**Holy Spirit Parent Council Meeting Minutes
November 24, 2021**

**Attendance*:*** *Dave French, Aoife Cahill, Michele Yuzdepski, Kim Hawco, Ted P, Jason Duniec, Jenelle Potyondi, Stephen Binder, Deiana Doyle, Rhodalyn Tayde*

**Call meeting to Order and Opening Prayer**

1. *Dave* called the meeting to order at 6:35pm
	1. Opening Prayer led by *Michele Yuzdepski*
2. **Roll Call**
	1. Introductions- via zoom chat
3. **Approval**
	1. *Dave* made a motion to approve October 20, 2021 minutes: *Kim. – First; Jenelle. – Second; carried.*
	2. *Dave* made a motion to add item: message from Ted; approve today’s agenda: *Jenelle. – First; Kim – Second; carried.*
4. **Teacher Presentation** *Mr. Binder {Grade 2}*

Celebrations:

Classroom Updates:

**Kindergarten** - It was so wonderful to connect with all of my kindergarten families for our parent - student - teacher conferences.  My kindergarten littles had so much to celebrate!  To kick off our Nov. theme of “Getting Ready For Winter” we took a virtual field trip to the Strathcona Library. Miss Carlen showed us some really cool items all available for check out and read some funny bear books. All month we will be learning about how different animals get ready for winter.  We will finish up the month with our “Hi-bear-nation” Day!

**Grade 1**: We are working hard at creating simple sentences and building our reading stamina. We are excited for our Teacher’s Pet in-school field trip tomorrow where we get to build a zoo!  It will be great to have parent volunteers in to help out. In science we have also been exploring mixing colours.

**Grade 2**: We are busy making progress in all subject areas. In science students are really enjoying exploring floating and sinking materials learning about Boats and Buoyancy. In math we are working on numbers to 100 including place value, base 10 blocks and different ways to represent numbers. The NED talk today was a great positive addition to our Health program and overall student wellness.

**Grade 3**: The grade 3 students reflected and wrote about what Peace means to them. We enjoyed learning about Remembrance Day and the sacrifices that were made by soldiers, so that we can live in peace. We are excited for our first in class field trip this Thursday and will welcome a clay instructor from the Smelter House to lead us through a clay nativity scene. This special art project is a wonderful way to begin the season of Advent as we remember the real meaning of Christmas.

**Grade 4:** In science we are excited to put all of our learning about simple machines into use. We are building playgrounds to demonstrate our understanding of gears, wheels, levers, pulleys, and inclined planes. We are thrilled to create this in teams! Our first in class field trip is on Building Things.

“Notes” from the Music room:

The music room is ALIVE with drumming. We have received the djembe (pronounced “ jembay”) drums and each class is “drumming up a storm”! Holy Spirit students have always been a part of the circle of learning in the music room, but as members of the DRUM circle, the students are not only learning drumming technique, but they are learning listening skills as well as respect for each other; everyone has a place in the circle, everyone has a voice and everyone belongs. We each have something to bring to the circle.

The students are also learning a phrase Mrs. Blanchard likes to use… “PRAY before we PLAY”. We always say a quick prayer before we begin playing on the drums. This reminds us that **as** we are part of a circle of learning, we are also a part of the family of God.

School Activities:

Literacy Intervention with Ms. Quinlan: A dozen grade 2 students and a half dozen grade 3 students work with me twice a week on foundational reading skills. Each lesson, we work on reviewing letter sounds and some of those tricky letter combinations (like sh, wh and bossy r). We work on spelling skills through making and breaking words, word ladders and games. At the end of the lesson, we read a book together and learn strategies that good readers use.

Numeracy Intervention: In math groups we primarily work on number sense, place value and problem solving strategies. Students have learned a few addition and subtraction games to play at home for practice.

Upcoming Events:

Advent concert which is going to be recorded for you to watch

Thank-you…

For volunteering at hot lunches and other activities.

 *Jenelle asks about yoyo sales-it helps pay for presentation and to get the presentation to another school*

1. **NEW ITEM** – Message from *Ted School Board Trustee Representative* – Ted assigns to Holy Spirit for the year; mandated vaccinations for the staff- asked by the government to help keep kids safe. In place in all elk island catholic schools. Everyone has risen to the occasion. We tend to focus on drawbacks and negatives, in a real sense face to face education is happening and that is a real blessing. KEEP GOING! Superintendent Haggarty has chosen to retire, will happen in January.

*Question/comment from Mr. Binder*- thank you for how to send vaccination status (for teachers) says “took seconds and thank you thank you!”
*Ted*-everything handled by HR
*Binder*- most impressed with kids and their positive attitude; the world is bigger than just yourself; we must take care of those around us. It’s great to see personally
*David*-kids are thriving because all engaged in the school have taken school to a new level. Kids are excited to be at school. Thank you!
*Jason*-asks about volunteer protocol
*Aoife* – at this point until December 20 no cards needed. Just mask and front door check in.
2. **Admin Report**: *Michele Yuzdepski* + *Aiofe Cahill* ***School Council Report - November***

***COVID Update -*** *our last case was Nov. 21, AHS running contact tracing now, staff and volunteer vaccination (proof by Dec. 20th)*

***Staffing Changes****- Brigitte Posavec has accepted a new position as Business Services Coordinator at Central Learning Services beginning December 6. Brigitte has been with our school community for 17 years and although this is a big change, her skills and insights will be a blessing to our school division as a whole. She will be missed greatly at Holy Spirit.  The position has been posted and our new secretary position should be filled in the next week.*

***Division Assurance Thought Exchange -*** *parents/guardians will receive an email on Dec. 1 to gather their feedback. Please share your thoughts between December 1-15.*

***Beautifying -*** *we added stencils outside and would like to add quotes and art in the bathrooms.*

***Book Fair*** *- virtual book fair running November 15th through November 29th. So far 37 books have been sold which is $300 towards books for our library. Orders will arrive on time for Christmas. Orders will be individually packaged and sent to the school.*

***3-Way Conferences*** *- staff enjoyed connecting with families although virtually.*

***Volunteers -*** *enjoying having adults back in the building for meetings, hot lunch, and in class field trips.*

***Alberta School Council Engagement Grant*** *- $500 for our school council to use for parent involvement and engagement activities* *Aoife* adds exciting to have parents back!
*David* asks if will keep record on file of vaccinated parents, to make things easier

1. **Open Issues**
a. Business arising from previous meeting- addressed in teachers report
2. **New Business**David French - mentions Ms. Bussier doing presentations to parents? Possibly in the gym?! Awareness around mental health
Aoife – Ms. B. would love to do this as she is all for anything supporting the littles
David- Plan for a few workshops?
Aoife – agreed; will bring back to January meeting
David – Asks if Michele wants help with instillation, needs help with planning and ideas
Kim – kids get a chance to vote for quotes!?
Michele- building team!
Binder- get ideas from Ms. B too!!

Jenelle and Leanne started a group for parents! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/586315979092767>
3. **Adjournment**
Dave adjourned the meeting at 7:17pm