



École St. Mary
Regular Meeting
October 26th, 2023 – 6:15pm
ESM Library

Mission Statement: To support and enhance student learning in our school community.

1. Opening Prayer/Smudge – Kristen Shade & Annette Bruised Head –
Annette, Clarke, and Kristen explain more details about the smudging for the parents. The prayers are broken into 4 parts: good meeting feelings/people who are sick and can't be here/less fortunate/good fortune for us going forward. Traditional ways & include others form of prayer. Once the smudge is lit it acts as a gateway. We see elders touch their ears/mouth/head/heart to represent that what they heard/say/think/feel to be true. Appreciation to Blackfoot culture. Smudging is part of land acknowledgement and is the second lesson Kristen teaches our kids. Smelling the smudge is usually accompanied by a positive energy because you know someone was just praying for you and your loved ones. They can only share so much info because if you're interested to learn you have to join the society and search it out yourself to do it in the most respectful way. Learning the ways is a lifelong journey, connecting and teaching the youth. Kristen's roll: work with students who need more support, monitor attendance, provide student mentoring, work with administration, advocate for FMNI students and families, support teachers and do visits once every two weeks. They want to impact intellectual, emotional, physical aspects of health. Topics: truth and rec day, orange shirt day, orange ribbons, Blackfoot smudge, finished medicine wheel project, rock your moccasins, Blackfoot story telling (creation stories), Christmas craft, ribbon skirt, a story robe project, the importance of elders, learning Blackfoot words and prayer, Blackfoot teepee/powwow/sun dance, round owl, and snake dance. Traditional games, help host indigenous awareness day.
2. Attendance:
Kiera Bouchard, Justin Harper, Heather Wirzba, Gerriane Timmerman, Brody Prete, Malorie Enns, Tricia Doherty, Noreen Richter, Camille Rose, Roisin Gibb, Georgia Straat, Chantelle Motycka, Andrea Koester, Kristen Shade (Guest), Annette Bruised Head (Guest), Clarke Bruised Head (Guest)

Sent Regrets: Wendy Hurley
3. Approval of Agenda - Motion Roisin, second Noreen, All in Favor



4. Approval of Minutes from September meeting - Motion Brody, second Chantelle, All in Favor

5. Board Report – Tricia Doherty

Nov 5 Catholic Education Sunday – Healthy presence at church requested.

Grace – keep as a priority – theme “courage to lead”.

April 17 evening of grace theme of build. They will send out an invite to the division through schools and parishes. Wine and cheese, maybe presentation on our buildings.

Collecting stories – why catholic education, eventually use for promotion for grace.

School councils’ chairs meeting Nov 27 might change presentation Alberta School

Councils’ Association, might invite principals and vice to understand roles.

Attended joint city committee – School safety patrols. Parents who feel like kids are safe will let kids walk to school, reduce congestion and vehicles. Working with AMA. City has pylons, would use at schools without safety patrols to keep in mind kids walking in the area.

Met with MLA Shannon Phillips, talked about mental health grants and want her to advocate to change from grant to operational funding. St. Francis modernization. Please change tax funds from public to catholic. Board chair wrote a letter to minister of education. Talked about removing the weighted moving average. Policy proposal to change to the voucher system, may create inequities. We’re not being funded for kids. The metro boards advocating against this helps our division. Minister of education didn’t necessarily agree with the WMA but what to do.

Jordan’s principal awarded 5 million over three years. Supports FMNI students, more support for Blackfoot programming, wrap around supports (physio, speech, etc.).

6. Treasurer’s Report – Wendy submitted to Heather.

As of the current account balance we’ve maxed out commitments based on what we have.

7. Business Arising:

- a) Hot Lunches – Nov. 29 Edo: Roisin, Jan. Maybe hot dog we’ll decided on a date later.

Snack day on Fridays suggestion by Malorie, booster juice, popcorn.

- b) Carnival Update – Silent Auction Items, stuffies for prize table,

Motion: Donate up to \$200 for small baskets for silent auction by Noreen, second Malorie, All in Favor.

8. New Business:

- a) Grade Six Camp Fundraising update – Poinsettias, hot dog lunch (maybe February), bake sale, spring flowers.



9. Principal's Report

School Report – School Council Meeting October 26th, 2023

Mission: Christ-centered learning community where students are cherished to achieve their potential.

1. School Update ~October

2. School Activities ~ Leadership Club, Grade 6 volleyball, Fall Running Club has concluded. Artist in Residence on Fridays, Coming up: Science Sizzle, Blackfoot, and Cultural Club, After School Skating

3. Spaces Update~ Parent Evening New Parents- Tuesday, Nov ???. More info will be shared. The school will also send out messaging about Spaces.

4. Meet the Teacher / Goal Setting Evenings- Wednesday, Nov. 8th, and Thursday Nov. 9th, 2023, from 4:00-7:00 pm. Information will be sent soon for bookings.

5. School Committees: Faith, Wellness, Sports and Leadership. These committees work and plan events and activities for students. (Food Drive Pumpkins of Gratitude, Wellness Challenges.)

6. ESM Wish List – Please see the Google Document.

7. Fundraising – Please be aware that there will be a 2% surcharge for all transactions (on-line or otherwise). This will have to be taken into account when looking at profit margins. This applies to School Cash.

8. DREC / Faith Plan- Mr. Harper presented.

9. CIP – Continuous Improvement Plan. The plan must reflect the Division's priorities listed below. CIP presentation to School Council will occur at the November meeting.

1. *Strengthening Our Catholic Faith*
2. *Learning Through Quality Teaching*
3. *Belonging in our Diverse Community*
4. *Living Truth and Reconciliation*



10. Turkey Dinner – Monday, December 18 is an available date. We have been quoted \$9.00 a plate for 340 or so kids, 50 or so adults. Not including kindergarten and ELP as they are finished at 11:00 am. So minimum \$3240-\$3500 for Prime. We will do 'Buy a Plate and Donate A Plate' if School Council will support like last year.

11. Ideas for School Council or Guest Presenters – Invite iSwag for January Meeting

12. Parent Digital Citizenship Sessions – Yates Nov 15 from 7-8pm.

13. Other

10. Samaritan Stars

- Heather gave everyone a star for their time and dedication.

11. Closing Prayer– Lead by Justin
Meeting adjourned 7:53pm

Next meeting November 15, 2023