

Our Lady of the Assumption School Council
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 18th, 2023 - 7:00pm

Online meeting link:

<http://meet.google.com/mcv-bhht-csh>

Attendance:

1. **Call to Order** - call to order at 7:02 - Meghan, Linda, Michelle, Deena, Caryn
2. **Opening Prayer and Welcome** - Meghan Calder
3. **Approval of November Minutes** -
<https://ola.holyspirit.ab.ca/common/pages/DisplayFile.aspx?itemId=26776787>
Michelle moves to approve. Approved.
4. **Financial Report** -
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18BhErjD1Z9HXKbjEQ2mcZuM24dGlprz/edit?usp=share_link&oid=114034389604340425702&rtpof=true&sd=true
Deferred in hopes of Selestia's arrival
5. **Board Update** - Linda
 - *Retreat and mass, allowed for gathering of groups with many meetings coming up*
 - *Board meeting on Wednesday*
 - *Open to easy questions! None to be had*
6. **Principal Report**
 - a) *Upcoming STEAM partnerships: November LLT meeting - visit from Southland International and some other STEM industry leaders looking for ways to integrate the trades at all grade levels. As a result Meghan has connected with these organizations to create a mini EPIC day -- typically EPIC allows students to try a variety of trades at the college. Our full STEAM day at the end of May will be a trades and industry day where trades and industry partners will provide hands-on activities to students. We will probably need 20 different stations to allow for all age groups and small sizes. Planning is ongoing through meetings. It's an exciting opportunity and we still would welcome any interested parties who would like to be involved. We are also doing a STEAM activity soon based around transportation with Southland which will allow students to explore practical activities and enjoy tours from our guest presenters.*
 - b) *Recycling and Organics City of Lethbridge is changing practices around garbage collection city wide, residential and commercial - this will begin for schools next September. We will have to do all recycling and collect organics. Meghan is on the*

committee and will share information as it comes -- some challenges exist, such as a lack of classroom sinks.

- c) Science Fair March 22 - grade 4-6 *Families will be invited and grade 4-6 students have received information. Linda will be a judge!*
- d) Possibility of having high school students run elementary retreats -*Matthew New has connected with Meghan regarding this. He will be bringing some religious ed students in to do some centers planned, organized, and run by grade 11 students.*
- e) Data collection - surveys. Our School Survey and the AEA (Alberta Education Assurance) *Grade 4-6 students completed Our School just before Christmas so we should have results next month. AEA will be coming to families end of January/ beginning February*
- f) Retirement tea for Marina Miller - Jan 31, 4-5:30



7. Teacher Report

- a) Feb calendar -

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fBCcbcGtMWW3Drj8f8UP-r5HaNdwAyrQ/view?usp=share_link

- i) Caryn brought forward the possibility of the school/ parent council supporting the building of a little library outside our school. Possible funding could include grant money or parent council or the school? Also possible for high school students to perhaps do the building. In the meantime, Caryn has worked with Bettyann to set up an in-school lending bookshelf.

- 1) Little free library website: <https://littlefreelibrary.org/> -- also note there is special pricing for educators, so we could consider [requesting an estimate](#) through that
- 2) Some examples of plans for building our own: <https://littlefreelibrary.org/start/build-a-little-free-library/>
- 3) Michelle may reach out by email to see if school engagement grant can be used for this -- Meghan was able to quickly see some connections -- Michelle will reach out to Caryn if she needs support or help

- 4) We might also look at purchasing a copy of this picture book [about the little libraries](#)
- 5) Note that there is a facebook page called Little Lethbridge Libraries we may want to connect with
- ii) We looked at the calendar -- pretty standard, basketball starts soon!
- iii) We are working on an intervention plan as a result of the data we've acquired about learning gaps as a result of Covid-19. We felt that we didn't have sufficient data to give us detailed information about where students were missing skills, so Amanda Orr and Gaylene Duke have done some incredible learning about the science of reading. Amanda has taken a leadership role and is working with Andrea Nemecek to do some assessment and implement these strategies, which have been very successful at grades 1-2, for our older students who are missing a lot of these strategies. We are hopeful that this data will help us fill gaps for students and provide support moving forward -- what works is that this is teacher led and incorporates what teachers are seeing day to day in their classrooms, not one shot glimpses of student ability.

8. New Business:

Selestia is not here so we will take a quick look at the financial report. Michelle wondered if we had lost some motivation and momentum in fundraising for Neuromaker? Meghan mentioned that it's a huge and lofty goal and that there have been a few thousand dollars coming in. It's not going away and we will keep working towards it -- maybe even do a specific fundraiser? The fundraising letter didn't bring in many donations so we would want to run at least one extra fundraiser next year to supplement it. Surprised by \$1000 anonymous donation for Christmas lunch! Very grateful for that. Selestia had communicated to Michelle that it looked okay on her end and she had checked in with Marina regarding any questions she did have.

- a) School Council Engagement grant - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MhYtFrmUPPPx4Wy49GNbfgvvAtV4PQ2n/view?usp=share_link
 - i) *We are struggling to come up with ideas for this, but we now have the little library idea and if we work on that, we should be able to still have a workshop or two. If we can't fund the little library we should probably just book some workshops. Would want to open the first workshop to any parents who want to come and see what the turnout is. If support is lacking we can go to online format, which is more convenient but has limited participants. Could we have the library maybe come in and do a presentation if we open a little library -- maybe just on the importance of reading as a family and services offered? BBQ and activity night were well attended and it would be great to have another event of the type (Caryn and Meghan are happy to help with this in any way). Possibility of local author readings to continue the literacy theme?*
- b) Hot Lunch/ Fundraising Update -

- i) Jan Hot lunch? Feb? - *We will connect with Selestia and make plans for this moving forward. Possibility of doing pizza days such as we have done at other schools that are more school/ classroom/ student led.*
 - ii) Pizza nights fundraisers - *would like to continue with this as it's pretty easy*
 - iii) Cookbooks -*maybe we just leave this one unless Selestia is available to continue it, as we know she is busy and has taken on a lot. We didn't have as much uptake as we hoped for. We will connect with Selestia and move forward from there*
 - c) Request for donation to CCH musical in form of ad in program (can be \$50 to \$300) *Michelle would support this but wonders how people feel? We have definitely had an increase in families, especially those new to Canada. Would this sort of visibility be helpful? It's probably not necessary, so it really comes down to if we have the \$50 to support it. We have decided to support this. Moved by Michelle to make the donation and Deena approved.*
 - d) Farewell gift for Marina *The binder has a set amount on how much of a gift card we usually offer based on length of service combined with flowers, so we will round from 8-10 in acknowledgement of her long service. Moved to give a gift to Marina in keeping with guidelines in the binder. Decided to contribute an equivalent amount to the school to help with the gift they are purchasing for Marina.*
 - e) Thank you card for Knights of Columbus for Christmas lunch donation. *Meghan will do a thank you card from the school*
 - f) Next Christmas - possibly plan for \$25/class (around \$200 for the school) and teachers could submit a request in advance *We were on a tight budget but managed to get some pretty cool puzzles. Can we set a budget for next year and ask teachers to let us know what they like? Another option is for teachers to make the purchase and submit the receipts (can also ask teachers to do the wrapping!)*
 - g) Deena update on chairs/trustees meeting *Long. Really, really long, but wonderful. Sharing of board priorities and contributing anything that might be missing: how the board can help us as parents and teachers working together: how staff and students can grow their faith, what practices and research can do to support learner growth, FNMI education for all, fostering wellness as a foundation of support learning. Opportunity to share why a non-Catholic family may choose a Catholic school. Would encourage everyone to read what was sent out. Awesome opportunities to connect with other people of diverse backgrounds and cultures. Interesting to hear about other schools having a heritage day. Was very inspiring and a good opportunity. Perhaps parent council could provide a summary we could send to families?*
9. **Next Meeting** -*February is a challenging month, and we are probably looking at either the 8th or March 1. Decided to go with March 1*
10. **Adjournment** - *Adjournment at 8:30 PM*