

TCS School Council

Meeting: Thursday, November 25th, 2021 10-11am
Via Zoom

Approved on Feb 3, 2022

Chair:
Stephanie Dyck

Vice Chair:
Sophie Kolterjahn (absent)

Secretary:
Nicole Sharpe

In Attendance

Parents: Cynthia Michie, Deonne McCausland, Arlene Reimer, Deborah Heerema, Laurie Robertson, Rukevwe & Peter Inikoro, David & Breanne Heidrich, Katie Mattson, Audrey Gonzalez, Melissa James, Rachelle Hilman, Chris Kroecker

Admin: Michelle Duimel, Tim McAlpine,

Communications: Dawn Peart

Board Representative: Mike Humphries, Audra Chase

Teacher Representative: Vickie Tiessen

PSD Representative: Debbie Laturnus

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer – Stephanie Dyck and Pastor Tim
2. Motion to Approve Agenda
 - Motion made by Nicole Sharpe, 2nd Mike Humphries
 - Motion carried
3. Motion to Approve TCS School Council Meeting Minutes of *October 7th, 2021*
 - Motion made by Mike Humphries, 2nd Dawn Peart
 - Motion carried
4. Principal/Executive Director's Report– Michelle Duimel and Mike Humphries
Notes:
 - Alberta Education Learning Loss Funding
 - Trends over the last 22 months
 - Div 1 (grades 1-3) have seen some academic learning loss, academic gaps emerging in literacy and numeracy
 - Div 2 (grades 4-6) social-emotional dysregulation, friendship challenges – working to help students develop resiliency
 - Div 3 (JH) – mental health challenges – depression, anxiety, self-harm – supports in place (Family School Liason, connections worker, Pastor Tim, schools we are connected with)
 - Schools were asked to complete specific assessments for grades 2-3 in September by Alberta Ed, and they were completed at TCS

- TCS has received just over \$17 000 for the school to put in resources to meet the gaps – hired another teacher (Maris Wilks) for 4 days / week as a third teacher in grades 1, 2, 3.
- Report cards: K-6 and grades 7-9
 - Elementary report cards are currently being worked on
 - Expect a hard copy to come home on Friday December 3
 - JH report cards will be available on power school at the end of the semester (end of January), grades are live on Power School
- Junior High sports spectators and Elementary volunteers
 - Teams able to participate in the full volleyball season this year (games, tournaments and practices)
 - Spectators were permitted as well
 - Volleyball season has wrapped up
 - Basketball tryouts have begun
 - It has been so exciting to have volunteers in the building this year – hot lunch program, staff appreciation, lost and found
 - Volunteers are able to support in kindergarten and grade one again
- How we are all doing at TCS and Covid update
 - Overall we are doing well
 - Very few covid-19 cases, 10 in the fall
- Pre-service Teachers (student teachers)
 - Student teachers who are in university in the B Ed. Program
 - Student teacher from Ambrose will be coming in the Winter to complete her final practicum, she also completed a practicum in the Fall in Kindergarten
 - In the fall we had 10 student teachers from Ambrose who came in to do observations (6 days)
 - We will have an additional 4 pre-service teachers in the winter (grade 1M, grade 5 classes, grade 6 classes, grade 7 classes)
 - Coming in for 4 months
 - Potentially placing an additional pre-service teacher which will bring it up to 6
- Audit
 - This is completed, and year end financials have been approved at the board meeting
 - This will be presented at the society meeting on December 2, 2021
 - The financial information has already been shared with parents
- Grade 6 / 9 Experience Trips
 - The board continues to collect information and discuss what these trips will look like
 - Grade 7's will have an experience trip as they missed it last year
 - The trips will be pushed back in to the spring

Parent Response/Questions

- Q: Chris- wondering if you can elaborate on the experience, and any thoughts on what the alternative could be?
 - A: Mike - Last year we had a good picture of what it could look like to SALTS. At this time, the options are wide and varied – visiting camps, something that could replicate the SALTS trip. If parents have ideas please send them to Mike.
- Q: Chris- is there a committee working on this right now for the current grades who missed their trip last year, and this years students?
 - A: Mike- Grade 6 experience is covered through fees, parents pay a small portion toward that. Admin team and grade 6 / 7 teachers are putting this together. Grade 9 experience (scheduled for March 14th at this point)- admin team and board is working on this
- Q: Chris – have any discussions occurred around phys. ed groupings for JH, wondering about potential risk of exclusion for students who are on the outskirts / students who don't like gym as much - wondering about students being in a group without their friend base – are there any other opinions / concerns from other parents?
 - A: Michelle- this was discussed at the JH town hall meeting on November 24, 2021. Mike will send the recording to Chris and plan further discussion as needed

5. Old Business

Notes:

- Request for submissions: Speakers for Parent Night(s)
 - In the past, school council has hosted parent nights
 - If you have any suggestions for speakers or topics, please email schoolcouncil@tcskids.com

6. New Business:

Notes:

- Committee Reports and Volunteer Opportunities:
 - TCS Banking – Arlene Reimer
 - The goal with the program is to expose students to banks, saving, interest, and depositing / withdrawing money
 - This is in-person at the school
 - 2 parts to the process- connect with Arlene to set up a new account (paperwork and student signatures)
 - Regular deposits are encouraged (1-2x per month)
 - Arlene will collect the funds at the school and deposit the cheques
 - Available for grades 1-9
 - If students deposit their grade amount per month, they get a \$0.50 bonus

- Grade 7-9 if they deposit 5x their grade amount, they will get a \$2 bonus.
- Bonuses are deposited in to accounts every July
- They have increased the age for these benefits to age 19, so student's can continue to benefit from the program beyond their time at TCS
- Christian Credit Union will change their account to accommodate their needs in to adulthood
- The school will also get a benefit, as a matched bonus to the school (fundraiser)
- Every child age 12+ is eligible for a debit card, with parent limits set; deposit can be made at any credit union in Calgary at the ATM
- Arlene is available to meet with parents prior to January, if anyone is interested in setting up an account immediately. Otherwise Rebecca from Christian Credit Union will initiate this in January.
- Contact Arlene for further information – available via email or phone; a banking contact email will be set up soon and shared with parents
 - Arlene's cell # 403-807-6485
- Lost and Found – Stephanie Dyck
 - Looking for volunteers for 2 positions
 - Display items outside the front doors – 1x per month at 3pm, returning inside the school at 3:45pm
 - Tidying up the lost and found 1x per week – hanging items, returning items with names to the office, throwing out any garbage
 - Please contact schoolcouncil@tcskids.com
- Staff Appreciation – Deonne McCausland
 - Committee established to bless the staff
 - Small sub-committee- if you are interested or have some ideas, please connect with school council – schoolcouncil@tcskids.com
 - Partnering with the TCS prayer group on approximately a monthly basis – coffee, treats, encouragement cards provided to staff
 - Larger staff appreciation events planned for December, February, and June
- Blessings Initiative – Audra Chase
 - Looking to have an internal blessings committee
 - Would like to have some meals on hand to bless families when emergencies / needs come up
 - There is a small freezer space at the school for storage

- If you are preparing something that freezes well, and would like to bless a family, please deliver it to the school in a container that does not have to be returned
- Not looking for a committee, but if you feel called, please participate
- Consider adding a small list of ingredients or cook instructions to the top
- Please contact Audra if you have any questions or would like to help out
- TCS Prayer Group – Audrey Gonzalez
 - Meet every Wednesday morning on the playground after drop off
 - You are encouraged to come say hello and pray
 - If you have specific requests- please contact the front office and they will add your request to the confidential prayer book

7. Motion to Adjourn TCS School Council Meeting *November 25th, 2021*

- Motion made by Deonne McCausland, 2nd Cynthia Michie
- Motion carried

8. Closing Prayer – Mike Humphries