

## Parent Council Meeting MCHS

Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018

MCHS Library 6:30 pm

### In Attendance:

Leanne Boissonnault, Mel Christoffersen, Abigail Coughlan, Dineane Duckering, Kenzie Gaetz, Krista Gratton, Joan Hughes, Julie Kozlowski, Kim Lavoie, Tracy Reaume, Lindsay Richardson, Jodi Van Essen, Velda Wall and Cary Wiwchar.

**Students:** Bailey Dickie, Shaelyn Durocher and Sara Mendiuk.

**Principal:** Mr. Don Hinks; and **School Trustee:** Noreen Radford.

- 1.0 The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mel Christoffersen at 6:31 pm.
  - 1.1 Opening Prayer & Acknowledgment of Treaty Lands were made by the Principal, Mr. Don Hinks. A brief introduction of the two students attending this meeting was made from the Norquest Administration Professional Program and the new Student Council President.
- 2.0 Adoption of the Agenda, and one addition was made to include; New School Bill with the Trustee Report.
- 3.0 The review of the minutes from the Meeting dated September 18th, 2018 were made. There were no corrections or additions. The adoption of Review of the Minutes was motioned by Abigail Coughlan. The motion was passed.
- 4.0 Old business.
- 5.0 New Business/Principal's Report – Mr. Don Hinks presented the Administrator's Report.
  - 5.0. **Enrollment** – 523 total number of students. It is determined that the School is funded for 485 students, however this higher total number of students includes the returning Grade 12 students for upgrading their marks. There is a total of 34 Grade 12 Students in the Business Administration Program.
  - 5.1 **Important Dates** – There are various activities taking place this Fall. A reminder that the annual MCHS Awards Night is November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
  - 5.2 **Orange Shirt Day** – The orange shirt day is an educational reminder of the story of residential students and their treatment in the past. In addition, there was a student/staff collaboration with a visual art project including red, blue, black and white feathers to remind everyone that EVERY CHILD MATTERS.
  - 5.3 **Student Council** – The newly formed Student Council for MCHS had their President; Bailey Dickie attend the Parent Council meeting. As explained the School has not had a

Student Council in many years, and interest to form this group was made by the students themselves. There were no formal elections and interested Students from Grades 9 – 12, have been accepted onto the Council. The main goals of the Council are to provide peer support, unite student involvement in the School and lastly, have a forum for student perspectives. The Student Council will be holding a Planning Day on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 to prepare for upcoming support of future events.

- 5.4 **HOWLS Lunch** – The most recent monthly HOWLS Lunch was sponsored by the local Fire Department. The lunch included ham & hot dogs, and approximately 172 students attended this lunch out of the 199 nominated.
- 5.5 **Volleyball** – The recent tournaments held in both Onoway and Westlock attended by the Boys & Girls Teams were very successful. The Boys Team brought home a Silver Medal and the Girls Team the Gold.
- 5.6 **New Counsellor** – A recent addition to the Staff at MCHS to include the much-needed Counsellor of Vanessa Connell was made. Many students will benefit from the extensive experience and Catholic Social Services by Miss Connell, as of October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- 5.7 **Diploma/PAT Results** – The recent results for Grade 12 Diploma Exams in all subjects from MCHS students as compared to the Provincial results showed that our students placed above the average. It should also be noted that diploma tests are now worth 30% of your final mark and no longer 50%. All students and Teachers should be very proud of these averages and the hard work they have dedicated to receiving them.
- 5.8 **MCHS Goals** – Every School year MCHS chooses year-long goals for all student, staff and parents to focus on. This year 2018/19 the two main goals are as follows: 1) Living like Jesus – Servant, Steward, Shepherd. 2) Success for all students: Providing programming that is of high interest to students. The faith goal is set by the District and the accountability pillar helps to define the School mission.
- 5.9 **Staffing** – Mr. Thompson is currently on Parental Leave, and Marc Swerda is the replacement in his position. Lastly, Mr. Chambers has recently been hired in the capacity of a half-time basis.
- 5.10 **NAIT Fieldtrip** – There was a limited amount, of seats for the 44 students who attended the Post-Secondary information day at NAIT. Those in attendance enjoyed the day and learned a lot.
- 5.11 **GRAD Donut Day** – For Grade 12 students free Starbucks coffee and donuts was provided during a break. The students were very pleasantly surprised and encouraged the Grade 12's to have a group reward.
- 5.12 **Thanksgiving** - Not long ago, at the Community Cultural Centre MCHS took some time with all Staff and students to focus on the meaning of thanksgiving celebration. There was student participation and included in the faith portion by Doug Kramer and Father Trani.
- 5.13 **Nutrition Fridays** – Fridays schedule doesn't include enough time for a lunch break. Due to this, the staff like to provide a healthy snack. The latest snack provided for students were apples and toast. If anyone is wanting to provide food for the School, all types of products are needed.
- 5.14 **PEP Rally** – Prior to a recent Volleyball games the School held a PEP Rally that was attended. The Rally included money ball games with every Students Name on each cup that gave out a total of \$370.00 awarded.

- 5.15 **Graduation 2019** – Many comments and negative feed-back has been received by the Principal and Staff regarding the date of the Graduation Ceremony for May long week-end 2019. The School has been placed on a cancellation date by the Winspear, however the possibility of this happening is very minimal. There will be an email sent to confirm the preference of an early/late ceremony to Grad parents. As the School gains seniority at the Winspear the possibility of a June graduation date increases. Included in the information package regarding Grade 12 graduation were the topics of: ceremony details, requirements for earning diploma, grad list, attendance, grad photos & rings, rehearsal date, legacy project and safe grad.
- 5.16 **See it, Report it!** – This new initiative includes a Website for students to report unsafe activity anonymously. The steps for use are listed and it should be noted that during School operations hours this sight will be monitored. For some students this option may become the alternative to speaking about something uncomfortable to them.
- 5.17 **Elections** – The Chair and Vice Chair; Mel Christensen & Tracy Reaume, from the previous School year explained that they wished to change places but to remain on the Parent Council for this year 2018/19. Therefore; the new Chair for Parent Council is Tracy Reaume and the new Vice Chair will be Mel Christensen. In the position of Secretary, the position is being held again this year by Joan Hughes. A motion was made by Cary Wiwchar; and seconded by Abigail Coughlan. All in attendance agreed and the motion was passed.
- 5.18 **Board Tasks** – The three main areas of attention will be in School results, See it, Report it! And lastly Elections.

## 6.0 **School Trustee Report** by Noreen Radford.

- 6.1 **Awards** – The Trustee Board has confirmed the nomination of former School Trustee, Rosaleen McEvoy for the 2018 Alberta Catholic School Trustees' Association appreciation award. The Laura Bird Award was given to Suzanne Rokos for her selfless manner and Christian self-service and dedication.
- 6.2 **Political Advocacy** – From a motion presented by Trustee Radford, it was determined by the Board an action plan would be developed to include the engagement of political counterparts. Dates between Morinville and Legal Town Councils have been established.
- 6.3 **Enhancing Student Success** – Our unique district story in furthering student success in learning over the past year has been documented and is an illustrative mechanism for "walking the talk" of change, and improved practice for the District. The story is available online at: <http://bit.ly/2pe82Z2>.
- 6.4 **Safe & Caring Schools** – Now that the Provincial expectation for a safe, caring and respectful environment have been met, two mechanisms within the District will demonstrate our emphasis on this important topic. Safe-caring demonstrates a one place point of reference at the following website: <http://www.gsacrd.ab.ca/about-us/welcoming>.
- 6.5 **Grand Opening/Official Blessing & Dedication of Sister Alphonse Academy** – In attendance for this prestigious event were: Archbishop Smith, Education Minister of Alberta David Eggen, MLA Trevor Horne, Deputy Mayor of St. Albert Jacquie Hanson, ACSTA President Serena Shaw, Board Chair Joe Becigneul, Principal Greg Lamar, Vice-

Principal Lisa Keparchuk, Trustee Noreen Radford, a contingent of Grey Nuns, School Trustees, Parish Priests, numerous Parents, Community Members and Students. There was a blessing made for the future of the School and both Students & Staff showcased this amazing building for learning. Some students performed an exceptional job to MC the event and afterwards refreshments were served.

- 6.6 **Contacting Trustee Noreen Radford** – School Trustee, Noreen Radford would like to inform the public in general that her type of advertising for both the School and District is to send information on-line. Mrs. Radford prefers to use Twitter and frequently re-tweets comments for reference.
- 6.7 **Cannabis Talk** – Due to the nature of this topic and that Educators & parents are still learning about the future affects of cannabis with teenagers. Noreen Radford made an excellent point, in that, open communication with your children is important use a situation like driving to school to bring up this subject.
- 7.0 **Next Meeting Agenda Items** – The meeting was motioned adjourned at 7:38 pm by Cary Wiwchar and seconded by Lindsay Richardson. All were in favor and the motion was passed.
- 8.0 **Next Meeting** – November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.