

École Agnes Davidson School Council Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, December 12, 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), Tsuut'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 Terri

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

4) Reports:

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

- Kindergarten registration exciting time of year if you have a little one, opens on Jan.22/2024. Visit our school website for that, its going to be an online process this year.
- Our partnership with the Boys and Girls Club which is on the corner of our school yard. They do an amazing job with our Kindergarten kiddos, so if you have anybody who is coming to kindergarten next year and how do you manage Kindergarten pick up and drop off and alternating days. Boys and Girls Club does an amazing job coming over and picking up the kids from the bus and taking them to the bus at the end of the day if you want your child to ride the bus and coming over to the school and dropping the kids off, at the noon hour transition or picking them up if they need to go back. So, I just want to highlight the great partnership that we have with them. If you are talking with people in the community and that sort of thing and people are queering about French Immersion, because we draw on everybody around the city. I know transportation is a big issue for some Kindergarten parents right, if you are working and that sort of thing so highlight the Boys and Girls Club or send them my way or whatever and we can help alleviate some of those transportation issues. They take registrations through the year if they have space. When they first opened their Philosophy was the kindergarten kids. My daughter was the first in the program and she now is in Grade 11, so they have been operating for about 10 years. The last 3 or 4 years they have been excepting grade 1 and grade 2 spots because they still have room in their programming, but they take kindergarten first. Its open now so if anybody wanted to book a spot for next year, they can preregister and reserve a spot if there are any available until they are full.
- We got some additional programming coming up this year with particularly our grade 2's is the focus with the Family Centre and the Worry Dragon's.
- Last week we had an author (Vowes) visit, she's a former sports broadcaster, and she is from Calgary, and she has written a number of books that are encouraging healthy lifestyles and encouraging kids to try different sports and that sort of things, and that was for our grades 1-4. Most of her titles are translated into French so that's what draw her to us, and she was a great speaker kids really engaged with her, and she also talked about the writing process and how long it takes to write a book. One of the most interesting questions that she asked the kids- is how

long does it take to write a book? The kids are like an hour. She said it takes years for a book to go from beginning to end and that's a great message for our kids.

- We are having our Science and Heritage Fair coming up again in the New Year so like January you will start to see those forms coming home.
- Megan, Alex, and I was there, and 4/5 other teachers went to the Japanese Gardens about a week and a bit ago, it was about Fostering the Long 2SLGBTQ plus students. It was a great opportunity for us to engage in some conversations on how we can be supportive to a variety of students in our school environment so that was a great PL.
- Just a reminder that Dec.22, 2023 is our last day of school, and we return on Jan.8th,2024.

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

- We are continuing to collect toys for Angel Tree. There were 4000 kids registered this year for Angel Tree and that is about 500 more than last year and the same thing the year before it was a significant jump as well. Items like Make-up for the older kids, books like Ripley's Believe it or Not, Guinness Book of World Records. Actually, on our website right now it lists specific things that they are hoping for Angel Tree that is missing from some of the bundles. We already filled one sleigh, we are hoping to fill 1 or 2 more before we break for the Christmas. Stuffies as well, squishy for the kids. Squishmallows often are on sale right now, so something to consider for the kids to cuddle. Last day to donate is Dec.21st,2023.
- As you walk into the school you see Sock-It-To-Em that are caretaking staff that takes on our brand-new warm socks for people in our community.
- Mr. Nish's class had a Clothing Drive, and he was very happy with the things he got. Alex's husband helped shuttle these items. (12 garbage bags).
- Clubs alive and well here at Agnes Davidson so some that are happening right now are:
 - 1) Christmas Club
 - 2) Book Club just happened.
 - 3) Handbells
 - 4) Choir
 - 5) Climbing Club
 - 6) Yoga
 - 7) Basketball is about to start in the New year. 2 teams starting on Jan.16,2024 is our first game and practices. Depending on interest we will draw names, but we are hopeful that we can have 2 teams.
- Dec.12,2023 was LOTG and that was today, so thank you to School Council for being able to support that and El Greco was very generous. Their portions are very big. When the parents purchase additional meals, we are able to separate them into 2 meals for kiddos lunches, so we can fill our freezer, and continue to feed kids, when there is missed lunches or things like that. We give a shout out to El Greco cause when Danni orders 10 extra meals for those kids in need, but we ended up with 30 extra meals. El Greco had sent an extra 20, with no extra additional charges.

c) **Staff Rep Report:** (Alex Westwood)

I have all of those themed as I was talking about. December the last week we do the majority of our kind of winter daily themes:

- 1) Dec. 18th is Pajama Day
- 2) Dec.19th is Sparkle/Frazzle Dazzle Day Tinsel theme.
- 3) Dec.20th is Red & Green Day
- 4) Dec.21st Sweater Day – Winter Holiday or otherwise, just big cozy Sweater Day
- 5) Dec.21st Carols in the gym between 9 and 10 Am and a Junior/Senior Choir/Handbells Performance, please come and join and sing along.
- 6) Dec.22nd Festive Hat/Headband Day so all types of headwear are welcomed and encouraged.
- 7) Grade 3's team specifically is doing reindeer games on Dec. 20th as well.
- 8) On the last day of school Dec.22nd, we are doing a Sing along in the field between 12:30 and 12:45pm. So, we take all the classes out and Mme Thorlakson bravely conducts 700 people thru a bunch of lovely carols and then we dismiss the students outside. It's a gift to the neighbors.

d) **District School Council:** – None

e) **Alberta School Council Association (ASCA):** – None

f) **Trustee:** (Christine Lee)

- In the November board meeting was the big meeting to do all things reporting. So, we had audited financial statements, we had the September 30th budget update, we had some good news just before that. Meaning that the Government of Alberta increased the student enrollment growth grant recognizing when a school division grows there's a grant that you get for if you were over 2% growth from the prior year you get like \$1500/student. Normally in the old days under the older formula you would get like a \$1/\$1/kid. So, appreciate as we grow significantly when you're not getting the dollars to match it does cause a bit of stress on the system. They adjusted that grant, so instead of about \$170,000 we get \$750,000, about \$600,000 more than what we had planned. That's great news. Currently checking to see where the hot spots are in the greatest need and determine how were going to address those with what we got, and that is good news. Also, the trustees approved the annual results report for the last school year. And of course, every school would have done their report, and that's on our webpage. December's board meeting is next Tuesday Dec.19th.
- Coming up Mar. 20th,2024 this will be advertised later we will be holding our 2nd Innovation Creativity & Entrepreneurship Showcase. Last year was our 1st year we did the Showcase and we had 2 groups of 2 students. So, we will be calling up another 1-2 students again to come to that. It was really successful and a great projects that people come and see the work that our kids do. It will be at Chinook again Mar.20,2024.

5) Old Business:

a) Parent French Classes: Tyler sent a message.

We need to decide today on the French classes. \$60/person for 10 weeks running from Jan. 11th, 2024 to Mar. 28th, 2024, minus the Reading Week at 6-7pm for Beginners and Intermediates from 7-8pm. We did agree that we should pay the fair amount for the equivalent of 10 people per class which equals the amount of \$1200 for Anga and whatever we are short for in attendance we will make it up as council. With a minimum amount for 10 weeks, he's thinking like half to cover, so if nobody shows up then at least she still gets half. If anyone doesn't think that the \$60 is feasible, then they should at least come and talk to us, with school council's assistance, maybe we can vote on having up to \$200 discretionary spending to assist someone who maybe or really wanted to attend the class, but the finances weren't there. So, this is what he would like to discuss. For those who responded to the survey they indicated that they would like a discord server set up and that can be sent into for those attendees. It is up to us to discuss, should we go forward with what he presented for covering. I don't know what the enrollment numbers will be, and we won't know until we start enrolling. Last year I don't think the numbers looked good. We don't think people will probably request the assistance, however, should we discuss to make sure that we have something in place already proactively with a cap to it, so if we have 4 people come in then we can divide that amount by 4, and say council will help out with. 2 Classes of 10 people per class, chances may fill our classes seats. Do we have anyone who wants to say yes to this offer of voting for half he says \$600? We agree that we would have 10 per class up to \$1200, and whatever we are short for attendance, council will make it up. To a maximum of half? I think that is what he is saying. It would be wise for the minimal amount for attendance. So, if only 3 people show up then Angela still gets her half which is \$600, which seems fair. Cause I think last year was a lot of people that moved out towards the end. So, people are going to pay the \$60 up front and that is for all the lessons. Then if people don't come then you are out the money, but Angela still gets paid. Was last year a drop in? Well, we have done a couple. We did it one year and it was free, and the enrollment when we did that, we started really strong, there was a wait list to get it in. Then one person shows up. Then another year we charged I think it was \$20 or \$10 for the whole series of them, and it started fairly strong, and dwindled off. I wonder if \$60 gives more of a commitment on people's part, which I think is a good thing. So, paying up front is essential. Tyler did some surveys so essentially; he has people who have shown interest, but I guess worst case scenario you go to register and only 2 people register, then we just cancel. I guess, what is that threshold? What is that minimum number we have for people to register? Is what they expect, your right people pay up front and then she is getting her pay regardless. I think its fair to say if she's accepting to pay half, I think the minimum should be expecting is 50% enrollment for the spots. I think 5 is a decent goal. Go over this: so, do the \$60, minimum # enrollment is 5/class to proceed. Then its 6pm for Beginners and 7pm for whom ever stays. Then she gets her get and Ang gets her guaranteed money which also means school council is kicking in a bit as well, you're subsidizing it for parents. This is what we had been talking about. This needs to be shared with parents as well. This is a subsidized program. Like meaning if you're not going to come and waste the spot then its your fundraising dollars that you're wasting.

Donna will make a motion that Council will help contribute to the French Classes up to 5 attendees at \$600. Then I guess the second question is the \$200 should council offer is someone needs support if payment is an issue. Contribute \$600 potentially, \$200 seems fair to subsidize it. If we don't get 5 attendees then we will pay up to 5 attendees.

b) **Town Hall:** Nothing needs to be discussed there it was just more of a reminder of the questions that Town Hall is going to be asking in January it will be asking for some names for people but I won't ask right now. So if you are interested make sure that you check your calendars for Feb.6th,2024 to see if you are available.

6. **New Business:** (JoAnn)

More parent engagement on parent council.

I am wondering at carnival kinds of things is there an opportunity for us to showcase parent council at that? Whether it be a table there? Or we provide bottles of water with like a label that says "Hey Please come to the next Parent Council meeting, "we'd love to have you or something like that where we just get more visible.

We have 2 family nights that are being hosted in January so that would be a good opportunity to have a table setup. What I might suggest it's just me suggesting, it's meant to be a family night for our carnival 1 night, we have for families with letters A-L and the next night M-Z. So, if there were some council members who I don't want to take you away from your family for that night. So, if you came on the opposite night when its not your family night to put up a table. And then somebody else on the other night. You can host one of the centre's as well. Dates are on our school website calendar. Welcome to Kindergarten is another event that comes up in the Springtime. In March we will have our Celebration of Learning this is another good night to have a station or something. If you make a brochure now, then you can use it again and again. The parents fundraising dollars have directly support council. We are receiving \$4000 to put towards that Carnival week in those 2 evenings. A nice thank you to them as they come through. This event that you are participating in is directly from the families that are here. It would be nice for them to hear a "thank you" for that. Because that is a significant amount of money that we are using.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 9th, 2024 @7pm.