

Sept 11, 2023 Holy Family School Council Meeting, 7-9pm @HFES

In Attendance

Administration: Patti Oxford (PO), Maria Gray (MG)

Council members: Carrie Gillis (CG), Gina Anderson (GA), Shirah Davis (SD), Daniel Harms (DH), Lisa Christensen (LC)

Opening 7:00pm

CG:

- Land acknowledgement.
- Advance agenda requirement for noncouncil members joining meetings (72 hours).
- Agendas will be posted in advance.
- Adopt agenda.

Councils and Committees

SD: CEAY

- Joint AGM Sept 27th, CEAY, mass at 6pm, meeting to start at 7pm.
- Report from school needed by Sept 20th (last year's activities).
 - Action: CG will check council G: drive for past year's report.
 - If someone from council wants to sit on CEAY, positions will be nominated at AGM. CEAY paid secretary/treasurer position currently open.

LC: Bussing Committee

- Needs: kids who switched schools, new bussing kids, 3 need handibus; when call/email voicemail says we don't have time. Still 3 families being affected in a significant way including 2 nonverbal kids, and 1 kid who lives downtown. Bus 32 has been cancelled once.
- Action: LC to communicate needs to Bus Committee

Facebook

- Updates to council site needed (CG).
- Teachers briefed on privacy requirements re: photos of students (MG).

Finances

- CG: asked Lori of opening balance ahead of BBQ: \$5858.72.
 - MG: school will purchase propane from BBQ.

Past Council Members

- Erin Spiewak has offered to continue organizing pizza lunch; pizza lunch will continue outside of council.
- Need to put next pizza lunch in next newsletter.
 - Need to fill 1 voting spot.

Sept 11, 2023 Holy Family School Council Meeting, 7-9pm @HFES

- CG: recommends that Daniel Harms be appointed for the vacancy; SD seconds motion.

Crime Prevention and Victim Services Funding

- CG: will find out new potential Saturday dates for Stay Safe and Babysitting courses.

Health Promotion, YG

- Could request YG to cover the curriculum on sexual health (trained nurses/health educators put on this training); question and answer session on sexual health for parents as well; topics also include digital safety.
 - LC: can follow up with YG: re: this training; email address is in the minutes. Follow up later this fall for spring sessions.

BBQ

- MG: 330 BBQ was a disaster the last time – confusion on part of parents and teachers for who was taking on care between end of school and start of BBQ
- Next year, it could fall a week earlier, in case it's warmer.
- This time, the 430 start was good. Attendance was steady.
- There were approximately 300 hot dogs.

Spelling Bee

- GA: looking for another person to do spelling bee. Daniel will help.
- \$500 from school council for 2 prizes per grade; plus we had donations from businesses last year.
 - This next year, we could plan to return our purchases if lots of donations come in.
 - SD: could do copying again.
 - GA: will apply for the funding and we'll work together to organize it!

Principal's Report (MG)

- Good start.
- Hiring scramble with summer teaching staff loss (-2 teachers in August).
- New hires:
 - Brianna Wiggins in ¾ split. Newish teacher and great!
 - Heather Gillis – pro, decades of experience.
 - Cara moved to teach another grade.
- EAs
 - Have allocation for 13 EAs (that's what we're funded for; that's how many hired).
 - K class: 4 EAs plus 2 teaching staff.
- New classroom: neurodiverse classroom (Julie Todd – literacy expert). Follow model of HVES: one classroom to serve neurodiverse students.
 - Literacy, math, etc.
 - Wild success; parents, students (dignity, no outbursts, social tensions, peers have more patience when integrated in gym and French, outdoor stuff, recess and

Sept 11, 2023 Holy Family School Council Meeting, 7-9pm @HFES

lunch), teachers all very happy. Julie also teaching food security (food prep at lunch time; breakfast club and lunch club). Has impacted culture of the hallways as well.

- 3 adult to 7 kid ratio.
- Economizes EA allocation for whole school; frees up principal and VP time as well.
- 2 spots in grade 6 available (went on to French immersion), otherwise school is full.
- Opening liturgy went well. First Nation elder came to introduce Southern Tutchone terminology. This will be incorporated at each liturgy.
- YFNED provided funding for room beside Patti's office for elders' room so that we have a guest elder space in our school. Can be used for other guests as well. Most schools have an elder room.
- 4 schools have formed a literacy coalition: HFES, HV, JH and ES.
 - Create common approach to phonics.
- PD Day on neurosequential model for education (in collaboration with 5 other schools).
 - Lisa Evans heading this up (YG) – coaches the schools on this model. Model is called "Ready to Learn".
- Lack of TOCs and pace of HR is a major problem. Can't go on like this for much longer.
 - We have excellent hired staff; we have nobody to come in if someone is sick, etc.
 - Principle and VP had to take 60 kids outside for ½ hour so adults could have time to plan. Staff are stressed.
 - This is not sustainable. Need help from Council.
 - Last week: Jeanie McLean – schools are being creative. BUT this is going to burn people out. School will have to cancel certain classes. Need a plan different than: there might be more TOCs coming.
 - Goldenhorn, Hidden Valley, WES, HFES, all struggling.
 - 4 runners in kindergarten, need skilled teachers to help manage them.
 - Toxic to work in a deficit model every day.
 - Administrators will be lost at these schools to burn out.
 - School has to say no to teachers attending PD days (kindergarten), because can't afford it.
 - **Action: Media release/letter? LC to follow up with council.**
- New SOGI policy given to schools in summer.

Firepit

- would be good to name the firepit before the snow flies.

CG: Engineers Yukon planning bonanza event in April -will send info to admin re: potential activities for the grades.

Next meeting October 10th

9:00pm Meeting Adjourned