

**MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PARENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2015**

ATTENDANCE: Laureen Getz, Corinne Hordos-Goyer, Lana Johnson, Regina Durst, Candace Lambert, Justin Boksteyn, Rolf Traichel, Bernie Kinch, Joe Colistro, Dominique Hirsh, Michele Plante, Celena Gerl, Nancy Small, Krystal Suderman.

Meeting held at Notre Dame School, called to order at 7:01 pm by Candace Lambert.

OPENING PRAYER: led by Joe Colistro.

Introductions of all in attendance and the schools they represent.

Additions and Approval of Agenda: Approved by Laureen Getz and Celina Gerl.

Approval of Minutes from November 24, 2014: Approved by Celena Gerl and Corinne Hordos-Goyer.

Website Redesign: Joe Colistro introduced Rolf Traichel to inform us about the division website, it's new look and new function. There are many changes and upgrades. Social media will be on the website but is not fully set up yet. It will be mobile friendly for tablets, cell phones etc. Rolf brought it up on the smartboard and showed some of the upgrades. Rolf highlighted some of the new menu items and how to navigate the website. Teachers will be able to run Youtube videos for their class. Parents liked the new look and the ease of finding the info they are looking for and asked a few questions about details on calendars and bell times etc. The new website should be ready for use in 4-6 weeks.

Central Office Report: Mr. Joe Colistro, spoke about becoming the division's Superintendent. He enjoyed working with our previous Superintendent, Garry Andrews, and he is excited to do his new job, including working with parents and attending functions in the division. We welcome Joe Colistro and are equally excited to have him as our Superintendent. Joe then introduced the division's new Communications Coordinator, Dominique Hirsh. Dominique told the group about herself and her new job. She has a background in business, communication and journalism. She is on the McCoy modernization fundraising committee, advertising events in the division and working on attracting more students to the division. There will be a new acting Associate Superintendent announced soon. Joe outlined the steps taken when there was a death of a student in the division. A crisis management team met and worked with staff to help students and inform parents. There was a lot of support in the school for the week to help the students and staff. The division and the Medicine Hat College have a partnership working on a marketing strategy. As part of their course, second year business students are working in two groups to write a marketing strategy for the division. The division can pick a plan to use to help with marketing. We were given a work shop survey to pick topics we would like to see in a PD workshop for parents. The calendar for next year was reviewed.

ATA Report: Bernie Kinch said it was wonderful working with Garry Andrews and now is happy to work with Joe. He is looking forward to working together and said the year is going great.

Trustee Board Report: Regina Durst: The trustees are pleased to have Joe Colistro and Dominique Hirsh in their new positions. The trustees met with MLA, Blake Pederson, on Jan.30. The board chair met with the Education Minister in Lethbridge on Feb 2. Digital speed signs have gone up in three division schools and some in the MHS D 76 as well. The board's Strategic planning retreat is set for Feb.7.

Committee Reports:

Chair Report: Candace Lambert: The PA brochure is finished and at the printers. We are getting 200 brochures printed and will be placing some in all the schools. It is hoped they will be read and used to inform parents about our group. Celena Gerl made the motion to spend up to \$100.00 on printing and Corinne Hordos-Goyer seconded the motion. Candace also talked about the ASCA conference in Edmonton on April 24 - 26. She encouraged everyone to take the info to their council meetings to see if anyone wants to go.

Secretary/Treasurer: Laureen Getz: Balance in bank account is \$1690.80. The receipt for the ATA, for their donation to pay our fees, was left at Monsignor McCoy high school for Bernie.

Board Representative: Laureen Getz: December 9 - A new Excellence in Catholic Education award was discussed and the details are being worked out. Bill 202 and Bill 10 regarding the Gay/Straight alliance groups having rights in schools to set up groups was discussed. Garry Andrews stated that the existing Safe and Caring Schools document also protects the rights of all students. A fundraising committee for the McCoy modernization is being set up and all schools will be able to accept donations. January 13 - Dominique Hirsh was introduced as the new communications coordinator. Working on school zone safety with the city, digital signs being set up. Monsignor McCoy modernization update, just waiting for building permits then job goes to tender. Garry Andrews announced he is ready to retire and his last day will be Jan. 23, 2015. Joe Colistro will take over as Acting Superintendent. The board thanked Garry and wished him well.

School Reports:

Monsignor McCoy: Laureen Getz: Finals are under way. We had a student representative come to our parent council meeting. She reported that the students like the flex schedule, she is part of a wellness group and a girls group. She would like to start a plastic recycling program. Two French Immersion students wrote grade 12 social exams. Grade 9 orientation upcoming, will offer student for a day. The staff are happy with flex scheduling. The draft school calendar was shown. On Feb 23 there will be an Ash Wed. celebration and the start of Random Acts of Kindness week. Clue the musical will be on Mar 26 to Mar 28.

Mother Teresa: Justin Boksteyn: Council is helping the gr. 6 classes with camp McCoy fees. They are planning on buying a brick for \$500.00 to support the McCoy modernization fundraiser. They challenge all the other councils to match the donation. Regina Durst also challenged past graduates of McCoy to make a donation. Their council fundraiser was pizzas from Pizza Palace in Redcliff. It was a good fundraiser that falls within the healthy AP guidelines. They made 40% profit on this fundraiser. They are paying for the students to attend the St. Mary's play.

Notre Dame: Michele Plante: The school ski trip was on Jan 16 and the students had fun. The gr. 9's went to McCoy for orientation. Midterms are this week. Winter walk day is Feb. 4.

St. Mary's: Celena Gerl: The Fine Arts Gala is on Feb. 6 at the Legion Ortona Room starting at 6:30 pm. Joe will be the auctioneer for the evening. This is a huge fundraiser for the Fine Arts program organized by Corinne and her parent volunteers. Tickets can be purchased at St. Mary's School or from Corinne. The girls basketball team was in a gold medal match with Notre Dame and Celena mentioned how nice it was to see both teams unite for the Lord's Prayer before the game.

St. Michael's: Lana Johnson: The Earth Rangers did a presentation for the school in Dec. The Christmas dance was good, the students liked the glo sticks. They are doing a few fundraisers this year, catalog fundraiser, Art show gala fundraiser in the spring and the Little Caesar's fundraiser. The students have been enjoying two hot lunches a month, a movie night and skating.

St. Thomas: Nancy Small: The trip of the month fundraiser draw was held. Feast of St. Thomas mass held at the end of January. A committee has been set up to work on their Society bylaws. The spring dance has been canceled and other events will take its place. They are looking for other ideas. Carnival will be celebrated on Feb. 12 and 13. Many outdoor activities are planned. The students are getting skating lessons through gym time. Mrs. Snortland is retiring this year, she will be missed by all.

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

Old Business: The topic of a tutor list is still being considered. Joe has a few concerns for the division with giving out names such as getting criminal record checks. He is still thinking about it to see if it could work. Tabled for now.

New Business: Nothing to report.

Next Meeting Date: Where to hold meetings in the future was discussed. It was decided that most meetings will take place at the board office. We will go to Notre Dame, St. Mary's and McCoy during the year since most elementary students move on to these schools. We will meet at McCoy on March 30 at 6:15 pm for a tour and 7:15 for the meeting.

Adjournment: 9:16 pm.