

MEDICINE HAT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS PARENT ASSOCIATION MINUTES

MARCH 30, 2015

ATTENDANCE: Laureen Getz, Corinne Hordos-Goyer, Candace Lambert, Celena Gerl, Barb Dolter, Lana Johnson, Kym Porter, Greg MacPherson, Regina Durst, Barb Thompson, Nancy Small, Bernie Kinch, Joe Colistro, Krystal Suderman, Justin Boksteyn.

Meeting held at Monsignor McCoy High School. Principal, Mr. Paul Bauche, led a tour of the school highlighting the changes that will come with the modernization that is scheduled to start later this year.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Candace Lambert.

OPENING PRAYER: led by Joe Colistro.

Additions and Approval of Agenda: Approved by Corinne Hordos-Goyer and Barb Dolter.

Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2015: Approved by Corinne Hordos-Goyer and Candace Lambert.

Early Childhood Services for MHCBE: Kym Porter introduced the Fresh Start to School project that is set for August 25, 2015. This is a one day project designed to help families in need with supplies and services for Back to School. It will be held at St. Mary's school and will run from 10 am to 8 pm. Registration will be by invitation only and no media will be invited. This project is made possible with the partnership of various agencies and stakeholders in the Medicine Hat area. Email Kym with questions or to volunteer for this project at kym.porter@mhcbce.ab.ca.

MHCBE Budget Report: Greg MacPherson provided some information on the Provincial and school budgets. He said this budget information is available on the district website. Currently there are 2432 full time students in the division, the enrollment is the major driver for funding. Currently there is a \$1.06 million deficit. The majority of the budget goes to staffing. There is some concern about the new provincial budget not providing funding for growth in enrollment but they are still waiting to see what the overall impact will be.

Central Office Report: Mr. Joe Colistro provided the results from the PD survey from the last PA meeting. The most popular topics were mental health topics, working collaboratively with the schools, school scholarship applications, curriculum redesign, health, math clarifications and ways to connect home/school/church. Joe and Candace will meet to pick topics and possible dates to run them. They could be presented before PA meetings or on other days. It was suggested to take the idea back to your councils and ask if they would come to a PD session if it was offered. Joe also wants to discuss the reasons for having Catholic schools at the next

meeting. He would like to see more school identity in the parishes. Joe was impressed with the MHC students that have been working on a marketing plan for the division. There is interest in developing more partnerships with the College and the Division. The new website design is almost ready for use. The C2 committee has met looking for ways to improve teacher efficacy, and discussing what to do in the future. The elementary schools will have some religious retreats after Easter.

ATA Report: Bernie Kinch reported that the ATA local has a PD committee working on finding speakers for next year. Barb Dolter asked who would pay for subs if the speakers presented on regular school days. Bernie said the ATA may pay or the principals may use their PD budgets. Joe Colistro and Bernie Kinch meet monthly and Bernie said he is pleased with the collaboration and respect they have. The ATA will continue to participate and sponsor the Annual Golf Tournament.

Trustee Board Report: Regina Durst for Robert Risling who was at the Chrism Mass. Regina thanked the PA group for the work being done and brought Happy Easter greetings to all. They ratified the contract for Acting Associate Superintendent Human Resources Chuck Hellman. Mrs. Heather Irvine was recognized as the first winner of the new Excellence in Catholic Education Award. The new calendar and school fees for next school year were approved.

Committee Reports:

Chair Report: Candace Lambert and Barb Dolter are going to the ASCA Conference in Edmonton on April 24 - 26. Anyone else is welcome to join them. There is a lot of information given and good sessions to attend. They will report back to us. Corinne Hordos-Goyer made a motion to cover the cost of 2 nights hotel room costing approximately \$350.00. Celena Gerl second the motion. To work with our 3 year plan, to do service work in the community, Candace checked in with the Salvation Army and they still need help serving hot meals at Core. The biggest need is on Friday nights. It was decided to try to set it up for fall, using parents in the division and Joe will encourage central office staff to help. Candace will work on it for fall. Candace talked about the Religious Education Community Meeting she attended. They discussed the question, how do you see the Parish working closer with the Catholic schools. There was 28 people at the lunch meeting. Many ideas were discussed. Joe talked to the group about Catholicity and the home-school-parish relationship.

Secretary/Treasurer: Laureen Getz reported the Bank Balance is \$1690.80.

Board Representative: Laureen Getz reported on the Feb 10 and March 10 board meetings. Butch Ganzer spoke to the board on the importance of the safety speed signs for school zones and felt it should be given more priority. Lilas Litousky presented a cheque to the learning services dept. for \$4000.00 from the Autism Support Association that has now folded its group.

The donation is to be used for special needs such as ipads for communication. The board received ministerial approval for Joe Colistro to be our Superintendent and they ratified his contract for Feb1, 2015 - July 31, 2018. Registration was set up with pre populated forms this year, parents like this format. A French Immersion enrollment analysis was done. Joe met with the Fine Arts staff and the board is encouraged to attend FA events in the community. In March the Excellence in Catholic Education Award was presented to Mrs. Heather Irvine. The marketing and advertising plan from the college students was discussed. There is a plan to review the mission and vision statement for the division. Monsignor McCoy sod turning ceremony was set for June 8. Fundraising is also going to be a priority for the modernization. The enrollment numbers look positive for the fall. The SLA's for grade 3 will be a pilot program for a second year. Grade 6 and 9 will still write PAT's for now.

School Reports:

Monsignor McCoy: Laureen Getz: Mr. Bauche updated the modernization process. He said the architects are good to work with and are very knowledgeable. The Faith Retreat went well, a speaker named Michael Chiasson was very good and well liked by the students. He is very good with the students and has a good message for them. Mr. Bauche would like to have him speak here every year but he is very expensive to bring in. Basketball is finished and Badminton and Track have now started. Soccer has been taken out of the high schools, it will be missed. The European trip is set to go over Easter. There are 65 kids and 30 adults going in two groups. The Easter mass is set for May 2 and Grad is May 14 and 15. Clue musical was very good. McCoy Parent Council voted to buy a brick and continue the challenge to other councils.

Mother Teresa: Justin Boksteyn: The Pizza Palace Fundraiser was a success with 40% profit made. Skating at the Kinplex went well, it was a family skate night with most of the teachers there. They are buying guitars for the music program. The Senior Choir is going to the Rotary Festival Provincials in Edmonton in May.

St. Francis Xavier: Barb Thompson: Valentine Dance and silent auction were very successful. Planning a spelling bee fundraiser. The Rattler's volleyball team did a presentation for the school and other speakers have been brought in.

St. Louis: A note was sent from the Chair Alyssa Mclester. Parent Council is working on enhancing and increasing the playground structure with the Elm Street Association.

St. Mary's: Celena Gerl: There has been a shift with staff and 5 student teachers but everyone seems to be adjusting. The grade 7 choir was recommended for Rotary Provincials but they are not going. The grade 9 parents are doing a end of year evening celebration for the grade 9 students. The science fair was good, they have a student going to provincials. April 28 and 29

are the dates for Seussical Jr. The yearend Fine Arts concert is May 26 at the College Theatre. They are donating \$200 to sponsor McCoy's modernization. Wine Gala was very good.

St. Michael's: Lana Johnson: The Little Ceaser's fundraiser went well. Spirit week was good. They went to Rotary with Mrs. Swan and did well. The Passion play is on Thurs at 11 am. The students are going to Seussical. They are having a Fine Arts Gala night on May 22.

St. Thomas: Nancy Small: Carnival went very well. They had Clydesdale horses giving wagon rides. They are doing Toonie Tuesdays for lent, pay \$2.00 at lunch for such things as chewing gum or watching a movie. Trip of the month draws have been made. The music festival was good. Science fair was a success.

No Reps or Reports for Notre Dame or St. Patrick's.

Old Business: None.

New Business: For the next meeting Joe would like to hear how fundraising money is spent in each school. The projects each council supports with their funds.

Next Meeting Date: We will meet at the Board Office on May 25 at 7pm.

Adjournment: 9:30 pm.