Holy Spirit Parent Council Meeting Minutes, September 30th, 2020

Attendance: Dave French, Jodi Ostrosky, Kim Pennock, Lisa Hall, Aoife Cahill, Lisa Leavitt, Michelle Yuzdepski

Call meeting to Order and Opening Prayer

* 1. Dave called the meeting to order at 6:39pm
  2. Opening Prayer led by Michelle Yuzdepski.
  3. Introductions

1. Approval
   1. Jodi O. made a motion to approve May 20th, 2020 meeting minutes, Kim M. seconded, carried.
   2. Jodi O. made a motion to approve today’s agenda, Kim P. seconded by. carried.
2. Parent Council Positions
   1. Nominations for Council Positions
      1. Co Chairs: Dave French and Jodi Ostrosky nominated, Lisa Leavitt made motion to approve and Kim M. seconded.
      2. Treasurer: Kim Pennock nominated, Lisa Levitt made motion to approve and Dave F. seconded.
      3. Secretary: Kim Metro nominated, Jodi Ostrosky made motion to approve and Lisa Leavitt seconded.
3. Teacher Presentation: Grade 4 Teachers Presenting (Lisa Hall presenting)

Celebrations:

-Back to school routines are going well.

With a mask on, the students are allowed to sing!  We wouldn’t be who we are without the music that Mrs. Blanchard brings alive through our students’ voices.

Classroom Updates:

-Grade 4 classes are learning about digital citizenship in Health.

- A checklist ‘Are you Web aware?’ and ‘Family Tip Sheet: Common Sense on Online Security’ will be coming home with students in the next two weeks.

-At this time there is a need for skill building in this area, and we will be supporting students in learning how to continually be a good digital citizen. These skills not only need to be reflected on at school but also at home.

-In the continuing months, the S’more will post tips and reminders to go over with your children to re-enforce this ‘Digital Citizen” concept.

-Grade One classes are exploring all about themselves and their families.  It is one of the ways that we get to know a little more about our students!

-The Kindergarten classes have begun their very new school journey and have experienced so many memorable “firsts” already! It has been very exciting to meet all of our new friends.  Throughout September, we have been reading books, writing stories, playing games and doing crafts to help us learn all about colours.

School Activities:

-Assemblies are in the gym and in the classroom on Fridays.

-Students are excited to be able to learn about our national hero and inspiration, Terry Fox.

Upcoming Events:

-Orange Shirt day Friday, October 2

-There will be a mass for the grade 4 Bible presentation. October 7 at OLPH. It will be live streamed for parents and at school.

Thank-you to…

-HS parents for their support during this new school year.

1. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting: None
2. Open Forum:
   1. Not many concerns have be expressed by any parents, kids are adjusting surprisingly very well, kids are enjoying be back to school and seeing their peers.
   2. They have seen more children staying home sick and parents are doing great at keeping their kids home when sick.
   3. Parents just looking for when their kid does need to be home to be sure teachers are communicating the work to the parents that needs to be done at home.
   4. Parking lot is amazing moving so well with the new door assignment systems, maybe something to keep for next year. School has been tweaking the process at each door to make it more efficient and it’s going well.
   5. Perhaps setting up a Q&A from parents and setting up a meeting to go over parent’s questions.
3. ADMIIN REPORT FROM Aoife Cahill/ Michelle Yuzdepski
   1. Thank you for your role as parents in making our return to school smooth. Your support and patience is appreciated. The morning and after school pick up is going smoothly and we’re getting more efficient as time goes on.
   2. The staff started the year with trepidation and excitement. It takes a lot of energy to navigate the changes and protocols that are in place and I find the staff are feeling the weight of the start up and navigating
   3. Students are doing a great job following the protocols. We love having the students and their energy back at school. We really missed them!
   4. As of September 17, 2020 currently 8.5% of EICS students are registered with online programming.
   5. EICS received $2.3 million in federal funding for covid relief. ○ Provided funding for 14 teaching staff at St. Isidore to support online programming for Grade 1-12. As a result of this funding, EICS did not have to pull money from school budgets to fund staffing for online programming with St. Isidore. ○ Federal Funding is allocated as follows:

 i. $ 1.4 million allocated to staffing

 ii. $273,000 allocated to PPE supplies, technology support, licencing agreements

iii. $639,000 allocated to increased sub costs

* 1. One reported case of covid within EICS schools. Supported by Alberta Health Services, protocols were in place, resulting in one class of students and their teacher having to isolate at home for 14 days. Any close contact identified was also asked by Alberta Health Services to isolate. Students that were isolating at home were supported with online learning by their teacher and are all expected back in class next week.
  2. World Teachers’ Day - October 5
     1. Send Mrs. Cahill shout out as to how they make a difference
  3. As part of our theme of Choose Joy this year I encourage you to share joy with them through thoughtful cards
  4. School Council Meeting date of March 31 is on Spring Break, will need to be changed.

1. Miss B’s Report, presented by Aoife.

My apologies for not being able to attend today! I wanted to say a few words from a wellbeing perspective.

The year of 2020 has led to many circumstances that are uncontrollable, uncertain, unpredictable, and uncomfortable. We have been sustaining this stress for about 7 or 8 months and it has taken a toll on us, our families, loved ones, and school community. Managing a pandemic and coping with the changes across our world has impacted us on a holistic level - physically, emotionally, mentally, socially. We don't know exactly how this year has impacted everyone, but we do know that everyone has been impacted in some way.

As staff, we started the year with a conversation about vulnerability. Brene Brown defines vulnerability as not winning or losing… it’s having the courage to show up and be seen when we have no control over the outcome. We have never experienced a pandemic before - this is all new to us! As we begin to face unknowns, our staff are doing so with a sense of courage, compassion, and vulnerability. We are creating a community focused on connection and kindness more than ever before, and we are modeling that for our students. That being said, I can confidently say that the kids are doing alright. This is because of how the adults in their lives are leading them.

Continuing into the school year, I hope to dedicate much of my time and energy into building up the emotional intelligence in our school community. The more aware of what we're feeling, the better we can then respond to those emotions in appropriate ways. This makes us better, more capable, and more resilient humans. 2020 has been a wild ride, I am grateful I get to do it with my school communities!

Thank you for all that you do.

Miss.B

1. Promotion of Parent Council (Dave added to Agenda): Can our meeting be advertised on the schools FB Page/Twitter on the Monday before the meeting?
2. Dave adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.