

## Holy Spirit Parent Council Meeting Minutes, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Attendance: Dave French, Jodi Ostrosky, Aoife Cahill, Michelle Yuzdepski, Kim Metro, Kim Hawco, Kim Pennock, Sandra Starko, Erin Croft, Jason Duniec, Carole Johnston, Kim Ashton, Kristen Cook, Kelsey Bennett, Emily, Sarah Power,

Call meeting to Order and Opening Prayer

1. Dave called the meeting to order at 6:34pm
  - a. Opening Prayer led by Michelle Yuzdepski.
  - b. Introductions
2. Approval
  - a. Kim P. made a motion to approve December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 minutes, Jodi. seconded, carried.
  - b. Lisa made a motion to approve today's agenda, Jodi seconded carried.
    - Dave added item to agenda, Black History Month resources.
3. Teacher Presentation: Erin Croft and Carole Johnston

Celebrations:

- Successful 3 online learning days
- students are happy to be back

Classroom Updates:

Pathways:

Kindergarten: Mrs. Johnston's class has been learning all about winter and penguins. Although we can't go on any in-person field trips, we took a digital field trip to the Sydney Aquarium where they have a penguin colony of close to 30 Gentoo and King penguins. We have been hard at work on our penguin research projects and are celebrating with a Black and White Day on Wed./Thurs.

Mrs. Croft's class has been learning all about bears and hibernation. Students get to wear their Pajamas to school this week, make some binoculars and will go on a bear hunt at school!

Grade 1: All three Gr. 1 teachers agree that January brings an excitement to our classes, as we can see that the work from September to December is making a difference and the students are taking chances, engaging, sharing more, and putting their knowledge into practise within their assignments with more independence. We are grateful that we are in school to watch these students blossom and grow. The students continue to read daily and are recognizing sight words as well as working to stretch the letters or groups of letters as a strategy for reading unknown words. They are comfortable with numbers to twenty and are working on addition and subtraction, learning the 'Friends of Ten' and "Doubles." The students have focused on the Advent and Christmas season and are working on understanding the beginning of Christ's ministry.

Grade 2:

Grade 3: The grade 3's started the month with online learning where the kids enjoyed activities based on being stranded on an island. We saw some enthusiastic and creative work! We have been working on numbers to 1000 which also involves understanding how to count with coins and now estimation. We've talked about the new year and It has been fun producing some beautiful winter art as well.

Grade 4: The grade 4's have led an assembly by sharing JOY art and participating with enthusiasm. They are working on creating devices that use wheels, levers and pulleys that will help others such as tying your shoes easier or making a device to deliver a water bottle. They are learning so much and becoming great inventors.

School Activities:

-Miss Bussiere (our Family Wellness Worker), has been visiting the classrooms to read a lovely book called "Be Kind" and engaging the students in wonderful conversations about how we can be kind to each other at school and at home.

-We continue with our weekly liturgical celebrations. Lead by one grade level team, the remainder of the students participate digitally through HS TV.

-This month we have been learning about St. Therese of Lisieux. Known as the "Little Flower", she felt the call to religious life at the tender age of 15. The "little way" was the foundation of St. Therese's spirituality. Guided by a scripture passage from Proverbs "Whosoever is a little one, let him come to me." (9:4), St. Theresa believed that the only way she could prove her love for God, was through every glance, every word, and every action, no matter how little, they would be done with love. As a school, the classes have been learning more about her and have been reflecting on ways that we can show our love for each other. The children are building a mural of flowers with their ideas of how to spread love and kindness.

-The school wellness committee has been hard at work taking great care of all of us! Snack Program has been a **HUGE** hit with the children, filling their grumbly tummies with a little snacks. Thank you to Mrs. Petersen (Gr. 3) who has been replenishing the snacks weekly.

Thank you to Mrs. Peterson and her wellness helpers who came around with a special green plant to brighten all of our classrooms.

Upcoming Events:

**-PD Day** - January 29 - no school

**-Report Cards** go live in power school - Jan. 29 @9:00 am Information on how to access report cards was shared in this weeks s'more.

**-Deadline to Order Yearbooks** - Jan. 31,

**-Early Dismissal** - Wed. Feb. 3

**-Teacher's Convention** - Feb. 4 and 5 - no school

**-Deadline for registration for First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation is Feb. 5** - information and links to register were included in this past Sunday's s'more.

**-Valentine's Day** - children will be asked to bring in their Valentines early so that they can sit for 72 hours. Mrs. Cahill will be sending out information to the families.

**-Family Day** - Feb. 15 - No school

Thank-you to...

- to parent council for organizing the purchase of the special shirts for Pink Shirt Day.

-to all of the teachers who worked so hard these past weeks writing report cards. They are a celebration of the children's learning milestones and accomplishments over these past months.

-again to our wellness committee who is working so hard to take great care our students and staff

#### 4. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting:

a. Update on Water Fountains: such a backlog of fountains and demand so facilities is saying that it won't be happening anytime soon but it is on the list and waiting for the machines to arrive.

#### 5. ADMIIN REPORT FROM Aoife Cahill/ Michelle Yuzdepski:

- COVID update - no COVID cases since returning to school in January
- Registration - Feb. 1 Kindergarten & Pre-Kindergarten
- Advertising - looks for ideas and suggestions as to how we can promote and highlight our school especially for Kindergarten registrations (Aoife)
  - Virtual open house - TBA
- Saffron update - waiting to hear from Saffron regarding their updated presentation
- 2021-2022 Calendar - share next year's calendar and hoping for feedback
- The Nutrition Program is a huge success and students are enjoying the snacks and have given great feedback. We received additional funding from the PC grant.
- Surveys - please take time to complete the parent surveys as the responses help guide our planning and budget for the next year. The grade 4 students will be completing surveys as well as staff.

- Shrove Tuesday - what has been the past practice, will School Council support the purchase of individual lunches for all students
- EICS COVID - asking families to contact the school if there is a student case

6. Black History Month Resources: Looking to the Parent Council Society to purchase more culturally diverse books for our very diverse student body. Teachers are also looking for resources. The resources don't even need to be for just Black History but for many cultures as our school represents many cultures. Our school librarian is currently composing a list of books to purchase to support this initiative and is always looking for suggestions from parents for books to look for. Lisa Leavitt is going to forward some information to the admin on some great resources.

7. Dave adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.



## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

### TRUSTEES

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### EICS Jurisdiction Results Report(2019-2020)

At the December 16 EICS Board of Trustees Public meeting, the *EICS Division's Jurisdiction Results Report for 2019-2020* was presented.

Our Assurance model is a part of our engagement process. This process is highly collaborative, in-depth, and long-term involving school and parish communities, and our parents. EICS promotes the involvement of stakeholders by:

- Engaging school communities in a combined Accountability Pillar and Assurance Survey in understanding emerging division priorities
- Sharing all qualitative and quantitative data on Division and School Assurance Dashboard
- Collaborating on all division and school decisions such as administrative procedures, reporting, student achievement
- Establishing ongoing communication between senior administration and the Ministry, Catholic Education Parent Advisory Council and school leadership and school councils

#### Highlights include:

- Drop Out Rate (0.7% compared to provincial rate of 2.7%)
- High School Completion Rate (90.9% of EICS students graduate in three years representing 11.2% above the provincial average)
- Diploma Exam Participation Rate (4+ exams) 72.3% of EICS students wrote four or more exams at the end of their 3rd year in high school representing 15.9% above the provincial average)
- Rutherford Scholarship Eligibility Rate 79.7% of EICS students earn an average of 75% or higher in any of the eligible Grade 10.11.12 courses representing 13.1% above the provincial average)
- Transition to post-secondary rate (72.2% of EICS students enter post-secondary education representing 12.1% above the provincial average)

**NEXT MEETING**  
January 20, 2021

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Next Meeting:  
January 13  
2021



## EICS 2021-2022 Proposed School Year Calendar

Elk Island Catholic School Board is tasked each year with approving a school calendar.

- Goal is to develop a calendar that meets the necessary hours of instruction, supports a quality learning environment and supports teacher and staff professional development
- Joint transportation with EIPS and Battle River is a consideration

Three calendars have traditionally been approved each year to support the differences between the EIPS and Battle River calendars and the unique requirements for OLMP's 4-day week

EICS referenced the approved EIPS calendar to develop the EICS Sherwood Park, Fort Saskatchewan, Vegreville 2021 – 2022 calendar. EICS has not yet received a copy of the 2021-2022 Battle River School Division Calendar. The calendar will come to the Board for approval at a later time.

At the meeting, Administration tabled the briefing and the draft 2021-2022 proposed school year calendar for the EICS Board's 'Approval In-Principal.' It will now be shared with School and Parent Councils and other stakeholders and will come back to the Board for final approval during the February Board meeting.



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