

**MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PARENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 24, 2014**

ATTENDANCE: Barb Dolter, Corinne Hordos-Goyer, Garry Andrews, Regina Durst, Celena Gerl, Nancy Small, Krystal Suderman, Jill Wilkinson, Justin Boksteyn, Joe Colistro, Robert Risling, Michele Plante, Laureen Getz, Teresa Stark, Chuck Hellman, Candace Lambert.

Meeting held at St. Mary's School, called to order at 7:00 pm by Celena Gerl.

OPENING PRAYER: led by Dr. Garry Andrews.

Introduction of all in attendance and the schools they represent.

Additions and Approval of Agenda: Approved by Michele Plante and Corinne Hordos-Goyer.

Approval of Minutes from October 28, 2014: Approved by Celena Gerl and Corinne Hordos-Goyer.

Guest Speaker: Mrs. Jill Wilkinson, Religious Coordinator for MHCBE. Jill highlighted some of the great ways Catholicity is spread throughout the division. Most schools take their students to church to celebrate Mass four times a year. Some of the grades have had retreats and have enjoyed them, more will happen in the new year. The grade four students have received their bibles and many of the schools have participated in school sponsored Masses. Jill also highlighted the many forms of Social Justice in our schools such as collecting and disbursing food, clothes and money to those who need it, as well as helping in the community in other ways.

Central Office Report: Dr. Garry Andrews and Mr. Joe Colistro. The fall budget and AERR will be reviewed at a special board meeting Nov. 25. Monsignor McCoy fundraising update given. The fundraising pamphlet is now ready. The goal is to raise \$ 251 000 to help with the upgrade and to fund projects not covered by the government funding. A committee is being formed to help plan the fundraising events and give ideas to what can be done. Sandfly Marketing is in charge of the fundraising overall but will use the input from the committee. The division is working with MH College looking for ways to partner with each other. Chuck Hellman said that a big part of Inspiring Education is about partnerships. Joe Colistro said that the division is also looking at international students. There is a new award for a full time, practicing Catholic teacher to recognize an outstanding Catholic Education teacher. The division website is being redone and should be finished by mid Feb.

ATA Report: No report given.

Trustee Board Report: Robert Risling reported that the school and playground safety issue is still being worked on. He asked the city to review the Calgary study and try to come up with a MH solution. The Board is looking into the feasibility of having a French Immersion teacher at M. McCoy. They have to review the program and look at the number of students moving up

in the program. Celena Gerl said that many of the students consider going to Crescent Heights High because it is already offered there with a teacher. One option is to combine the classes to make it work better.

Committee Reports:

Chair Report: Candace Lambert: There was a committee meeting this Friday to discuss the 3 year plan for Parent Association. One focus is trying to involve more parents and discussing service projects to do as a family such as serving at the soup kitchen or volunteering in the community. Also looking at having hot topics on the agenda and bringing in speakers. Some topics discussed were learning about scholarships and creating a tutor list for the division.

Secretary/Treasurer: Laureen Getz: Balance in bank account is \$1690.80.

Board Representative: Held their organizational meeting naming Peter Grad Board Chair and Dick Mastel Vice Chair. The McCoy fundraising brochure was handed out. Peter Grad commented that the central gathering place in the front is a great addition and will be good for the students. The 3 year plan was handed out for review. The new Southridge School announcement was discussed. Joe Colistro said he is studying the FI High School program and he would like to see it grow, maybe get a teacher in the program. Catholic Ed Sunday is Nov. 9, trustees will be reading a message and there will be a second collection that day.

School Reports:

Monsignor McCoy: Laureen Getz: Flex week continues, 40 min, 2 times a week for students to study or take rewrites. Accountability Pillar results were good, admin always planning ways to improve. Bubbles campaign is underway, collections of toiletries in support of the Women's Shelter. Mo-vember all month raising money for cancer research. Advent Celebration, spirit week and Christmas concert during month of December.

Mother Teresa: Justin Boksteyn: SUTP sales not as good as last year. Movie night and Halloween dance had good turnouts. They ran a vegetable fundraiser that turned out good, sold 141 bundles of vegetables and parents donated 45 bundles to the food bank. They had online registration for parent/teacher interviews that worked well for them. Christmas concert is on Dec. 15. Working on a 3 yr plan.

Notre Dame: Michele Plante: Had parent/teacher interviews and report cards. Gr. 6 students encouraged to earn money at home then went to buy tree of hope gifts. Running a Christmas store for St. Pat's students to shop in. The gr. 9 group is helping CCT fill hampers. On Dec. 15, they will have a Christmas gala event for families to enjoy activities like hay rides, cookie decorating, nativity drama. Work shop idea social media safety, learn from police or Telus.

St. Mary's: Barb Dolter: Seussical practice underway, 55 students involved. Barb didn't like only having choice of one day for parent/teacher interviews. Made \$650 on haunted house. Fine Arts Christmas concert on Dec. 10 at the college. Theoron Fluery gave a good talk at the school.

Foods class running the canteen offering a hot lunch every day. There were 25 students and 2 staff that went to We Day in Calgary. Art Gala is booked for Feb. 6 at the Legion.

St. Thomas: Nancy Small: Had online registration for parent/teacher interviews, went over very well. Remembrance day service was beautiful. Random Acts of Kindness went well. Doing the school mass this Sunday. St. Michael's, Mother Teresa and St. Thomas choirs going to Lethbridge to see the Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra. Christmas concert is Dec. 9 at the Dream Centre. On Dec. 10 parents serve turkey lunch to the students and staff and then they have mass at Holy Family. PD topic to discuss mental health.

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

Old Business: PD topics discussed earlier in meeting.

New Business: Barb would like to see a list of tutors compiled for the division.

Next Meeting Date: Jan. 26, 2015 at Notre Dame School at 7 pm.

Adjournment: 8:50 pm.