

École Agnes Davidson School Council Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 7:00pm

À l'école Agnes Davidson, les terres sur lesquelles nous vivons, jouons, et apprenons font partie du territoire visé par le traité no 7 et du territoire traditionnel des Niitsitapis (PiedsNoirs), Nakodas (Stoney), Tssuut'inas et la Nation des Métis (Region 3)

At Agnes Davidson, we live, play, and learn on the traditional territory of the Niitsitapi, Nakoda, Tsuut'ina people (Treaty 7), and the Métis Nation (Region 3)

2) Approval of the Agenda – Approved by Jo Ann and Kelly

3) Approval of the Minutes – Approved by Jo Ann and Kelly

4) Reports:

a) **Principal Report:** (Terra Leggat)

- On Nov. 22nd which is next week our Senior Choir are going to play with the Symphony and that is exciting for our school when they get to go and do things out in the community.
- We have a climbing club going on right now for our grade 4 's and 5's which is kind of unique and amazing opportunity.
- Report cards are coming out Nov. 24th, they are digital, so you will not get a paper copy access thru PowerSchool. If you have not set up an account for PowerSchool than you can connect with Sue in the office and get the ASN number and a few other pieces, but she can help you with that if you don't have that set up. Looking at the data, and I didn't pull the data, but going from my memory last year we only had around 70% rate of parents who looked at the report cards, our teachers spend hours and hours writing them, so please read them. I will send out a reminder on Nov. 24th.
- And then on Monday Nov. 13th we had our PL day and how great that was for our teaching staff. And last week and this week we have our Mental health capacity building team in our building. And they are division employees, and they are funded thru a govt grant and what they are doing in our school is working on universal supports in our various classes to work on what does it mean to be well, and wellness. Its everything from managing your stress, to sleep, to eating healthy, and that sort of thing so they've been in our building. If your child has not yet had a presentation from them, they will be in the New Year. Its quite intensive, they go in each class and spend about 2 hrs in the week, and they are cycling thru the different grade levels. A good support we have and everything that they are teaching and talking about is part of our curriculum, a part of the physical education and wellness curriculum, its time well spent.

b) **Vice Principal Report:** (Megan Cummings)

- On Nov. 21st and 23rd we are doing our Panago Pizza Fundraiser thru Wade at Panago North so just be sure to say that you are a part of Agnes Davidson School and then Wade will be very generous and cut us a cheque from the evening. Nov 21st and 23rd.
- Grade 5 Volleyball Tournament on Nov. 24th at Plaxton, we have 2 teams this year and it is amazing to watch the growth by falling the Atomic Volleyball and then moving into triple ball the

growth of the beginning of the season to the end and they really learn how to make 3 hits before hope was the ball goes over the net, so its very skill based.

- Angel Tree donation we are going to be depot again this year, so starting on Nov. 30th you will see the sleigh out in the hallway. We don't do the angels here, we just collect all the toys, and they match them with the kids that's a partnership that we have for quite a few years, is on our website as well.
- Winter Carnival preparation has begun, we just had our meeting last Wednesday so more to come, we are going to be having conversation pieces in our second meeting about that, amazing how quick it is like we are already starting to think about what that event can look like and how its going to support our mission and vision here at Agnes Davidson.
- This afternoon I was at a learning support team meeting, and we had lots of community OT's and Metis coming in and talking about some of the services. But we also had a gentleman come in from Lethbridge Immigrant Services and he was sharing all the wonderful things that they do in the community, but one piece that he shared that stood out to me was a "Girls Club". It was originally it was for families that were specifically new to Canada, and starting at age 9 but they just recently opened it up to all community members and their hope in doing that was that originally for all new families but then we are not really building community here just have this group of kids that are new, and so that's something that they're doing, so if you have a 'girl' that might be interested in that certainly call and make sure that its an appropriate – you know that girls club meeting and that appropriate one for your child but I thought that it would be a wonderful way to build community here in Lethbridge. They talked about 89 families that they registered since August so there's lots of new kiddos in the community and they were very specific about targeting girls because what they were finding is the males were getting out in the community and finding jobs and making connections but the girls weren't and so that was in response to that so it was really nice for them to have to see other women and other girls out in the community what that would look like for them too. And I thought that was very interesting.

c) **Staff Rep Report:** (Meagan Thorlakson)

- Nov. 15th Picture Retakes and Kindergarten Photos
- Rock your Mocs
- Digital wellness presentation from the district teacher for digital wellness and technology Kasin M. he did a wonderful job he was just next door to me in the art room and he was doing some really engaging lessons with students about what does digital wellness mean? And what can that look like for us for our students within the level that they are at, that was last week.
- We are doing a clothing drive going to Streets Alive I believe. Mr. Nish's class is running this. So, we are going to be collecting coat's, hats, mitts and scarves for the homeless people in our community. Starting today Nov. 14th until Dec. 1st.
- Sock it to 'em is also going to be starting Dec. 1st. until Mid Dec. new socks, not used socks. Bin is going to be by the office.
- Meagan's colleagues using in the school there's a new science curriculum this year, I've been talking to all my friends and colleagues, a little intimidated at the beginning of the year but a lot of them have used we have access to PD funding to get some release times that they can working with their colleagues and I know a lot of people have been using that, were doing collaboration after school, or on their Friday afternoons and getting some really cool

engagements with the science curriculum coming out of that. I always engage really heavily with the sound and the science of sound units and that got moved from grade 3 to grade 2. I was showing Alex all the fun tricks with tuning forks, and I would get the kids to put their ear on the desk. And all of that, just fun to see all these different grade levels really engaging in that learning and how can we create new experiments that make this new curriculum engaging because its a lot to build from the ground up.

d) **District School Council:** (Kristin)

Kristin had sent the policy advisory committee item for review. It sounds like essentially, we need to forward this. There are a couple things:

- 1) Meeting minutes from the policy advisory committees Nov. 8th meeting
- 2) 2 policies they would like reviewed:
 - a) Policy # 504 Healthy Nutritional Choices
 - b) Policy # 501 School Choice

Tyler will make sure this gets sent out to everyone who has attended the meeting, and they would like that back by Dec. 5th.

e) **Alberta School Council Association (ASCA):** – we don't have a representative and we need to decide what we are doing with that. I will leave that for later.

f) **Trustee:** No Trustee today as she is in Calgary and sends her regards.

5) **Old Business:** (Kelly)

Parent French Classes: Had a chat with Tyler and Angela about different options for how we are going to do parent class. Hopefully starting in January 2024 on Thursdays if this works with the school. 12 sessions on Thursdays from Jan.11th till April 18th, 2024, with breaks with holidays on there from 2 classes (Beginner) and (Advanced) for 1 hr.

An email will be sent out regarding French Class Survey responses. Cost last year to enroll in these classes are \$40/person. Half the cost was supplemented by the school, and it lasts the duration. We need to decide how much we are going to spend as a council on it. If parents find that this is a financial barrier, they can contact Megan C. Vice Principal. ASFA offers French Classes on Thursdays there is a Beginner and Intermediate starting at 7:40 pm and there is Saturdays. Cost is \$115 if you are a member, \$130 non-member. Starting Jan.16th 2024 goes till Feb.

6) **New Business:**

a) **Winter Carnival and Pancake Breakfast:**

We are trying to balance and honor tradition a little bit here at Agnes Davidson with trying some new pieces, last year was the first time that we did Carnival, since COVID and since Nicholas Sheran came over so it was quite nice. We just had our meeting, and were actually going to try a couple different things actually last June when we were looking at our calendar we really talked about where do we want to put our emphasis, cause sometimes we get carried away when we do silly sock, and a national book reading day and before you know it everything is very need based and get quickly caught up, and were

actually having conversations with the superintendent at the time and remember you can get caught up in it. Last Spring lets really look at the calendar and think about what is most meaningful to our school and our school community. We know Carnival is a very exciting time for our school, so we thought how we can pay more attention to it. So what we decided to do is we usually have some family nights in December and there's also some challenges that go along with that, were all going to our parties, choir and handbell performances etc. Carnival is a very important time so let's move those evening nights and let's move them to Jan. So, we have 2 great nights planned for our families- Jan. 24th and 25th. Very excited about that. It will be based around what does it mean to be a French school, what does it mean to celebrate the winter carnival, changing of the seasons.

Pancake Breakfast:

So, what we are looking at a centre-based snack (crepe) for not just the kids, adults too. Those 2 nights will be invited in one of the centres, and it will be crepes. We are working with Cora, and they are being very good to us because Cora likes to do big crepes and when we got down to the 6", they were disappointed with us when we went down to the 4" size because we need to think about the kids, when there is so much waste. And by the time they put custard and syrup the 4" is plenty. Meagan is going to have traditional folk music playing and we will have a dance and fiddlers, oral story telling. We are very excited about that. We are going to do our canoe races which were a hit from last year. We are looking for funds for duct tape, we are looking for funds for yarn and sometimes we piece it together and it can that can look like mismatched grandma's yarn that has been donated. We are thinking to ourselves if Metis Sash making is important to us than we want to make sure that we have red, blue, yellow and white and put pieces together. With some of the changes were hoping that we can have school council support with some funds with that. As far as the crepes are going most of that will be supplied thru a grant that we have which is great. But the yarn, the duct tape and the wooden spoons are costly. Over \$100 for the spoons. We are hoping for a \$4000 from school council to be able to support the event and make it what we are hoping for it to be.

b) **ASCA:** – Is this something school council wants to remain part of?

In years past we assumed parent council be part of ASCA, but with in the province that school councils who are feeling pressured to be part of an agenda that doesn't fit withing their school council. We do want to be a part of it.

c) **Supporting co-curricular activities:**

_Meagan and Terra were having conversations about Choir and Handbells, and our choir is going to the Symphony coming up and whenever we have these opportunities for our kiddos there's actually a significant amount of cost for that we need bussing to get the kids to the rehearsal, we need actually some release time so that Meagan go and be part of it since she needs to be there. There's a registration cost of \$275 to register for that. Meagan takes the kids to the music festival, there's an \$80 registration, again there's bussing to get the kids to and from. And some release time. We were talking about all of this, and it was in the middle of Terra doing the school budget and if your paying attention to the government and so forth and the rolling averages we are a have school and we do have a lot but we don't have funds that we had once upon a time. And my thought was ok were wanting to spend a significant amount of the budget on extra curricular and that's taking away money from curricular. Theres an amount of money that we have in the school to purchase what we need. So were taking away curricular funds for an extra curricular. Then Terra had some reflections on some of our extra extra-curricular. Volleyball doesn't get anything. Parents drive their kids, were not bussing kids. Parents had to pay a deposit for their jerseys. The kids who are in the climbing club are paying to be part of that, since

there is a cost involved. So why does choir get a free ride? And the others don't? So, Meagan and Terra came up with a couple options. To present and get some feedback on. Just for Choir alone not including Handbells, it does cost about between \$1600 and \$2000/year. To run Choir between the sub costs and the bussing, registration and the honorary for our company. She volunteers her time. So, something that is an option is because it comes out of Meagan's budget and the school's budget and things like that. Like dividing the expense between families so saying ok you got a child there is going to be a fee added to school cash online. I really like that I try to make Choir as an equal opportunity as possible. I've always up until this year I've always run Choir during lunchtime for that specific reason. So that nobody felt like there was anyway that they were prohibited from being a part of it. This year just because lunchtime was getting so cramped, we did shift it to before school. Last year we had about 150 students register for Senior Choir; this year I have 120 students. So, it didn't affect my registration as much, as I was anticipating. Which is a good sign and I know it is an added complexity for some parents. So, the other option as well would be if parent council would be willing to support Choir as a Co-curricular with the money to kind of cover those extra registration fees, because really those are the things that make Choir sparkle, if that makes sense. It makes those events special, and having something that were working towards. Like were going to go and perform with members of the Lethbridge Symphony. Last year we went and sang to the Seniors at the Seniors home. We are going to go to the Festival and were going to get to work with an expert in Choir, and she's going to give us hints, and then we bring those experiences back to the school and perform at the school and just to create so much excitement and its such a beautiful authentic performance opportunity, and I don't want to limit those opportunities, however I don't want to take away from the music classroom budget or from somewhere else in the budget line. Its just complicated so there are other schools in the city where they charge for Choir and charge it as a fee on School Cash Online. None of my Colleagues within the Lethbridge District 51 Elementary specifically. I've been discussing with Terra. Because it is a lot, and I don't want there to be a factor where there's a family that can't afford Choir. Would School Council to support a budget of about \$2000 to run for Choir and Handbells **OR** would u say no, let's charge those individual children who are a part of Choir about \$15 for the year to be part of Choir and Handbells. Many of the other elementary schools don't get to do the activities that we do. They all don't get to go to the Symphony, only half of them do. They all don't get to go to Kiwanis Festival.

c) **School Budget Report:** (Terra)

Budget Breakdown: Agnes Davidson Operating Budget:

- **Staffing-** 93%. 95% of it is for our teachers, and the remaining 5% is for our support Staff. Number difference and a huge salary difference.
- **Contracted & General Services-** 1%
- **Total Supplies-** 6%

Contracted & General Services:

- 1) **Printing** 52%. We do a ton of Printing. Because of French Immersion. One reason, we are often taking a resource that is English, and then translating it to printing. The second thing is back in the day when Terra went to school, I had a math book that I wrote in my notebook beside, everything now that we get is a PDF. If the kids are doing any kind of worksheet or anything like that its generally a PDF that we have to print. Although if you go into classrooms, you see more and more whiteboards, printing is huge for us.

- 2) **Phones, postage, extra-curricular** - 13%, extra curricular here is a little bit different than what we have been talking about. Because extra curricular are teachers, the end of the school year teacher submit their extra curricular hours and they get a little bit of compensation for it. For example Meagan will spend hundreds of hours in it, and she will get half a day off. Which equates to about \$90, for all of that work. So, it's a little tiny bit and that's part of that.
- 3) **Professional Learning** - 22%, this is where we bring in speakers and different things like that.
- 4) **Building & maintenance**- 13%.

- **Supplies:**

- 1) **Furniture and Equipment**- 8%
- 2) **Classroom Budgets**- 29%
- 3) **Art, PE, Learning Commons**- 14%
- 4) **Computer Supplies and Softwary**- 18%
- 5) **General Funds**- 31%

Annual Education Results Report: 2022/2023 Ecole Agnes Davidson:

This is information from surveys filled out last year. Survey goes to Grade 4 Parents. Filled out by the Grade 4 & 5 students and then all of the teaching staff has the opportunity. Some things that Meagan and Terra have identified as highlights (things that we are doing well).

Areas of Highlight:

- There was an awareness of increase in Access to supports and services compared to last year.
- We either maintained or improved our standards in all measures as a whole.
- Parents who are satisfied with characteristics of active citizenship is about 10% higher than the Alberta average.
- 100% of parents feel their child is encouraged to be involved in activities which help the community.
- 100% of parents feel their child can get help at school with problems which are not related to schoolwork. (this was 41% the year prior)
- 88% of parents feel their input is considered, this is the highest its been in 5 years of data

Challenges to Address:

- Students engaged in their learning is lower than the Alberta average (lower by 4%)
- Only 80% of parents believe their children are learning what they need to know.
- Only 66% of students like learning language arts and math
- Only 78% of teachers feel that the students follow the rules (down from previous year), and only 54% of students feel this way.
- Only 90% of parents feel the school is a welcoming place to be.
- 78% of teachers feel school is a safe space for students, as well, 78% of students feel safe at school.

This Annual Education Results Report will be available on school website after Nov.30th,2023.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 12th, 2023 @ 7pm.