

St. Theresa Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes April 9, 2024

Attendees: Jodi Ostrosky, Jason Duniec, Kara Gettings, Tana Currie, Jean R Boisvert, Cara O'Brien-Joyce, Pierre Ouimet, Nina Hart, Holly Zacharko, Rosie Conrad, Scott McPherson (Lifetouch), Dave Kornder (REAL Foundation)

Meeting called to order at 6:28pm.

Pierre shared an opening prayer along with a land acknowledgement.

Minutes:

Jason motioned to approve, Jodie seconded.

Agenda:

Rosie Moved to approve the agenda and Jodi seconded.

Lifetouch:

Scott came in to talk about questions/concerns/feedback/improvements. Want to keep the lines of communication open and ensure good customer service. One concern noted was that the packages came after the free mailing time. Another concern was that if students are at different schools can't order those together. There have been a couple of changes, ICON photography was bought by Lifetouch a few years ago, only this last fall did the 120 schools migrate to the Lifetouch process which wasn't the same as prior. Additionally there was a change in the operating system. They have observed the concerns that came out of this year and will address next year.

Are we able to do pictures outside? It's a debate every year – try to stay away from this partly because of the weather and also because of the equipment required, not able to duplicate the studio look.

A concern noted was that the green screen photos looked photoshopped and had no depth, they don't photoshop but do retouch. If there is a concern about something such as that touch base with customer service.

An extra half second with the student may have made the difference as well, felt like it was a meat grinder in and out. There is the possibility that it was a new photographer, can put someone with more experience. There also was some equipment issues that placed the timelines behind.

It was suggested that parents could possibly come to volunteer and help with organizing.

Lifetouch provides 10% of sales back to the school in February/March, free staff packages, calendars and agendas for staff along with id cards at no charge. They have a program where you can print off certificates with the students pictures. Yearbooks as well and all information is kept in Canada, in Winnipeg.

The thought is to invite again next year for any additional feedback.

REAL Foundation:

Dave Kornder spoke about the foundation, he is the chair, he had a career in Catholic Schools. In 2004 the foundation formed under a different name however now changed to REAL after a student naming. It is a non profit organization, all \$\$ go to EICS to support Catholic Education, they have a role in advocacy and fundraising, looking to address needs at all levels.

GRACE committees, every division had a committee, advocating for Catholic Education but does not fundraise. REAL works hand in hand with Grace.

REAL supports scholarships at the High School level, \$1000 for each school, for students identified as a Catholic leader, also provide to parishes upon nomination of the priest.

Pay 50% of the cost for Grade 4 Bibles
Provides funding for Face to Face Ministries
Provide guest speakers for both students and staff
Liaise with the chaplains, go through a wish list with both the school contacts and division office
Purchase of Rosaries for grade 8 and 12 students
There is one major fundraiser, the golf tournament
Ways to help; pray, talk in positive terms of what is happening in Catholic schools, GRACE newsletters, May 22 annual golf tournament where you can be a sponsor, donor of prizes or golf

Trustee Report:

Submitted 3 year capital plan, #1 project is the new school in Fort Saskatchewan. Also review of committees to look at services at schools and vacancy rates, possibly combining schools.
Provincial budget is presented, now the work begins by administration, they have to present the budget for the Division.
GRACE summit in May on May 10 at Corpus Christi Parish hall in Edmonton.
Next board meeting is next Wednesday.
Further discussion regarding the tax assessments and where the dollars are going – ensure to check to see if education tax is going to Catholic – here is the link for the Strathcona County Information [Property taxes | Strathcona County](#) and the link for the provincial site [Education property tax | Alberta.ca](#)

Teacher's Report:

7CR is working on a utopia project
Performing Arts, all grade 5 to 8 are completing theatre makeup
PA also going to the Grindstone Theatre
Grade 7 PA playwriting
Ukrainian 5/6 recording a song on banduras, and studying faith and culture
Handball/badminton teams have been created
This weekend is the young authors conference is occurring, 14 are attending and it was teacher nominated

Administration Report:

EICS technology fee will be moving to \$30 for K to 12, this will include software and programs for students, not used for funding the network, or staff devices and software
? - If these are Microsoft licensing fees will students have more access beyond google suite, more access to Microsoft suite? -will have someone reach out
Track and field coming up in a month or so, if parent council is interested in a concession will get the dates (May 8) – Strathcona Athletic Park.
Planning for next year has started, budget dependent. There are weighted amounts used, 50% on projected enrollment, 30% on actual this year, 20% on actual last year.
? – Band information that came out – 2 days a week at OLPH and will be bussed back, may miss a couple of minutes of first class
? – Grade 6 PAT – LA and Math cancelled? - yes 10 days ago province confirmed but Science and Social are still going forward.
? – would you dye or shave beard for fundraising? – yes if it can raise \$

? – were the numbers less for those able to participate in badminton? The numbers were 9 grade 7 girls, 9 grade 7 boys, 9 grade 8 girls and 9 grade 8 boys. 10 per gender for handball. Part of the issue is because of the configuration and competing with EIPS with jr and sr teams, we can only compete likely as jr team. ABJ grade 9 has the sr team.

? – why are all school masses after Easter? – did Ash Wednesday and doing adoration on the 22nd. There was no Easter mass, and in fall bussed to Parish.

? – the grant Parent council can request? – maybe reach out to Jack Atkins – aadacjack.ca, possibly bring him in for a vaping session. Pierre will reach out.

Next meeting:

May 7

Meeting adjourned: 8:19pm by Jodi