

Our Lady of the Assumption School Council
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, May 11th 2022 - 7:00pm

Google Meeting Link: meet.google.com/pbv-gzxz-tyh

Attendance:

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer and Welcome

3. Approval of the April Minutes

https://p10cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_20672635/File/School%20council/April%20Meeting%20minutes%202022.pdf

-Jump to approval of funds allocated to classes for year end field trips. Since last time, added a request from Kindergarten and Grade 5/6.

Moved: approve \$150 to listed classes for field trip. Seconded and passed.

4. Review of the Agenda – any additions

5. Financial Report

- a. https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_SwI02GkAZvJLbLnCoP96qNhjWTr7S7X/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=114034389604340425702&rtpof=true&sd=true

- b. Clarification of role of Treasurer going forward

Marina is basically doing the treasurer roll -- request that council is very organized so that when you meet your numbers line up. This year was a struggle for organization because money was being managed by too many people, so it would be good to have a treasurer next year. Council is learning from experience and feels confident about managing positions next year and clearly defining roles.

6. Board Update

- a. Next Board meeting May 25th
- b. April Board Brief:

https://p10cdn4static.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_20670192/File/Board%20&%20Administration/Board%20of%20Trustees/Board%20Meetings/2021%202022/Briefs/08%20-%20April%202022%20Board%20Meeting%20Brief.pdf

7. Trustee Report

- Board Meeting April 27th where Sophia Larney our Edwin Parr nominee was presented
- May 3 and 4 FLVT presents Aladdin
- SPICE: CCH teacher, Lance Rosen presented with Excellence in Catholic Education Award
- Blueprints, May 3-6th: I will be attending as a group facilitator as well as participating in the music ministry
- April 29th: Blessing of Gathering Space at St. Joe's in Coaldale in memory of Deacon Ray Wagner
- May 10th: Feather Blessing at CCHS at 5:00
- May 18th: Edwin Parr banquet in Taber. Sophia Larney grade 1/2 Teacher from St. Paul school our Holy Spirit Nominee
- Meals on Wheels: Participate as service to community
- May 12th, Long Service Awards at St. Martha church beginning with Mass at 5:00. From OLA we are honouring: Jordan Cahoon for five years, Jorin Gaudet for five years, Karen Ellert for 20 years, Marina Miller for 20 years. CONGRATULATIONS!!!
- Holy Spirit Stars: It is wonderful to see the number of students and staff being recognized.
- ACSTA Director's Report for May 19/20th in Edmonton
- GrACE Summit May 30th in Calgary. The theme is REBUILD, RESTORE, RENEW. Please encourage people to attend this one day summit to inspire, invigorate, embolden Catholic Education

Linda and Tricia Doherty attending; will report at next meeting

- Catholic Education Week: May 23- 27th. May 27, Virtual Province wide Mass with Bishop McGrattan. Catholic Education Prayers of the Faithful for May:
 - That our Catholic schools may show the love of God in the world, we pray to the Lord.
 - For unity and a true desire to seek the will of God, we pray to the Lord.

- o In gratitude for the gift of publicly funded Catholic Education, we pray to the Lord.
- o That our Catholic Schools may be blessed with courage and energy to continue to live out their invaluable role in our society, we pray to the Lord.
- o That our Catholic Schools may nurture the growth of wisdom and virtue in the young, we pray to the Lord.
- May 13: Grad Mass CCHS
- May 14th: CCHS ceremonies and Grand March
- May 16th: Blanket Exercise at St. Basil's
- QUESTIONS

Questions from school moved from new business:

-No parent fundraising committee: not enough people, not allowed to do a Bingo night? You can't run it as a "gambling" situation, but you can charge an "entrance fee" and have donated prizes instead of money and then it isn't gambling. Example: turkey bingo

-Trying to come up with ideas for next year for fundraising and thought Bingo was off the table

-Small school so we have limited access to resources such as counselors and Ms Shade - would the board increase their presence if the need was there?

-Board has moved from site based to need based

-The board is doing its best to respond to identified needs and make things equitable

-Linda will raise this question at tomorrow's meeting. Does the board see counseling as a need at OLA? Counselor is at OLA every Thursday for the full day, and it can make it hard for kids who need support when counselor is only there once a week

-Clarification re Ms Shade: She is based out of ESM but comes to OLA every Thursday

-Mrs Calder: these resources come from one pot of money and are allocated based on both size of schools and identified needs, and the money is decreasing rather than increasing. Our counselors are counselors, not therapists; they provide strategies, not therapy. Anything beyond that is referred outside the school. We have more needs than previously but so do other schools. We will continue to advocate for increased support at OLA but the reality is we are all sharing the same resources. For a variety of reasons, when possible it is best for families to seek outside supports.

-Director of learning supports has put out a pamphlet on outside resources, which Linda will forward. Across the province, the need for these supports has increased, but there isn't the money in the budget to increase services.

-If Linda wins the lottery she will donate it to us for this purpose (officially recorded in notes)

-Summary: there are a lot of rules about where money can be spent, there are limited resources, and we know there aren't enough supports, but all we can do is advocate for what we need. We have connections in the community and will do our very best to help anyone who needs it.

-We have received a number of families and 55/155 of our students are now English language learners so we will definitely be receiving some support for those students in the fall

-Potential problem: are students not self-identifying as FNMI because they don't meet the requirements for official status? That is one reason we have focused as a board on FNMI education for all, not just for our indigenous students.

-Question: what would happen if someone wanted to donate to the school specifically to provide mental health supports? We are unsure, but there are some organizations that provide types of support. It can get complicated and would probably be situational and involve working with HR. People can specify where they want donations to go though.

-School council wants to take the school council purpose workshop right away in September. Please see 10a. Requires invitation and minimum of five participants, including chair and principal. Can we join another school if we don't have enough people?

-Joining another school should be no problem

-Requires principal participation -- Meghan has no problem helping out and joining in

-\$500 Engagement money -- can it be spent on Indigenous Awareness Day on June 16?

-Ms Shade may have drummers and dancers coming around 10 that day, elder visiting classrooms between 11 and 3. Could \$500 be used toward the elder? Or does it have to be for parent engagement? If the elder spoke in the gym and parents were invited, would that count?

-Please forward policy to Meghan, who will check and see what it's open to and connect with Ms Shade. Not allowed to spend the money on entertainment or food, but this may be a cultural experience?

8. Principal Report

a. NeuroMaker - Caryn

- *Neuro Maker is a STEAM learning opportunity that incorporates neuroscience, socio-emotional learning, and technology through interactive headbands and prosthetics. It's a unique type of STEAM education not being widely used in Alberta that would be a huge asset to OLA*
- *Neuro Maker overview video:*
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbLyfYaXM7M&ab_channel=NeuroMakerSTEM
- *Neuro Maker website: <https://neuromakerstem.com/>*
- *Cost: 25 headband devices at \$500/ device - \$12,500; prosthetic hands at \$500/ device - \$5000-\$7500; 2 hours of PD at \$500/ hr - \$1000. Total requested cost: \$21 000*
- *It's a big number but sounds exciting. School council would like to support this. Request that Caryn prepare a cover letter for fundraising in the fall. Caryn will also apply for grants in the fall and is willing to do a presentation at the welcome back BBQ.*

b. 2022-2023 Calendar

c. June Calendar

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19g7BfUyrKW9DxXaFNTTdPQnJdn3yz2L9/view?usp=sharing>

- *Not able to share next year's calendar, but we have a rough idea.*
- *Currently we do not have enough interest to run after school care at our school and will have to bus to ESM but we are hopeful the numbers will increase*
- *Our numbers are somewhat transitory but we have had some new students. We do not anticipate any staffing changes next year.*
- *Plan to discuss at June meeting*
- *Request that teachers choose a night for open house, etc, at June PD day*
- *Further request that teachers at the June PD day submit a request for funds? Can council submit an amount? Is there a time council could meet with teachers and hear their requests? It's hard to request funds from businesses without a specific goal, but*

teachers don't always know exactly what they're doing. Can we focus in on something like transportation costs?

9. Teacher Report

a. Share classroom field trip plans

-Lots happening this May and lots of field trips; thanks to council for support!

-Grade 5 did not put in a request -- they felt they had already been supported as today they went to the Helen Schuler experience and will be joining grade 5/6 for part of their day too

-Discussion of fundraising: move towards parent fundraising letter

-Can we put together a list of where parent fundraising money went this year? That will show parents the importance of donating and how the money benefits their children

10. New Business

a. "School Council Purpose" Workshop - Plan for September

School Council Purpose

Understanding the advisory role of school councils through a review of the legislation, exploring rights, responsibilities and choices including which topics/areas are open for discussion helps to guide school council and its work in the school community. Learning how to identify the work of school councils, how to frame a "personal issue" from a school council perspective and how to broach sensitive topics is essential for new and returning members.

A newly established school council, an existing school council with a majority of new members or a parent group struggling to separate a school council and fundraising association.

Invitation from principal or parent. Minimum five participants including school council Chair and principal.

b. Raise school council fees slightly for next year to \$7

-Increase of \$1 to \$6 due to complications with budgeting and timing

c. Availability of School Counsellors/Mrs. Shade for students

d. Run Club – will it be running this year or possibly next year?

-The teacher who ran it isn't with us full time so it may or may not run next year

e. Bingo Night – currently not allowed

-See item 7

f. Grade 6 Spring Plant Fundraiser – raised \$1393.81. Money will go towards Grade 6 year end field trip to Calgary.

g. Approvals for Requests for Funds:

- o Grade 1 and 2 field trip - \$260.58
- o Grade 3 field trip - \$146.19
- o Grade 3/4 field trip - \$150, also using an additional \$50 remaining from Christmas
- o Grade 5/6 field trip- \$65
- o Grade 6 field trip - \$150
- o Kindergarten field trip - \$150
- h. Engagement Funding Money, \$500 – Indigenous Awareness Day
- i. Fundraising/Hot Lunch Update - Selestia
 - May 26th hot lunch – Via Cibo
 - June 16th – Hot Lunch update
 - *Ms Shade suggested “indian tacos,” but the cost was high. However, the caterer can provide just the fry bread. Then we can do meat cost and toppings. Ms Shade can access \$400 to cover the fry bread. Council would do the rest. No problem to serve - we can stagger lunch times*
 - June 24th – Sports Day – Kona Ice – Students can purchase drinks at \$3 - \$4.
 - *SMS asked families to donate if they could for kids who couldn't afford and each child obtained one. Question: could we do this for each hot lunch? But they would have to self-identify and some families don't want hot lunch*
 - June 27th Swim Day - \$951.50
 - *Can we provide a freezie or popsicle afterwards?*
 - Mabel's Labels and Cobs Bakery Fundraisers – school sign up. Works the same as bottle depot, ongoing, no end date.
 - Profits from all fundraisers will go towards school field trips (both virtual and in person), various student activities and events such as sports day and theme days.
- j. Additions to the Agenda
- k. Next Meeting *June 21*
- l. Adjournment