



ST. BENEDICT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING  
St. Benedict School Staff Lounge / Learning Common  
Monday, October 16th, 2023 @ 6:00

1.0 Call to Order @ 6:03 pm

- Introduction of Guests and Executive Members

Attendance:

Connie Greer	Principal
Trina Joly	Chair
Kalee Ryan	Co-Chair
Pamela Roper	Secretary/PEACE Treasurer
Lindsay Whittaker	Member at Large
Nicole Grey	Member at Large
Trina Samotej	Member at Large
Venita Gonzales	Member at Large

Absent:

Joylene DeMarco	Leduc School Board Trustee
Amber Hardy	Vice-Principal
Ashleigh Handbury	Treasurer
Darby Heck	Member at Large
Ashley Corpuz	Member at Large
Farrah Garbutt	Member at Large
Alicia Braden	PEACE Chair

- Verification of Quorum – verified –
- Treaty 6 Land Acknowledgement: read by Trina Joly

2.0 Review and Approval of Agenda (*motion to accept by Kalee Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trina Samotej, approved*)

3.0 Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes (*motion to accept by Lindsay Whittaker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Venita Gonzales, approved*)

4.0 Reports

4.1 School Board Trustees Report: Trustees not present



Next board meeting: October 18, 2023

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

Board priorities for 2023-2024 can be found here:

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

- September Board Highlights and Upcoming Important Dates:
  - Received the fourth Quarter financial report
  - Approved the Sacred Heart request for victoria trip
  - Heard about school start up, enrollments
  - District Dinner with Archbishop Smith - October 3rd
  - Attended Archbishop's dinner - October 6th
- August 2023 Information:
  - Approved Christ the King field trip to Victoria
  - Held an organizational meeting in which Donna Tugwood is now the Board Chair and Henry Effen in the Vice-Chair
  - Officially adopted the 2023/2024 Board priorities. The link is found at the top of this report
- Upcoming Dates:
  - COSC meeting to be held on October 18th, 2023 at STAR Office
  - Catholic Education Sunday - November 5th  
<https://www.acsta.ab.ca/resources/catholic-education-sunday>

#### 4.2 Principal's Report: Presented by Connie Greer

- STAR was the only school board to meet with Archbishop this year.
- Reminder of Parish Grocery Cards
- Support Students in their Journey, Ensuring All are Successful Learners:
  - PAT 24-25 moving to digital
  - Looking into timing challenges
  - Calculators being removed, students may use multiplication tables as an optional accommodation
    - Discussion was had about looking into how we can advocate against calculator removal
  - Surveys on Alberta Education site & email subscription (for changes)
    - Curriculum surveys



- Gospel Assemblies moved to every Friday at 2:20 pm, to allow for more individualized approach.
- Nutrition Grant
  - Being used to allow for better access & to lower cost/subsidize milk program
  - Breakfast program starting with muffins (for select students?)
- Bear Buddies
  - Program has not started yet
  - Needs more check ins & reminders
  - Maybe better hierarchy/accountability (particularly around sledding)
- Ski Days (Bussing from PEACE)
  - March 13 – Gr. 3 & 5
  - March 15 – Gr. 4 & 6

Additional Information:

- Student Led Conferences – Nov 8 & 9
- Next PEACE Meeting – November 8 @ 6:30pm

4.3 PEACE Report: presented by Pamela Roper

- Parent Volunteer Sign-Up forms:
  - Broad Signup:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CA9A729ABFFC16-parent>
  - Winter (Jan-March) Hot Lunch:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CA9A729ABFFC16-winter>
  - Spring (April-June) Hot Lunch:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CA9A729ABFFC16-spring>
- Spring Fundraisers:
  - Make It Sow – Seeds
  - Sherwood Park Soups



#### 4.4 Executive Report

##### 4.4.1 Current Account Balances – Skipped

#### 5.0 Standing Business

##### 5.1 ASCE Grant:

- \$500 grant available
- Tentative Date Chosen: December 1 (evening)
- Brainstorming:
  - Grinch Trees – Corinthia Flowers (Ashleigh Handbury)
  - Paint/Signs night – Miss V's (Pamela Roper)
  - Fused Glass – (Trina Joly)

**Action:** Three options looking into cost/availability, for Parent engagement event. Planning put to committee, as it needs to happen before next meeting.

##### 5.2 Score Clock:

- Request needs to be submitted to STAR Secretary Treasurer (prior to proceeding with any funding requests)
- CIP Grant needs to be submitted by January 15 (we'll know if funding is granted by July 15)
- Knights of Columbus Funding – letter to be drafted
- School Funding – letter to be drafted
- Community Donor Requests – letter to be drafted

**Action:** Draft applicable letters and submit to Admin for approval, before Christmas.

##### 5.3 Photo Shoot

- Tabled, as Ashleigh Handbury not present.

**Action:** put to committee, to determine if we will proceed this year.

##### 5.3 Bring Your Own Device:

- Parents still concerned about theft, and inquired about locks.
  - Notre Dame doesn't have locks, and Fr. Leduc only does for Jr. High.
  - Parents still concerned about other things also getting stolen (shoes, etc). Reminder that reporting is critical.

- Possible solutions to concerns, if locks not possible:
  - Only using STAR Catholic internet (with restrictions)
  - Teaching technology safety
  - Utilizing security cameras (when reported)
  - Minimize personal items at school
    - Admin introduced outdoor bags for recess, to reduce personal items at school for recess purposes
    - Students can request specific sports, etc.

#### 5.4 Home Safe/Babysitting Courses

- Keep private unless spots need filling (insurance changes)
- My Safe (Gr. 2-3) – 6 hrs (split into 3hr days?)
- Home Alone (Gr. 4-5) – 6.5 hrs (split into 3hr days?)
- Babysitting (Gr 6, 12 years old) – 8 hrs (full day)
  - Each course is \$68.25 per student, user pay
  - Minimum 8 students per class
  - Maximum 25 students per class (3 free spots)
  - Every 9 registrations gives us one free
  - Paying the 10% admin fee, for program organization/registration
- Teddy Bear First Aid (K & Gr. 1)
  - Build into a school day (30-60 min program)
  - Cover with kickback (\$125/hr)
- Utilizing PD Days/After School hours:
  - Home Alone & Babysitting: Feb 8/9, Possibly April?
  - Possibly Jan 8, 15 & 22 for My Safe Life (pending confirmation)

**Action:** Committing to programs, booking learning common, confirming space with after school care.

#### 6.0 New Business

##### 6.1 Upcoming Events for School Council involvement - Approved and New for Consideration:

###### 6.1.1 Grant Applications:

- No ParticipACTION this year.
- CIP grant for score clock (see Standing Business)



**Action:** none

6.1.2 Social Media Presence:

- Wanting to add social media rules to bylaws, possibly designating to VP on task list

**Action:** tabled to check process of bylaw changes

6.1.3 Concessions / Popcorn Mondays:

- Not hosting tournaments this year.
- Popcorn days to grade 6 for fundraising?

**Action:** Pamela to meet with Connie about popcorn.

6.1.4 Dance Committee:

- Booking for Fridays
- Trina S, Pamela, Ashleigh, Ashley, Nicole
- Spring Dance for sure.
- Darby asked for DJ (quoted \$600), \$100 for lights & smoke

**Action:** Put to committee meetings.

6.1.5 Movie Night Committee:

- Booking for Fridays (November 24 & Spring date?)
- Darby, Kalee, Farrah, Venita
- Christmas Movie

**Action:** Put to committee meetings.

6.1.6 One Small Thing:

- No time. Table for future endeavor.

**Action:** none

6.1.7 Lunch Times:

- Eating time begins when the bell rings, even though once the bell rings, they have to come all the way in from outside, shed outdoor gear, get to their classrooms and eat, in 15 minutes.
- Div 1 doesn't seem to have problem, teachers are able to accommodate when students are hungry.
- Div 2's time seems more limited, as it presents more of a challenge to allow eating during instructional time.

**Action:** Admin to take concerns to staff about eating accommodations, timing, and nutrition concerns.

#### 6.1.8 Open Gym Dates:

- Looking at accommodating 1 per month or bi-weekly
- Family participation only, no child unattended
- Theme to each one (sport or activity specified in advance)
- Discussion of using a google form or sign up genius, or just having it open, with a first come first served policy (for capacity reasons)
- Probably coordinating January-May

**Action:** Discussion, before being tabled until November meeting.

#### 6.1.9 School Lock Policy:

- Parents are concerned about the front doors being unlocked during the day.
- Admin took concern to the superintendent, as Alberta Education doesn't manage the policy, it's on a board level.
- Parents were reminded of the correct processes of advocating for change.
- New doorbell has potential for video & voice
- Need to ensure doorbell is active (particularly for afterschool care, when the doors must be locked (different governing body)
- Practicing drills
  - Hold & Secure: locked in, but allowed to roam
  - Lockdown: quiet, still, hidden

**Action:** Admin investigating further.



7.0 Next Meeting of the St. Benedict School Council:

Monday, November 27, 2023 @ 6:00 pm

Monday, January 22, 2024 @6:30 pm

Monday, March 4, 2024 @6:30 pm

Monday, May 6, 2024 @6:30 pm

- With possible committee meetings, as needed.

8.0 Closing Prayer: led by Pamela Roper

Heavenly Father, as we come to the end of our time together, we thank you for what has been accomplished here today. May the matters discussed serve as a catalyst to move us forward and allow us to see the fruits of our discussion within our school community. May we leave here, recognizing your wisdom and willingness to lead us forward. In the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen

Adjournment: 7:48 pm