

TCS School Council

Meeting: Thursday, February 3rd, 2022, 10-11am

Via Zoom

APPROVED Minutes

Chair:
Stephanie Dyck

Vice Chair:
Sophie Kolterjahn

Secretary:
Nicole Sharpe (absent)

In Attendance

Parents: Darren Slade, Arlene Reimer, Rachel Lam, LG and Elvie Robianes, Jody Parker, Deonne McCausland, Dayneris Nunez, Cynthia Michie, Pete and Jill Manuel, Julie Vanden Heuvel, Ann (Surname), Bola Dada

Admin: Michelle Duimel, Mike Humphries, Lesley Wenzel, Tim McAlpine, Audra Chase

Communications: Dawn Peart

Board Trustee: Debbie Laturus

Teacher Representative: Vickie Tiessen

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer – Stephanie Dyck and Pastor Tim
2. Motion to Approve Agenda
 - a. Motion made by Dawn Peart, 2nd Darren Slade
 - b. Motion carried
3. Motion to Approve TCS School Council Meeting Minutes of *November 25th, 2021*
 - a. Motion made by Sophie Kolterjahn, 2nd Deonne McCausland
 - b. Motion carried
4. Palliser Board Greetings and Update – Trustee Debbie Laturus
 - a. October saw the election of the new Board of Trustees. October meeting reviewed current committees and prepared to list
 - b. Reports received and received from many committees; all are available on our website.
 - c. November, we had a clean audit. Also had the opportunity to review the 2022 workplan at the October meeting.
 - d. Currently working on conducting policy reviews more regularly.
 - e. Currently reviewing the calendar for the 2022/2023 school calendar. This will be coming back to the Board meeting next Tuesday 02/08.
 - f. Provincial budget will be released next month. Stay tuned for more information.

Question from Mike Humphries: Who are the current officers?

Chair: Lorelei Bexte, Vice-Chair: Debbie Laturus

5. Principal/Executive Director's Report – Mike Humphries

a. Principal/Executive Director's Report

- i. Reviewed key school calendar dates; this included first day of school being August 30th, Christmas break to be December 26th-January 6th (last instructional day on Dec 23rd), Spring break to be March 27th-April 10th. Last day of school June 27th, 2023. **All dates to be confirmed.**
- ii. Grade 9 experience (Spring 2022)
 1. Looking at two different options: SALTS trip (May 16th-20th) or going to Green Bay Bible Camp in Kelowna, including excursions from Green Bay in the area. Grade 9's will be able to choose one of the two events.
- iii. Grade 6 experience
 1. This is to include the grade 7's as they were not able to do a trip last year. Likely to split current grade 6's and our now grade 7's into two different experiences.
 2. Still exploring options for this experience. Awaiting until March to discuss further and understand any limitations due to the pandemic.
- iv. Facility update – 3rd floor atrium
 1. Considering what the next steps will be here and potential option of purchasing this space.

b. Parent response and questions

- i. Any pressure from current partner from joint venture (Landsdowne) to purchase the space?
 1. No pressure currently being received, this is part of our LRP (long-range plan) to expand our space.
- ii. Any more updates/reports on Canyon Creek Christian Fellowship Church and space?
 1. School has purchased back some space previously used by the church and is reviewing approach to that shared venture.
- iii. Are the two parking space signs in the parking lot still reserved for Canyon Creek Church?
 1. Yes, these two parking spaces continue to be reserved and designated for Canyon Creek. Encourage parents to avoid those spots.
- iv. Are we exploring a staggered entry once again for 2022/2023?
 1. To be explored further with Palliser in the coming months, as permission needs to be granted by Palliser for staggered entry to ensure instructional minutes are met.

- v. Do the instructional minutes need to be made up for the week off after the Christmas break in January?
 1. Not likely – as there is no way to make up these minutes in 2022 and will likely be handled as a one-off due to the pandemic.
 2. Teachers are looking to fill those requirements during their regular week and are still accountable to meet all curriculum objectives.

6. Old Business

- Request for submissions: Speakers for Parent Night(s)
 - No submissions received as of yet. Stephanie encouraged attendees to revisit and send any submissions to **schoolcouncil@tcskids.com**

7. New Business:

- Teaching Series for Parents – Pastor Tim
 - Pastor Tim spoke to one of the resources he is hoping to bring in. Pastor Tim spoke to the gap that continues to be present as it relates to connecting with parents.
 - Suggested a parent night with Sid Koop, Founder of Truth Matters Ministries – truthmatters.ca - <https://www.youthworker.community/truthmatters>
 - Sid focuses on four key areas: Digital Parenting, Social Media, Pornography, Video Games – impact of the digital world on our kids. Each topic would be an hour-long virtual session with a parent Q&A.
 - Pastor Tim to work on scheduling a session with Sid once we have the green light to proceed. Stephanie to assist with scheduling.
 - Sophie recommended we investigate childhood anxiety as a potential topic. School Council Exec will investigate the following resources:
 - Mike suggested: Neil Parker – Masters Counselling – excellent in the area of anxiety
 - Lesley suggested: Mrs. Smith – Family/School Liaison Counsellor, Alyssa Blake – TCS Making Connections Worker
 - Sophie suggested: Dr. Andrea Bliss – childhood anxiety counsellor

- Greetings from our Teacher Rep - Vickie Tiessen
 - Vickie provided some updates from our classrooms:
 - Grade 8 science – currently studying cells; students are loving exploring cells and designing edible cell structures
 - Grade 7 science – making thermoses from Wendy’s cups and have dissected an owl pellet and made the skeleton it contained. Also exploring math concepts in cooking.
 - Grade 6 LA - studying the novel *The Cay*; simulating some of the main events in the story. Also incorporating MLK and coincides with Black History Month
 - Grade 5 LA – learning how to create a convincing argument/writing persuasive paragraphs.
 - Kindergarten – learning to “crack the code” to learn how to blend letters to make sounds. Also building constellations with marshmallows in their Space Study.

- ASCE School Council Grant – Stephanie Dyck
 - ASCE grant of \$500 received from the Alberta Govn’t. This new grant provides funding to school authorities for each school to support school councils fulfilling their legislated responsibilities in the education system and enhancing parent involvement and engagement.
 - Examples of parent engagement activities and projects that funds can be used for:
 - workshops for parents to increase capacity for school council members
 - information sessions on how parents can support student learning at home and at school
 - parent resources and workshops on important topics such as, mental health and well-being, cyber bullying, healthy living, etc.
 - programs to support families including those of English language and of indigenous learners
 - parent resources and tools in multiple languages
 - events to engage parents on important local issues
 - parent engagement in promoting the value of arts
 - trainer or facilitator costs for the professional development, workshops or sessions associated with the above.
 - Parents are invited to submit any suggestions on how to utilize this grant to the School Council Exec at **schoolcouncil@tcskids.com**

- Committee Reports and Volunteer Opportunities:
 - TCS Banking – Arlene Reimer
 - Signed up 9 new student accounts from parents for savings programs.
 - Message went out in updates email, as well as the email to engage in this initiative
 - More information to come in the next “What’s Happening”
 - Location of in-person banking TBD
 - Dates for Arlene to come into the office once a month to be released once those dates have been finalized.
 - Question from Bola Dada: How to set-up an account? Bola will contact Arlene to arrange.
 - Lost and Found – Stephanie Dyck
 - Melissa is still looking for volunteers:
 - 1) Displaying items outside when Lost and Found is full. Once per month from 3pm – 3:45pm.
 - 2) Tidying Lost and Found items once a week (or less if there are more volunteers that can rotate).

Email schoolcouncil@tcskids.com to volunteer

- Staff Appreciation – Deonne McCausland
 - Update on the Staff Appreciation Christmas Meal: We provided a staff lunch from Willow Park Golf & CC before the break to reiterate how important staff are too us.
 - In February, we typically facilitate a weeklong staff appreciation event. Dates are Feb 28-March 4th, and Deonne is looking for volunteers to support on a sub-committee to assist with brainstorming for this event. Need to consider what events would fit within our protocols.

Email schoolcouncil@tcskids.com to volunteer

- Blessings Initiative – Audra Chase
 - There are several butter chicken meals in the freezer and we can gather other supplies for families in need.
 - Encouraged participants to reach out should they have any families in mind that they would like to bless.

8. Motion to Adjourn TCS School Council Meeting *February 3rd, 2022*

- a. Motion made by Darren Slade, 2nd by Deonne McCausland
- b. Motion carried

9. Closing Prayer – Mike Humphries