

TCS School Council

Meeting: Thursday, November 24th, 2022 7:30-8:30pm

Location: TCS Learning Commons

Chair:
Stephanie Dyck

Vice Chair:
Sophie Kolterjahn

Secretary:
Nicole Sharpe (absent)

In Attendance

Parents: Cynthia Michie, Marie Warnecke, Lauren Gilbert, Ann Bannister, Jessi Krahn, Kristen Ashton, Diana Thomas, Katie Mattson

Admin: Michelle Duimel, Dawnyshia Dykshoorn, Henry Schellenberg, Audra Chase

Board Representative: Mike Humphries

Teacher Representative: Jennifer Munton

Communications: Lara Kozen

PSD Representative: Debbie Laturnus

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer – Stephanie Dyck and Mike Humphries
2. Motion to Approve Agenda
 - Motion made by Audra Chase, 2nd Cynthia Michie
 - Motion carried
3. Motion to Approve TCS School Council Meeting Minutes of *September 22nd, 2022*
 - Motion made by Sophie Kolterjahn, 2nd Cynthia Michie
 - Motion carried
4. Greetings from the Palliser Board Member
 - Palliser introduced a council for school councils. This is a discussion for training and development for school councils.
 - First meeting was well attended.
 - Next meeting is 01/19/2023 @ 6:30pm. Presentations highlighting training courses for school staff around school safety, particular around bullying.
 - October 25th the Town of Coaldale had a site tour at the new school and addressed any questions that could arise for this joint venture.
 - Next Board meeting – Tuesday, November 29th.
5. Principal/Executive Director's Report– Michelle Duimel and Mike Humphries
Notes:
 - Four new students that are here from Columbia in our junior high. In grade 8 and grade 9 classes. Settling in well and all is going well. Here until mid-December and then heading back to Columbia.
 - Recess re-imagine committee

- All of the three members have children in either in kindergarten or grade 1. One of the members has a background as a landscape architect and currently works with Calgary parks.
- Met twice – one of the meetings was outside on the playground during recess to get a sense of how the field is utilized. After the meeting members were asked to reflect and dream on possibilities. Ideas that arose as result we as follows:
 1. Activate the edges – what could we do that would draw kids out to the edges. Introduce some topography so that kids could sit and visit – quiet spaces. Potentially a circuit that they could do with rocks, buses, etc. for them to walk.
 2. Create outdoor classroom space
 3. Seasonal and year-round play possibilities – help to protect against weather.
 4. Increasing equipment – especially soccer balls, storage for equipment, etc.
 5. Creative spaces – maybe a place where they could do some outside art activities.
- Ask to committee members is to now go away and think about these possibilities, create a site map and plan for next steps.
- Immediate improvements on the docket are to increase our natural playground equipment as nature has taken its toll on the equipment over time. Was always contained but has migrated to the playground. Thinking of ways to enhance the creative play.
- Anyone else who would like to join this committee is welcome to reach out to Michelle Duimel.
- Christmas concerts – preliminary information has been released, more information to be released Monday, November 18th, including location updates.
- Report cards
 - Elementary report cards:
 - Palliser is introducing a division wide elementary report card. This was going to be achieved through the new computer system
 - With every new system there are always wrinkles to figure out. At the last school council Michelle announced that we will be doing the new report card in this new system, however the next day more information was received that the computer program is not quite where we would like it to be and were advised to continue with whatever means we currently have to create report cards.
 - New curriculum in many areas of elementary, so we are going to continue to utilize Google docs for now until the kinks are worked out in the system to not add on with all the changes we have teachers managing.

- Report cards will look very similar, with exception of math, language arts and physical education and wellness, that have new curriculum for K-3. (4-6 will remain the same).
 - Report cards will go home on Thursday, December 1, 2022.
- Junior High
 - Were able to get Edsby going in the junior high and had 71 parents sign-up for Edsby. Big win as parents can get real-time feedback on their kids progress with this system.
 - End of January there will be a week where Edsby will go “dark” and that will allow teachers to create more detailed notes for each subject.
 - January 31st these more detailed reports will be released, with another release in a similar format for end of year.
 - Parents are also learning that they can send direct notes to teachers in Edsby.
 - Program has shown a lot of potential and shows a lot more capability than many other programs.
 - Edsby is also able to record absences right in the app as well. A plan is being made to send communication out to parents to ensure they are aware of this functionality.
 - Junior high is planning on going to the Landmark to see the cartoon version of the Grinch, as well as plans to go sledding 12/21/2022.
- Learning Loss Funding
 - Funding that was put in place by the government to assist with gaps or learning loss due to COVID. This specifically focused on grades 1-3.
 - Testing with students was completed last year to be able to access funding with targeted efforts to mitigate some of the learning loss.
 - Submitted test scores for those students who were still experiencing learning loss and their information was submitted back to the government and we were able to access additional funding for 2022/2023. Not as much as last year, which is great news as we are bridging the gap, however we were able to utilize some of last years funds and activated support immediately in September to provide to those in need.
 - Support has predominantly focused on additional resources to support grades 1, 2 and 3. This funding has followed those children, so it is now 2, 3 and 4. Some surplus funds also went to grade 1 for this year.
 - Volunteers being back in the school this year has also been a huge support help with learning loss as well.

- Michelle also shared two instances recently where TCS received positive feedback from external guests:
 - Hosted Teachers convention in October (Prairie Centre for Christian Education), feedback was provided that our facilities is great. Found it very warm and welcoming as they participated in the Teacher Conference.
 - Students from Ambrose university who are taking their Bachelor of Education and are currently in their first year have spent time in 5 different schools every Tuesday throughout their first year, mainly in elementary. As these groups have gone by (we just hosted our 5th group yesterday) they have commented how much they love it at TCS and how they don't want to leave. They enjoy the community, warmth and the access to the junior high kids. Feels "different" here. Michelle reflected on this and shared her thoughts on what she feels differentiates our community:
 1. Common purpose for why we are here
 2. Relationships
- Society Update
 - Society meeting with be next Thursday, December 1st @ 7:00pm in the auxiliary gym
 - Will be talking about the expansion and renovation plans.
 - Financial Audit was completed and will also be presented at the Society meeting. Overall the audit went well. This information was also made available to parents in the last Weekly happenings.
- Mike on behalf of Pastor Tim
 - Last month many parents attended the session from Sid Koop on October 24th where he spoke about passing on our faith to the next generation.
 - Plan to have Sid Koop back in the New Year. Encouraged parents to attend.
- December 3rd – Family Event at Chinook Honey Company (West of Okotoks), Christmas at the Hive. Outside, inexpensive fun with hot chocolate being provided to families. Check out the TCS Social Media page for more information.

6. Old Business

- Recess Committee (covered above).

7. New Business:

- Teaching & Learning
 - Grade 1 – full steam ahead with our reading. Part of the new curriculum was around *how* we teach reading which is more in line with the Science of Reading in terms of decoding. Christmas play is also a big focus – “the night before Christmas”

- Grade 2 – boat building unit was just completed. Been learning a lot about buoyancy and how to build boats. Were able to come up with many different designs.
- Grade 3 – presented their bridge building projects today 11/24.
- Grade 4 – worked through a series of literature projects. They have to choose a novel, three throughout the year that are different genres, and then complete projects that hit different methods of learning - one is a written, one is a written and one is a visual project. As well as Bible character projects.
- Grades 5 & 6 – both very focused on the Christmas concert, including auditions for parts for the Grade 6 Christmas concert. Band has also been a big piece of the learning for this grade.
- Junior High – owl pellet lab where the junior highs dissect the owl pellets and then reconstruct the contents of the pellet. Grade 7's also did a Fish Creek lab where they do research into mechanisms. Also wrapped up the cardboard boat project at the Wingate hotel pool. Many of our families at TCS are hosting the Columbian exchange students. Teachers are also going up against the grade 9 volleyball teams. The whole school is invited to come and watch at 11:00am 11/25/2022. November 30th dress up like Adam Sandler day for the junior highs.
- Volunteer Committee Reports
 - Lost and Found – Jessi Krahn
 - Please label all of your clothing. Lots of clothing being left outside.
 - If any other parents are able to assist with putting out the clothes at the end of the month for one week before being donated, please contact Jessi.
 - Staff Appreciation
 - Committee plans to put on 4 events this year, coinciding with birthday celebrations and report card seasons as per Michelle's suggestion.
 - 11/24/2022 we orchestrated our first staff appreciation event – a breakfast for staff where committee members offered a wide variety of breakfast items and beverages.
 - Plan to have another meeting in the near future to plan a January event; the first meeting was utilized to plan the event mentioned above.
 - Blessings Initiative – Audra Chase
 - Would like to have some meals on hand to bless families when emergencies / needs come up. Meals are kept in the Junior High kitchen when needed.
 - 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.

- Please contact Audra if you have any questions or would like to help out
- TCS Banking Program – Stephanie Dyck for Arlene Reimer
 - Been recognized by the Christian Credit Union. Last year in 2021/2022 Trinity earned \$207 from the match provided by the credit union thanks to our savings accounts. In total, TCS has earned \$5,534.60 since 2003.

8. Motion to Adjourn TCS School Council Meeting *November 24th, 2022*

- Motion made by Jennifer Munton, 2nd Cynthia Michie
- Motion carried

9. Closing Prayer – Mike Humphries