

Ecole Connaught School, 101 8th St SW, Medicine Hat AB, T1A 4L5

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes – October 27th, 2021 6:30 pm Zoom Meeting (Virtual via Zoom)

Chaired by: Heather Hunt

Minutes by: Rose Paulgaard

In Attendance: Heather Hunt (Co-Chair), Rose Paulgaard (Secretary), Diane Cartier (Vice Principal), Kalia Christianson, Jeanine Hughes, Joanne Hulme, Ashley Reimer, Yvonne Sissons, Julia Harris, Callie Fichter, Tonya Mori

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Heather Hunt

II. Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy, and the people of Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta. We also acknowledge and honour the homeland of the Métis people.

III. Approval of Agenda

Addition: *Review of upcoming fundraising activity as requested by Callie Fichter under New Business*

Motion to approve agenda as presented with addition by Rose Paulgaard, seconded by Ashley Reimer. *Approved.*

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from September 29, 2021 meeting as presented (or amended) by Callie Fichter, seconded by Tonya Mori. *Approved.*

V. 2021-2022 Budget (Presented by Callie Fichter, Diane Spencer)

The fundraising society met at the end of September to discuss budget but it was not ready for approval. Everything has now been passed by Deni and a proposed budget of approximately \$14,000 will be presented at the society meeting on November 4, 2021 for approval.

- a. Funds will then be transferred to the school council.
- b. Council will need to prepare an itemized list of everything that requires money for the upcoming year.

VI. Old Business

- **Fundraising Association Annual Returns Update (Callie Fichter)**

An audit was completed by Lee Krasilowez and Rose Paulgaard, but has not yet been approved.

- The fundraising account had an opening balance of \$16 395.10 and a closing balance of \$28, 225,61.
- Approximate revenue was \$25,000, expenses \$13,000
- The Society anticipates a transfer of \$14,000 to the school council for the upcoming year. An update will be provided at the November 4 society meeting.

VII. New Business

- **Possible Christmas Cookie Event in November.** More details to come.
- **Council of Council Updates.** Jenn and Heather attended with the various councils from across the division. One idea presented was to include student representation on the trustee board to offer their perspective and input.
- **CHHS Award Sponsorship.** Approved to continue sponsoring a scholarship at CHHS for a former Connaught School student. Funds are issued in November or December (\$250) Heather to confirm.
- **Christmas Basket Raffle**
 - Moving ahead with the Christmas basket raffle, details to follow which will depend on current rules/restrictions.
 - A call for basket themes was made, with suggestions for LEGO, Avengers, books, and a wreath made of gift cards.
 - Was noted that reviewing basket items in advance would save time at the wrapping stage as re-packaging items has sometimes needed to occur to balance out the basket contents.
 - Conversation was had about how to sell tickets, regardless of restrictions. Maybe photos of baskets shared with families in advance, or an online or 50/50 raffle? More discussion to occur at the society meeting.
- **Additional Fundraising Activity**
 - **Cinnamon Buns from Rolling Pin Bakery.** Money is due back on November 4 with orders placed on November 5. Orders are scheduled to arrive on Tuesday, November 9, with November 30 scheduled as a secondary delivery date if needed. Volunteer response has been strong.

- **Fundscrip.** Bulk order forms are going home November 1 with a list of participating retailers and copy of fundscrip code to encourage purchases year round. Etransfer, cheque or cash is accepted for payment. The order will be placed through society in time for the holiday season.
- **Bottle Drive.** A second bottle drive is tentatively scheduled for January 8 or 9.

VIII. Admin Report (Diane Cartier)

- **AEA survey results**

Formerly called APORI, this survey is now known as Alberta Education Assurance (AEA). Since the change in name, new questions have been added which means there may not always be a baseline from previous years. The survey has been a way for schools to decide on goals for the upcoming year. Grades 4, 7 and 9 students participate (only Grade 4 at Connaught) and comparisons are made across the district and province.

Surveys were conducted in February 2020.

- École Connaught ranked #1 in student learning and engagement when compared to district and provincial stats. In addition to Connaught students and teachers, 26 parents completed the survey, representing 10% of total parental responses from the district.
 - Survey results indicated École Connaught maintained a high level of engagement through pandemic and received a high grade (94.1%) on creating a welcoming and caring environment.
 - Access to supports/services was graded at 85.2%.
 - Program of studies – how well is learning planned – was comparable to previous years, we can see growth in that area as a result of curriculum development
 - Other aspects of the survey addressed citizenship, lifelong learning measures, work preparation measures, satisfaction with program access.
 - Overall, the administrative team considers these results phenomenal considering the challenges of the pandemic era. They were above district and provincial averages, and speak to a strong school environment and supportive school community.
- **French Immersion Questions**
(This portion of the meeting was recorded for district use)

On behalf of the district office, Lee Krasilowez made a request to collect feedback from

council members regarding their decision to choose French Immersion. Comments will be used in promotional efforts to attract new families to the school. Questions include:

- Why did you choose French for your children?
 - What source of information influenced your decision?
 - What do you like best about the program?
 - Did you have any worries or concerns about choosing French Immersion?
 - How do you feel about the decision now?
 - What do you think your child is getting at École Connaught that wouldn't find at another school?
- **Video Doorbell**
Connaught will invest in a video doorbell in order to see who is at the front door after hours. Timeline has not been confirmed but hopefully coming soon.

IX. Correspondence

- Nothing to report.

X. Gratitude

- Thanks for being here!

XI. Next Meeting

- Wednesday, November 24th, 2021

XII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.