

Greetings Parent Council.

The first part of my LSCE Executive update has to do with me personally rather than the Executive. I have recently accepted a part time job that keeps me busy until 11:30 every morning, so I won't be able to make it to Parent Council for the rest of the year. I will miss these meetings (one of the biggest disadvantages of taking the job), but I know that you'll be fine with your current Executive (Rachelle, Jody, and Malissa, take a bow). I know that Donavin and Kyle will probably handle all your LSCE questions just fine but feel free to contact me via phone or email if you need. And I will continue to send these written updates.

In terms of Christian programming support, as the Chronicle highlighted, Colin Ward will attend the Christian School International Bible Instructional Symposium in February, focused on improving Bible teaching. Part of the Conference includes going to the new Museum of the Bible in Washington DC. Colin will share his learning from the conference with teachers on an upcoming PD Day.

Also, the LSCE Executive and PCCE are sending Donavin and Lisa Gatzke to BC for a conference hosted by PCCE's "sister" organization (SCSBC). They expect to attend workshops on how other schools are handling building projects and Revenue Canada compliance, as well as have a good chance to network.

At our January 15 meeting, we heard from all our committee liaisons. As the school grows bigger, we are trying to be more thorough about writing down procedures, etc., so we approved a Facilities Committee mandate and heard about the Finance Committee's review of policies. Although most Society members may not see a significant difference with this work, we know it makes it easier for new members to the committees and makes us more consistent in our policies, both good things.

Marketplace preparations are underway--we already have at least one donation in! We still need some more help with some of the rooms--if you're considering being involved but are not sure what is required or if you can commit, I encourage you to just talk with Corinna earlier rather than later.

In our facilities, we have converted some Learning Support space into a sensory room. It's got dimmable lights, soft cushions, and so on, and some students are already finding this quiet space helpful. Additionally, we continue to look at portables. We are still at the discussion, rather than decision stage, but our preferred choice at this point is a 156' x 60' set of units. The portables will look like the ones Daystar just put up, but of course we'll get more of them. This set of units is the best price by far. One of the things we're investigating before we actually purchase what the county and fire inspector requirements will be--we don't want to encounter any surprises that will radically affect our budget.

We ended our meeting by reviewing our school year so far, particularly celebrating our successes. The first thing I want to do is thank so many of you. In my 3 years as chair, I've run at least 5 Society meetings, and every single time I walk away having learned some things that will make next meeting better. Experience and mistakes are great teachers! But in spite of that, you Society members are so generous and willing to help us accomplish what needs to be done for each meeting. At our last meeting in December, for example, we realized that the option to send in an absentee ballot meant that we struggled to meet quorum. So people were making calls and rearranging their nights in order to show up for the 5 minutes we needed to conduct our official business. The meeting was a little chaotic--we didn't follow the agenda order--but at the end of the day we had unanimous approval to get the funds so we can move ahead with expansion. Fantastic!

We also celebrate growth. Yes, it's led to headaches, but what a blessing to provide Christian education to a growing number of families in the Leduc area. We feel that during the process of the expansion we've had some hard discussions at the Executive level and with the Society, but those discussions have helped us answer important questions and learn better processes. Now we are at a better point than we were before. We also feel a lot of support from

the Society and unity as an Executive for the direction we are taking. In the past couple of years, we have also (unexpectedly) had to develop and implement principal hiring practices. We have been very pleased with the results every time (this is where Donavin bows), and in that process we have worked very well with Black Gold. In discussion with some other Christian schools, we hear that they have less involvement in the hiring process, so we celebrate our agreement and relationship with the public board that enabled success in the hiring.

Finally, we are thankful for people. We are very happy with our LSCE staff, not just for doing their jobs well but for being people who bring a cheerful and team-building attitude to their work. We are also thankful for the individuals who make up the Executive Committee--different members bring different perspectives and different skills to the table, and that's a good thing. We have been able to use people's different areas of expertise very well this year, and we have been able to benefit from each other's different perspectives in making decisions. And in spite of the differences, our meetings have a lot of laughter and camaraderie.

Praise God for his many blessings!

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