



ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL COUNCIL 2023-2024 AGM
St. Benedict School Staff Lounge
Monday, September 18th, 2023 @ 6:00pm

1.0 Call to Order @ 1802 hr

- Introduction of Guests and Executive Members

Attendance:

Connie Greer	Principal
Leanna Stevenson	Learning Support Facilitator
Trina Joly	Chair
Kalee Ryan	Co-Chair
Trina Samotej	Secretary
Ashleigh Handbury	Treasurer
Ashlee Corpuz	Member at Large
Venita Gonzales	Member at Large
Darby Heck	Member at Large
Jen Swancoat	Member at Large
Pam Roper	PEACE Treasurer
Nicole Gray	
Lindsay Whittaker	
Farrah Garbutt	

Absent

Amber Hardy	Vice-Principal
Jolyne De Marco	Leduc School Board Trustee
Dawn Miller	Leduc School Board Trustee
Alicia Braden	PEACE Chair

- Verification of Quorum – verified –
- Prayer: led by Trina Samotej
Dear God, this school is a family. Help us to learn together, to worship together, to share together, to play together, to pray together, and to reach out to everyone with family love! Amen.
- Treaty 6 Land Acknowledgment: read by Trina Joly

2.0 Review and Approval of the Agenda (*motion to accept, approved*)

3.0 Review and Approval of the Minutes (*no minutes to approve*)



4.0 Reports

4.1 School Board Trustees Report: shared by Trustee Jolyne DeMarco

Next board meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 @ 1:30pm

<https://www.starcatholic.ab.ca/division/school-board/board-meetings>

Board Priorities for 2023-2027 can be found here:

<https://www.starcatholic.ab.ca/download/414083>

August Board Meeting Highlights:

- First regular meeting of 2023-2024 with newly appointed Board Chair Donna Tugwood (Lacombe Trustee) and Vice-Chair Henry Effen (Wetaskiwin Trustee); completing the list of the Board of Trustees: Marilyn Burke (Ponoka), Jolyne De Marco (Leduc), Michael Linner (Drayton Valley), Dawn Miller (Leduc), and Liz Taylor-Sirois (Beaumont).
- Board approved out of province field trip request for grade 9 students from Christ the King School to travel to Victoria, B.C. in April of 2024
- The Board declared that Division 4 of Part 6 of the recently amended Education Act does not apply to this Board and thus opted out of the Alberta School Foundation Fund (ASFF).

4.2 Principal's Report: Presented by Connie Greer

Key Board Priority One: Grow & Affirm Catholic Identity:

- St. Michael Parish Volunteer Drive – to register as a volunteer: <https://forms.gle/FcDAwXmVpGVfkuHQ8> (The Archdiocese of Edmonton requires all volunteers to take a Called to Protect Workshop, scheduled Monday, September 18 at 7:00pm, more dates and times will be offered)
- The Feast of St. Michael – September 30th, call the Parish Office at 780-986-3253 to register.
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Children classes run October-April on Wednesdays 5-6pm: for children 7 years or older who have not been baptized in the Catholic denomination and want to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation
- STAR Four-Year Faith Theme is Encounter God: Year One (2023-24) Encounter God's Goodness
 - Grade 6 Ministries: Students were presented with the various ministries and will select their top 3 choices. Ministries will organize upcoming Terry Fox Walk.



- Grade 4 Bible Commissioning Mass at St. Michael's Parish – Wednesday, September 20th @ 10:00am
- Staff Retreat on September 29
- Opening School Mass was held September 12th
- Ms. Clare Ganton presented to teaching staff on “teaching mass” to our students.
- STAR Catholic District had Faith Reflection Day in Beaumont.

Key Board Priority Two: Staff are Supported in their Learning

- New Curriculum implementation continues – each teacher will receive 5 learning days at the central office throughout the school year.
- Teaching and Support Staff will attend a Learning Day themed “Nourish to Flourish” on October 6 in Wetaskiwin with a focus on Staff Wellness and Assessment for Learning.
- Professional Development Day at St. Benedict School - Friday, September 15th (Professional Learning Communities, Staff Meeting, School Leadership Team, and Gospel Assembly Planning).
- TES (Traumatic Event Systems) Training – September 21 & 22nd (Principal Connie Greer, Vice-Principal Amber Hardy, and St. Benedict LSF Ms. Stevenson attending).
- EXCEL (Excellence in Catholic Educational Leadership) cohort of 3 staff members will continue this year.

Key Board Priority Three: Support Students in their Journey, Ensuring All are Successful Learners:

- Orange Shirt Day (Sep 28) Activities starting next week; Indigenous Lead: Miss Catherine Lamer
- Wellness classes with Mrs. Hardy and Ms. Stevenson, beginning with a focus on Zones of Regulation.
- St. Ben's Wellness Workshop (Sep 6) Boo-Hoo or Ya-Hoo: Understanding Stress and the Transition into ECS for Kindergarten families.
- Parenting Sessions: Understanding Anxiety – A Four-Part Series – by AHS, hosted by Michelle Horby, Division Wellness Coordinator (12:00-1:00 Sep 20, 27, Oct 4, and 11)
- The Learning Loss Grant provided by the government provided a divisional learning coach hired to support classroom teachers.
- School-wide screens for literacy and numeracy continuing with approval to administer “Acadience” to literacy screen; approval to administer the Assessment Foundation: Mathematics Learning Progressions to Grades 2 to 6 students; Gr. 1 students to be assessed in January.



4.3 P.E.A.C.E. Report: Presented by Pam Roper

- AGM scheduled for Friday, September 22nd at 6:30pm St. Benedict Learning Common

4.4 Executive: Presented by Chair Trina Joly

- Annual Report for 2022-2023 school year – completed, to be submitted.
- ParticipACTION Grant, review of the month of June.
- Bylaw/Operating Procedure Amendments – discussion of roles of the school council. – Social Media presence to be added?

5.0 Standing Business

5.1 ASCE Grant:

Application in process; next meeting to vote on.

Action: Executive to come up with list of possible events.

5.2 Score Clock:

Current projector has approximately 18 months left; gym paint upgrade; new sound system installation over summer (\$80,000); Father Lacombe School example Screen quote \$65,000-70,000

Action: Executive to discuss P.E.A.C.E. monies, draft request of donation to Knights of Columbus, and investigate available Government grants.

5.3 Photo Shoot:

Christmas Minis – held until next meeting.

Action: Ashleigh Handbury will discuss availability/scheduling options.

5.4 Bring Your Own Device:

Rental Program; funds towards purchasing chromebooks; \$600 / chromebook for school to purchase due to licensing, etc. Venita Gonsalves brought forward request for locks for lockers due to personal Chromebooks being left in school during recess, etc.



Action: Principal Connie Greer to investigate policies / option to use locks for lockers of students with personal Chromebooks.

5.5 Home Safe / Babysitting Courses:

Kristen Meyers – EducAide: 3 programs appropriate for school (Home Alone Safety – grade 4, Babysitting Course (12 yr old), My Safe Life: Personal Safety – grades 2, 3, & 4) – user pay, class cap: 30 / course.

Action: Chair Trina Joly to bring forward to P.E.A.C.E. to decide how to proceed/ select potential dates.

5.6 Swimming Lessons:

Grades 1 & 2; 8 sessions – 1:00-2:30; volunteers needed for changerooms

Action: Principal Greer to investigate: Swimming on Halloween – what does that look like?; Principal Greer to create schedule for alternating classes during lessons at the LRC.

6.0 New Business

6.1 Elections:

6.1.1 Dissolution of the Current Executive (*motion to dissolve the current executive*) motion passed.

6.1.2 Election of New Executive Members: Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Members at Large (*elect or acclaim*)

- Chairperson: Trina Joly
- Vice-Chairperson: Kalee Ryan
- Secretary: Pam Roper
- Treasurer: Ashleigh Handbury
- Members at Large: Ashlee Corpuz
Farrah Garbutt
Venita Gonzales
Nicole Gray
Darby Heck
Trina Samotej
Jen Swancoat
Lindsay Whittaker

6.2 Upcoming Events for School Council involvement: Approved and new for Consideration:

6.2.1 ASCE Grant:

Discussion of options, ex. Cultural Fair, Indigenous Education, Mental Health Learn to Journal, paint night, etc.

Action: Members to meet and make choice by next meeting.

6.2.2 Grant Applications:

Community Initiatives Program (CIP)

6.2.3 Social Media presence:

Hot Lunch; discussion about possible Facebook page

Action: Vice-Chair Kalee Ryan to continue supporting School Council and P.E.A.C.E. by designing social media posts.

6.2.4 Concessions / Popcorn Mondays:

Action: Bring forward to P.E.A.C.E. as potential initiative.

6.2.5 Dance Committee:

Evaluation of last year's dance, discussion for growth – addition of small cover fee, options for concession, target of 2 dances this year: Fall & Spring

Action: Principal Greer to examine potential dates to present to School Council for next meeting; Executive to create committee.

6.2.6 Movie Nights Committee:

Evaluation of last year's movie night, discussion for growth – new sound system in gymnasium would make for a better future listening experience, addition of small charge for tickets,



Action: Principal Greer to examine potential dates to present to School Council for next meeting; Executive to create committee.

6.2.7 One Small Thing:

Explanation of initiative to new School Council members.
Discussion of likelihood of success for this age group/families of the school, potential to edit/change to something similar and hold event once or twice/year instead of ongoing initiative. Re-evaluate at future meeting.

Action: Chair Trina Joly to add to future agenda.

7.0 Next Meeting of St. Benedict School Council: Monday, October 16, 2023 @ 6:30pm

8.0 Closing Prayer: led by Trina Samotej

Dear Heavenly Father, Bless us with generous hearts, open minds, blessed unity, and clear vision, as we seek to build a house for celebration and worship. May it be a home where all are welcomed, nourished, and empowered to be like Christ for others. Amen

Adjournment: 19:43h