

School Council Meeting - June 2, 2020

Attendance: Cathy Giesbrecht, Monique Aultman, Stacey Jost, Suzanne Morton, Greg Schell (Trustee), Jaden Babiuk, Helen Jamieson, Lori Beerwart, Gillian Brinston-Kurschat, Colleen Tremblay, Amelia Schoenberger, Tayler Daum, Anita Rivero

1. Call to order - 6:37PM

2. Acknowledgement and Prayer - Monique Aultman

a. ESSMY acknowledges that it is gathering on the original lands of the Cree, those of Treaty 6 and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. Thank you Creator.

3. Review of Agenda - No revisions

4. Approval of the Minutes, as presented (OR as amended) - Correct spelling of names. Anita will correct names. Motion to approve- Lori Beerwart, Seconded - Gillian Brinston-Kurschat, all approved.

5. Chairperson Report - Suzanne Morton filling in for Michelle McKay

Michelle's letter read out, regarding changing of Saint Albert Catholic High School name, signage, website, etc, to include French immersion. This is critical for the inclusiveness of French students and the development of a respected French school culture.

Cathy suggested that this letter and concerns be brought up at the SACHS School council meeting.

Suzanne: The 2019-2020 school year has been a frustrating, emotional and very turbulent year for many families from the faith in our future and the subsequent loss of our ESSMY high school, in the trials of distance learning. We have persevered in managing to get through this all together with the support of the administration staff. We continue to feel a loss of our ESSMY high school. As a school community, we collectively grieve for every student who will not graduate due to circumstances that are out of our control. We also grieve the loss of a single track French immersion programming for high school students.

Thank you to ESSMY administration and staff for going above and beyond during this upheaval. From visiting every graduate personally at their homes, to taking the necessary time and effort to make phone calls and answer emails from families to the school. To all the staff, you have really gone out of your way to make the best of a

difficult time. We are all grateful. As we anticipate summer, we also are wondering what next school year will bring. Administration is already hard at work in planning for 2020-2021 school year. We are all in this together, maintaining a positive connection between as many families and staff, with the common goals of our children's education, enabling a love of learning and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our families and staff. I wish for all to have a fine, healthy summer and look forward to seeing you.

6. Student Representative Report - Jaden Babiuk, Amelie Schoenberger

- We are getting down to the end of the year. We did the best that we could given the circumstances.
- We would like to have one more activity to go out with a bang. Still in the works
- Like to say thank you to the teachers and a farewell to all the teachers who are leaving. We don't know who is leaving as of yet.
- This was a fun year, we will miss it!

Cathy - Jaden and Amelie, you two were the most steadfast student representatives. Thank you for all of your effort and school spirit.

7. Trustee Report - Greg Schell

- Survey sent to students, parents and staff in terms of consultation for re-entry concerns for the fall of the 2020-2021 Academic year. I would encourage all to fill out the survey.
- Passed a budget for next school year, last week, at our board meeting
- Gabriel Academy's lease is expiring with Mission Plaza this year and that lease cost is at least \$150,000 a year. It is on the second floor, and is not wheelchair accessible. So we are following with the idea to relocate the school. Renovations will take place over the summer.
- New school to open up in the fall in Morinville. Had a virtual open house two weeks ago.
- Virtual spring meeting for the Alberta School Boards Association, went over relevant resolutions, including lobbying the government for additional funding with regard to having to deal with Covid-19 to face the additional expenses.
- Need to also work with University of Alberta to ensure that we can have French Immersion teachers for the next generation of our students and to continue to deliver single track French immersion within St. Albert Catholic schools.
- Ecole Marie Poburan school has joined the Sports Academy for next school year. This is exciting news as it will help strengthen our French immersion offerings in St. Albert.
- I will take your concerns about branding and the signage for St. Albert Catholic High School. Things are already in the works, but I will share your concerns with the superintendent this week and follow up.

Questions?

Taylor Daum - It is great that there is a survey regarding re-entry to schools. Could we get some sort of confirmation regarding the plan of re-entry because there is a lot of consideration in terms of how schools are going to be running before we can actually make a decision about school. Do we invest in sports academy not knowing what it may look like?

Greg - At this stage we have to find out from the minister of education and Alberta government of their plan for all Alberta school boards in terms of when the start date will be. I anticipate that we will have special meetings over the summer as a board, that's in addition to the fact that we will have a new superintendent, hopefully starting in July or August. Hopefully, we will find out answers directly from the minister and not the media.

8. Administrator Report - Cathy Giesbrecht

- Touch base regarding communication from the school. We strive to provide clear communication to parents. Would like feedback on the type of communication you prefer. What do you find most effective. Currently we have a weekly newsletter sent out every Friday, we use social media for mostly reminders and celebrations of what we do and highlighting events and students in the school. Typically emails are sent when information is important for everyone to see. We have decided to let go of the school app, as from earlier feedback, people were not using it.

Emails and newsletters are good, try to send same emails to the students as well, add 'week at a glance' in email, key dates in email and newsletter

- We would love to tell you what will happen in the fall, but we just don't know yet. Monique and I are in the process of planning as though we are coming back to face to face in the fall. We are also planning as though we are going to be 100% online. My preference would be to be at school face to face 100%, but we also know that may not be realistic right off in September so we are making sure we have plans in place for both possibilities and a third plan of in between. We won't know what will happen for sure until the minister of Education lets us know what we can and can't do. Whatever we will be given, we will do our best.
- Suzanne Morton suggested that we divide up the calendars, which we have already. I also have a list of notes I have taken as feedback from parents from conversations I had.
- We will have a more structured calendar that will be more predictable for the students.

Suzanne - I find face to face so important. It would be nice to be able to touch base first thing in the morning to get a sense for the day.

Cathy - would like to have a homeroom block of 10minutes in the morning for prayer

and to go over the schedule for the day.

Taylor - I like the idea of a homeroom in the morning. The kids need a little more structure throughout the day. Some kids are obviously doing well, but some are finding it hard without more of a structure. They still need more of a routine, so a little more direction would be nice. You have a real challenge on your hands trying to support both in school and online learning.

Cathy - we are looking ahead and planning for those students who will not come back to school in the fall if the schools open. We have a responsibility to teach all students regardless of their decision.

We have learned a lot of the past months, and so if we are still online in September we will have more structure.

Stacey - it would be nice if teachers could send out their plan for the week to the students so that students and parents could better prepare.

Cathy - we have asked the teachers to do this, and it should be on their google classroom in the classwork tab. I am more than happy to help parents and students if they have problems. To not overwhelm the students, the teachers have chosen which day of the week they post their week at a glance.

We will make sure that there will be more consistency next school year.

We will have more formal attendance.

Colleen - have some pencil paper and modules to work on instead of just staring at a screen all day. Can't print from chromebook. Is there a way we can get copies of Modules directly to print for our kids?

Cathy - we could send a link to parents to print material. Also, we need to have more feedback loop, where kids see how they are doing.

If work is not being done, an email will be sent to parents, or comments will be placed on powerschool. If we are concerned about a student, we try to reach out to them and the parents.

Cathy continued report:

- Parent session May 13 2020 well attended, shared powerpoint in newsletter
- May repeat session in the fall
- Receiving refund school fees underway, any questions or concerns, please contact Cathy or Sue
- Grad drive by enjoyed by all, will do something in the fall for grade 12's
- Underwraps regarding activities for other students.
- Will email parents when and how to return items back to school. (Stick everything in tubs and not touch it until August to make sure any virus is dead).
- Once staffing is finalized, an email will be sent out to families, hopefully by the end of this week or next week.

- Grateful for this community!!

9. Unfinished/Business Arising

Taylor - question for Greg; will the government and school boards learn from those jurisdictions which have gone back to school? What are the implications for the kids that will need ongoing help and aid?

Greg - annoyed at the government for telling the board to get rid of some employees and we will be looking at getting back our instructional assistants.

10. Next Meeting: Annual General Meeting - tentative date September 15, 2020 at 6:30pm. Cathy will coordinate dates with EMP and pick a date for AGM.

11. Adjourn - 7:37PM