

Our Lady of the Assumption School Council
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday May 31, 2023 - 7:00pm

Online meeting link:

<http://meet.google.com/kau-vybz-mbw>

Attendance: Michelle Dormer, Selestia Jackson, Deena MacWilliam, Caryn Swark, Linda Ellefson, Meghan Calder

1. **Call to Order and Welcome** - 7:01 pm

2. **Opening Prayer** - Meghan Calder

3. **Approval of April Minutes-**

<https://ola.holyspirit.ab.ca/common/pages/DownloadFileByUrl.aspx?key=PxqGDAgAavybbCColZJmMbICWsNePRqX3V4RsIFtNEdaeu1%2bBQUKtMIM0sbhL0Q%2fKxfNsHz70EljzcpZsG5PlOk7oWKwMakwmJtmxURjMU%2bMh%2b9v5IcDijn4OwKwPeypREXrKd8fllsbamjkX3OWH6rRsnYFtaghgvYCAIXX3zoY7wYItQkpF2RRMMNvG7LxYH8Etds0pEiHyqxsety8f4WO%2f0g%3d>

-Michelle and Selestia approve

4. **Financial Report** -

https://drive.google.com/file/d/10jb_h_m8b8PR-NG09PQgv6HoScamaN0h/view?usp=drive_link

-Michelle would like to know the total amount for Full Steam Ahead, but we only have the amount for this month

-Meghan has the amount and it's \$1350

-Generally disappointed with both Full Steam Ahead and Pizza 73 -- will address some STEAM funding in reports

5. **May Board Brief and Trustee Update** - Linda Ellefson

https://cdns5-ss10.sharpschool.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_20670192/File/Board%20&%20Administration/Board%20of%20Trustees/Board%20Meetings/2022-2023/Briefs/9-%20May%202023%20Board%20Meeting%20Brief.pdf

-Most of Linda's report is covered in the board brief

-June 9 - meeting with priests, will discuss sacramental prep

-Met with MLAs -- CCH received \$100 000 grant but needs more

-In general: money is tight and things will be budgeted carefully

- Would like to see key dates two years in advance on calendar (Meghan mentioned that this can be problematic because we have to work with other school division)
- HS School division family gathering, June 7 CCH East
- June 13: retirement gathering at board office
- Moochigan was awesome and so was STEAM day

6. Principal Report

a) STEAM Day recap

- Tons of activities with trade and community partners; great experience for all students
- College has a STEM grant that helped us immensely -- we were the test pilot for a number of their kits
- Has been in planning since January
- Will it be a regular thing? Maybe! Meghan coordinated the whole thing this year and it was a big day, but we hope to have something similar, but it may look different

b) Welcome back blessing date - Wed. Sept. 27 (taiko?)

- Caryn said Hibikiya Taiko will be willing to perform for free if desired
- Welcome back mass in the AM

c) Staffing for next year

- Mrs Nemecek has resigned her position and is going into private counseling
- Mrs Baptista will be staying with us permanently
- We will be hiring a half time position, currently posted as a 5/6 LA/math position, but our numbers are constantly changing - we only have one class under 27
- Initial plan was to create an AM 5/6 split for LA and math, but 5/6 numbers have gone down and grade 1 numbers up, so we really have to wait and see what our numbers are
- Caryn and Meghan will be on grade 1 support if the grade 5/6 position is on the go
- We've had a number of new enrolments (5 in one day in April!) from all over the world
- Question regarding if we have the budget to have the new person both support 5/6 and support other groups? Each school receives a teaching allotment based on enrollment - ours is 9 with Cassie being half time in kindergarten and Caryn and Meghan sharing a full time position, so we can only hire a half time person and they will not be able to support elsewhere - we do not have the flexibility to adjust our budget our funding
- Concerns over the budget being decided so early in the year when we don't know enrolment, but it is unfortunately the consequence of the funding model from the government
- Question regarding physical space in the school: next year SAPDC (professional development group) will have their home base in our portables, so the 4s and 6s will move into the classrooms in the main school
- This has potential benefit for us by bringing teachers into our school
- Question about devices deferred to later report
- We will be losing Karin Mendoza in the office due to cuts in other areas and having Tracy Bozzi will join us in September

d) June Calendar -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16aOCVRX3rpy3g5lgJylosMJASQqN6Zkp/view?usp=sharing>

e) Microsoft grant

-In April we received a \$10 000 grant

-Due to 3 to 1 ratio, we received 25 new iPads for div 1 but we are losing 30 Chromebooks and the old iPads (insurance prevents us from using anything older than 5 years as well)

-We can order 14 microsoft chromebook-style devices

-We have submitted an application for an additional grant and voting for it opens tomorrow (link is <https://school-giveaway.kidoodle.tv/>) and we will send this to the school community

-If we receive another grant, do we want to put our STEAM funds towards filling out device carts?

-We can't run robots or anything else without devices -- we will be pushing for BYOD wherever possible

-We know that not all families will be able to do BYOD but we will appreciate any extras we can obtain to alleviate the stress on the school

-We are also hoping that by building a partnership with the college and other tech organizations, we can get access to tech or programs

7. Teacher Report

a) Field trips

-Every class has at least one, sometimes 2 field trips this month (or last)

b) BYOD (covered previously)

c) Grant voting (covered previously)

-Question re busing: no email came to Selestia, but Meghan received hers on May 23 and email indicated that emails would be auto generated. Meghan will check on this

-Michelle asked that we circle back to Full Steam Ahead -- Meghan was wondering if we receive the \$10 000, should we clump it together with the \$1350 to purchase devices?

-Initial plan had been to fundraise heavily and fund the full \$25 000 for neuromaker, but Selestia has gotten a lot of nos -- she doesn't mind if we shift the money, but it's disappointing along with many of our fundraising efforts

-Fundraising has been really frustrating, but Meghan reminds us that many of our families are international families on student visas. Our demographics have changed -- we have a lot of families who can't afford programs and camps, and they may not be able to participate in fundraising

-We are also lacking in volunteers but it's good to remember everyone's situation is different -- however, there's nothing wrong with asking people to give what they can (whether that is time or money)

-We were really excited for neuromaker but it might be too ambitious for us at the moment -- more imminent need may be the devices

-Question re if we can ethically redirect that funding -- we should be able to as expressed in the fundraising letter linked here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xRAAagl3n7_Whr9XjDCj_9fR5BvJ5BbmTN9Mn3Myc9A/edit?usp=sharing

-Meghan has been recruiting grade 1 parents

-The work of school council is important and valued, so even though it feels like a battle we really appreciate it at the school, and we know all we can really do is keep moving forward

8. **New Business:**

a) Library - Michelle

-Does little library say a gift from school council? Might draw attention to what we do

-Michelle and her husband are putting it together and have checked into where to put it safely

-Originally planned a grand thing but due to lack of volunteers and time, we're going to start small

-Caryn suggested maybe including advertisements and posters on the side of the little library to note council meetings

-Meghan suggested we highlight it at the next big family event, even if that's not until September

b) Hot Lunch/ Fundraising Update - Selestia

-hot lunch was awesome and kids loved it, responded positively to Selestia

-spaghetti dinner needs to be rescheduled, not canceled, because we have lots of sponsors

-Meghan suggested we replace the bbq night? Selestia thought the bbq is more low key -- maybe closer to Thanksgiving

-Different options, like maybe a dessert night in September and the bigger thing in October?

-We will need to have an early meeting to make sure this is all ready to go in September

-Would like to support maybe 3 hot lunches like the hot dog day to coincide with school events

-We make some from hot lunches so maybe we could do more?

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9. **Next Meeting** - AGM

-We should be able to combine our AGM and September meeting

-Wednesday Sept 13? We go back Sept 5

-Wednesday Sept 13 at 7:00 -- in person at OLA

10. **Adjournment** - 8:10