**Holy Spirit Parent Council Meeting Minutes  
February 23, 2022**

**Attendance*:*** *Dave French, Aoife Cahill, Michele Yuzdepski, Ted Paszek Kim Pennok, Jason Duniec, Jenelle Potyondi*

**Call meeting to Order and Opening Prayer**

*Dave* called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

1. Opening Prayer led by *Michele Yuzdepski*
2. **Approval**
   1. *Dave* made a motion to approve January, 2022 minutes: *Jason. – First; Janelle. – Second; carried.*
   2. Approve today’s agenda: *Kim P. – First; Jenelle – Second; carried.*
3. **Trustee Report Back**

Our trustee, Ted Paszek joined us for the meeting and provided us with a couple of important updates:

* + Outgoing Superintendent Shawn Haggerty has formally retired, and the Elk Island Catholic School (EICS) Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Paul Corrigan has been chosen as the successful candidate for the role of Superintendent of Schools, effective February 1, 2022.  
      
    Paul Corrigan has been the Assistant Superintendent of Faith and Wellness since 2017.  During his time in this position, he has implemented ground-breaking health and wellness programs and instituted faith permeation throughout the division. Previous to this role, Paul held the positions of Assistant and Principal in a number of EICS schools and began his journey with EICS as a teacher in 2004.
  + The EICS Assurance Plan has been updated and it posted here: <https://www.eics.ab.ca/eics-assurance2>
  + My Paszek shared there is advocacy to the Province in advance of the upcoming Provincial budget to ensure education didn’t see another reduction in its overall budget.
  + Mr. Paszek also thanked admin, teachers, support staff, students and parents for all of the work happening to ensure safety this year.

1. **Teacher Presentation** *Ms. Johnston {ESC Team}*

Classroom Updates:

PreK/K - we are learning about space and the planets, and continuing to do our letters of the week. We have focused a lot on calming our bodies down, how to use scissors, and how to play with puppets.

Kindergarten: February has been a month filled with love, acts of kindness and a celebration of Friendship. We enjoyed all of the fun dress up days planned by our student leadership team. We shared books from our diverse library collection in recognition of Black History Month. We also talked about healthy habits - drinking lots of water, getting lots of fresh air and sleep, handwashing, covering our mouths when we sneeze and using a tissue on our noses….to name a few. This week we will have an in-school field trip to learn more about healthy habits. We will also be doing a bit of food tasting to understand what it means to “eat the rainbow.” We will finish with a healthy habits project to share in our evidence of learning binders.

Grade 1: The Grade One students had a great time passing out Valentines to our friends last week.  We are excited to be celebrating our 100th day in school on February 24th!  We are busy collecting 100 items, decorating clothing with 100 things and are looking forward to having a lot of fun doing activities at school with the number 100.   The Grade One students are getting really good at writing sentences and are busy learning how to add.

Grade 2: The grade 2’s celebrated Valentine’s day. They shared valentines and spread kind acts around the school on paper hearts.

Grade 3: The grade 3 students have been enjoying learning about ways to show and receive kindness. We have completed some beautiful heart artwork that is in the hallways for other classes to enjoy. The grade 3 classes have had the opportunity to complete two research projects this month! One involved students learning about an influential black leader to celebrate black history month. The second research project allowed the grade 3 students to learn more about the 2022 Beijing Olympics and the amazing athletes that compete in the various sports. The grade 3 classes are looking forward to beginning the season of Lent very soon, and setting time aside to reflect and prepare for the celebration of Easter.

Grade 4:

Grade 4s have finished their unit ‘Waste and Our World’ and just had a presentation from Strathcona County. This week students will have the opportunity to make beeswax wrappers to use in their lunches in order to cut down on plastic waste.

The grade 4 Young Citizens team is looking to possibly create an item drive for Ronald McDonald House or The Mustard Seed. We are also looking into a possible shoe drive event for the charity called ‘Souls4Souls’. We will meet this week to decide.

“Notes” from the Music room:

Our Holy Spirit students have been busy learning on the Xylophones and metallophones. The students explore the concepts of pitch and dynamics, rhythm and beat using their voices, but **now** they apply this to instruments. The students love to figure out songs they have heard before; some of the students come into the music room on the cold days (indoor recesses) and play around on the instruments. We all know how much learning occurs during play and  Mrs. Blanchard is **thrilled** the students are “playing their way” to learning new skills and gaining confidence.

Our music classes are also in preparation for Ash Wednesday Mass. Holy Spirit Grade 2 and 3 classes will be attending in person while the other classes attend virtually. This will be broadcast to all K-4 schools across the district on Wednesday, March 2 at 12:15.We are practicing for the possibility that we may be singing in the church but this is unknown at this time. Fingers crossed!!

We were also fortunate to have Reckie Lloyd from the Sangea Academy visit our music classes and run a half day workshop with some of our students. This happened on Valentines day and was in celebration of Black History Month. The students LOOOVED it and learned so much in such a short time. This African Drumming and dance workshop will happen again this Friday for more of our students. They are in for a treat!! We can’t wait!!

School Activities:

We had pink shirt day today.

We had an amazing kindness week with lots of acts of kindness and activities.

Upcoming Events:

March. 1 -Shrove Tuesday

-March 2 -  Ash Wednesday Mass - Grade 2 and 3 to attend in person

-Mar. 4 - Faith and Wellness Day for EICS Staff - no school for students

-Celebration of First Holy Communion  for Holy Spirit Students- Mar. 13 @ 8:30 am Mass

-Mar. 14-8 - Evidence of Learning Binders come home

-Mar. 22 and Mar. 23 - 3 Way Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

-Mar. 24 - Global Play Day

-Mar. 25 - April 4- Spring Break

**Admin Report**: *Aiofe Cahill*Feburary

* **COVID Update -** we continue to navigate COVID. We continue to monitor cases and class absenteeism to determine next steps. We are maintaining cohorting and enhanced cleaning protocols. Some upcoming things to navigate are assemblies, 3-Way Conferences, School Council meetings.
* **Staffing Changes** - new superintendent Paul Corrigan. He held the position of Assistant Superintendent of Faith & Wellness and therefore Mrs. Andrea Haston answered the call to more by moving into her consulting position full time until the end of the school year.
* **Beautifying -** the stickers in the washroom look great! Grade 4 students would like more stencils on the floor upstairs in the hallways for movement.
* **Registration -** please continue to promote.
* **Report Cards** - they were emailed out this semester and we are interested if that made accessing them easier?
* **Alberta School Council Engagement Grant** - School Council will use the grant to pay Miss Bussiere to speak to our families and they can support them. See poster attached.
* 2022-2023 School Council - In-Principle calendar was shared to gather feedback. Finalized calendar will be approved in March.

1. **New Business  
   n/a**
2. **Adjournment**  
   Dave adjourned the meeting at 7:27pm