

# MINUTES

Holy Family School Council Meeting  
Mon, November 14, 2022, 1900-2100h

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## Attendance:

Gina Anderson	Maria Gray, Principal
Lisa Christensen (by phone)	Patti Oxford, Vice-Principal
Shirah Davis (regrets)	Invited guests: None
Amy Fry	
Carrie Gillis	
Daniel Harms	
Secretary/Treasurer: Erin Spiewak (regrets)	

## Agenda:

- 1) Opening prayer (MG)
- 2) Approval of Oct 3 Meeting Minutes (no changes)
- 3) Council housekeeping (CG):
  - a. Committees and regular tasks:
    - i. Student Busing Committee (LC)
      1. Met Oct 26. Issues discussed: delays/cancellations, communication with parents. School can request bus safety sessions with Standard. Seating plans can be utilized if req'd. Principal can request funding for bus monitor if needed (but anticipate difficult to find due to hours). ++Late registrations this year made routes difficult to finalize, committee suggesting deadline of May and combine with kindergarten registration. School communication to go out re: signing up for text notifications for parents and myschoolbusmonitor.com updates (note texts more timely).
      - ii. Newsletter, Facebook page: Newsletter update submitted by GA
    - b. Swearing-in completed: Still one person to complete—will connect with L. Choquette as soon as able
    - c. Honoraria: Compete forms: AF provided update that no form req'd if honoraria waived.
    - d. Congrats to Shirah and family on the arrival of their new baby!
- 4) Financial update (ES)
  - a. Signing authority: Still to be completed.
  - b. Acct balance: \$8804.68
- 5) In-camera session (if necessary): None
- 6) Parental communication and concerns: None
- 7) Principal's report (MG/PO):
  - a. Thanksgiving: Food Drive participation lower than usual likely due to new person organizing. Less volunteers and donations overall. Feedback from council: Return to dropping off donations anywhere vs. assigned site.
  - b. Halloween: Fun, costume parade
  - c. Student checklists went out early Nov. MG provided guidance for teachers to standardize lists.
  - d. Volleyball: Fun had at tourney. Improvement and sportsmanship noted!
  - e. Teachers now have Professional Leadership Committee where new teachers mentored, more experienced teachers have sessions on inquiry-based learning. Protected time for this while students with buddies.
  - f. Staffing additions: 3 new EAs

- g. FYI, recent radio media that Catholic Schools in Whitehorse and Bishop hosting 'conversion therapy' expert—this was FALSE and MG worked to correct this unfortunate rumour.
  - h. Outdoor classroom opening: Nov 17. Will include YFNED hosting a stew and bannock lunch, firekeeper, Fr. Leo, guests from Victoria Gold, Dept of Ed. Going forward, each class has 30 min dedicated slot to use classroom. **ACTION: Council to work on wood storage solution.**
- 8) CEAY update (SD): See SD's email update. AF also asked group for direction on how HFES would like to be represented at CEAY. Proposed changed to CEAY exec membership that anyone can sit on CEAY exec, not just school council members. AF suggested this should be school council members or delegate(s) by council if council members not able. CEAY exec thought this was reasonable. New bylaws to go for vote at AGM end of Nov. Bottom line: HFES is a Catholic School for everyone, not just Catholic School for Catholic families. CG commented about book display she noted CEAY had set up at School Council Conference. AGM is Nov 30. All encouraged to attend.
- 9) School Conference update (CG): CG attended multiple sessions. Presentations from/on: ADM of schools, LDAY, Education Act, YFNED, Every Student/Every Day, keynote from Debbie Pusher on Parent Engagement in schools, council's role in School Growth Plan development, dispute resolution policy. Council had brief discussion on how we could engage families.
- 10) Pizza lunch (MG): Boston Pizza was very organized and generous with extra meals for those who didn't have one. Plan for future: BP meal \$6-7/meal, but only wants to charge \$5/meal to keep affordable for families. Will put option on form for other families to make donations to cover extra cost plus families in need (similar to 'Mother Theresa fund' at CKES.
- 11) Spelling Bee (GA): Youth Investment Fund grant rec'd \$1500! Planning to start in Jan.
- 12) Thank You cards update (GA/CG): So fun! Winners judged and prizes distribute to class winners. CG has sent for printing.
- 13) Outdoor classroom (MG/CG)
- a. Wood storage: ACTION: DH to plan and possibly build wood storage box.
  - b. Lock/Safety Considerations: MG to get lock, axe, tote, sled. Parent donating initial wood supply for classroom opening
  - c. Plaque: TBA
  - d. Notifications and attendance: MG sent invites.
- 14) Community building ideas
- a. Bonfire and carols after Christmas Concert: It was decided this would be too late in evening for elementary school families.
  - b. No longer able to book Shipyards Park in evenings with bonfire. Council decided weekends too busy for families going into Christmas season.
  - c. Community building with CKES? Joint hospitality for Hannah Beach presentation suggested. CG to liaise with CKES council chair.
  - d. MG suggested council could help/apply for grant to add equipment to primary playground.

## 15) Adjournment

NEXT MEETING WED, DEC 7 **\*\*NOTE CHANGE IN DATE THIS MONTH\*\***

Respectfully submitted by A. Fry