

Covenant Christian School Parent Council
Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2017

Present: Rachelle Mclvor, Donavin Simmons, Malissa Huillery, Kyle Sanford, Shauna Balehowsky, Jody Greidanus, Emily Meetsma, Heather Feldbusch, Corinna Weslosky, Maureen Brezden, Heather Luchak, Shannon VanHerk, Lidia Vivessner

Next meeting: October 26, 2017

I. Introduction & Devotion

Sam Klooster shared his experience from the Jr High Retreat. He expressed the reality of wrestling with faith and feeling God's call. He said the retreat was an amazing experience.

Rachelle led introductions and shared a short devotion.

II. Annual Report & Bylaws

a. Annual Report

Rachelle reviewed the annual report that was submitted to Blackgold (attached).

b. Bylaws

Rachelle reviewed the Parent Council bylaws.

Emily noted that the Parent Council at Covenant has no treasury responsibilities.

No business arising from the review of the bylaws.

III. Selection of Officers

Rachelle Mclvor is Chairperson for 2017/2018.

Jody Greidanus is Vice-Chairperson for the year.

Malissa Huillery is Secretary for the year.

IV. Pricipal's Report

1. Welcome to another year of school. The year is off to a great start, with lots of excited students and staff. Our staff had more turn-over than usual, with 4 new teachers

(Diane Wever, Joanne Gulley, Nicole Hennink, Heather Leddy) and a new Asst. Principal (Kyle Sandford). So far everyone seems to be fitting in well.

2. Spirit Wear - As a school, we have not given students the opportunity to purchase school wear in many years. With that being said, when I am out in Leduc, or at tournaments, field trips, etc. I always enjoy seeing students from other schools proudly wear their spirit wear, and it is something that our student body should be proud of too. This year, one of the first things that set up was an order form for clothing, and it has run in the Chronicle for a number of weeks. An important piece was very fair pricing, and we have achieved that. The deadline for spirit wear is Friday, and when it comes in, my hope is we have many students proudly wearing our school logo as they travel in and around our community.

3. As it is officially approved, once again our junior high options offerings will be aligning with the Career and Technology Foundations curriculum. Here is an excerpt from the Alberta Education website. See the next page for a summary of this term's offerings:

CTF supports flexible, interdisciplinary learning where students explore interests and passions while making personal connections to career possibilities and technologies associated with various Career and Technology Studies (CTS) occupational areas. CTF is designed to be a unique curriculum that allows students to learn about occupational areas. Students will develop skills in the areas of business, communication, human services, resources, and technology while working through engaging challenges.

4. Two years ago the School Council and staff talked about changing up the junior high French program and making it less mandatory. Last year we continued that conversation, and once we had overwhelming positive feedback by students (TTFM surveys), parents (Google survey), and staff, we decided to make Jr. High French a CTF option rather than having it mandatory. These new, less regimented, French CTF options will occur in Term 2 and 3.

5. All the students in our school have a Buddy again this year, with K-4 being the younger buddy and 5-9 being the older ones.

6. School Wide Pictures. We began a new tradition at CCS this year. We had each child get their picture taken. This seems to be a huge success and builds in a first week check in with parents and teachers as well. Thanks to Susan Johnson who created all of the props and took pictures.

7. The "Teaching for Transformation" project continues to move along! We have many new staff who will be learning this model, and will be going early during Teachers Convention in October to a "new to Tft" session before the actual convention. During convention I will be presenting on FLEx activities.

8. Bits and Pieces:

a. Swimming lessons will soon begin for our Grades 2-5. Due to pool availability, we needed to divide our times and grades, so the students will go throughout the year. We were not able to take all the elementary grades, therefore we decided that Grade 1's and 6's would not go. The 1's had difficulties getting changed quickly enough, and the 6's were approaching the age that they were passive about it.

b. Junior high volleyball and soccer has begun.

c. Due to continued generous support of our library, each child will still receive a book for their birthday. Unlike the past two years, I will go to classrooms to give out birthday

books rather than students coming to the office to choose their book. This allows me to be in classrooms everyday.

d. We had our first PD Day in September. It was a full day: Black Gold Welcome Back in the morning, then in the afternoon we had Teachers use and get familiar with the PowerTeacher Pro assessment and reporting tool, as a means to record student academic progress across all subject areas.

- Blackgold to go to division wide report card, which will probably be out next year.
- Questions around how we will digitally acknowledge receipt of report cards.
- Questions around how to manage accounts in the situations with foster children (guardians and birth parents wanting access, etc.) **Donavin** to investigate.

V. Update from LSCE

Since the last meeting the Society has been going through many hiring processes.

There were many changes to the school over the summer:

- o Structural changes
- o Roof repairs
- o Revisions to the Library. Gloria did lots of work
- o All the staff was very patient with the renovation delays.

LSCE wants to hold an info night sometime in October to discuss long term facility plans. They want interaction with the society to gather information, as there will be significant challenges: Capping growth? Entering in to significant borrowing? Decision needs to be made quickly.

Next society meeting is October 16th.

A special note that this is Covenant's 35th year.

VI. New Family Phone Calls

There are 35 new students this year.

Council agreed we should make new family phone calls.

Rachelle and Shawna B. volunteered to make the calls.

Cheri is to provide the contact information.

It was suggested that we follow up with an email after the phone call

VII. What online presence should Parent Council have?

Can have a dedicated spot in the Chronicle.

Can post minutes on the website.

VIII. Next Meeting

Thursday October 26, 2017

Donavin to bring October Devotional.

IX. Closing prayer - Donavin