

Father Lacombe School Council Minutes



Date: September 19, 2023

Time: 6:30 pm

Father Lacombe School - Food Studies Room

In Attendance: Maria Wagner - Principle, Stephanie Amstutz - Vice Principle, Darlene Konnik - Student Learning Facilitator, Donna Tugwood - STAR Trustee, Claudine Bruning - School Council Chair, Kelsey Rockwell - Secretary, Jenna Panchyshyn - Treasurer

Parents: Kristie Stryker, Vivian Bayley, Cecelia Mena-Metro, Viviana Paz, Christine Langford, Leigh Makar, Lynne McLoughlin, Kaylee Rowley, Miranda Rowley, Kristin Thesen, Alyssa Dinter

1. Welcome & Prayer

Call to order at 6:32

Maria led prayer

2. Introductions

-attendance sheet was handed around for names and emails

-around the table everyone introduced themselves. Claudine-Chair, Jenna-Treasurer, Donna-Board Trustee, Kelsey-Secretary, Stephanie-Vice Principal, Maria-Principal. There were also 12 parents, 1 grandparent, 1 teacher.

-Claudine explained that you can find meeting minutes under menu tab, parents section on Father Lacombe website

***Action: Claudine will email the minutes to those in attendance tonight**

3. Approval of Agenda

-Kelsey wanted to add a time to talk about the Life Framework email that was sent out. It was added as agenda item 10. Agenda items 10 and 11 were moved to items 11 and 12.

4. Admin Report

-Enrolment is up to 250 students

-New staff in grades 2,4 and 6. as well as a new Jr High teacher

-Behavioral health consultant has been a success. The pilot project with AHS over the last year showed the need for her. Increased her hours to 2 afternoons. Now there is someone in the school to support every day of the week.

-Government assessments are being done. Playing a bit of catch up after covid. Grades 1-6 were mandated, but the school sees the benefit of assessing all grades.

-Question from a parent: will results of student assessments be passed along to the parents. Yes, not sure how yet, whether it be through parent/teacher interview night, but the information will be given to parents for sure.

-Update on the new building. Another fence, to match the new black ones, will be put up to replace the cable fence along the bus lane. The North entrance will now be used as the “community entrance”, giving access into the school after school hours when community events are booked. Use the main doors still during school hours

. A \$250,000 grant has been given to the school to build a new playground. Working on the details of when that will be built. Maria has requested a quote for a single pad storage garage on the property as well.

-Parent asked if there was any fundraising collaboration with JS McCormick to build their new playground. Claudine has been in touch with that school council chair, so that information can be shared about what equipment both schools will be adding to their new parks, but no collaboration for fundraising. JS has begun fundraising, and we are encouraged to donate as well, because we do use their playgrounds.

-Question was asked if we could leverage the research that the city has done with all the new playgrounds around town. Yes

5. Trustee Report

-Their first meeting was August 23 rd . This was Donna's first meeting as chair.

-They adopted priority goals, set up committees, picked dates for future meetings and approved some

field trips

***Action: Claudine will attach trustee notes to minutes for more details (see below)**

6. Teacher Report

-The school had their first mass where the students walked over to the church. They got to meet the new Priest.

-The welcome back BBQ was a success. Thank you, School Council, for your help.

-Sept 27 th a first nations representative from central office will be coming down to speak about truth and reconciliation. The school will be observing on Wednesday September 27 th

-Terry Fox run will be held on Friday September 29 th . Donations can be collected through the online link that was emailed to parents.

-There is 1 boys and 1 girls Volleyball team.

-Still no coach for basketball. If anyone knows someone, please let the staff know.

- Parent questions: if there will be an intramurals program for the younger grades. Yes, nothing is officially organized, but there will be opportunities in the future.

-There has been a chess and UNO club started. They play at lunch. Parent question: if the younger kids could join in on the games. The teachers thought that maybe that could happen under the Leadership program.

-A parent reached out to Claudine about a robotics club. A grant request was submitted last year but wasn't approved. Gr 5/6 gets a STEM program as an option, and hoping to include robotics. Perhaps the parent can collaborate with STEM teacher.

7. Chair Report

a) Role of School Council

Claudine explains that “School council is a collective group of parents and admin as mandated by the Alberta Education Act that work together to advise on and develop solutions to enhance student experience and learning. ... work together to promote the wellbeing and overall effectiveness of the school community, enhance student learning.... Its main purpose is advisory...and support education through advocacy”
STAR Catholic School Council Handbook

School Councils are not fundraising committees.

However, she explains that we have condensed the fundraising committee and council together as we are such a small group.

b) Position Elections

Claudine-chair, Jenna-Treasurer, Kelsey-secretary. Claudine was unsure if Laurel would take on Vice Chair again this year and was unsure if Gwen would take on communications this year as they were not in attendance. An email had been sent out to both prior to meeting.

Grade reps are an unofficial rep for each grade: Kindergarten-

Leigh, Gr 1-Kaylee, Gr 2-Kristie, Gr3-Vivian, Gr 4-Jenna, Gr 5- Claudine no official rep for grade 6, Gr7/8/9-Cecelia and Christine

-Grade reps can bring questions and concerns to Maria or Claudine first. Any concerns or discussion points must be added to the agenda **before** the meeting.

C. Calendar of Events

Claudine read out STAR board priorities off the website. We should use these as focus for our events planning. Any event ideas please send to Claudine

***Action: attach website and link for board priorities**

[Board Priorities | St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Separate School Division \(starcatholic.ab.ca\)](http://starcatholic.ab.ca)

d)Survey - Redrafting k-6 Social Studies

Alberta Education sent an email about redrafting the social studies curriculum from K-6. The survey will be open until October 16 th .

***Action: Claudine sends Maria a link so it can be sent out to parents**

8. Fundraising Committee Report

a.) Hot Lunch - New Committee

Jenna is stepping down as lead organizer for hot lunch after a very busy and successful year. Jenna volunteered to help the new Facilitator until they are familiar with the operation.

- Jenna explained all the parts to hot lunch, discussion about breaking out the roles to different people. Discussion about using online ordering platform.

- Cecelia offered to look into online order platform

-Email Jenna with your interest for helping and what role you'd like to help with

b.)Calendar of Social/Fundraising Events - planning

Start to think about events we would like to add to the calendar so that we have plenty of time to plan and prepare months before. E-mail ideas to Claudine

9. Grade Reps/Parent questions or concerns:

Please add all items to agenda prior to meeting via Maria or Claudine

- Life Framework:

-Kelsey asked how clubs to do with sexual orientation and gender identity would be under a Catholic Context as outlined in the email sent out to parents. Maria answered that the LIFE Framework name came from the STAR Catholic and is under Alberta Legislation. Stephanie said that there are three main pillars: We are all created in God's image. God created male and female. We are called to love as God loves us.

***Action: Maria request that Charlie add that information to the email to give clarification to parents as they read the email each year**

-Parents were concerned that if a club were to start would it be age-appropriate conversations? Who would facilitate the club? Who would be allowed to join? Would parents be informed if clubs were to start? Would parents be informed if their child attended?

-Maria was not sure of the details as a club of this nature has never been requested, but will follow policy and procedure in place by STAR Catholic, including guidance by Superintendent. Parents would be informed if a

club was to start, but under the current law, they could not tell us if our child was in attendance.

10. Treasurer Report:

Closing balance at end of school year: \$6626.96

To be cashed:

-Cheque to school for \$1124.00 (for Father Lacombe School bus - donation by School Council of \$2000 (\$1000 still owed to school council from ASCE grant, \$1000 in this cheque) PLUS \$124 of donations into Stuff a Bus.

- Cheque to Jenna for \$400 for half of welcome back bbq food and supplies - School to pay the other half

11. Closing Comments

Thank you all for coming! Nice to see so many new faces!

Please email or reach out to Claudine for any items to be added to the agenda, or any suggestions for events or ideas for the upcoming year!

claudinebruning@gmail.com

2023 Trustee Report for School Council Meetings

Trustee Donna Tugwood

Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education:

<https://www.starcatholic.ab.ca/download/320570>

ACSTA's theme of "Walking Together in Catholic Education."

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/GrACE4cathed>

Twitter

https://twitter.com/grace4cathed?s=21&t=SjiBXz_PDB76uxJhpVrJpg

Instagram [grace_advocate_for_catholic_ed](https://www.instagram.com/grace_advocate_for_catholic_ed)

https://www.instagram.com/invites/contact/?i=b59u9ol7lodt&utm_content=pigze1u

Board Priorities for 2023-2027

<https://www.starcatholic.ab.ca/download/414083>

August Board Meeting Highlights

<https://www.starcatholic.ab.ca/download/424364>

August Board Meeting Highlights

First regular meeting of the 2023 School year was held on August 23.

Chaired by recently appointed board Chair Donna Tugwood and Vice-Chair Henry Effon

Adopted The boards new set of priorities, goals, and desired outcomes, which are available for viewing at www.starcatholic.ab.ca

Christ the King field trip to Victoria was approved.

Reflection Day was held in Beaumont on August 28 th with 6 trustees present as well as teachers and staff from all the schools.

We are looking forward to hosting the Archbishops/Priest/principals on Oct 3 at Central Office

I will also be representing our school division at the Archbishops dinner on Friday Oct. 6 along with Trustee DeMarco.

New Secretary Treasurer

Nick Masvikeni has been appointed as Secretary-Treasurer commencing in August 2023 The Board of Trustees and Sr. Administration are looking forward to working with him.

Our next board meeting will be on Sept 20, 2022.

<https://www.starcatholci.ab.ca/division/school-board/board-meetings>

Wishing you all a wonderful school year.

Donna Tugwood

Board chair

St.Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Schools

Trustee - Lacombe Ward

cell - 403 872-0367

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