner)

- 2 weeks left until we can move into the new school. Requested 2 days off during the week to safely move items to new school without jeopardizing student safety. Time off was approved. No school Wednesday December 7th and Thursday December 8th, regular PD day off Friday December 9th.

-students will receive an orientation of the new space prior to move in day. December 5th and 6th they will bring their lighter items over to the new space.

- Friday December 9th school is open for tours between 1:30pm – 3:30pm. More dates will be posted for tours later on.

-Parent asked: if there will continue to be supervision of the bus lane. Yes

-Parent asked: if “parent lane” will be operation on December 12th. Yes

-Parents asked: if there was any negative feedback for having two days off mid-week for the move. Not yet, everyone seems supportive to get the move completed.

-Maria asked: Do hot lunch volunteers want into the kitchen during the move days to organize and pick a space to store their stuff. Yes, Jenna will be in touch with Elaine via email.

-Father Lacombe Bus update. Still at the mechanics. The part they thought needed to be replaced to fix the problem, didn't actually fix the problem. So, they are back to trying to diagnose. Maria stated that if they cannot find the problem soon, she will take it to a new dealership/mechanic.

-Jenna and Maria went to the school council meeting supper (COSC). The principals and chairs from the district met. They brainstormed and shared ideas. An interesting take away was that all schools seem to be in the same boat with low parent interactions and volunteer support. Also spoke of how each school in STAR has its own unique culture, concerns and priorities. They also talked about fundraising ideas.

-Board Priorities meeting set for December 13th at 630pm to discuss what we as parents want to see from our school and priorities for our children. Everyone is welcome to join. School tour to follow.

-They learned that previous limitations for fundraising no longer applied. We can make over \$10,000 in funding per year, as long as it isn't that amount consistently.

-Star Catholic made a handbook for parent council. That will be printed and distributed

-An interpreter was hired for parent teacher interview night and it was very successful in communicating with parents and students

-Parents asked: if the lists for missing forms and fees was successful at the parent interviews. Yes, over ½ the missing forms and fees were collected.

4) Teacher Report (Stephanie Amstutz)

-end of season wrap up party for both boys and girls volleyball happened with a pizza party. Very successful. Thank you to staff for driving as the bus is still unoperational.

-Basketball starts up next. Coaches were found

-Remembrance Day posters and writing were submitted for the contests. And the “silver collection” was very successful as well.

-letters of hope and courage are being written to a lady who was unjustly imprisoned in South Africa.

- “You Belong” lunch for all new students was a big hit. 21 new Students were excited to be recognized and have pizza lunch with Mrs. Wagner in the hallway.

5) Chair report (Claudine Bruning)

-ASCE rolled over \$500 of funding money from last year, totaling \$1,000 available to be spent to engage parents within the school. Money must be spent to engage parents or benefit school as whole. Cannot be spent on food or entertainment.

-ideas: Paint night for parents.

Wine and cheese snacks could be offered separately, and by donation. Suggested to do it on a Friday night, either January 20th or February 3rd 2023. One parent has connections to a paint night business, so she’ll be in contact to get the ball rolling. Stay tuned for updates.

-Christmas movie night! December 16th, 2022 at 7pm. G movie will be selected. Canteen snacks will be for sale. Parent has connections with Lacombe theatre, so he will contact them to see if they’ll help out with supplying popcorn. Entrance fee will be by donation or food bank item. Stephanie and Claudine to organize. Claudine will send flyers in backpacks.

6) COSC meeting report

-previously discussed during Admin Report

7) Trustee Report

-meeting was held October 19th

-Their pancake breakfast was a success

-A wreath was laid on behalf of Star Catholic at the Remembrance Day ceremony in Lacombe

-Mr. Bouchard was voted in and approved to continue on the board.

-Next board meeting will be Nov 30th

-Question asked by parent: about the proposed boundary adjustment to Wolfcreek schools. No further discussion at STAR meeting yet. Boundary adjustment proposed for 2024. Parent encouraged Donna that we need to speak up now, so families can plan ahead for upcoming school registration years.

- Discussion about Wolfcreek bussing and dangerous pickup/drop off points, as well Iron wolf not included in bussing. Boards hands are tied as boundaries are set by the AB Government, not by them. Busses are already being subsidized by the government, so it is just not feasible to add STAR's own bussing line. They are advocating to see the boundary readjusted to 1.7km and also have hazards assessed (ex: train and highway crossings). Concerned parent will now be taking steps to create a petition on the matter of bussing safety. It was suggested that we invite a bussing board member to a meeting to have them directly address and hear parents' concerns.

8) Grade Rep Reports

-grade 1 mom: brought up that her son, and other moms have said their children also, have not been able to finish their lunches in the small time frame allotted for lunch. If they have a difficult to open item, or a more time consuming lunch, they do not have time to finish the whole thing. It was suggested that school start 5-10 minuets sooner so that we could have extra time. It was then explained by Maria that the time was shortened because of labor laws. Previously the time block was longer in the morning and shorter in the afternoon (5 blocks vs 3 blocks) and so when a sub was hired for .5 of a day, they were not getting the same amount of time if they worked in the morning vs afternoon. So, when they rearranged the day to make it even between the morning and afternoon breaks, and taking into consideration sharing the playground for recesses with the other school, they came up the schedule they have for this year. Mrs. Wagner did say she would speak to the teachers and bring our concerns to them and maybe they could cut a morning block shorter, or start an afternoon block later, to allow for a little more time for lunch. Parents agreed to monitor the amount of lunch being brought home over the next little bit and see if that extra time is helping.

9) Treasurer Report

- opening balance: \$4680.18 for October. Closing balance \$6961.73 Hot lunch income of \$2290.30 deposited. Awaiting for cheques to clear for payment of hot lunches.

10) Fundraising

-December's hot lunch will be from Milly Oak and Subway. A space will be added to the order form to allow parents to make suggestions on where to get hot lunch from.

-Different fundraising ideas were brought up. Do a canteen for movie night in December.

-Do a Kernels popcorn fundraiser

-Cake auction fundraiser.

11) Miscellaneous

-school clothing options will be looked into by Stephanie. She will source out what place is the best deal and bring back pricing and bundle options.

12) Closing Comments

Thank you so much to everyone for coming! Excited about the move into our new school!!!

End meeting