

**MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PARENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Celena Gerl, Nancy Small, Krystal Suderman, Joe Colistro, Regina Durst, Barb Thompson, Alicia Garrecht, Michele Plante, Lana Johnson, Candace Lambert, Corinne Hordos-Goyer, Garry Andrews, Laureen Getz.

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm.

OPENING PRAYER: led by Dr. Garry Andrews.

Introduction of all in attendance and the schools they represent.

Additions and Approval of Agenda: with change that Jill Wilkinson was not able to attend, she will attend a future meeting. Approved by Michele Plante and Corinne Hordos-Goyer.

Approval of Minutes from May 26, 2014. Approved by Celena Gerl and Corinne Hordos-Goyer.

Central Office Report: Dr. Garry Andrews. Promo Video was shown. A three minute video to be used to promote the division to try to increase enrollment. Video can be seen on the board website. Catholic Education Sunday is Nov. 9. Both parishes will have a trustee and a student read a letter from the division and there will be a second collection for the district to use to purchase items such as bibles for the students. Accountability Pillar results are good overall, some areas in each school for improvement. Each school will address issues and celebrate their successes. The pilot for gr. 3 SLA's has taken place. Teachers like that they can see results sooner but found it time consuming to evaluate and even to administer the test. The division is working on a review process with the Palliser School Division in Coaldale. Administrators will be going to Coaldale to see their process and learn how to better their schools. St. Michael's, St. Mary's and Notre Dame have volunteered to be a part of this review. The top priority for the division is enhancing the Catholic Dimension. No news for Inspiring Education due to the election in government. McCoy update, plans are being printed now. New school announcement from government, a 250 student elementary school was approved for the Southridge area. No time line announced yet but prep work will need to be done, boundaries will be looked at. The year end financial statements will be presented at the November 25 special board meeting. Joe Colistro asked if Parent Association would be interested in hosting a PD workshop for parents. Offer it in the evening or on a weekend and open to all parents. Everyone agreed it was a good idea and would have to find topics that interest parents. Take back to councils and get feedback on topics and ideas for a PD time and place.

ATA Report: No report given.

Trustee Board Report: Regina Durst reported they held their organizational meeting and appointed Peter Grad as board chair and Dick Mastel as Vice Chair. Gr. 5 boys are now included in the HPV vaccination process. They had a good board retreat with Bishop Henry guiding them. Transportation update, more drivers have been hired, most problems resolved. Some attended the Bishop's dinner in Calgary.

Committee Reports:

Chair Report: Candace Lambert: Would like to meet in a committee and work on our 3 year plan. Candace will find a time and date and offer to the group to update and work on the plan. Brochure is being updated and may be reprinted for next meeting.

Secretary/Treasurer: Laureen Getz: Balance in bank account is \$1690.80. Thank you to ATA for their donation to pay our membership fees.

Board Representative: Laureen Getz: Most topics already covered in board report. Mr. Bauche from McCoy talked about high school redesign and its success so far. Flex week went well and students like to learn at their own pace. The focus is to grow a school where students learn with support. Still hiring a communications officer, will post the job again. Looking at a new bus lane for Mother Teresa. Laureen went with some of the trustees to the dinner. Very enjoyable, the Bishop spoke about the importance of family and is working on ways to promote family life. Education Foundation would like to see more students applying for scholarships that are available.

School Reports:

Monsignor McCoy: Laureen Getz: Flex week for students to work on homework or catch up on missed exams. Forty minutes each day set aside for this during Oct. 27 to 31. Modernization plans are ongoing. You can access the video and floor plan on the website. Quinn Halldorson finished seventh in junior boys provincial cross country.

Notre Dame: Michele Plante: Kids walked to morning mass at Holy Family on Wed. Hosted volleyball tournaments. A family runs the breakfast program each day, Sobey's donates the food. The gr. 9 Party Program starts soon.

St. Francis: Barb Thompson: Cheque writing campaign going well. Running a snack program twice a month and is well used. Held a parent contact night to meet and connect with parents and to encourage them to get involved. Book Fair is on this week.

St. Mary's: Celena Gerl: Hit Team running a haunted house open to the public on Thurs. night. Fine Arts wine and Art gala is on Feb. 6 at the Legion. Christmas Concert is Dec. 10 at the College theatre. Random Act of Kindness month, follow on the school blog. Trying to collect a tonne of food for the food bank.

St. Michael's: Lana Johnson: Set up a parent rep for each class to come to council meetings. helped host mass at Holy Family. Taking school clothing orders. SUTP and cheque writing fund-raising doing good.

St. Thomas: Nancy Small: In a food drive competition with St. Francis, not sure who won. Collected and donated loose change to Holy Child. Gym classes include swimming lessons and tennis lessons. Had second school mass. Doing Nov. 30 Sunday mass. Trip of the month club very successful fundraiser but a lot of work to set up. Going to sing with a choir in Lethbridge on Nov. 26.

No Reps or Reports for Mother Teresa, St. Louis or St. Patrick's.

Old Business: What do parents look for on division website, what would you like to see? Questions raised last meeting. Calendar, link to schools, contact info for central office staff or board members. Link to Home Logic, easier access to staff emails. Update websites and school info. Joe said that they are meeting to discuss the websites.

New Business: Celena commented how nice it is to see schools mixing and teaming up for events such as masses.

Next Meeting Date: November 24 at 7pm at St. Mary's School.

Adjournment: 8:40 pm.