

**Medicine Hat Catholic Schools Parent Association Minutes**  
**April 2nd, 2012**

In Attendance: Candace Lambert, Corinne Hordos Goyer, Lauren Getz, Penny Pahl, Melinda Mastel, Barb Dolter, Jodi Churla, Lesley Heather, Lisa Zeidell, Lisa Sinclair, David Leahy, Shauna Wanner Crowley, Celena Gerl, Teresa Stark

1. Tour of St. Thomas Aquinas: led by David Leahy 7:02-7:22
2. Opening Prayer: led by David Leahy
3. Introductions
4. Additions and Approval of Agenda : Approved by Lauren Getz/seconded by Celena Gerl
5. Reading and Approval of Minutes from February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012: Approved by Lauren Getz/seconded by Candace Lambert
6. Central Office Report: David Leahy
  - Projecting 20 students below original projection for 2012-2013 year- a registration tracking sheet is being utilized for Catholic/non-Catholic, where going, why. Division being very conservative with numbers.
  - First look at 2012-13 budget at Board Meeting April 17<sup>th</sup> – must be finished by end of May to submit to government.
  - News of Principal transfers went home in letter. Multiple changes not ideal; however, circumstances (e.g. Resignation) create situations that must be dealt with to the best of David's ability to serve all of our schools and students. Mr. Deydey returns to Vice position at St. Patrick's school.
  - There were a number of concerns with Bill 2 but it has died for now due to election call. If it returns with similarities, expect a call to voice concerns.
  - Division is being pressured to share/trade facilities. CAPE would like shared space in St. Louis but this is not in the best interest of Faith-based education.
  - Shared/Blended boards still a consideration in the province.
  - Bow Island update: After last Board meeting, the St. Michael's Bow Island School Council passed a motion to begin the process of withdrawing from the Medicine Hat Catholic Division. David briefly outlined history of Division and process for withdrawal. Christ the Redeemer based in Okotoks would be the Division that St. Michael's BI would join if the process is successful.
  - The Town Hall meeting has been postponed until the announcement of the new Superintendent so that the successful candidate may attend. The competition is closed with 11 applications – 3 shortlisted from inside the Division – announcement will be made when official through Government level.
7. Board Trustee Report: Jodi Churla

The Board and Admin team had a retreat in which strategies, declining enrolment, communication of how great the Division is discussed. Ideas for communication

include Division website, like on Facebook, school-based promotions. A question was posed concerning who decides the Principals and their schools and the Superintendent has the final decision, not the Trustees. There are approximately 1000 non-Catholic and 1800 Catholic students in Division.

#### 8. ATA Update: Ray West absent

#### 9. Committee Reports

- Chair Report: Candace Lambert – no report
- Secretary /Treasurer : Corinne Hordos Goyer  
Account Balance: 1168.54

- Board Representative: Laureen Getz

Please support the Centennial, to increase support Laureen recommends opening the events more to parents, meeting for Centennial Tuesday night. Announcements for Bow Island high school to remain open and FI plan. French Immersion will have an oral component for a ½ day once a week with ADLC video conferencing twice a week, 1 hour length each and a sub hired for the ½ day a week. Not ideal but best that can be done at this point. The positions seeking applications were Superintendent, Principal, and Religious Coordinator. David announces Mrs. Jill Wilkinson as new religious coordinator. The AISI coordinator position has been terminated and AISI delegated to Mr. Lehr's department. School fees and calendar 2012-13 approved – calendar may change. Diploma results in and the happy news is that we are above the province in most subjects. Celena comments with echoing sentiments that the low averages were shocking. David comments that Alberta has an extremely rigorous curriculum and that average is the least reliable measure of central tendency there is.

#### 10. School Reports

McCoy: Laureen Getz

Singing in the Rain was an excellent performance with a good turnout. McCoy website has lots to offer, including photo albums of events. Admin happy with January Diploma exams. Value Management Audit seems positive. 37 Japanese girls contacted Division to come and learned various options. AISI Cycle 5 will focus on differentiated instruction – different learning levels/styles must be accommodated – may see assignments with different choices to meet objectives. A \$215 cheque offered to cover Laureen's ASCA conference registration. Booster team/Football team are looking to build garage with washroom facility inside. Costco has corporate money to donate to appropriate causes. Grad in May!! Congrats to all McCoy Grads!!

Mother Teresa: Lesley Heather

Cookbooks for sale @ \$10 each. New stove found. Spellathon coming soon.

St. Thomas: Celena Gerl & Shauna Wanner Crowley

Set up table at Mall-wide registration for Kindergarten. Looking to do August for preschool. BI suggests offer basket draw to attract names. Spellathon upcoming.

Choir recommended to Edmonton but have chosen not to go. Graphic Designer parents have revamped brochures. City wide blitz happening with new posters and pamphlets – will hit any venue where parents may be.

Side conversation: Kindergarten students registered at St. Louis - 8 students and St. Francis – 11 students.

St. Francis: Teresa Stark

A plea to help St. Francis was made – need higher attendance, kindergarten numbers low, need before & after school care. Babysitting and Home Alone courses offered through Red Cross. Spelling Bee/Spellathon coming up. Christine Stupak and Teresa Stark to attend conference.

St. Mary's: Laureen Getz

Academy choirs did fabulous with Senior Choir off to Edmonton (for Provincials) in May. Science Fair sent 16 students to the regional Fair with several awards won. 30 hour famine raised close to \$3000 for World Vision. Centennial Spring Sing soon – tickets \$5. Hot lunch committee has formed. Looking into [www.hotlunches.net](http://www.hotlunches.net) – believed to be \$500 – will look into how many licences that buys. Student Nurses have been meeting with kids on body image, healthy eating, etc. - would like to work with School to start breakfast program. Report cards just out for 3<sup>rd</sup> session – 124 kids on Honour roll – awards draw being held for any and all students who showed an improvement. Alice in Wonderland JR shows are being held April 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>.

St. Michael's BI: Penny Pahl & Melinda Mastel

Thanked David for solid explanation of leaving Division. 30 hour famine held at school. Daily Zumba classes underway. Missoula Children's Theatre at school with Cinderella on April 27<sup>th</sup> at 4 & 7 p.m... Donation to food bank for entry. Holy Thursday assembly at 10 a.m. Mini basketball, Junior/senior high dance, and Science fair happened/happening. Upping Kindergarten hours to prep for Grade 1. Students enjoying 8 hours a month in Options – going really well. Looking forward to hosting May PA Meeting.

St. Michael's MH: Barb Dolter

Choir robes are done and looked awesome at Rotary. Movie Day in May – trying for Matinee for K-3 and evening show for 4-6 with pizza in between. Uniform discussions have gone away again. "Dare to Care" – antibullying program coming to school under Lisa Dickson Wells. Mr. Blackmer will know the date and info.

St. Patrick's: Lisa Zeidell & Lisa Sinclair

Family Fun Night was held March 17<sup>th</sup> at the leisure center and was well attended – Ice is \$80 x 2 hours and pool \$370 hour x 2. A Celebration of Life was held for Denise Simbulan. Spellathon is being held. The Outdoor Classroom Project has begun thanks to local donations. Student teachers did Lenten project – gathered more than 1000 boxes of donated Kraft Dinner and setting up as dominoes Wednesday afternoon – project to benefit Women's Shelter. There will be a Holy Thursday celebration.

11. Old Business: 6 going to conference – gas and hotel room expenses to be discussed at next meeting.
12. New Business: none.
13. NEXT MEETING: MAY 7<sup>th</sup> @ BOW ISLAND SCHOOL @ 7:00 PM

Adjourn 9:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Corinne Hordos Goyer