

Covenant Christian School Council Meeting

May 26th, 2022

Agenda

1. Introductions and adoptions of minutes from our April 27th meeting.

In attendance: Shauna Balehowsky, Rachelle McIvor, Malissa Huiellery, Leanne Simmons, Nicole Chapman, Candace Dreger, Emily Barnard, Laura White

Introduction: In this place and this time, and across the prairies, we acknowledge the traditional territory upon which we gather this morning. We acknowledge that we live, work and worship on the treaty land of the First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples.

2. Devotional - Shauna Balehowsky

- Candace will lead us in prayer. A prayer of Thanksgiving for the school year we just had and a prayer for guidance as we go into a new school year.

3. Principal's Report - Donavin Simmons

1. As staffing meetings have now come and gone, we have had to take a good strong look at what our class situations will be looking like next year. It is believed we will have an increase of students, although we will not be at where we were before the pandemic. It looks like our Jr. High will be projected at 5 classes, and we may need to have a combined configuration for one of them. In elementary, we will definitely need to do at least one combined class. This will be interesting as the new curriculum is also coming in, and we will make decisions based on what is best for our kids. We will also have all of our staff coming back, including Danielle Woloschuk and Sharon Koopmans from maternity leaves.

2. Due to a number of factors, we will be changing our schedule for the 2022/2023 school year. While there are some big changes to it that were driven by the necessity of increasing instructional hours, we think it actually is a good balance and really great for kids. The first change is that we will be starting school 5 minutes earlier beginning next year. This means that we would have an 8:35 am start time. We have kept the 3 recess times, included some transition minutes between recesses, and finally moved lunch a little earlier. As we have had quite a late lunch (12:55 pm eating time), and moved it to 12:10 eating time, we feel it is much better for kiddos. Once this has been approved by the division office, it gets sent to Alberta Ed and will be binding. Until then, it is considered a draft.

3. We want to thank the parent council for the staff appreciation week. The waffles were amazing and much appreciated! Even more so, was doing the dishes for us afterwards!
4. We also want to thank the council for sending our two staff members to Gordon Neufeld. Michelle and Jennifer loved it, and reported back with their gratitude.
5. Yesterday, Donavin attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new High School in Leduc, that will start in 2024. Opaho (Ope-a-ho) school is going to have a state of the art culinary arts and musical theater program and will soon be right next door to a rec center and an enclosed turf football field. He mentioned that it will start projected with over 1100 students in its onset and will max out at about 1600 students. The ceremony was a great experience, and we are actively looking at how CCS students will be dispersed to the high schools once it opens.

4. Mental Health Education: Michelle Clark and Jen Lozeau attended the Gordon Neufeld Conference. We received positive feedback from the teachers about the conference. We are so grateful that we could support them in this way.

5. Another successful Staff Appreciation week! Thank you to our Principal (Donavin), Public Relations committee and School Council for all the yummy treats that were served to the CCS Staff.

6. Thank you - I want to take this time as Chair to thank my Vice Chair Leanne Simmons and my Secretary Candace Dreger. Also Donavin and all the parents for faithfully coming to our meetings and having meaningful conversations on how to support our kids, staff and school.

-Question about Junior High grade configuration, specifically if there will be 1 or 2 grade 9 classes next year. Official decisions are yet to be released.