



École St. Mary School
School Council Meeting
March 5th, 2025 – 6:04pm
ESM Library

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

1. Opening Prayer
 - Land Acknowledgement
2. Call to Order
 - Welcome and Introductions
 - Attendance: Kiera Bouchard (Staff), Justin Harper (Staff), Camille Rose (Teacher Rep), Linda Ellefson (Trustee Liaison) brought donuts, Gerriane Timmerman, Brody Prete, Andrea Koester, Malorie Enns, Wendy Hurley, Heather Wirzba
 - Approval of Agenda
 - *Motion Andrea, second Malorie, All in Favor*
 - Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - *Motion Andrea, second Malorie, All in Favor*
3. Reports
 - Division Report - Linda Ellefson (Trustee Liaison) –
https://www.holyspirit.ab.ca/board_administration/board_of_trustees/board_meetings
 - Attended Ash Wednesday ceremony at ESM today. Grade 5's did a great job of the reading; everyone did a great job. Kiera and Justin did a great job of bookending.
 - Monday evening at the office they had the council of school council chairs. Budgeting etc. Wonderful dialogue. Everything is so busy and it's hard for everyone to be there, her recommendations are more consideration for timelines. Key points for priorities: Class size is critical, student mental wellness, inclusive education. 92% comes from prov, 8% comes from fed. Talked about prov. School council seminar in April. End of easter break. All virtual. Spiritual Development Day March 18.



Proclaim pilgrims of hope, three speakers, will celebrate mass with us on that day. Need people to fill out survey, as many as possible.

- School Report – Kiera Bouchard (Principal)

School Report – School Council Meeting Wednesday, March 5th, 2025

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

1. **School Update ~** February – Global play day, principals asked to present to clergy, bishop, trustees, senior admin, superintendent, etc about their schools. Grade 4-5 carnival, 100th day, valentine's dance, pink, red white day, lacrosse,
2. **School Activities ~** Basketball, Leadership Club, Photography within Leadership, Chalice Fundraiser (background), Lacrosse every Tuesday from Iswag, Trad'badour Cultural Show, SFJH play (March,) pancakes Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Global Play Day, Pink Shirt Day, visit from Bishop McGrattan, Valentine's Day, 100th, Day, Lenten Celebrations, Drumming Club, Science Opportunity for grade 4's
3. **Alberta Assurance Measure Survey~** Grade 4 students and parents, March
4. **Spaces ~** Please continue to check and engage with your child's learning
5. **Grade 6 Camp Update and Fundraising ~** Update May 28, 29 & 30 (Upcoming: Flowers, Joey's evening, Bottle Drive ongoing. Thanks to the Grade 6 Fundraising parents (bottle drive, hot dog sale)
6. **Celebration of Learning/Interviews ~**Wednesday, March 11th and 12th. Book Fair.
7. **Upcoming:** March 13th St. Francis Play, March 14th Student Retreat, March 14th Green, Gold or Rainbow Day, March 17 and 18th, No School/PD Days, March 21 Down Syndrome Awareness, March 26 Epilepsy Awareness, March 31 Favourite Character Day
8. **DREC ~**Faith Update and Lent see below

Other ~

IMR meeting on Friday. Asking for feedback on what things need to be improved in and/or around school. Budget feedback. Family update. New Superintendent and Audit. Salt talks on PD day. Challenges, what's going well, asked staff. Kiera will check into the current state of our stove and see if it should be included with the IMR.



- Faith Report – Justin Harper (Vice Principal)
 - i. February Updates:
 - 1. faith plan consultation went really well, and it was great to see so many members of our Holy Spirit community come together to share ideas. The conversations were meaningful, and it was exciting to hear different perspectives on the future of our faith plan.
 - 2. Grade 2 students went on their retreat day at All Saints Parish and had a fantastic time. They had a chance to learn, reflect, and enjoy some delicious food thanks to the Catholic Women's League. They even brought back a decoration for our chapel to remember the experience!
 - ii. Moving into March:
 - 1. Shrove Tuesday was a huge success! Our amazing volunteers, staff, and School Council members worked hard to make pancakes and sausages for the students and staff. The food got great reviews, and a big thank you goes out to St. Francis for letting us use their space to cook. We are so grateful to all the volunteers who made it happen!
 - 2. Our Ash Wednesday Mass was also a special moment for our school. Father Santiago shared a great message with the students, even using an Avengers analogy to explain the meaning of ashes. It was a memorable way to start Lent. We're lucky to have such a supportive faith community, including Mr. George, our Eucharistic and Ash distribution ministers, staff, students in music ministry, and all those who help bring these celebrations to life.
 - iii. What's Coming Up in March & April:
 - 1. Throughout Lent, we will be holding weekly Lenten celebrations:
 - a. March 10th – 2/3GE will lead a virtual Lenten celebration for all classrooms.
 - b. March 20th at 2:00 PM – 3DI/3ME will host an in-person celebration in the gym.
 - c. March 28th at 10:30 AM – 4CI will lead another in-person celebration in the gym.
 - d. April 3rd at 11:00 AM – 4/5GI will host an in-person Lenten celebration in the gym.
 - 2. On Holy Thursday, April 17th, our 5SE class will be presenting the Stations of the Cross in the afternoon. The start time is still being finalized based on the length of the presentation, but it will take place later in the school day. Please keep an eye out for updates on this.
 - 3. March 14th - Student retreat - We are excited to be working with CCH students and staff and AJ Barrows, our Family Life Coordinator with All Saints Parish, for our student retreat. It should be fun and reflective for everyone!
 - 4. March 18th - Staff spiritual development day - We are excited to listen to 3 speakers. Dr. Troy Davies, Dr. Matt Hoven, and Father



Troy Nguyen. It should be a great learning opportunity for our staff.

5. Ongoing Fundraiser for St. Odilia School
6. Another important initiative to be aware of is our ongoing fundraiser in support of the Holy Spirit School Division's Chalice project. As a school division, we are working to raise funds to help build a block of classrooms for St. Odilia School and support their learning community. While we have done a lot of fundraising this year, we still want to provide our community with opportunities to contribute to this meaningful cause. We will continue our commitment to St. Odilia School for the Visually Impaired and encourage anyone who would like to donate to do so. The [donation link](#) is in our newsletter and will also be shared on our website and other platforms. This is a great way to take part in one of the pillars of Lent: almsgiving.

Thanks again to everyone for all your support in making our school such a welcoming and faith-filled place!

- Treasurers Report – Wendy Hurley (Treasurer)
 - i. Money for 2 hot lunches has been deposited.
 - ii. We've paid for some commitments agreed upon at the last meeting.
 - iii. We've contributed the money for the year and we're in a good position to start next year.

Motion to accept School Report by Heather, Wendy second, All in Favor

4. Old Business

- Review of Action Items from Previous Meeting
 - i. Fundraising – Cuppers going well.
 - ii. Retirement gifts, Mr. Harper has received.
 - iii. School Council fund – Books, Flags, Blanket Exercise.
- Ongoing Projects/Updates
 -
- (iPads, T-shirts, School Sign, Ukuleles, Art & Science kits, Helmets)
- Blanket exercise 180\$ for elder. May 7 @ 6pm

5. New Business

- Discussion of New Initiatives (School Wish List). None at this time. Check stove.
- Balancing Act – Online Survey.
- Alberta School Councils Association Spring Symposium April 26
- Donation for CCHS, St. Francis School Plays \$50x2?



Motion made by Andrea for ESM School Council to contribute \$50 each towards the school plays for CCH and St. Francis, Malorie second, all in favor.

- Hot Lunch – Dates? March 27 for Taco Bell, April 30 for KFC Gerriane has arranged these two. May 15 Joey's hot lunch Brody will respond and set up.
 - Innovative ideas?
6. Guest Speaker/Presentation
- Blanket Exercise, potential dates? May 180\$ for elder. May 7 @ 6pm.
7. Closing Remarks
- Samaritan Stars
 - Andrea awarded a star to the teachers who take the kids skating. It's a lot of work and they do a great job.
 - Justin awarded Samaritan Stars Heather, Brody, Lindsay, Andrea, and all the ladies from the Catholic Women's League for their amazing help making Shrove Tuesday a success.
 - Kiera awarded a star to Brody for making such an effort to show up to the school council chair meeting even though it was such short notice as well as all the volunteering he has provided the school.
 - Brody awarded a star to Gerriane for organizing some of the hot lunches,
 - Brody awarded a SUPER STAR to Mme Bouchard for her amazing compassion, dedication and support she provided the family from our school while they went through the initial stages of sorting through all the details of the accident. She went above and beyond, and our school is lucky to have her.
 - Next Meeting Date – May 13th, 2025 @ 6:00pm
8. Closing Prayer
- Lead by Justin
9. Adjournment - 7:20pm