

ESSMY School Council Meeting Minutes - June 4, 2019

Attendance: Stacey Jost, Michelle MacKay, Cathy Giesbrecht, Monique Aultman, Joan Crockett, Trent Savinkoff, Francine Savinkoff, Genevieve Gray, Helen Jamieson, Anita Rivero

1. Call to Order: 6:40PM

2. Opening Prayer: Prayer led by Joan Crockett

3. Acknowledgement of Territories: Stacey Jost

ESSMY acknowledges that it is gathering on the original lands of the Cree, those of

Treaty 6, and on the homeland of the Metis Nation.

4. Adoption of Agenda: Motion to adopt agenda by Genevieve Gray, Seconded by Helen Jamieson

5. Approval of Minutes: March minutes - Motion to approve minutes by Francine Savinkoff, seconded by Trent Savinkoff
April minutes - Motion to approve minutes by Helen Jamieson, seconded by Stacey Jost

6. New Business:

a) Chairperson Report: Stacey Jost

- Welcome Mme. Giesbrecht to ESSMY

- ASCA conference and resolution discussion

Stacey was unable to attend the meeting, however voted by proxy on behalf of ESSMY parent council. Unfortunately, one resolution regarding the amalgamation of Catholic and public schools was passed at the conference. We need to be aware of these resolutions and have a voice.

Cathy Giesbrecht: The district created a chapter called GRACE - "Grateful Advocates for Catholic Education" made up of group of people: superintendent, trustee, admin staff, teachers, parents and students.

Open discussion about Catholic education, how to preserve it, etc. will occur on: June 13, 2019 from 7PM-9PM at St. Albert High (The more people there, the better). Please RSVP to GRACE

b) Student Rep Report: No student today

c) Trustee Report: Joan Crockett:

I want to thank each one of you for always making me feel like I belonged here at this table. I also hope that each of you will leave this school year and know that your time and effort to make each student, parent and staff feel that they belonged to this wonderful school family of ESSMY is appreciated. Thank you, parents, for supporting the administration and providing your thoughts and ideas. Your seed of volunteerism has been planted and what a wonderful role model that that you have provided for your children and for the ESSMY families.

Good News

- Being the liaison trustee for ESSMY, I had the pleasure of attending ESSMY's grad and bringing greetings from the Board. I want to share a little of that speech with you this evening as it has a direct bearing on the quality of education at this school.
- Alberta has one of the most successful examples of education in the world and ESSMY grads are leaders in the province in achievement in both Provincial Achievement tests as well as in Diploma Exams.
- Secondly, ESSMY not only boasts a strong academic record, but students are huge participants in social justice activities. Students of this school are the hands, feet, and heart of Christ for each other and the community, both local and global. The good works that students have been involved in have touched many hearts and souls. St Theresa of Avila would be very proud of the wonderful work of the students. We know that parents are avid supporters of these social justice works as well.
- The Rotary teach of the month award for April was presented to Brett Arlinghaus, teacher at NM Ross. Brett is noted for his excellence in teaching and well as his support for extracurricular activities for students.
- Layla Potts, student at Vital Grandin School was presented with the Honoring Indigenous Spirit Award. These awards are presented to students who show an exemplary commitment to their education. Layla was chosen from 174 nominations.

Eleven students from GSACRD were given honorable mention. The students will be recognized by the Board on June 24, at a Regular Board Meeting.

- Father Jan raised more than \$10 000 during their bike-a-thon. All proceeds were donated to the Mental Health Foundation. A huge thank you to the organizers, participants and donors.
- MCHS hosted their second annual bike-a-thon and raised over \$10 000 which will support local charities.
- Richard S Fowler hosted their bike-a-thon and raised more than \$50 000 to support mental health.
- Morinville Community High School hosted their second annual bike-a-thon and raised \$10 000 which will support local charities.

Congratulations to all for the extreme generosity in giving to others.

- JJ Nearing celebrated their 20th anniversary milestone. They were honored to have their namesake, Jack Nearing and his family members in attendance for the celebration. Trustee Greg Schell gave greetings from the Board.
- Vital Grandin will be celebrated their 60th anniversary June 3 at 1pm. We did not have the honors of Bishop Grandin's presence, as he passed away in June 3, 1902, which is now his Feast Day. Assistant Superintendent Moroziuk and Trustee Crockett brought greetings from the District.
- The District is pleased to note that more than 600 tiles were painted to contribute to a legacy mural in honor of Sister Alphonse which will be permanently installed at Sister Alphonse Academy and to be unveiled in September 2019.
- Deb Schlag, our secretary-treasurer, was presented recently with ASBOA's Award of Excellence. Alberta School Business Association recognized Deb for numerous contributions and leadership to the Association and the profession. Deb's work ethic and commitment to the District is greatly appreciated and we will miss her immensely as she journeys into the era of retirement.
- Carol Bruinemen, our Communication Manager is also retiring. Carol was instrumental in setting up numerous community consultation evenings as well as all the open houses for the new schools and much work in researching and bringing forth a logo that represents our District in a modern way.
- We will miss both of ladies for their expertise and dedication to our District but happy for their entry into a new chapter in their life.

Board News

- Corporal Laurel Kading provided a comprehensive annual review of the St Albert School Resource Officers program in our schools. It was noted that vaping is a significant issue in the community and among youth. RCMP are responding with an emphasis placed on education. VTRA – Violent Risk Threat Protocol Assessment is in its final stages. GSACRD is a partner along with St Albert Public and health agencies to collectively respond to high risk youth situations.
- Superintendent's reports, policies updated, and consent items can be found online under Board meeting summaries.

Initiatives of the Board

- Numerous trustees attended the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association in Canmore May 31 - June 1.
- Trustees attended ASBA's Spring General Meeting and workshops June 3 – 4. Minister of Education Adrianna LaGrange gave opening remarks at the Spring General Meeting.
- The District's Year End Mass will be celebrated by all staff, Friday June 28 at Holy Family. Retirements are announced and all those leaving our District get a special blessing. Archbishop Smith will be presiding. Collection will go the GSACRD's Education Foundation this year.

Next Committee of the Whole Meeting – June 10, 2019 at 7 pm.

2019-2020 Organizational Meeting – June 17, 7 pm.

Next Board Meeting – June 24, 2018 - 3:30 pm

d) Admin Report: Mme. Aultman

16 graduates, Country Lodge; everyone had a great evening. ESSMY staff are very proud of all the students.

Health Symposium - review of year, study skills, stay healthy, eat well and sleep well.

Students need to get in assignments by - June 10 for high school students and June 14 for jr. high students

All exams on google calendar and app

All teachers are asked to put up study guides on google classroom

Exams are in gym, Diploma exams in quiet space

Last day of Class; June 14 high school, June 18 jr. high

Students keep textbooks until the exam.

Report card pick up at 1pm on June 27

Planning on continuing health symposium next school year.

Cathy Giesbrecht: first week at ESSMY, doing well. Knows most students and parents. In process of staffing for next school year. Cathy has some ideas for the cafeteria that can generate funds for ESSMY. Would like to discuss this matter first with her staff at staff meeting on June 8.

5. Questions and Old Business:

Vaping Policy

- Discussed as a district.
- Need more education for students and parents (Included in health symposium)
- If student found vaping, treated as if smoking, no matter if there is nicotine or not, automatic in school suspension. Parents are contacted via phone, and written letter regarding suspension placed in child's file.
- Adult proximity most deterrent. Supervisor outside during lunch hour.

Graduating class size - really small, how can we improve class size.

- Communicate academic excellence of ESSMY potentially to grade 9 classes

- Stress bilingual status
- Promote ESSMY Pride
- What are the kids in grade 9 and 10 looking for in a highschool?
- How can we change the mindset of students and parents that ESSMY is a good school for highschool.
- Show benefits of a single track at grade 7 level
- Open house; do separate open house for junior high and highschool?
- Do more with grade 6 students to attract them to ESSMY
- Attraction and retention of students should be a major focus.

Basketball nets outside- there is none. They get torn down. Chain nets? High costs to keep replacing.

New Liaison officer next year: Annie Starzynski

Chromebooks - Can't make mandatory but highly encouraged for students to provide their own devices. The school has some, but outdated, students not taking care of them - picking off keys. School can't keep up with computers for the students. Can we get information on what's good to get and price range?

Cafeteria - Cathy has some plans, ie. skip the dishes. She will discuss first with her staff.

Meetings every other month? Will bring this issue forward at September meeting.

Sept meeting - vote in new executive

Adjourned: 7:43PM

Next Meeting Date: Sept 10, 2019. @ 6:30pm