

## SKTA School Council

### Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2023

**Attendance:** Ryan O’Gorman, Sherry Gagne, Karra Krywko, Chris Postill, Shanalee Brenneis, Stacey Knievel, Jamie Hayward, Nicole Roy, Jenell Desrosier, Jillian Pitman, and Brianne Dechaine

**Call to Order:** 6:37 PM

**Approval of Minutes:** Shanalee Brenneis, seconded by Jillian Pitman

**Approval of Agenda:** Shanalee Brenneis, seconded by Stacey Knievel

#### Reports:

**Teacher Report:** Brianne Dechaine

- Went to visit Mrs. Dechaine’s classroom.
- Around the classroom, she has multiple bulletin boards. Some of these include.
  - Counting the days of school
  - Class schedule
  - Class jobs for the kids, ex. Agenda checker, give students a sticker if they are done writing in their agenda.
  - Growth board which goes with the growing in love theme.
  - Reward system using table groups. Each table earns points by doing things such as being quiet when asked, cleaning up when asked, etc. The table group with the most stars get a prize. This encourages positive peer pressure.
  - Bingo for routines. Trying to get daily school routines down.
  - Focus board to map out learning in subjects. In LA they are working on making connections when they read as well as irregular spelling patterns. In math they are learning place value.
  - Learning intentions, the why behind the what.
  - She has what is called a Wipebook. A Wipebook is a reusable notebook. Once they are writing on it they can take a picture of there work through the app and it downloads it to be similar to a white board. That way they can keep everything they have been

working on.

- She has a reading corner in the classroom.
- They did a science experiment where they put water into a baggie and taped it to the window. The kids check every morning to see if condensation forms.
- Sound wall – phonics. Different sounds in our words. There is a vowel valley, which contains all the vowel sounds. The other ones are the consonant, one area is the stop sounds like a “B”, another area is the continuous sounds like a “M”.
- The art wall, the students drew one paper, traced their picture with permanent marker, then colored a piece of tin foil, wet the tin foil and then put their picture in it and it makes a tie dye picture.

#### Parent/Admin questions

- Is there something you want or need that will make your and the students’ lives easier?
  - Clip boards so when the students are walking around the room it is easier on them to write.
- How much do you normally spend every year of your own money for supplies?
  - Last year was about \$1,000.00.
- What is the different seating you have within your classroom? (did point to specifics seats)
  - Rocking chairs, regular chairs and wiggle seats.

**Trustee Report:** Noreen Radford – wasn’t in attendance, however, did send a copy of the trustee report.

- Public Engagement Session on November 23rd – Morinville, our attendance is important.
  - As part of GSACRD’s ongoing commitment to providing the best possible education and learning experience for our students, Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools is embarking on a comprehensive review of our grade configurations and program offerings.

Board of Trustees are:

Commitment to Student Success: We are deeply committed to ensuring the success of every student in our district. We focus on providing a safe, inclusive, and nurturing learning environment that allows all students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Community Engagement: We believe in the power of community engagement. Your input, ideas, and feedback are essential as we collaborate to make informed decisions about education policies, programs, and resources. We value your perspectives and encourage active participation in the education process.

- Enrollment
  - Division wide our enrollment is up. Morinville ward is retaining students. The enrollment

numbers need to take into account the acquisition of a new school and grades reconfigured.

- Safe and Caring Report
  - Proud of Our Safety. At 92.0% satisfaction (consistent with the previous year), Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools is 4.5% above the provincial average relative to community satisfaction for this measure. It is worth noting that notwithstanding our outstanding achievement in this area. We continue to practice restorative circles and trauma informed practice in face-to-face and virtual environments. Restorative circles are a proactive and responsive strategy used regularly by teacher counsellors to lead small groups of students who are involved ongoing social tensions (i.e., posting negative comments; name-calling; excluding others) to hear perspectives of those involved on specific issues and to collaboratively determine solutions when moving forward. Every elementary and junior high school has experienced this key strategy as a routine.
- School Council Liaison Appointments
  - In our Morinville Ward, Trustee Tremblay will be attending G. H. Primeau and MCHS, while I will be attending Ecole Notre Dame School and St Kateri Tekakwitha Academy.

#### **School Admin Report:** Ryan O’Gorman and Sherry Gagne

- Faith
  - November is the month of Remembrance, where we take time to honor and remember those who have died. It is tradition to pray for the repose of the souls of those who died praying that all are welcomed into the Kingdom of Heaven.
  - Though this is a sensitive topic, we seek to address it in a very age-appropriate manner that respects the emotional needs of our students.
  - We have created a very respectful display that honors those loved ones connected to our school who have passed away as a reminder to pray for them and to honor their memory.
  - We were blessed to Join together as a school community of faith on Nov. 3rd to recognize our Remembrance Day Ceremony and Liturgy. We held a very heartfelt ceremony that recognized the many sacrifices made by those in uniform for our freedom and concluded as a faith community to join in prayer of remembrance for all our departed especially those in uniform who have served.
- SKTA Highlights October & November
  - Oct 16-19: Successful Scholastic Book Fair ALL WEEK
  - Oct 17: “The Doug” visited us for a Gr 4 for Bible Activity
  - Oct 18-19: Parent teacher Interviews - great to see so many families!
  - Oct 25: Grade 4 & 5 BISON Breakfast

- Oct 30: Grade 1-5 BISON lunch winners
- Oct 31: Halloween dress-up day
- Oct 31: Grs 4 & 5 visit GHP for Halloween Penny Carnival events
- Nov 3: Remembrance Day Observation & Liturgy - welcomed several special guests and families.
- Nov 13: We welcomed new staff to support our students due to increase in budget from division office.
- Staffing Update: After receiving some additional funding we are pleased to announce further staffing increases at SKTA:
  - ♣ Mrs. Miller (Teachers) Joining grade 1 & 2 supporting small group configurations in the PM to help build literacy and numeracy skills!
  - ♣ Mrs. Pasy (Educational Assistant) Kindergarten AM class
  - ♣ Mrs. Pudlowski (Educational Assistant) Pre-K & Grade 2
  - ♣ Mrs. Pomerleau (Educational Assistant) Grade 2 Interim
  - ♣ Mrs. Smith (Educational Assistant) Grade 4 Interim
  - ♣ Ms. Zadunayski (Teacher) Covering grade 3/4 while Mrs. Krywko is on Maternity leave.
- Alberta education has given schools a date of September 30 to send in finalized numbers in regard to how much students are in the school. Then schools are given their budget and if they are able to hire more staff.
- Upcoming
  - Nov 17: No School for Kindergarten Students
  - Nov 21: RAINBOWS Div I and Div II Group begins (Sessions that focus on grief/loss)
  - Nov 26: Catholic Education Sunday (SKTA Mass 11:00am @ END (Please join us)
  - Nov 29: 8:45am Grade 4 & 5 BISON Breakfast
  - Nov 30: 12:45 pm Grade 1-5 BISON Student Lunch
  - Dec 1: GSACRD PD Day - No school for students
  - EVERY Mon/Wed "Healthy, Helpful, Hopeful"-FANCY HOT CHOCOLATE FOR Uganda! Bring \$1.00
  - Dec 4: 8:45am Advent Liturgy w/Father Trini (Led by Gr 5's) (Please join us)
  - Dec 4: Food Bank kick-off (two-week blitz)
  - Dec 6: 6:30pm School Council Meeting CHANGE OF DATE? (Please join us)

- Dec 7: School Council Parent Activity Grinch Tree Night - Info Coming
- Dec 13: Healthy Hunger (Booster Juice)
- Dec 14: 10:30am Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal @ MCC
- Dec 14: 6:30pm SKTA Christmas Concert at MCC
  - ♣ Students have been practicing for this awesome occasion.
- Dec 15: 11:15am Reconciliation for Gr 3-5 students
- Dec 18-22: Christmas Spirit week
  - ♣ 18<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Hat Day! Healthy, Helpful, Hopeful – Fancy Hot Chocolate for Uganda (bring \$1). Candy Cane Treats for everyone.
  - ♣ 19<sup>th</sup>: Anything but a backpack. Bison lunch (selected students)
  - ♣ 20<sup>th</sup>: Red & Green day. Healthy, Helpful, Hopeful – Fancy Hot Chocolate for Uganda (bring \$1)
  - ♣ 21<sup>st</sup>: Ugly Sweater Day. Boston Pizza Lunch for everyone
  - ♣ 22<sup>nd</sup>: PJ Day. Cookies and milk treats for everyone.
- Dec 21: Community Christmas Celebration
  - ♣ SKTA has been asked if a contingent of students will perform at the Morinville Community Christmas Concert at the MCCC. Mrs. Boddezz is going to work with a contingent of students from grade 1-5 to perform. Look for messaging in the near future.
- Dec 22: No School for Kindergarten Students
- Dec 22: Gr 1-5 Early Dismissal @ 12:10pm
- Dec 22: Staff Mtg/PD in PM

**Old Business:**

- Calendar of other schools within our districts meeting dates for council has been distributed.

**New Business:**

- Christmas Concert
  - School is asking families to bring unwrapped toys for the Knights of Columbus toy drive for Christmas. Can be a inexpensive toy.
  - Discussed if we are going to have food or drinks at the event. Have decided this isn't a

good idea.

- In regards to fundraising, we will be doing front of the house raffle as well as baskets to be raffled off the day of the event.
- Dress rehearsal in the morning at the MCCC, where students get to watch other students within the school perform.
- December meeting has been moved to December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM as the Grinch tree making night through Friends of SKT is on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:10PM**

**Next meeting December 6th at 6:30PM**