

École Secondaire Ste. Marguerite d'Youville, 51 Boudreau Rd., St. Albert, AB
School Council Meeting - October 6, 2020 - 6:30PM

Attendance: Cathy Giesbrecht, Monique Aultman, Stacey Jost, Suzanne Morton, Alyssa Frew, Sabrina Lalonde, Michelle MacKay, Lori Beerwart, Helen Jamieson,

Virtual Attendance: Lisa Babiuk, Lisa Psichnyk, Jeanet Moore, Anita Rivero

1. Call to order – 6:47pm
2. Acknowledgement and Prayer
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
4. Approval of the Minutes, as presented (OR as amended)
Approved by Lori Beerwart, Seconded by Stacey Jost
5. Chairperson Report - Suzanne Morton
The Alberta School Council Association (ASCA) will be holding a virtual AGM
6. Secretary Report – Michelle MacKay
Our School Council Bylaws have not been updated since 1996. Proposed changes include the removal of the Treasurer position since we do not require the position; change the document title to School Council's Operating Procedures as the term "Bylaw" is no longer in use; and removal of "Student" as a member of the School Council as we no longer have a high school nor the associated Student Council.
The Operating Procedures draft was circulated and discussed. Some clarification is needed from ASCA pertaining to the reference of PIPA as the guiding legislation.
An updated document will be provided to Cathy and circulated to the parent community in advance of the November meeting.
7. Trustee Report – Greg Schell
 - a) Grand opening of St Kateri Tekakwitha Academy in Morinville. Kateri is the first Native American to be made a Catholic Saint. The solar powered school design is very modern and open. Each grade has their own area/pod identified by colour.
 - b) Consultation for SACHS renaming via emailed survey. Many comments and suggestions received for a third possible name of "École Secondaire St Albert Catholic High School". The district agreed it was the best fit and will be officially approving it at the November board meeting. After which all SACHS stationary and signage etc. will be updated.

- c) COVID outbreaks at MCHS and Fowler.
 - d) A parent requested a follow up on Trustee Schell's comment at the June School Council meeting regarding the need to work with the U of A to ensure that we can have French Immersion teachers for the next generation of our students in GSACRD. With the fate of Campus Saint Jean up in the air, the supply of qualified French Immersion teachers is potentially at risk.
8. Administrator Report – Cathy Giesbrecht
- a) Online Learning Pathways - officially begun, as of Sept. 28th, with a full French Immersion course load. This was great news and our students are adjusting well. These students remain part of our ESSMY community as they learn online. So far this has been successful.
 - b) We have launched our ESSMY Protocols for Student Absences during COVID. This has been a good learning curve. We feel that we have gotten a lot of the kinks ironed out as we are entering our 3rd week. Teachers have been amazing and open in regards to this, and it has been well received by our parents.
 - c) School Fees have been sent out. We have adjusted them to the best of our ability as we try to predict what this year will bring. Please understand that there will be more Pay-As-You-Go this year. If we are allowed to offer more events, we will and we will charge at that time for those involved.
Question: Why is ESSMY's Technology Fee of \$30 higher than SACHS's which is \$10?
Answer: Our fee has not gone up since last year. SACHS has a much larger school population to spread the technology costs across.

Question: The \$40 Yearbook fee seems high.
Answer: The \$40 is for a hardcover yearbook. A softcover was around \$8 less so we stayed with the hardcover version. The number of colored pages affects the price as well. Cathy will check with Jostens about pricing options.
 - d) Leadership classes are launching some theme days and upcoming events. As some of you may remember, we are doing student leadership differently this year. Grade 9, first term, Grade 8 second term, Grade 7 third term.
 - Color Day
 - Feast Day for St. Marguerite d'Youville
 - e) We are looking at beginning intramurals for when the weather gets colder. At the moment we are loaning out disinfected equipment for students. AHS has provided guidelines and directives for these activities.

f) Further Questions

Question: With Edmonton Catholic School's recent announcement to have their parents make a final decision between online and in person learning for the remainder of the year, is this something GSACRD is now considering as well?

Answer: Greg has not heard anything as of yet. Cathy commented that we will likely be able to maintain our ability to transition between the two platforms given the deadlines imposed on the students prior to each semester.

Question: Some assignments within Google Classroom are being labelled as not handed in or incomplete when in fact they were complete and/or do not apply to the student (as in group work in class not having to be completed by online students). This results in confusion for parents and students.

Answer: Unclear how to remedy this at this time. Best to contact the teacher.

Question: A parent witnessed students and staff congregating on the road of the bus lane during the Terry Fox Run and was concerned with their safety.

Answer: Different routes can be explored next year and/or closing the bus lane altogether for the duration.

9. Foundation For the Future – Alyssa Frew

The Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools Education Foundation is a registered charity which was created in 2014 to raise funds to enhance the learning opportunities of our students. (Similar to how "Friends" groups or Parent Associations fundraise for a specific school, the Education Foundation is a charity which strives to support students in all 17 schools.)

The Foundation Board is composed of volunteers who are passionate about education and the opportunities that can be provided to our students.

Education Foundation Members include every student in grades 9-12 that is enrolled in a GSACRD school, all parents of enrolled children, all staff and all individuals who support the Foundation's mission.

Our motto is "Building Better Futures - One Student At A Time"

We hold fundraising events one - two per year to fund our work with scholarships and grants. In the past, we hosted an Italian Night and a Sweetheart Soiree: An Evening with Martin Kerr. Both evenings had dinner, entertainment and silent auctions and were very successful and enjoyable events! Two of our 2020 events were cancelled due to the Covid pandemic - a Fun Casino night and a Beatles evening. We will be back with more events as soon as the restrictions are lifted. Please join us in supporting our 2020 Education Foundation 50/50! Coming soon this fall! Easy, easy - just purchase your tickets online and share with your friends and family to do the same!

We had the pleasure of commencing the Group Grants for the Future in 2019. We received seven applications and we were pleased to announce our support for the following school initiatives:

- \$700 Neil M Ross - Grade Four Bible Project
- \$2000 Neil M Ross - One iPad tub with Six iPads
- \$2130 G H Primeau – Twelve benches for Outdoor Classroom Project
- \$2400 École Marie Poburan - Mobile Book Shelves for Flexible Learning Commons Project

Currently we support our students in two ways: Scholarships and School Project Grants:
-Scholarship for the Future -- 2 \$500scholarships for GSACRD graduates under the age of 21 years. Graduates of GSACRD apply in the spring. Successful applicants will have demonstrated a commitment to service in their community, an appreciation of the unique opportunities offered by being a GSACRD student and a plan for their future. Attending university/ college/ educational training or certification are accepted as post- secondary learning.

-Futures Fund - Group Grant Application

Please see the application on our website

www.foundation.gsacrd.ab.ca/about/group-futures-fund

What's next?

We will continue to grow our Foundation with additional scholarships and grants each year. It is only possible with support from the parents, staff and community members in our district. We hope to recruit attention and a presence for the Education Foundation so that it is well recognized in all schools and also continue to recruit support, volunteers and ideas from all corners of our school division.

10. Canadian Parents for French Membership – Michelle MacKay

-Canadian Parents for French Virtual Conference and AGM takes place October 13 -18.

-Keynote Speaker is Clara Hughes (Six time Olympic Medalist in both Cycling and Speed Skating, and a Mental Health Advocate)

-Many interesting sessions including:

- *Linguistic Insecurity
- *Creating Calm: A Family Approach to Managing Anxiety for School
- *Prepare Your Teen for Jobs That Don't Yet Exist
- *Reinforce Benefits of Speaking Both Official Languages
- *Inspiring FSL champion stories.

-First 100 registrants will be free (value of \$50).

-Cathy will send out conference information to all School families.

-Michelle is registered and will provide a summary of the conference at the next meeting.

-Many present at tonight's meeting showed interest in attending as well. Comments and reviews will be asked of them at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: November 3, 2020 6:30pm

Adjourned at 7:56pm