

Covenant Christian School Council
Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2024

Present: Rachelle McIvor, Donavin Simmons, Malissa Huillery, Shauna Balehowsky, Candace Dreger, Emily Barnard, Coralie Abel

Next meeting: February 28th at 9:30 am in the Conference Room.

I. Land Acknowledgement and Devotion

Candace opened with introductions, and a land acknowledgement.

Devotion shared by Emily referencing Psalm 113. Candace opened in prayer.

II. Approval of minutes from November.

All in favour.

III. Council of School Councils Highlights

Candace attended the meeting

- i. New Chair and Vice Chair, Secretary remained in position.*
- ii. Main topic/question for next meeting: Posting of minutes from council meetings before they have been approved at the next meeting.*
 - 1. Suggestion: putting a link in the Chronicle to the current minutes.*
 - The school division policy is to push people to the website for information
 - Aim to have them published within a week of meeting
 - Can be published as draft or unapproved

IV. 2026/2027 School Year Calendar Engagement – Mostly around Fall Break

1. Fall break initially put in the calendar for mental health reasons, and a break during flu season.
2. Would we prefer a 3 day fall break so we start the school year a little later? Or a full week fall break. Both options have students starting in August.
3. Draft A has school starting 31st of August (3 day fall break). Draft B has school starting for students on the 27th (full week off).
 - a. Vote – for starting later – unanimous because of longer summer break and starting on a Monday.

V. Staff Appreciation Day/Week (Feb 27 to March 3 last year)

1. Need to check with PR how/if they want to contribute. Rachelle to ask Deb.
2. Potentially do Monday February 26 and Wednesday February 28th. Monday breakfast and coffee. Wednesday taco lunch. Cover supervisions.

VI. Engagement Grant

1. Sports nutrition course – up to 100 people for \$500. 1-1.5 hours. Healthy snack provided during the session. Coaches seemed on board to promote it. For Gr 4 to 9, registered. Will promote healthy eating and healthy body image. Candace to schedule.

VII. Principal's Report (See attached)

1. Feb 8/9 Teacher's Convention
2. Feb 14 Covenant is hosting BG school trustees virtually. Will ask school council to provide a video to give feedback on the school.
3. Today is day 82 of the school year – 89 is halfway point. Budget check in: are able to hire a 0.46 position (M-T) Jr High Teacher who is responsible for Grade 9 math and 7/8 Language Arts. Will be starting Monday.
4. Cougar Canteen starts today – first priority is building life skill for some of the students. Profits will go back into the same program (learning how to make food, field trips, supplies and build other life skills.)
5. Anonymous donation was an incredible fundraiser – we raised \$49,000 and the donor matched twice with \$100,000. Praying for discernment of how to use the money.
 - a. Gym scoreboard
 - b. Lego robotics supplies
 - c. 3D printers
6. Hot lunch program is a modest fundraiser historically used for a variety of things at school (topping up where we are short). Next year Gr 9's will start distributing the hot lunch food to earn towards the anticipated Ottawa trip in June.
7. Polar Bear club – over 90 students signed up. Proactive to ensure kids are dressed appropriately and be mindful of frostbite, etc. Need a 25:1 ratio for polar bear club. Staff has volunteered to supervise.
8. 90's day is coming soon. 100th day soon to follow.
9. March 7th there is a Gr 6 floor hockey tournament in Calgary at Calgary Christian. Usually an NHL or Olympic player speak at the event. The school will host our team.

10. Ray Cable will be the HR Superintendent for the 2025 school year, replacing Cal Monty.

VIII. Other Business

Rachelle to do devotion for next school council.

IX. Next Meeting

Thursday February 28th at 9:30 am in the Conference Room. (Pink Shirt Day).

X. Closing prayer - Candace